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GSAM

Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms Project



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) is a five-year USAID-funded project seeking to improve accountability at the local government level by strengthening both the Government and citizen's oversight of capital development projects in 100 districts.

Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies spend over 70 percent of their resources on building capital development projects, such as schools, clinics, water facilities, toilets, etc. Enhanced accountability in the planning and execution of these projects would therefore lead to reduced tendencies for corruption, improved quality of development projects, better standards of living, especially for the poor and greater satisfaction among citizens.

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), selected CSOs and other local and national level stakeholders to implement the project from 2014 to 2019.

The GSAM project, as a development programme, has two main components:

Component One

In 50 of the 100 project districts, the GSAM Consortium is working with GAS to conduct public information campaigns aimed at disseminating results of performance audits conducted by GAS on the 50 assemblies. The audits, which go beyond the usual financial audits, are focused mainly on how these assemblies plan and execute capital projects. Providing this information to citizens would enable them to demand accountability and improved performance from local government officials.

Component Two

Under the second component, the GSAM Consortium is supporting local-level CSOs to regularly monitor and gather information on the planning and construction of selected capital development projects of the other 50 district assemblies. Information on the e-platform is processed and disseminated to citizens through a series of public information campaigns.



KEY ACTIVITIES

Capital Project Monitoring

The GSAM project supports local CSOs to regularly monitor and gather information on the planning and construction of selected capital development projects of 50 district assemblies based on their Annual Development Plans. The CSOs have been equipped with smart phones (tablets) to assist them regularly measure the progress and quality of capital projects. Information gathered by the CSOs is transmitted (via the internet) to an e-platform established to receive monitoring reports on capital development projects.

Public Information Campaigns

Through radio broadcast, town hall meetings, focus group discussions, project performance bulletins, among others, citizens in the 100 project districts would be informed about capital projects of their respective assemblies and the performance of these assemblies in the execution of such projects, based on results of the performance audits or capital project monitoring. This is to empower citizens to engage with their local authorities to demand improved performance.

CSO Capacity-Building

The GSAM Project provides training to local CSOs on how to monitor the progress and quality of capital projects with the assistance of technology. The CSOs also receive training in district assemblies' capital project budgeting, contracting, planning and construction and other critical aspects to enable them accurately measure the performance of the assemblies. Again, the project would enhance the capacity of local CSOs to conduct public information and advocacy campaigns since these are part of the key activities under the project.

The E-Platform

A key aspect of the GSAM project is the establishment of an electronic platform, which is to serve mainly as an online database on capital development projects being monitored under the project. CSOs would be trained to use smart phones (tablets) to gather and upload data real-time on the selected capital projects onto the e-platform.

Citizens are able to post their concerns on ongoing projects and their assemblies' performance onto the e-platform using SMS or MMS (Pictures and Video) through a Short Code or some other application. The e-platform also has a video conferencing facility that allows for a virtual conference involving the Consortium and 50 district assemblies.

Information on the e-platform is periodically disseminated to citizens and opportunities created for them to engage with and demand accountability from their local government authorities.



