

ANNEX 5

**Narrative Progress Report
2008**

Report period January – June

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Organisation ISODEC

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July 5, 2008

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1.0 National pro-poor policies

What do you think were the most important changes in pro-poor government policies in the last six months? What were the main causes? What contribution did your organisation make to any of these changes?

1.1 Introduction

During the period under review the government rolled out a number of pro-poor policies. Mention can be made of policies such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme, Free Maternal Health Care, and subsidy on fertilizer to farmers, the reduction in the taxes in some petroleum products such as diesel and premix fuel for fishermen and the restoring of tax on imported cooking oil. Each policy is discussed briefly below.

1.1.1 Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty

Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme is a National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) which provides direct cash transfer to support the extremely poor or people described as the poorest of the poor, vulnerable and excluded sections of the population. These groups are afflicted by extreme poverty with the resultant effect of not being able to meet their basic needs. The amount of money transferred range between a minimum of GH¢8.00 to a maximum of GH¢ 15.00 per household per month. It also depends on the number of people who qualify in the household. Payments are made every two months beginning from March 2008. This social intervention is one pre-requisite to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), NEPAD and Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) in order to reduce poverty to the minimum by the year 2015. It also targets the attainment of a middle-income status of \$ 1000 per capital income in the same year.

1.1.2 Free Maternal Health Care

This policy targets all pregnant women in Ghana. It is financed by the British Government to the tune of £42.5 million to support the government's efforts at reducing maternal mortality as envisaged in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The rationale is that more than half a million women mostly in developing nations, and of course Ghana, die during pregnancy or childbirth each year and the number of deaths is being reduced very slowly to achieve United Nations set goals. Experts on reproductive health have painted a grim picture of maternal and child health in the country and warned that the situation could worsen in the next decade if no immediate remedial actions were taken by governments and development partners. It is however believed its implementation will put a strain on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and healthcare facilities as the number of women taking advantage of it keeps growing.

1.1.3 Proposed subsidy for farmers

In the midst of escalating food prices in the world and its effects in Ghana, government announced a package to support farmers increase food production. This was in the form of subsidy on agricultural inputs such as fertilizer. The government recently announced that it would subsidize fertilizer to lower the price and help out farmers during this food crisis. Currently a bag of fertilizer cost \$42, the subsidy promises to lower the price to match last year's price of \$25.

1.1.4 Reduction in taxes on some petroleum products (diesel & pre mix for fishermen)

As part of the package deal to bring relief to its citizens amid hikes in crude oil and food prices, the government has reduced tax on petroleum products. It entailed the removal of debt recovery levy and excise duty on premix fuel

1.1.5 Restoring tax on cooking oil

In the same relief package announced by the government in the wake of food crisis, excise tax on most cereals were taken off. This included, among others, taxes on imported cooking oil. Weeks later this tax was restored on the imported cooking oil to enable local producers have access to local market. However, the removal of taxes on imported cereals such as rice was totally misplaced.

Although ISODEC cannot claimed any direct contribution that led to the enactment of these policies, indirectly we believe that our pro-poor advocacy activities in areas described below may have informed government decision in formulating the above policies.

2.0 Outcome 1 - Organisational development

Outcome 1.

In each of the focal countries, the capacity of Youth, Women's groups and associations, Faith-based organisations and local authorities would be enhanced to influence and demand economic justice, especially through the framework of the economic, social and cultural rights framework of the United Nations;

Members of WARBAN in March 2008 met in Burkina Faso to review their first experience, plan and resources for 2008. At this meeting, it was agreed that each member work across four identified themes that will be applied at both regional and national levels. These are:

1. Extractives transparency and accountability (Contract transparency, reviews, environmental monitoring, expenditure tracking/monitoring, EITI and PWYP/E/S activities)
2. Fiscal policy and budget transparency and accountability (budget analysis, expenditure tracking/monitoring;
3. Decentralisation and sub-national level engagement, including participatory planning and budgeting, and;
4. Human rights and gender

Members also agreed on the following outputs to be realised at the end of the three-year programme. These include the following:

1. Constituted and maintained a team of African experts in oil, gas, mineral, marine and forests resources to support the Ghana and West African campaigns on extractives (EITI and Publish What You Pay -PWYP/E/S);
2. Built a geo-referenced database (geographic information system-GIS) to support the monitoring and evaluation of extractives work of the legislature, local authorities, NGOs and the media in Ghana;
3. Produced a technical as well as a simple user- manual of a modified version of the DEEP model for modelling different scenarios for the use of revenues from natural resources (what to spend, what to save and when) and training guides for civil society organizations;
4. Assisted, at least, one local authority to define, implement and monitor/evaluate a participatory planning and participatory budgeting framework for managing natural resources involving citizens and CSOs;
5. Assisted the legislature, media and CSOs to define and operationalise a permanent institutional framework (legislature as base) for exercising their oversight responsibilities over the management of natural resources in Ghana;
6. Facilitated the formation and functioning of a cadre of economic justice activists in the sub-region active in tracking national budgets and payments by companies to natural resource-rich countries and their use of those resources.

