

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

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AFRICAN
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PROGRAMME



ACEP RELEASES REPORT ON BRIDGING THE FINANCING GAP IN PRO-POOR SECTORS IN GHANA

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The African Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) has stressed the urgent need for sustained funding support for agriculture, health and education projects in order that the benefits from the mining and oil revenues are spread to cover a large proportion of the citizenry such that the "resource curse" phenomenon is avoided.

This was contained in a report on "The Role of Extractive Resource Revenues in Bridging the Financing Gap in Pro-Poor Sectors in Ghana – The Cases of Health, Education and Agriculture" it released at a civil society and media briefing in Accra at Mensvic Hotel (East Legon) July, 2015 where the *African Development Programme (ADP)* was invited.

The report indicated that there is no legal framework similar to the Petroleum Revenue Management Act that governs solid mineral revenues allocated to the budget. It is therefore not possible to track mineral revenues to projects. Its impact on the social and economic development can therefore not easily be assessed.

For full report visit: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/acep-static/reports/Budget+Traking%281%29.pdf>

ACEP's report revealed that the health sector over the period did not receive much attention in the allocation of the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA). The ABFA allocated to the sector in 2013, about GH¢29,900,000.00, constituting 7% of the capital budget for the year. However, the Government's

Reconciliation Report for the 2014 fiscal year shows that there was no expenditure made in the health sector from ABFA in 2013. This does not only undermine budget credibility but also reflects divergence between allocations and disbursements, a regular feature of the budgeting process in Ghana.

The food and agriculture subsector budget received the greatest attention in pro-poor distribution of petroleum revenues. The sub-sector was allocated revenues from ABFA in each of the last three years; GH¢42,500,000.00 in 2012, GH¢20,000,000.00 in 2013 and GH¢52,180,591.00 in 2014. The agriculture sector share of ABFA was invested in a number of projects, which had significant implications for smallholder farmers. Thus, the choice of investment for the ABFA captured agriculture's role in redistribution of income, reducing income and social inequalities and reducing poverty

The study further revealed that the average annual financing gap for the health sector is GH¢1,079.8 million and GH¢355 million for the agriculture sector. These add up to

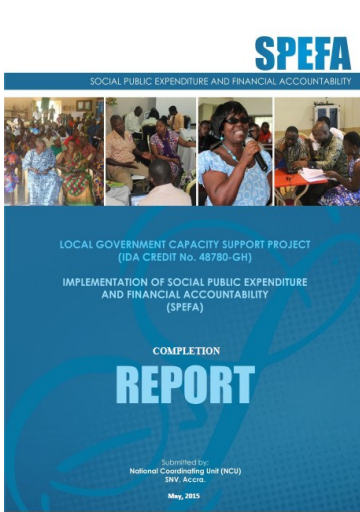
GH¢1,435,153,964.55. With average annual ABFA of GH¢1,548,8 million over the period 2013 to 2015 (projected), petroleum revenues are more than adequate to bridge the financing gap if these revenues were allocated to the two pro-poor sectors of health and agriculture, particularly because the financing gap for the agriculture sector has been increasing over the years.

The *African Development Programme* supports the call by ACEP that to address the inefficiency in the utilization of petroleum revenues observed over the period 2011 to 2014 through thin distribution of ABFA over many sectors and projects, time over-runs and cost over-runs, Government must re-prioritize the use of petroleum revenues from non-essential spending like the office of government machinery, the National Disaster Management Organization; and non-social sectors such as the Venture Capital Fund and Exim Guaranty Funds which must be non-oil revenues and private sector driven, and commit the resources to social development sectors that are pro-poor and could make quick development impact in the country.

Special points of interest:

- Persons with Disability (PWD) and Women Participation Increases in Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability
- ADP Supports ACEP's Call for Committing of More Extractive Resource Revenues To Social Development Sectors
- ADP engages the media on the June 3rd Disaster

FIRST PHASE OF SOCIAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (SPEFA) COMPLETE



The issue of good governance has become topical in the discourse of development planning in Ghana.

Good governance is a way of organizing,

amplifying and constraining power. In Ghana today, good governance should not be limited to the crafting of instruments related to the promotion of democracy.

Accountability is essentially answerability by duty bearers and the enforceability of clear provisions for sanctioning failure.

To these ends, mechanisms by which individuals and organizations can safely and legitimately report concerns for redress must be in place. Accountability requires openness of the system, clear processes and procedures and access to public information.

It is in this quest that the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development birthed the idea of SPEFA. SPEFA is the Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability, the third component of the Local Government Capacity Support Project being realized through a loan facility by the World Bank to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD).

This Project for the first phase is a two year project being implemented by SNV and its 27 partner Civil Society Organizations. The implementation strategy for the project was mainly through the SPEFA Platform and the Town hall Meetings. In the SPEFA platform citizens are trained on processes and procedures in the MMDAs so they (citizens) can further engage duty bearers in town hall meetings regarding the progress of development projects. These platforms underpins government's fiscal decentralization policies and programmes.

