



# DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

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## Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (SPEFA) Activities in the Ga East Municipal Assembly in 2015

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The Government of Ghana in collaboration with the World Bank initiated a project titled "Local Government Capacity Support (LGCS)" for forty-six (46) Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies in Ghana. The Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (SPEFA) process is the third component of the Local Government Capacity Support Project. The African Development Programme is implementing CSO under the SNV-led consortium of CSOs organized its 3rd and 4th quarter activities of creating a learning platform for citizens. The third quarter activity focused on public procurement process. The activity brought together stakeholders from the assembly, traditional authority, women's group, the media among others.

The Municipal Procurement Officer, Mr. Rashid Jajah gave a presentation on the Public



*INSERT-Chairman for SPEFA forum on procurement Hon. Frempong-Manso addressing participants*



**Cross section of Participants at the Town Hall Meeting**

services, works/technical service under the Act; and practical examples as related to the assembly. The platform gave the community members an insight as to how the assembly procures goods and services as well as the processes in awarding job contracts to



**A participant making a contribution during a SPEFA forum on procurement at Dome Methodist church**

Procurement process. This covered the Procurement Act 663, 2003; processes for buying goods,

individuals and businesses, thereby enabling community members who are eligible have equal opportunities to do business with the assembly. The knowledge shared at the forum not only equipped citizens to engage effectively with the assembly but also promote joint and enhance

Assembly commitment.

Further, it was always the case that planned activities were shared with the Municipal Coordinating Director to ensure top level political will and engagement.

Successes chalked by the 3rd quarter forum include increase in residents associations participation, women attendance and participation improvement, Increased media participation and reportage to enhance public awareness. Constant engagement with citizens groups irrespective of planned SPEFA activities to find out from them on new developments have also helped deepen interest in SPEFA activities. Regular updates shared with media contacts proved useful in increasing media attention.

### Special points of interest:

- Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability 3rd and 4th quarter activities done
- Joint FAO-SNV partnership meeting held in Tamale
- ADP engages the media on the progress of the World's Women

## 4th Quarter SPEFA Activities

The fourth quarter learning activity focused on a forum on Financial Reporting and Financial Management, how the assembly manages its resources and how it reports in these resources and a Town Hall meeting on the 2014 Annual Performance and Budget Review .

The activity brought together stakeholders from the assembly, traditional authority, women's group, the media among others



**Municipal Planning Officer making a contribution during the forum**

The 4<sup>th</sup> SPEFA forum was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015 at the Church of Pentecost, Haatso.

ADP's Head of Programs, Mr. Charles O. Abbey in the statement of purpose recapped by highlighting the training and learning sessions on Action Plans, Financing and Budgeting and Procurement which helps the members to ask the relevant questions and to give contributions as well for the betterment of the district. He also unveiled the day's lecture on Financial Reporting and Financial Management which was to be presented by the Assembly's Finance Assistant

Mr. Nkansah gave a presentation on Financial Reporting and Financial Management. This covered various legal frameworks such as the 1992 Constitution, supported by Acts of Parliaments; Financial Administration Act, 2003 (Act 654), Financial Administration Regulation, 2004 (L.I. 1802) and Financial Memorandum for MMDAs, 2004

Mr. Nkansah in his presentation stated that having learnt about planning, budgeting, and procurement, there is the need to look at how the assembly manages its resources and how it reports on these resources. By definition, he said financial management comprises the set of policies, procedures and processes designed to provide assurance

that, an Assembly's resources are used properly, effectively, economically and efficiently for execution of intended purpose with a view to achieve stated objectives and to safeguard the assets of the Assembly. He noted four (4) key issues:

1. Proper use of resources especially funds
2. Account for the funds through timely and proper financial reports
3. Planned objectives are achieved
4. Protection and safeguarding the Assets/ Properties of the Assembly

The Town Hall Meeting was also organised on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at the Church of Pentecost, Haatso.

Mr. Amoah spoke about the act of reviewing the previous development plan in order to carry forward any outstanding project into the subsequent development plan. The NDPC gives guidelines to the Assembly in the order to have a common goal. Mr. Amoah and Bannerman highlighted issues on bidding and procurement respectively

Mr. S S Agbeve also highlighted the action plan and budget for the year 2014/15. He stated that as part of the whole process, together with the citizens, the assembly has to monitor the plan of implementation as spelt out in the action plan. The budget officer, Mr. Noah Tali on behalf of the MCE gave the presentation on the budget and its actuals; expected revenue, how much was collected and how it was expended.