The next half year report will provide details on how far each participating country has gone with the set targets

3.0 Outcome 2 - Essential Services

Outcome 2:

A campaign is catalysed to keep essential services (public goods) out of the discipline of GATs and EPAs and the principal role of the state in providing these goods is restored in, at least, the focal countries in West Africa.

3.1 Education

Within the period under review, ISODEC participated in series of workshops and meetings aimed at reviewing problems of the sector hosted by other stakeholders in the sector. We view our participation in these workshops and meetings as platforms to contribute our quota to strengthening the role of the state as the major service provider in education.

We participated in the following:

- The Northern sector education review workshop which explored causes of low enrolment in education and the way forward to ensure education for all.
- The programme review meeting with NNED and its members to review their activities, challenges and the way forward.

- The briefing meeting of Alliance for Change in Education (ACE) formative monitoring Team (FMT). This meeting focused on activities that ensure that the marginalised in society have equal access to quality education.
- The Global Action Week of Education.
- The campaign on the right to Education For All (EFA) under the auspices of NNED.

3.2 The Ambassador Girls Scholarship Programme (AGSP)

This is an evidence-based advocacy and direct service support programme targeting needy girls, girls orphaned by HIV/AIDS and to some extent boys. This programme was implemented in the three Northern regions of Ghana and support by USAID through the World Education Initiative (WEI). This programme aims at contributing to the national effort of addressing the issues of gender parity in education in the northern sector of the country.

Major activities implemented during the period under review included the following:

- 260 boys and 117 additional girls interviewed and selected as new beneficiaries to the AGSP programme. This brings the total number of pupils receiving full scholarships under AGSP to one thousand and seventy-eight (1078).
- Scholarship items, including, Text Books, Exercise Books, Bicycles, School Supplies, Food and Uniform were distributed to all scholars except those in Bawku and in the Garu-Tempene districts who could not be reached because of the conflict.
- All the 34 beneficiary schools in 4 Districts, namely; Bongo, Garu-Tempene, West Mamprusi and Bawku municipal were visited and scholars' attendance and school performance records checked.
- Data on all beneficiaries were cleaned and updated in field link.
- 250 questionnaires to self-evaluate programme's implementation were administered and analysed and the final report, detailing findings and recommendations completed.
- 34 facilitators, both female and male were selected from each school to serve as mentors to the AGSP scholars.
- A two-day capacity-building workshop was held for 34 teachers and 5 district education managers to increase the programme's impact and value.
- First phase of intra-school quiz and debate competitions was held for all AGSP scholars in all the 34 beneficiary schools

The outcomes of the above activities are:

- 123 needy girls who risked dropping out as a result of poverty, forced and early marriages, and broken homes, completed basic education with some progressing to the secondary level of education.
- 1078 girls and boys were retained in basic schools across those four districts in Northern Ghana.
- Over 7000 community members were sensitized about the importance of girl-child education and the right of children to quality education.
- Increased awareness among education managers about the differential impacts of policies and the need to go beyond general policy pronouncements to target and address the specific needs of vulnerable groups.
 - Increased involvement of communities in the management of schools in their communities.

3.3 Rights to Health Campaign

Two issues are being pushed under the Rights to Health Campaign. These are the Right to ART for people living with HIV and the Reproductive Health Rights. These campaigns are

being carried out by our partners through community sensitization. To keep the campaign issues relevant, ISODEC provides that crucial link between the GHS and the communities by relaying issues as identified by the authorities to communities and vice versa. It was based on this approach that ISODEC attended the GHS regional review meeting held in Tamale in February 2008. This meeting provided the opportunity for ISODEC to advocate for its operational communities by bringing to the fore pertinent health related issues identified in these communities. In the same vein ISODEC works at including into its programme critical issues brought forth by other stakeholders as a way of contributing to finding a holistic solution to challenges identified. As a result of the review meeting, ISODEC together with its partners have intensified their work in areas to deal with the following:

- High maternal deaths in the Northern Region. For example, 112 maternal deaths per 10,000 on record in 2007.
- High alarming teenage pregnancies especially in two of our partner Districts- Saboba/ Chereponi and Bunkpurugu Yunyoo Districts.
- High incidence of malaria resulting in high mortality. Deaths due to malaria went up from 57% - 59%.
- Malnutrition especially among children.

On the other hand, ISODEC tabled for the attention of health authorities to regenerative health, health education and promotion. Only one district reported having carried out activities in these areas of health. Authorities noted our concern and pledged to work in that direction.