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

PROJECT DISTRICTS – COMPONENT ONE

NO.	REGION	DISTRICT	CAPITAL	NO.	REGION	DISTRICT	CAPITAL
1	Ashanti	Offinso North	Akomadan	26	Volta	Biakoye	Nkonya Ahenkro
2		Atwima Nwabiagya	Nkawie	27		South Dayi	Kpeve
3		Kumawu (Sekyere)	Kumawu	28		Krachi West	Kete Krachi
4		Amansie West	Manso-Nkwanta	29		Central Tongu	Adidome
5		Sekyere South	Agona	30		Kadjebi	Kadjebi
6		Asante Akim South	Juaso	31		Krachi Nchumuru	Chinderi
7	Brong Ahafo	Jaman South	Drobo	32	Eastern	North Tongu	Battor Dugame
8		Nkoranza South	Nkoranza (Municipal)	33		North Dayi	Amfoega
9		Sene West	Kwame Danso	34		Upper Manya Krobo	Asesewa
10		Tain	Nsawkaw	35		Birim South	Akim Swedru
11		Asutifi North	Kenyasi	36		Kwaebibirem	Kade
12		Techiman North	Tuobodom	37		Asuogyaman	Atimpoku
13	Northern	Kpandai	Kpandai	38	Western	Fanteakwa	Begoro
14		Bunkpurugu Yonyoo	Bunkpurugu	39		Ayensuano	Coaltar
15		Sawla-Tuna-Kalba	Sawla	40		Shama	Shama
16		Karaga	Karaga	41		Jomoro	Half Assini
17		West Gonja	Damango	42		Aowin	Enchi
18		North Gonja	Daboya	43		Suaman	Dadieso
19	Upper East	Kassena Nankana West	Paga	44	Gt. Accra	Mpohor	Mpohor
20		Builsa North	Sandema	45		Wassa Amenfi West	Asankrangwa
21		Pusiga	Pusiga	46	Central	Shai Osudoku (Danbge West)	Dodowa
22	Upper West	Lawra	Lawra	47		Twifo Ati Morkwa	Twifo Praso
23		Sissala West	Gwollu	48		Gomoa East	Afransi
24		Wa East	Funsi	49		Ajumako - Enyan-Essian	Ajumako
25		Sissala East	Tumu	50		Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyira	Hemang

PROJECT DISTRICTS – COMPONENT TWO

No.	REGION	DISTRICT	CAPITAL		REGION	DISTRICT	CAPITAL
1	Ashanti	Amansie Central	Jacobu	27	Upper West	Nadowli (Kaleo)	Nadowli
2		Sekyere Central	Nsuta	28		Wa West	Wechiau
3		Afigya Kwabre	Kodie	29	Volta	South Tongu	Sogakope
4		Sekyere East	Effiduase	30		Nkwanta South	Nkwanta
5		Bosomtwi	Kuntenase	31		Agotime Ziope	Agortime-Kpetoe
6		Adansi North	Fomena	32		Krachi East	Dambai
7		Ejura Sekyere Dumasi	Ejura (Municipal)	33		Adaklu (New)	Adaklu-Waya
		Ahafo Ano North	Tepa	34		Ho West (New)	Dzolokpuita
8	Brong Ahafo	Jaman North	Sampa	35	Eastern	Birim North	New Abirem
10		Asunafo South	Kukuom	36		Kwahu South	Mpraeso
11		Kintampo South	Jema	37		Lower Manya Krobo	Odumase Krobo
12		Atebubu (Amatin)	Atebubu	38		Suhum	Suhum (Municipal)
13		Sunyani West	Odumasi	39		Kwahu Afram Plains	Donkorkrom
14		Sene East (New)	Kajaji	40		Akuapim South (New)	Aburi
15		Banda (New)	Banda Ahenkro	41	Western	Ahanta West	Agona Nkwanta
16	Northern	Bole	Bole	42		Sefwi Akontombra	Sefwi Akontombra
17		East Gonja	Salaga	43		Wassa Amenfi East	Wassa Akropong
18		West Mamprusi	Walewale	44		Wassa East	Daboase
19		East Mamprusi	Gambaga	45		Bodie (New)	Bodie
20		Zabzugu	Zabzugu	46		Wassa Amenfi Central	Manso Amenfi
21		Gushiegu	Gushiegu	47	Central	Agona East	Nsaba
22		Tolon	Tolon	48		Asikuma-Odoben-Brakwa	Asikuma
23		Tatale Sanguli (New)	Tatale	49		Abura Senya East (New)	Abura Dunkwa
24	Upper East	Garu Tempani	Garu	50		Awutu Senya East (New)	Kasoa
25		Bawku West	Zebilla				
26		Builsa South (New)	Fumbisi				