



## ADP CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO RE-PRIORITIZE ANNUAL BUDGET FUNDING AMOUNT (ABFA) SPENDING ON HEALTH AMIDST DANIDA WITHDRAWAL

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- “Reading the health sector support project document of DANIDA, you realize that they have identified some serious threats to our inability to rake in extra resources to support our health sector and corruption is one of the issues” Charles Othniel Abbey
- People spend more than half and nearly two thirds of their annual incomes on education expenses given the poverty line of Gh¢792.05 and Gh¢1,314 respectively.
- “Now I know the duties of my assembly man” Member of Women's Group



The Danish support to the Ghanaian health sector dates back to the mid-90s. The support has from the onset focused on primary health care interventions aimed at the poor and most vulnerable people. The overall aim of the Danish support to the Ghanaian health sector is to contribute to poverty reduction and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The programme aligned itself to Ghana’s poverty reduction strategy, which emphasizes the health sector as essential to socio-economic development by providing affordable quality primary health care to the Ghanaian population.

The health sector has experienced significant progress in several areas over the last decades. The positive outcomes include improved tuberculosis cure rates, an increasing number of trained health care workers, virtual eradication of guinea worm cases, and an increase in supervised birth deliveries. There has also been a positive development on meeting the MDGs with a reduction in child mortality (MDG 4), maternal mortality (MDG 5), and communicable diseases

such as malaria and HIV/AIDS (MDG 6). However, challenges still remain in these areas and especially maternal mortality is unacceptably high.

DANIDA’s support to the health sector entered its fifth and final phase this year (2016). The Danish Ambassador to Ghana, Tove Degnbol had said the withdrawal of DANIDA’s support to Ghana follows Ghana’s attainment of middle income status. She said after supporting Ghana for the past 22 years, the decision to opt out now is to allow other poorer countries in Africa to benefit from the Danish Government. The over \$65million Danish support to the health sector from 2012 – 2016 represents close to 13% development partners (DPs) support for MDG 4 and 5.

ADP’s Acting Executive Director Charles Othniel Abbey, in a discussion with My Banner Show (JoyNews on MultiTV) host Mama Vee and Gabriel Benaarku (Chairman -Coalition of NGOs in Health) on the implications of DANIDA’s decision to wean off its support to the health sector on 3rd March 2016 underscored the need for the government to re-prioritize the ANNUAL BUDGET FUNDING

AMOUNT (ABFA) allocation to the health sector from the oil revenues. He wondered why over \$24million would be earmarked for capacity-building and scholarships whilst health is allocated \$8million.

He suggested that in the face of the DANIDA withdrawal of health sector funding support, a supplementary budget from the Ministry of Finance should pave a way for CSOs to make inputs into the financial arrangements so that the health sector’s priorities will be properly placed in relation to capacity building and infrastructure (access and quality).

“One would have expected that the Policy Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the Ministry of Health would have noted this issue as a strategic risk to our health sector financing”

“Reading the health sector support project document of DANIDA, you realize that they have identified some serious threats to our inability to rake in extra resources to support our health sector and corruption is one of the issues” These were some of the words of Charles Othniel Abbey during the discussion.

Click to watch video <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanDevelopmentProgram/videos/619826078174638/>



Education is fundamental to enhancing the quality of human life and ensuring social and economic progress (United Nation's Report on the World Social Situation, 1997) No society can be said to be flourishing and progressive if greater part of its citizens are poor and miserable (Adams Smith, 1976).

Widespread abject poverty creates conditions in which the poor have no access to credit, are unable to finance the children's education, and, in the absence of physical or monetary investment opportunities, have many children as a source of old-age financial security (Tadano and Smith, 2006). Education is the basic objective of development; it is an important end in itself. It is very vital for a satisfying and rewarding life.

It is a means by which human dignity is restored. According to Ostergaard (1985), 'education is a means of overcoming poverty, increasing income, improving nutrition and health, reducing family size and not the least important, raising people's self-confidence and enriching the quality of their lives'.

This supports the fact that education is unarguably the key to a successful life, and that is why the Government of Ghana over the years is doing its best to ensure that school-going children have access to free and quality education in the country.

Over the past decade there have been a number of educational policies and programmes to improve education access and participation: Capitation Grant, School Feeding Programme, access to functional literacy programmes, education and training for

employability for our educational development and sustainability, and national development.

Targets set for these policies need to be monitored and assessed. The results of the Ghana Living Standards Survey were used to track the achievements and impact of these policies. It also assists in monitoring performance to meet commitments such as the Education for All (EFA) goals, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNESCO Goals and Ghana Education Strategic Plan (2010-2020).

According to the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS-6) results households spent an average GH¢458.90 annually per household member attending school. On average, the total annual amount spent is higher in Accra (GH¢1,024.14) than other urban (GH¢520.53) and all the rural areas.