3.4 Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA)

MeTA is a DFID funded project with interest in access to governance, transparency and accountability processes in medicines. Their first workshop was for seven civil society organizations from each of three countries - Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. In 2008, MeTA was launched. The project aims to use a multi-stakeholder approach towards increasing transparency around the regulation, selection, procurement, sale, distribution and use of medicines in developing countries, thereby strengthening governance; encouraging responsible business practices; and ultimately improving access to medicines, especially for the poor.

The workshop sought to build the skills and knowledge of civil society to participate actively in MeTA activities in their countries. Back in Ghana, the seven organizations have been planning on how to kick start the process. We have agreed that each region should have three CSOs on the team to begin with and as time goes on, broaden the membership. ISODEC was charged to identify those from the three Regions in the north. These have since been identified and submitted to the Secretariat in Accra. Two organizations that were identified from Northern Region in addition to ISODEC were the Christian Council of Ghana and the Northern Rural Development Association

3.5 Review meeting

ISODEC and her implementing partners held a Peer Review and Planning Meeting from the 15th to 17th April, 2008. The meeting was to take stock of the activities, achievements and challenges of all partners in the last six months. The review was unique because key partners like the Ghana Health Service, Dept of Women and Children, Population Council, Peer Health Educators and attached MidWives/CHNs were part of the meeting to make their inputs. As part of the review activities, the Regional Director of the Department of Women and Children made a presentation on the procedure in accessing the micro finance and small

loans scheme credit facility. This presentation aimed at helping LNGO partners to assist their women groups apply and access the loan.

At the national front, ISODEC participated in a review meeting on the first phase of the Citizens Action on the Health MDGs held at the Institute of Local Government Studies in Accra. The review looked at the achievements and failures of the first phase.

3.6 Monitoring Visits

During the period, monitoring visits were carried out in ten project districts of the Northern and Upper East. The projects that were visited were YARO in Tamale, PENORUDAS, TIDA, TUMA KAVI, EPCC, CFRHP, NWHHD, PRIDE, IRUDEC and BILFACU. In each district, two communities were visited to ascertain progress of work and to interact with some beneficiary community members, peer health educators and the attached midwife/ community health nurse. In some situations, the team paid a courtesy call on the District Director of Health Services.

ISODEC and partners participated in a one day workshop on “the integration of the HIV/SHR” for the southern and middle sector at Kumasi on the 12th June, 2008. The workshop discussed the benefits of the integrating HIV/SHR, how it can be done and possible challenges. At the close of the workshop, participants agreed that integration is the way forward. They also resolved to incorporate this in their current programmes.

ISODEC participated at the Regional launch of the Safe Motherhood and Life Choices by Ghana Health Service in April, 2008 in Tamale. The Regional Director of Health Services gave an overview of safe motherhood in the region and lamented that if care is not taken the Northern Region could surpass the national average maternal mortality rate. As our contribution towards reversing this trend, ISODEC has intensified work with its partners in the communities to bring to the fore the issue of safe motherhood on its sensitisation and community discussion platforms.

3.7 Health Coalition

In order to ensure that citizens’ access to quality health services remain a right, is ring-fenced as a public good and that citizens are empowered to demand and claim their health rights, we have been instrumental in coordinating activities leading to the formation of the coalition of NGOs in health in the region. With the formation of the coalition it is anticipated that activities of NGOs will be harmonised and respective roles clarified. In addition, it is expected that the coalition will provide civil society organisations with a bigger voice in regional health planning and programmes and also bring NGOs’ intervention in health under one umbrella for effective delivery and impact.

The regional coalition currently has a membership of about 40 LNGOs and CBOs and a five-member executive board. ISODEC Bolga is currently the regional chair and secretariat of the coalition. So far, the coalition has begun collating districts annual health sector reports to help tease out issues and policies for the coalition’s campaign and advocacy activities.

3.8 Water campaign

Water shortage experienced in Accra and other urban centres across the country during the period under reviews provided a strong ground for the National Campaign Against Water Privatization(NCAP) to reactivate its campaign. The Public Agenda newspaper through its publications provided a strong backing to the campaign by

keeping the heat on Ghana Water Company and its affiliates, Aqua Vitens Rand Ltd. (AVRL) which is implementing the management contract. The NCAP had the opportunity to meet the Parliamentary Select Committee on Water Resources, Works and Housing and tabled their recommendations on the future of GWCL. The activities of NCAP rekindled the debate in both the electronic and the print media bringing on board diverse views from the public on the issues of water privatisation. This has forced AVRL to come public on some questions raised by the public and have since then improved on their public relations

4.0 Outcome 3 - Economic Justice

Outcome 3:

Civil society is mobilised to demand transparency and accountability from governments, companies involved in extractives industries, especially operationalising the EITI and PWYP campaign.

4.1 Extractive Sector Revenue Transparency Campaign

The Publish What You Pay Campaign in Ghana, which is facilitated by ISODEC is our entry point into ensuring that the exploitation of Ghana's natural resources engenders national development and contributes positively to poverty reduction, especially in communities immediately affected by extractive sector activities.