The MCE emphasized that, the Ga East Municipality for the past three years has maintained revenues and despite this it was able to increase its revenue by 3% in 2014. This has been possible due to the increased efforts in the mobilization of revenue. He added that the assembly supports communities which are able to mobilize resources and start a project to complete it. He cited the Haatso ECOMOG resident association as an example and congratulated them for putting up a Police Station as well as some other resident associations and individuals who took it to themselves to tar their roads.

The Chairman advised the Assembly to get into contact with the resident association in order to make their voices heard and

also entreated members to perform their civic responsibilities in order to increase the internally generated funds (IGF) having been abreast with the trends on revenue and expenditure.

Mr. Tali said on capacity building that training sessions are organized periodically to help their staffs – both junior and senior – perform effectively. He informed the house about a training session attended by the Coordinating Director who was at Tamale and other training session upcoming on the effective and efficient use of land for land owners, chiefs and opinion leader in the community as well.

He added that other donors groups help them identify gaps in the assembly which serves as the basis of what exactly to train staffs on.

Resource persons at the function responded to concerns of participants ranging from issues of alternative income generating activities, capacity building costs, construction and how funds were released to contractors.

The objective of the SPEFA projects is gradually been realized, participants now have confidence and knowledge to better engage the assembly. This is seen in the kind of questions they asked.

Citizens now demand reports of public accounts and that it should be made public.

# UN-Progress of the Worlds Women 2015-2016

## Transforming Economies Realizing Rights



Progress of the World's Women: Transforming economies, realizing rights is a timely reminder of the importance of women's economic and social rights to building strong and resilient economies and societies, today and for future generations. It shows where governments and the international community have fallen short on realizing the full inclusion of women and girls and it illustrates how and where immediate action can redress this critical imbalance.

A quality education, a decent job, access to healthcare and a life free from violence and discrimination are necessary foundations for women and girls to be equal partners with men and boys in every aspect of life. (Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General)

Twenty years after the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and at a time when the global community is defining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the post-2015 era, the global consensus on the need to achieve gender equality seems stronger than ever before. Empowering women and girls is among the goals aspired to by all, from grassroots organizations, trade unions and corporations, to Member States and inter-governmental bodies. But how far has this consensus been translated into tangible progress on the ground, and what more is needed to bridge the gaps between rhetoric and reality?

Governments in every region have made legally binding commitments to respect, protect and fulfill women's human rights, recognizing their intrinsic value as well as the synergies between women's rights and wider prosperity. Women's access to decent employment is not only likely to improve their agency and the distributional dynamics within the household but can also lift whole households out of poverty. Improvements in women's health and education are key contributors to women's own well being and life chances and are also linked to better.

There have been significant achievements since Beijing: more girls are enrolling in school; and more women are working, getting elected and assuming leadership positions. Where once it was regarded as a private matter, preventing and redressing violence against women and girls is at last on the public policy agenda. Women have gained greater legal rights to access employment, own and inherit property and get married and divorced on the same terms as men. These areas of progress show that gender inequalities can be reduced through public action.

This Report focuses on the economic and social dimensions of gender equality, including

the right of all women to a good job, with fair pay and safe working conditions, to an adequate pension in older age, to health care and to safe water without discrimination based on factors such as socio-economic status, geographic location and race or ethnicity. In doing so, it aims to unravel some of the current challenges and contradictions facing the world today: at a time when women and girls have almost equal opportunities when it comes to education, why are only half of women of working age in the labour force globally, and why do women still earn much less than men? In an era of unprecedented global wealth, why are large numbers of women not able to exercise their right to even basic levels of health care, water and sanitation?

Changes in the global economy have not been beneficial for the majority of men either. At the global level, the narrowing of gender gaps in labour force participation from 28 to 26 percentage points has occurred primarily because men's participation rates have declined faster than those of women. Similarly, the gender pay gap has narrowed over the past decade in most countries with available data, but this is not always a sign of progress: for example in some countries where gender pay gaps have narrowed this has been in the context of falling real wages for both women and men, and the gaps have narrowed only because men's wages have fallen more dramatically than women's. This can hardly be considered 'progress': instead of women catching up with men, there is a leveling down for all.

In response to these challenges, a variety of actors—bilateral and multilateral agencies, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector—have embraced the need for women's economic empowerment. Some see in women a largely untapped market of consumers, while others speak about the opportunity of 'unleashing the economic power and potential of women' as a means to solve the persistent problems caused by the global financial crisis and stalled growth.

