

GSAM

Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms Project



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) is a five-year governance project seeking to "strengthen citizen's oversight of capital development projects to improve local government transparency, accountability and performance."

CARE International in Ghana, IBIS in Ghana and Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), who form the GSAM Consortium, are working together with the Ghana Audit Service (GAS), civil society organisations (CSOs) and other local and national level stakeholders to implement the project in 100 districts from 2014 to 2019.

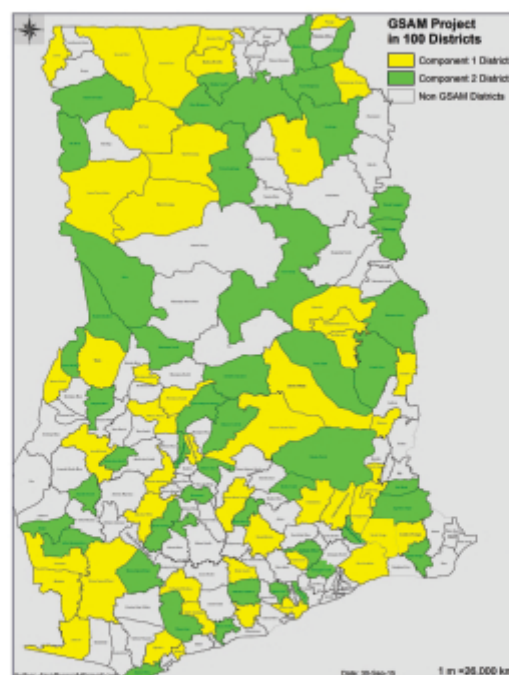
The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the tune of US\$9.3million.

Objectives

- Increase the availability of accessible information on MMDAs' capital development project performance in 100 districts
- Strengthen CSO and citizens' capacity to monitor MMDAs' capital development projects in 50 districts
- Increase the use of citizen-generated information on MMDA capital projects in 50 districts

Geographic Coverage

GSAM is being implemented in 100 districts across the 10 regions of Ghana, divided into two components: Social Accountability Districts (50) and Audit Districts (50).



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PROJECT STRATEGIES

The project has four main strategies designed to achieve its Objectives:

Social Monitoring of Capital Projects

The project supports CSOs and citizens to monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of capital development projects in the 50 social accountability districts through the use of community scorecards, citizen report cards and Public Expenditure Tracking (PET), and with the assistance of technology.

Public Information Campaigns

The project uses radio broadcast, town-hall meetings, focus group discussions, project performance bulletins, transparency boards, among others, to make information available to citizens on the planning and implementation of capital development projects in their districts. This is to empower them to demand accountability and improved performance from their district assemblies.

CSO Capacity-Building

The project provides training to CSOs and citizens in district assemblies' capital project planning and implementation processes and enhances the capacities of these CSOs in the use of social accountability tools, such as community scorecards and citizen report cards, the use of technology for capital project monitoring and the conduct of public information and advocacy campaigns.

Use of Technology – E-Platform

A key aspect of the GSAM project is the establishment of an electronic (online) platform where the public can upload and obtain information on capital development projects in the 50 social accountability districts. A number of CSO members, acting as Community Development Monitors, have been trained and equipped with mobile devices (tablets) that enable them to upload

information generated from the monitoring of capital projects and other project activities onto the platform.

Citizens are able to share their concerns related to capital projects by sending SMS or MMS (Pictures and Video) to the e-platform through a Short Code. The public can access information on the e-platform through the project's website. The e-platform also includes a video conferencing facility that enables the Consortium and 50 district assemblies to have a virtual conference.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The GSAM project is expected to contribute significantly towards improving the standards of living for citizens in the 100 project districts by promoting efficient public spending, a reduction in corruption and an improvement in service delivery.

The project would also contribute to building stronger civil society organisations, making citizens better-informed and empowered to participate effectively in local development and making local government authorities and service providers more accountable and responsive.



Increased accountability would lead to improved planning and execution of development projects and better standards of living, especially for the poor.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Clement Tandoh
Chief of Party, GSAM
Clement.tandoh@care.org

Mohammed Nurudeen Salifu
Communications Specialist, GSAM
nurudeen@ibisghana.org

CARE International in Ghana
Accra Main Office
Office Location: H/No. 3,
6th Ringway Link, Osu
P. O. Box CT 2487 Cantonments, Accra
Tel: 0302 7012993/4/5
www.care.org