Progress made against the set objectives include:

- Increased awareness on the role of civil society in the promotion of accountable and transparent management of extractive sector revenues;
- Recognition of civil society's right to participate in the decision-making process around the design of Ghana's oil policy and master plan, (though this is happening rather reluctantly than out of a genuine commitment to consult with civil society);
- The achievement of consensus within the West Africa sub-region on the need to adopt a harmonized mining code to halt the race to lower taxes and grant excessively generous incentives as part of efforts to attract investments.

4.2 Progress on project activities

Progress made on project activities include:

- Facilitation of a civil society workshop that drew participation from civil society representatives from Africa and beyond to share experiences and to consolidate Ghana civil society input into the national consultative forum on Oil and Development held in February, 2008 to collate stakeholder input into a national oil policy and master plan;
- Advocacy action included representations to government, and media discussions to broaden and deepen the ongoing consultations on the national oil policy and master plan;
- Contribution to ongoing discussions within ECOWAS on the design of a common mining policy for West Africa to halt the unhealthy competition among countries in the sub-region for investments – a situation that is described as 'the race to the bottom syndrome';

- Contribution to discussions around the need for re-orientation of civil society extractive sector engagement to focus on the entire value chain of the sector. This was on a platform provided by Revenue Watch Institute at its international programmes meeting in June.
- The coalition also took part in an EITI experience-sharing workshop in June 2008, organized under the auspices of the German government, at the Gwent Institute in Berlin.
- Facilitation of the technical review of the existing mining sector fiscal regime in Ghana. The report will feed into ongoing advocacy for improved fiscal regime in Ghana's extractive sector.
- Facilitation of the drafting of a proposed EITI legislation for the consideration of Ghana's Multi-stakeholder Committee on EITI.
- Facilitation of the drafting of proposals for improved fiscal regime in Ghana's emerging oil industry.

4.3 Human rights – the right to consultation and participation

A key human rights issue the campaign has advanced so far is the right to consultation and participation in the decision-making process in Ghana, the evidence of which is borne out by the fact that PWYP-Ghana is represented on the EITI Multi-Stakeholder Committee. By virtue of the invitation, PWYP-Ghana and a few other organized civil society groups attended the National Forum on Oil and Development held in February. The space for civil society participation was however very constricted and did not make for meaningful consultation. While we welcome the modest gains made, we recognize that much more work is required to secure adequate space for civil society in the national policy arena.

4.4 Influencing policy

During the National Forum on Oil and Development, the Publish What You Pay campaign coalition under the leadership of ISODEC submitted a communiqué to the Government, stating its disappointment at the manner in which participation had been restricted to a select few, and outlining its concerns and suggestions for consideration by the technical committee working on the oil sector policy and master plan. The Coalition is standing by for the draft policy document to ascertain whether or not its suggestions were taken into account.

4.5 Collaboration and Networking

The extractive sector revenue transparency campaign is being prosecuted through a coalition of NGOs, faith-based organizations, organized labour, and community groups. A major progress made during the period under review in the area of collaboration and networking, was the consensus achieved at a joint civil society – Ghana EITI Steering Committee preparatory workshop towards the National Forum on Oil and Development in February 2008. The workshop which was also attended by the parliamentary select committees on Mines and Forestry, and the committee on Energy agreed to maintain the platform for the purpose of getting round to discuss from time to time, issues of common interest.

4.6 The Mining Communities Human Rights and Legal Support Programme

ISODEC through its affiliate organization, the Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL) continued to implement the Mining Communities Human Rights and Legal Support

programme which focuses on offering free court room representation and legal advice for poor and marginalized mining community members who are affected in one way or the other by the operations of mining companies. Seven of such cases are still pending in the various court rooms.

5.0 Outcome 4 – EPAs, Trade Justice and Regional Integration

Citizens in West Africa are mobilized to resist EPAs and work towards trade justice and regional integration as alternatives to free trade and economic globalisation

5.1 Strategic planning meeting

To make programmes of the Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition (GTLC) more consultative and participatory, a strategic planning workshop is organized at the start of every financial year. This year's event, which took place on the 3rd and 4th of February 2008 at Accra, brought together a total of twenty personalities drawn from the various aspects of the organisation's structure. The workshop produced an annual strategic plan to guide the implementation of the campaign activities.

5.2 Lobby meeting with select committees of parliament

This year's event, which took place on February 27, 2008, was jointly organized by the GTLC and the Third World Network, Africa. The programme attracted a total of 33 legislators from the parliamentary select committees of trade and industry, food and agriculture as well as finance. The parliamentarians were briefed on the imminent threats of the Economic Partnership Agreement on Ghana's fledging economy. In addition, the legislators were lobbied on the need to either reject its ratification or critically examine the EPA 'lite' document to ensure that 'anti-development clauses' did not form part of the full EPA text. The success of the event generated renewed interest in the subject. In view of this, the Chairman of the Agriculture committee called for a review meeting to further examine the issues closely.