Similarly, expenses on all educational items are higher in Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA) than other urban or rural areas. In the rural areas, the average total expenses are less than the national average. Across localities, rural savannah has the lowest average total educational expenses of GH¢120.31 per household member. The survey also revealed that higher proportions of educational expenditures are spent on school and registration fees (40.3%) and on food, boarding and lodging (31.2%) while expenses on books and school supplies (9.2%) are lower.

Cost of education has been identified to constitute a significant proportion of the income of most people in Ghana whose daily lives are visited by abject poverty. Taking giant steps to bring economic recovery to its citizens through education, the Government

of Ghana has taken the burden off parents through the implementation of the capitation grant policy.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, and given the fact poverty is a serious issue in the country particularly in the northern regions as revealed by the recent poverty mapping report, one would have realized that on the average people spend more than half and nearly two thirds of their annual incomes on education expenses given the poverty line of GH¢792.05 and GH¢1,314 respectively per household member attending school. This is a picture of a vicious cycle of poverty because monies which people could have invested in their sources of income to achieve growth will again be used to cover expenses making it difficult for some to escape poverty.

Going forward, the Government needs to increase the grant in addition to strengthening the other education based social interventions in other to improve access, participation and achieve equity for all.

Again, sanctioning and penalizing corrupt heads of institutions appropriately for charging extra fees in schools will go a long way to reinforce the capitation grant policy.

When this is done our school children who are the constitutional beneficiaries of the grant will have a reason to be in school as well as a meaningful life in future. This will build in them the spirit of patriotism and love for country.

*Write-up compiled by  
Solomon Okai*





## CITIZENS ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ROLES OF THEIR DUTY BEARERS UNDER L.G.C.S.P



**Charles Othniel Abbey facilitating the learning session on Leadership and Social Accountability**

The African Development Programme (ADP) has implemented the second quarter forum of the Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (SPEFA) project in the Ga West Municipality. This was to educate citizens on roles of their duty bearers as part of efforts to stimulate demand for accountability from them. The forum was held at the Ga West Municipal Assembly Hall on 21st March, 2016.

The forum attracted various citizens groups notable among them were traditional authorities, transport unions, womens groups, youth associations, assembly members, the media among others. In all 124 people participated in the session out of which 49 were men and majority

75 were women.

The learning session was tagged: Leadership and Social Accountability. The areas discussed were Leadership, Service Delivery Standards and benefits, Grievance Redress mechanism and roles of Assembly members, Members of parliament and District Chief Executives

A plenary and roles session was organized for participants to discuss the roles of duty bearers using the "soup model" . At the end of the forum the participants expressed satisfaction of the knowledge they now have of the assembly members since channeling their concerns to the right authorities is now clear.

Some of the participant worried about lack of offices for assembly members and called for future policies to do otherwise. The forum also revealed some tension among duty bearers and traditional authorities in some electoral areas.

Assembly members at the forum also contributed on their roles to the discussions in the municipality

Speaking to the media i.e the Enquirer and the Crusading Guide, Mr Charles Othniel Abbey, Ag. Executive Director of ADP stated that knowledge, money and wisdom are essential tools when it comes to the development of every nation and called on all citizens to ensure that these three (3) keys were always available in their every day activities.

He reiterated that "Poverty can hardly be reduced in Ghana particularly in the long term unless deliberate efforts are made to strengthen social accountability within the decentralization system at all levels"

Participants who spoke to the

media described the forum as "as very informative and called on the government to extend it to the grass-roots level" Hon. Comfort Zormelo

"Now I know the duties of my assembly man"

Member of Women's Group

The planning officer called on community members to pay their rates timely to help the assembly execute its projects for the benefit of all and reminded them of their responsibility to always demand accountability from their assembly members.



**Hon. Comfort Zormelo making a contribution at the forum on the roles of Assembly Members**

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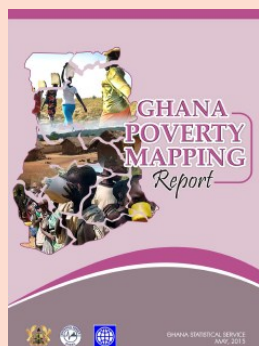
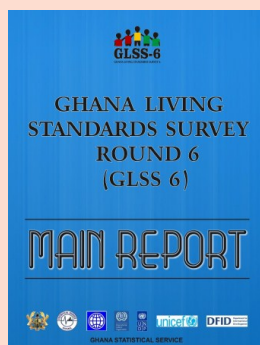
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*ADP is a pan-African civil society organization with a focus on social development through policy analysis, , training, research & advocacy; and direct community interventions. Our two decades of results-oriented development activities across the sub-region covers Rural and Local Economic Development, Social Accountability, Education, Health, and PWDs. Gender, Governance and Social Protection are cross-cutting themes.*

### RESOURCES



<http://www.statsghana.gov.gh/publications.html>