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GHANA'S STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS (GSAM) PROJECT

Third Quarter Report – Year Three

Period: 1st April – 30th June 2017



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Cover Photo: A middle-aged man completing a scorecard based on the discussions among men in Betinase in the Krachi East District of the Volta Region.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAP	Annual Development Plan
ACEPA	African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDM	Community Development Monitor
CDMs	Capital Development Monitors
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	District Assembly
DAs	District Assemblies
DCD	District Coordinating Director
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DWE	District Works Engineer
DCEs	District Chief Executive
DSC	District Steering Committee
E-Platform	Electronic Platform
GAS	Ghana Audit Service
GSAM	Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
LPM	Live Presenter Mention
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGGA	Northern Ghana Government Activity
PWLD	Persons Living with Disabilities
SA	Social Accountability
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Third Quarter of the USAID-funded Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project spanned the period April-June, 2017. CARE, IBIS and ISODEC supported 26 CSO partners to complete a number of citizen monitoring and dissemination activities started in previous quarters in the 50 SA districts and to commence another round of citizen monitoring of capital projects. As at the end of June, 88 capital projects had been selected from the 2016/2017 Annual Action Plans (AAPs) in 43 of the 50 social accountability (SA) districts for citizen monitoring, majority of which are education (42%) and health-related (36%) projects. Below is a summary of the key activities implemented during the quarter and the results thereof.

Key Activities

- ✓ Durbars were organized in 87 communities to disseminate citizen-generated information on their District Assemblies' capital project performance. Cumulatively, these community durbars have now been held in 763 communities across the 50 SA districts.
- ✓ CSOs and citizens in 25 of the 50 SA districts were supported to monitor and generate scorecards on capital projects selected from the 2016/2017 AAPs of their District Assemblies.
- ✓ Town-hall meetings were organized in nine (9) districts for citizens, district authorities and other stakeholders to discuss the first citizen scorecards generated on capital projects from the 2016/2017 AAPs, bringing the number of district town-hall meetings organized so far to 109.
- ✓ Live Presenter Mentions (LPMs), jingles and radio discussions on citizen scorecards took place on 10 radio stations targeting citizens in 14 districts. Consequently, the GAS performance audit findings and citizen scorecards have now been aired on 65 radio stations reaching out to citizens in the 100 GSAM districts.
- ✓ Billboards (8ftx8ft) were mounted in Bole, Wa West and Nadowli Kaleo to display the results of citizens/CSOs' scorecard assessments of the implementation of selected capital projects by their District Assemblies, completing the mounting of billboards in the 50 SA districts.
- ✓ The citizen-monitoring website was re-designed with dashboards created for CSOs to upload monitoring data and for the consortium to upload success stories, news articles, newsletters, fact sheets, among others.

Key Results

- A total of 2,651 citizens in communities where projects from the 2016/2017 AAPs are being implemented were able to assess the planning and implementation of their District Assemblies' capital projects and demand accountability. The total number of citizens who have been able to monitor and assess capital projects and demand accountability since the commencement of the project now stands at 7,660 (comprising 4,071 males and 3,589 females).
- A total of 4,723 citizens received citizen-generated information on their District Assemblies' capital project performance. This brings the number of citizens in the 50 SA districts who now have some information on their District Assemblies' capital project performance to 32,001.
- A total of 541 community volunteers gained knowledge on District Assemblies' planning, budgeting and procurement processes and how to use scorecards and ICT to monitor capital projects in their communities.
- A number of citizens who participated in community durbars, especially women, claimed that it was through these events that they were able to interact with district authorities and voice their concerns on capital projects (refer to page 5).
- Lom FM and Pad FM in the Northern Region, who are part of radio stations engaged to broadcast performance audit findings and citizen scorecards, have now, on their own initiative, instituted radio programmes that afford citizens the opportunity to share their concerns on capital projects.
- Intense radio activities on Radio Builsa by FISTRAD, one of the project CSO partners, have increased citizens' awareness of the GSAM project and issues related to capital project monitoring in the Builsa North and South districts of the Upper East Region.