5.3 Capacity building workshops

Capacity-building training programmes are generally aimed at educating farmers, producers, Farmer-based organisations and Community-based organisations on national and international trade policies and programmes. This, the GTLC believed, would empower these groups to individually and severally effectively debate policy makers on favourable policies for sustainable growth of the local industry. The object for this year's training sought to establish an imagery of the imminent threats of the EPAs to the success of national and regional trade and development policies. The event took place in three zones namely; Northern, Middle and Southern zones on the 10th and 11th of March for the first two categories and 12th and 13th of March for the 3rd category. The workshops discussed in detail various aspects of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS), ECOWAS Common Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP) and the Economic partnership Agreement (EPA) with emphasis on the initialled EPA by the government of Ghana. Linkages between these policies and production, market access as well as livelihoods of farmers were thoroughly delved into. A training model was developed for the purpose.

5.4 Sub-regional week activities

The theme of the durbar this year was '*effective regional integration for better and sustainable development*'. For the first time, the event was organised at Po in the Burkina Faso on the 19th June. The durbar targeted the strategic vision of the ECOWAS heads of

states to create a borderless region by the year 2020 by moving the sub region from 'ECOWAS of states' to 'ECOWAS of people'. They made a case for the practical realization of the vision, first through the creation of a joint enterprise in the ongoing tomato trade between Ghana and Burkina that also implements the ECOWAS Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP).

Participants included small holder farmers of both countries, large numbers of citizens of PO, the Ghana Ambassador to Burkina who represented the Foreign Minister, the Permanent Secretary at the Burkinabe Foreign Ministry, The Upper East regional Minister, the Mayor of PO and Regional Service commanders of CEPS, Immigration and the Police of both countries.

5.5 Campaigns for livelihoods

The Public Agenda newspaper through its publications has launched a campaign to highlight the imminent loss of livelihoods for many local farmers in the Afram Plains who had been ordered to vacate the land by foreign investors who bought large tracks of land from the Chief of Kwahu for the cultivation of bio diesel plants. Similar campaign was launched against the sale of 95,000 acres of land in the central Gonja District of the Northern Region to another foreign investor for the cultivation of the bio diesel plant. As a result of this campaign the development of the track of land in question has been put on hold for now. The paper is still keeping its eyes on the issues as it unfolds in the future.

5.6 Transparency and Accountability Project

The CBA in collaboration with the Brookings Institutions in USA successfully completed a project called the Transparency and Accountability Project (TAP) that reviewed trends in public spending for education and health in Ghana 2002-2006. As part of efforts to engage the stakeholders on the findings of the research, the key players in the education and health sectors at the district and regional levels including civil societies and media were briefed.

5.7 Social Accountability

ANSA-Africa (joint initiative of the World Bank and the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa) invited two staff from the CBA to attend a workshop on Social Accountability from 19th and 20th May 2008. The workshop enabled the staff to have:

- An opportunity to hear about the recent developments, activities, capacity building initiatives and technical support of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in Africa (ANSA-Africa).
- A chance to interact with development partners and donors on their agendas and involvement in social accountability and across the continent.
- To talk about their social accountability experiences together with other speakers with African and global experiences.
- Stakeholder involvement and participation is as essential to the success of this conference as it is to ANSA-Africa structures and activities.

5.8 Accra High Level Forum and Aid Effectiveness

Civil Society organisations have criticised the Paris Declaration for neglecting political problems. Even though OXFAM/NOVIB believes the Paris Declaration is more than a technical instrument, better aid delivery political issues as ownership, accountability and participation have to be tackled. In the run up to the High Level Meeting on the review of the

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (to be held in Accra 2-4 September) OXFAM/NOVIB wanted to stimulate the debate on aid effectiveness. OXFAM/NOVIB therefore organised a meeting in June 2008 on the role of civil society in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in The Hague. The conference discussed the main CSO criticism on the Paris Declaration and formulated recommendations for politicians and policy makers on strengthening aid effectiveness by integrating civil society in designing, delivering and monitoring poverty reduction policies. The CBA was invited to this meeting to do a presentation on gender and gender responsive budgeting in Ghana. The conference was a meeting of experts aimed at policy makers, politicians, academics and interested audience from the development sector. The recommendations will contribute to the preparation of the High Level Forum and the Accra Action Agenda. One of the recommendations was expected to focus on the improvement of civil societies' own aid effectiveness.