But while gender equality clearly contributes to broader economic and social goals, not all pathways to economic development advance gender equality. Indeed, some patterns of economic growth are premised on maintaining gender inequalities in conditions of work and earnings and enforcing unequal patterns of unpaid work that consign women to domestic drudgery. Without a monitoring framework solidly anchored in human rights, it is difficult to know whether claims of empowering women stand up to scrutiny.

(For full report go to: [http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UN\\_W\\_progressreport.pdf](http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UN_W_progressreport.pdf))



**A seat at the table: Care givers in Kenya come together to demand a voice**

### ADP engages the media on the progress of the Worlds Women

ADP Head of Programs, Charles Othniel Abbey, in a discussion with an Accra based radio station, Radio Gold 90.5 underscored the fact that the limited number of women in formal sector employment was a reflection of the deficits of the past two decades whereby Ghana (and other developing countries) relegated to the background the issue of higher education for women as a national priority.

He cautioned that if sustainable and forward-looking measures are not taken to reverse the continued trend of low educational attainment by females in higher education, by 2030 when the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals are reviewed, the same picture (if not worse) of few women engaged in well paid formal employment will persist.

## PARTNERSHIP BUILDING FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT **JOINT FAO-SNV GHANA PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

A Joint FAO-SNV Partnership Meeting to have a holistic approach and synergy building towards the CDC platform was held in Tamale, Ghana from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. The meeting brought together development partners, national partners, leadership of FBOs who deliberated and made inputs to the CDC concept. Partners also made various commitments and together agreed on how best to collaborate to make the CDCs contribute to rural development and poverty reduction.

FAO Ghana, as part of its programmatic support to the Government of Ghana in implementing sustainable interventions in the fight against rural poverty and food insecurity, together with decentralised organs of Government are promoting the establishment of Community Development Centres (CDCs) in the Northern and Central Regions.

The Community Development Centres (CDCs) are conceived to serve as a platform for value chain promotion around key commodities in crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors.

The CDCs are designed as centres of excellence to serve as a hub for effective partnership and collaboration. It will empower men, women and youth to increase their income and improve their livelihoods based on capacity building and effective support to commodities value chains. The CDCs are centred on five key components through which various interventions are implemented. These are;

1. Support to sustainable production (Crops, livestock, forestry and aquaculture)
2. Agribusiness development
3. Business support services
4. Training and capacity building
5. Communication and knowledge sharing

#### **Statement by Dr. Peter Robert Vos FAO Director of Social Protection Division**

Dr. Peter Robert Vos in his statement expressed the joy of joining forces with the Ghanaian Authorities, international and national partners to boost rural development in the region. He highlighted that, in recent years, FAO has reorganized its main areas of work around 5 strategic objectives (SOs) and one of them aims at reducing rural poverty. He noted that, while the global poverty rate has been cut in half between 1990 and 2010, about 1.2 billion people continue to live in extreme poverty.

**African Development Programme** Mr. Charles Othniel Abbey gave an overview of ADP's profile as a social development-oriented civil society organization and its mission to promote human development through integrated development programmes targeted at rural and peri-urban communities in Ghana and Africa and its approaches to Development Service Delivery through Policy engagement, Training, Research, Advocacy and Practice and Direct community intervention.

He highlighted ADP's ongoing work in support of the rural poverty reduction initiative. He explained that the organization conducted a policy review of 34 Agric related policies in relation to social protection, decent rural employment and rural institutions and peoples empowerment. Also a capacity needs assessment of key actors at the national, regional and district levels was undertaken in order to develop a capacity development road map .

#### Possible areas of ADP collaboration

1. Business Support Services; (i) Policy and Administrative Support.



***A photograph of dignitaries at the partnership forum***

(ii) Support to Women and Youth in Agricultural Entrepreneurship.

2.Training and Capacity Building; (i) Business and Entrepreneurial Skills Development. (ii) Mobilization and Strengthening of Farmer-Based Organizations (FBOs) through Institutional Building for Sustainability. (iii) Sustainable Management and Governance.

Other organizations namely B-BOVID Limited & TRACTOR, OICI-GHANA, Venture Capital Trust Fund (VCTF), World Vision Ghana (WVG), Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP), CSIR-Food Research Institute, Heifer International, The Hunger Project- Ghana and SNV presented the overview of their organizations and possible areas of collaboration and partnership they are desirous to form with the Government of Ghana and FAO in the CDCs.

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*ADP is a pan-African civil society organization with a focus on social development through policy, training, research & advocacy; analysis, and direct community interventions. Our two decades of results-oriented development activities across the sub-region covers rural and local economic development, social accountability, education, health, and PWDs. Gender, governance and social protection are cross-cutting themes*