I. INTRODUCTION

This report covers activities implemented in the third quarter (April-June, 2017) of Year 3 of the Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project. Information in this report relates to administration and project infrastructure, updates on activities, monitoring and evaluation, implementation challenges, lessons learnt for the period, planned activities for the next quarter as well as conclusions and recommendations. The key activities implemented within this quarter include the dissemination of previous scorecard results, selection of new capital projects for monitoring, training of community monitors, commencement of scorecard generation on capital projects in the 2016/2017 AAPs, organization of district-level town hall meetings, etc.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) is a five-year project (2014-2019) that seeks to “*strengthen citizens’ oversight of capital projects to improve local government transparency, accountability and performance in 100 districts of Ghana.*” It is being funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the GSAM Consortium – CARE, IBIS and ISODEC – together with the Ghana Audit Service and 27 other Civil Society Organizations. The project is being implemented under two components.

Component One

The GSAM Consortium carried out an information campaign in 50 of the 100 project districts, which are known as the Audit Districts, to disseminate the results of performance audits conducted by the Ghana Audit Service (GAS) with support from the USAID. **The performance audits assessed the capacity of the 50 District Assemblies for implementing capital projects along the following dimensions: project initiation and planning, budgeting, procurement and contracting, implementation and impact on beneficiaries.**

Component Two

The GSAM Consortium supports CSOs to mobilize citizens in the other 50 districts, known as the Social Accountability (SA) Districts, to employ cell phone technology and community scorecards approach to engage in detailed community monitoring of capital projects as contained in the Annual Action Plans of their District Assemblies and to use the information generated to

interface with the assemblies to negotiate improvements in capital project delivery. The consortium uses radio, billboards, printed scorecards, community durbars, town-hall meetings and other mechanisms as part of an information campaign to increase citizens' awareness of the results of citizen monitoring of District Assemblies' capital projects.

3. ADMINISTRATION & PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 Staffing

CARE completed the recruitment process to fill in the vacant M&E Officer position for the Kumasi zonal office. Mr. Peter Porekuu Francis Xavier, who previously worked with the Ghana Developing Communities Association (GDCA), one of the GSAM CSO partners, emerged as the successful candidate and has since assumed his role.

Meanwhile, the two new staff who were recruited as Zonal Project Officers for the Kumasi zonal office have also commenced duty. They are Ali Lukman Gariba, formerly of Social Development Improvement Agency (SODIA), one of GSAM CSO partners and Emmanuel Mensah Duah, who worked with the Asokore Mampong District Assembly. In addition, Safia Musah, one of the Zonal Project Officers from the IBIS zone resigned from her post and has been replaced by Cynthia Bawa, an existing staff of IBIS.

Aside these restructuring, the other staff working on the project are at post and collaborating effectively with the 27 partner CSOs.

4. UPDATES ON PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Program activities implemented during the quarter are presented below under the three main objectives of the GSAM Project:

4.1 Objective I: Increased Availability of Accessible Information on MMDAs' Capital Project Performance in 100 Districts

4.1.1 Disseminate Bi-Annual Performance through LPMs, Radio Jingles and Discussions

The CSO partners continued with Live Presenter Mentions (LPMs) and radio discussions on citizen scorecards on District Assemblies' capital projects that were implemented from the 2015/2016 AAPs. These LPMs and discussions took place on 10 radio stations targeting citizens in 14 districts and opportunities given to citizens to participate through SMS, phone-ins and social media.

Between November 2016 and June 2017, LPMs, jingles and radio discussions concerning the GAS performance audit findings and citizen scorecards were aired on 65 radio stations across Ghana reaching out to citizens in the 100 GSAM districts, thereby bringing to an end the first round of radio activities. The list of radio stations and the districts targeted is attached as Appendix I.



A radio discussion on Hi FM, Mpraeso, in the Kwahu South District.



Works Engineer for the Wassa Amenfi Central District explaining the challenges the assembly goes through in implementing projects during Radio Discussion at Royal FM.