5.9 Research on Extractive Sector

ISODEC in collaboration with Oxfam America embarked on a project (a study on Advocacy towards transparency and accountability in the management of natural resource revenue for national development) that seeks to contribute to strengthening local capacities in Ghana to get the best out of the extractive industry conscious of the social, environmental and macroeconomic implications and with transparency, accountability, social equity. Newmont Ghana Gold Limited purchased both the Ahafo and the Akyem projects as part of the Normandy Mining acquisition in February of 2002 and is about to start operations in the Ahafo North concession. The study is mainly to conduct a baseline study of the Ahafo North area of the Newmont operations. The study is mainly community surveys to access community social, environmental and livelihood information to build database for the Ahafo area of Ghana. The objectives of the study are to:

- Bring out the current information on social conditions of the communities within the concession area.
- Provide information on livelihood sources of members of the various communities within the concession area.
- Provide current information on environmental issues in the area.
- Identify the relationships of the communities in the concession area and the various institutions (social, public etc.) responsible for their welfare, and
- Identify the preliminary collaborations between the mining companies and the communities within the concession area.

Information gathered would be used to monitor the impact of the operations of the mining company on communities within its operation area.

6.0 Policy Support

Outcome 5:

A network of activists in budgets, economic justice, debt cancellation and tax justice is built in West Africa to mobilise and build a critical mass of citizens for action to influence these events

6.1 Capacity Building: Training on Gender Responsive Budgeting

Ghanaian civil society groups, especially women rights activists, concerned about the implementation of gender budgeting in the policy process, have expressed their inadequacy in capacity regarding the subject, including undertaking gender budget analysis and monitoring the government for adherence to its commitment. The government has also called for capacity building to enable its efforts in mainstreaming gender in the Ghanaian planning and budgeting

process. It is in this vein that the CBA organised training for staff of Dangme West District Assembly and civil society organisations in Dangme West District on gender responsive budgeting. The major challenge during the training was to get the CSOs present acquire skills to engage in the district assembly's budget process and make the budgets more gender responsive. We also expect the CSOs to engage the Assembly gender responsiveness in the district through monitoring the implementation of the district budget and relevant policies and programmes. At the end of the workshop, we specifically had the CSO group to put together their action plan which outlines their way forward in engaging the assembly in gender responsive budgets. This was to help the CSOs identify their roles in the engagement with the assembly on gender responsive budgeting. The CBA team has planned to hold a follow up programme for the CSOs to assist them to engage effectively with the assembly for implementing gender responsive budgets in the assembly.

At the end of the workshop participants put together an action plan towards ensuring that their district's budget increasingly responds to the gender needs of the people in the district. The district assembly pledged, among other things, to undertake a needs assessment exercise before the preparation of the next budget, collect gender disaggregated data, ensure that revenue generation is gender sensitive and plug the loopholes in the process for increased revenue generation for development.

6.2 Gender Budgeting

The training of staff of Dangme West District Assembly and civil society organisations in Dangme West District on gender responsive budgeting forms part of ISODEC's Right Based Advocacy III objective of having engagement with local governments on participatory budgeting system. The training is in line with the RBA III objective of strengthening the agencies that are close to the poor to empower them to engage in the policy process principally as a tool for achieving wider participation, to ensure collaborative efforts in policy implementation. This, in a way, will help in engendering fiscal policy especially national budgets. Moreover, the study on Gender and Aid effectiveness in Ghana and the Analysis of Ghana's 2008 budget statement from women and children's perspectives are specifically towards achieving our objective of engendering fiscal policy especially national budgets.

In addition, as part of ISODEC's objective of having engagement with media, the CBA involved the media in disseminating our report on the Transparency and Accountability Project. Finally, the research at Ahafo North concession area was to enable ISODEC have some information on the baseline situation and social and economic issues of the area to enable us engage with the mining company in future to ensure that resources from the extractive sector are used efficiently and effectively.

6.3 Workshop on Economic Social and Cultural Rights

As part our internal staff capacity building process, a one-day workshop was organised for all the staff of ISODEC to build their capacity on economic social and cultural rights. It is expected that in future ISODEC's capacity would be strengthened to be able to monitor Ghana's commitment to the International Charter on Economic, Social, Rights and Cultural Rights and also to enable staff to analyse the national and district level budget from the perspective of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

6.4 Gender and Aid effectiveness in Ghana

In September 2008, Ghana will be hosting the 3rd High Level Forum (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness and the Paris Declaration. The Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum was established to mobilize Ghanaian civil society organizations to engage effectively and meaningfully with

the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. To support the work of the forum, a study on Gender and Aid effectiveness in Ghana, which is a collaboration between the Centre for Budget Advocacy and Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum was conducted. The aim of the study is to bring out the relevant issues relating to gender responsiveness and aid effectiveness, and to help civil society organizations bring out vital issues for discussion and possible input into the 3rd HLF.

6.5 Gender Budget Analysis

As part of the efforts of spreading gender budget initiatives in the country, CDD/ NOVIB/ ISODEC collaborated to work on an analysis of Ghana 2008 budget from a gender perspective. The 2008 budget was analysed looking at allocations to the water and sanitation sector from the gender perspective. The analysis focused on the gender gaps in the 2008 budget considering the water and sanitation sector and provided policy recommendations to government for improvement in future budgets.