The implementation of SPEFA for two years has revealed the wanton need to engage citizens further in development issues such as

planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, expenditure tracking, budget analysis etc. Through SPEFA, citizens have gained knowledge on some of these topical issues but this has to be sustained and deepened further to ensure that citizens are equipped with the necessary skills to engage the MMAs and demand accountability regarding the utilization of resources. In all, 158 SPEFA forums and 65 Town hall meetings were organized with 7 CSO review meetings.

The participation of Traditional Authorities at these platforms has given some level of credence to the project and citizens are confident to participate. Persons living with disability have increasingly become part of decision making in the MMAs and their 2% District Assemblies Common Fund is discussed in such platforms. Also the participation of women in the learning platforms has enhanced the deliberations and it is very awakening to note that the marginalized are being considered in the structure of development and this is laudable.

Some of the milestones of the project since inception is that, citizens are becoming aware of MMA practices regarding fiscal decentralization, the vulnerable such as PLWDs and women are being engaged in decision making and also conflict prone communities are now dialoguing more and not engaging in unsavory activities.

Traditional Authorities are becoming a bona fide part of local governance and MMAs are engaging citizens educating them on the PFM templates. Some MMAs such as New Juabeng, Upper Denkyira, Sekondi Takoradi, Adentan, Ho, Mfanstiman, GA South and Tamale have posted the PFM templates on public notices with support from the SPEFA CSOs.

For full report visit: <http://adpgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/SPEFA-Completion-report-31st-May-2015.pdf>

The **African Development Programme** in its implementation of the SPEFA activities in the Ga East Municipality chalked some success notable among them are;

1. Residents associations participation increment.
2. Women attendance and participation im-

provement.

3. Increased media participation and reportage to enhance public awareness.

4. The birth of a quarterly newsletter to deepen



ADP SPEFA Banner and Venue

information sharing.

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

The next phase of project implementation will bring on board the additional 11 MMAs to complete the roll out of the project in 46 MMAs in Ghana. Ghana needs to ensure that such projects are given the necessary boost and support to erode the perceived acrimony between duty bearers and right holders and also bridge the gap.

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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.

RESOURCES:



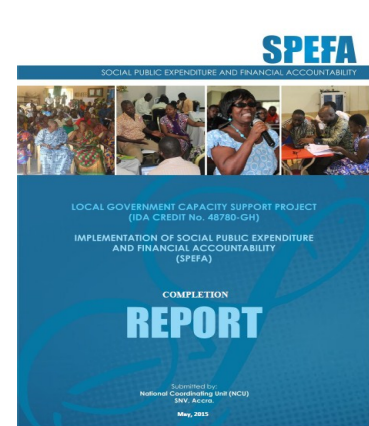
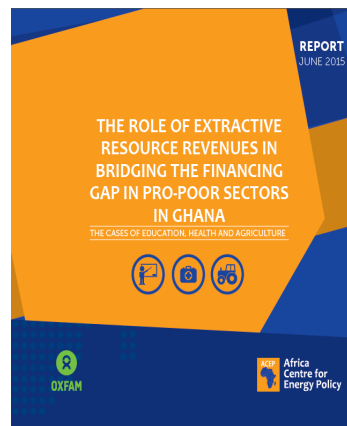
POLICY REVIEW AND CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Reducing Rural Poverty Initiative in Ghana



2014

http://adpgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Final-Report-POLICY-REVIEW-CNA-ADP_FAO-Ghana-Study.pdf



ADP Engages the Media on the June 3 Disaster

Disaster related deaths have been with mankind since time immemorial. However, the extent to which it has become a formidable force to damage property, claim lives and disrupt livelihoods in some parts of the world is alarming and requiring further practical measures in order to avert future occurrences.

The double disaster (fire and flood) on 3rd June in Accra which claimed over 155 lives and damage to properties worth over hundreds of thousands and the aftermath has dominated the media focus.

In a discussion with an Accra based radio station, Pink Fm, 96.7 in the early hours of 10th June, 2015, ADP, Head of Programs, Mr. Charles Othniel

Abbey was asked whether the recent disaster was due to leadership failure.

In his submission, he said 'waiting for a problem of this nature to occur before finding solution to them is not the best'.

He continued to say, 'where were NADMO, the Police and the Fire Service when calls were being made to them when the explosion happened at Circle? Where was the Security Service when calls were made from Lapaz about the floods?'

He expressed dissatisfaction about disaster preparedness on the part of duty bearers in the midst of such a disaster. The issues of availability of supplies and materials were also highlighted.

He stressed that if NADMO

does not have the supplies to work with, how was disaster management going to be effective?

He was quick to commend the IGP and Police from the morning to evening work done to support efforts in managing the disaster.

He advised that if all emergency and resources were put in prevention measures and enthusiasm and zeal on the part of duty bearers was emphasized, more lives could have been saved.

He also added that the environmental and social safeguards of the road construction at Circle must be up and running. He said emotional and psychological effects have taken place and that counseling must be done to affected families to deal with

their ordeal.

In his final submission, he made a call on the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to lead efforts to offer counseling and volunteering services in the aftermath rescue mission for victims and officials who witnessed the scene.