7.0 Outcome 6:

Appropriate tools and methods are available for monitoring poverty and inequality including poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

7.1 Tools and Methods

Four tools are being developed for the attainment of this outcome with a special focus on the extractive sector. Each tool is being worked on separately and they are at various stages of development. The tools are:

1. **Distributive Effect of Economic Policies (DEEP) Model:** This will assist to build various scenarios on alternative investment of revenues, especially **what to spend, what to save** and **when**. This also provides a forum for the discussions and debates that should happen among citizens and their government in reaching synergy or consensus on revenues and the larger economy and society.
2. **Fourteen-performance thematic framework:** This is meant to monitor government and company performance in the extractives sector. The fourteen performance areas are: 1) income inequality, 2) poverty reduction efforts, 3) Dangers of Dutch disease and crowding out effects, 4) dangers of debt build-up, 5) dangers of economic policy failure, 6) dangers of trade regime failure, 7) dangers of low skill formation/accumulation, 8) unfulfilled public expectations, 9) decline in administrative and fiscal efficiency, 10) inter-generational inequality, 11) corruption, 12) Rent-seeking, 13) localised resource-curse, and, 14) lack of transparency and accountability and citizen participation.
3. **Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS):** This is a modified version for monitoring government and company performance at the community level. Combining this with DEEP and the Fourteen-performance thematic framework could deliver an assessment of government and company transparency and accountability for the judicious, equitable and sustainable extraction and use of natural resources and their revenues
4. **Social Accountability template:** This is an adaptation of the Latin American CSOs social accountability template for monitoring company performance in the extractives sector. The template measures company compliance along a number of indicators in terms of its relations with its workers, community, environment and government.

Work on the DEEP model is progressing at a very slow pace due to lack of funding. This notwithstanding, the Social Accountability matrix and the draft user interface are completed. The next stage of development will be to calibrate the model using local data.

The fourteen-performance thematic framework has been tested in Sierra Leone and Ghana. In Sierra Leone, it was tested during the training of members of the Budget Advocacy Network (BAN) and National Coalition on Extractives (NACE). In Ghana it was tested in training members of the District EITI Monitoring Committee in the four mining zones.

PEST was also tested in Sierra Leone and Ghana. In Sierra Leone it was tested on the same group as mentioned above and in Ghana it was tested nationwide on members of the District Educational Oversight Committee. This was done in collaboration with Ghana National Education Coalition Campaign (GNECC)

With the Social Accountability Template, we are in discussion with Newmont Mining Corporation for solid minerals and Kosmos Energy for oil and gas for the possibility of testing this tool

8.0 Public image

How has the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public? What is your interpretation? Is there a reference to this evidence of change?

In our opinion, ISODEC still enjoys a high public image among government agencies, donors and civil society. In the northern part of the country as well as other parts of the country where we operate, we have been receiving invitations from both public and private institutions to either participate or act as resource persons for their programmes and activities. In the light of this, the regional coalition of NGOs in health elected ISODEC to lead and coordinate its activities in the region.

9.0 Collaboration, coalitions and networking

Using the format below, list the most important organisations you collaborated with over the period, under each of the sectors listed below. For each organisation, give an indication of the issues or themes you worked on, its status and the outcomes.

| | Organisation or coalition | Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending | Outcome |
|--|--|--|--|
| Government - executive - judiciary - legislature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Campaign against Water Privatisation (NCAP) ▪ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Privatisation and performance of AVRL against set targets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternative recommendation to the Parliamentary Select Committee |
| Coalition, network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) ▪ Northern Network for Education Development(NNED) ▪ Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights(ARHRs) ▪ Ghana Publish What You Pay Coalition(G- PWYP) ▪ Ghana Trade and Livelihoods Coalitions(GTLC) ▪ Public Agenda ▪ Centre for Public Interest Law ▪ Cedi Finance Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Right to free quality Basic Education ▪ Right to Health ▪ Promoting Transparency and efficient utilisation of extractive sector resources ▪ Trade Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing access to information related to development and basic human rights Increasing awareness among citizenry Promotion and Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms in Ghana Enhancing access by the poor to micro credit |

| | Organisation or coalition | | Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending | Outcome |
|--|--|----------------------|--|--|
| | ▪ West Africa Regional Advocacy Network (WARBAN) | | | Unifying CSO advocacy effort through WARBAN |
| RAO, NGO, I-NGO | UNDP, Oxfam Novib, Christian Aid, Oxfam GB, Dutch Embassy | | Rights Based Advocacy | Strengthening citizens voice and participation in West Africa Improved access and participation to reproductive health rights |
| Donor institution | Donor discussions with FORD Foundation and Revenue Watch International | | Funding relations | Funding proposals under discussion |
| CBO/DA (please indicate district) | TUMAKAVI | Zabzugu-Tatale | Reproductive Health | Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services |
| Other | PENORUDAS | East Gonja | Reproductive Health | Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services |
| | EPCC | Saboaba-Chereponi | Reproductive Health | - same- |
| | CFRHP | West Mamprusi | Reproductive Health, Education | Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services and education |
| | PRIDE | Bongo | Reproductive Health, Education | -same- |
| | ZOVFA | Bawku East | Reproductive Health Education | -same- |
| | PAPADEV | Bole | Reproductive Health | Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services |
| | NWHD | Kassena-Nankana | Reproductive Health | -same- |
| | BILFACU | East Mamprusi | Reproductive Health | -same- |
| | YARO (JSS) | Tamale Municipal | Reproductive Health | -same- |
| | IRUDEC | Bolgatanga Municipal | Reproductive Health | -same- |
| | TIDA | Nanumba | Reproductive Health | -same- |
| | District Assembly | Asante-Akim-south | Girl child Education | Improved access and participation education |
| | District Assembly | Sekyere-East | Girl child Education | -same- |
| | District Assembly | Jama | Girl child Education | -same- |
| | District Assembly | Ahafo- Ano-North | Girl child Education | -same- |
| | District Assembly | Kenyasi | Girl child Education and Extractives | Improves access and participation of girls in education Enhance effectiveness and transparency in utilisation of mining revenue |

10.0 Outputs on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered

List the outputs as you have presented in the Workplan submitted to G-RAP.

Make sure that you:

- Indicate estimated levels of completion per output
- Indicate target groups that used / received the output delivered
- Attach copy of concept paper per output
- Attach copy of product output

10.1 Outcomes

| Outcomes that potentially will contribute to policy and practice changes | Progress: Jan – July 2008 | Beneficiary Target Groups |
|---|---|--|
| In each of the focal countries, the capacity of Youth, Women's groups and associations, Faith-based organisations and local authorities would be enhanced to influence and demand economic justice, especially through the framework of the economic, social and cultural rights framework of the United Nations; | Members of West African rights-based Advocacy Network (WARBAN) have developed their respective implementation framework and have prioritised programme of work | CSOs in Ghana and Lead NGOs in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Niger and Sierra Leone |
| A campaign is catalysed to keep essential services (public goods) out of the discipline of GATs and EPAs and the principal role of the state in providing these goods is restored in, at least, the focal countries in West Africa; | Participation in the Northern sector education review workshop and the Global Action Week of Education 123 needy girls completed their basic education 1078 girls and boys were retained in basic schools across four districts in Northern Ghana | Poor boys and girls of school going age |
| Civil society is mobilised to demand transparency and accountability from governments, companies involved in extractives industries, especially operationalising the EITI and PWYP campaign; | Increased awareness on the role of civil society in the promotion of accountable and transparent management of extractive sector revenue | CBOs in Ghana, |
| Citizens in West Africa are mobilized to resist EPAs and work towards trade justice and regional integration as alternatives to free trade and economic globalisation | Members of WARBAN continue country specific campaign against EPAs GTLC developed a strategic plan to guide campaign activities Empowerment of Farmer and Community based organisations on issues related to national and international trade policies | CSOs in the seven countries Membership of GTLC in Ghana Farmers and community based organisation |
| A network of activists in budgets, economic justice, debt cancellation and tax justice is built in West Africa to mobilise and build a critical mass of citizens for action to influence these events | Gender responsive budgeting training | Staff of Dangme West District Assembly and civil society organisations in Dangme West District |
| Appropriate tools and methods are available for monitoring poverty and inequality including poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium | Four tools identified and being worked on | CSOs in Ghana and Sierra Leone |

| Outcomes that potentially will contribute to policy and practice changes | Progress: Jan – July 2008 | Beneficiary Target Groups |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Development Goals (MDGs) | | District Assemblies in Ghana |

11.0 Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change

What are major changes in the organisation's circumstances that are likely to have impacted your outputs over the period?

- **Organisational structure / board / management team**

There are is no significant change recorded

- **Strategy / planning / decision making / knowledge management**

There are is no significant change recorded

- **Human resource issues**

The Coordinator for the Northern Ghana Programme was reassigned to the Accra Office to take up a position as a Coordinator for Essential Services. In her place a new Coordinator for Northern Ghana Programme was employed. During the same period, Mr. Daniel Chachu a Policy Assistant attached to the Tamale Office was transferred to the Accra office to beef up the research unit of the Centre for Budget Advocacy. The Policy Assistant with the Sunyani office has resigned his post during the period under review.

Meeting the minimum staff strength as recommended by the Change Management Committee, remains a daunting task due to the fact that most applicants turned down our offer due to our uncompetitive salary scheme. This has put undue pressures of the few staff at post resulting to delays in meeting our obligations to donors.

12.0 Grant and report related issues

12.1 What issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management?

There are no issues to raise than to say we are comfortable with the grant process and G-RAP management.

12.2 What parts of the report are confidential or cannot be shared without prior consent?

No part of the report is confidential. It can be shared without prior consent