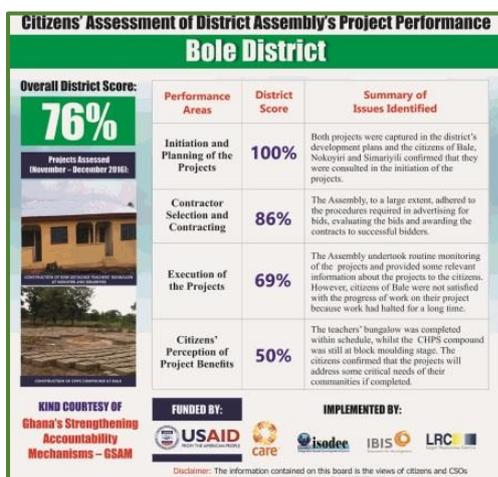
A number of radio stations, notably Akwaaba FM, High FM, Nkomode FM, Radio Afram Plains and Radio Builsa, continued to play the GSAM jingles, LPMs and radio discussions beyond the contracted period as their contribution to the success of the project. This is because some of the CSO partners have long-standing relationships with these radio stations.

The radio activities continue to yield positive results:

- In Builsa North and South districts of the Upper East Region, citizens' awareness of the GSAM project has increased as a result of the intensive radio activities on Radio Builsa by FISTRAD, one of the CSO partners.
- In the Zabzugu District of the Northern Region, concerns that were raised about the failure of the contractor to construct a ceiling for the 3-unit classroom block at Kalegu, were re-echoed during a radio discussion on Gbantambu Radio. Following the discussion, the contractor resumed work on the project to provide a ceiling for the classroom block as stipulated in the contract.
- Also, radio stations such as Lom FM and Pad FM in the Northern Region have designed programmes that afford citizens the opportunity to call-in to comment on ongoing projects in their communities, interact with the Assembly staff and share their concerns for redress by their assemblies.

4.1.2 Publish Project Performance Updates on Billboards in 50 SA Districts

Billboards were mounted in Bole, Wa West and Nadowli Kaleo to display the results of citizens/CSOs' scorecard assessments of the implementation of selected capital projects by their District Assemblies. Consequently, the mounting of billboards in the 50 SA districts aimed at increasing the availability of citizen-generated information on District Assemblies' capital projects, has been completed.



Left: A snapshot of the billboard for Bole District.

Right: Billboard for Nadowli District being mounted.



4.1.3 Publish and Distribute Project Performance Updates in Communities

Community durbars were organized in 87 communities to disseminate capital project performance updates and create space for citizens to share their views on the performance of their DAs. In all, 4,723 citizens made up of 2,831 males and 1,892 females including 40 PWDs participated in these activities. Cumulatively, community durbars to discuss the first round scorecard results have now been held in 763 communities in the 50 SA districts reaching, directly, 32,001 citizens (comprising 17,508 males, 14,493 females including 256 PWDs) with information on DA capital project performance. Below are remarks of some citizens who have participated in these events.

.....
“In the past it was difficult for us the women to draw closer to project contractors and assembly officials to ask questions on projects being constructed in our community, but through GSAM we have been able to meet with the assembly and contractors to share our concerns.”

– Josephine Akpator, Adaklu-Goefe, Adaklu District.

.....
“The GSAM project has created opportunity for people to voice their concerns. Some of our people had never spoken in public before, but through GSAM town-hall meetings, these people got the opportunity to express themselves for the first time.”

– Thomas Tame, Assembly Man for Kofi Akura, Nkwanta South District.



Above: A CDA staff interacting with citizens during the dissemination in Sene East.



Side: Residents of Kuyuli (top) in the Tatale-Sanguli District and Kantakari (below) in the Ejura Sekyeredumase at the close of community durbars organized by NORSAAC and WIDO, respectively, to disseminate Capital Project Performance Updates.



4.2 Objective 2: Strengthened CSO and Citizens' Capacity to Monitor MMDAs' Capital Projects in 50 Districts

4.2.1 Organize DSC Meetings to Reflect On Project Implementation

The quarterly District Steering Committee (DSC) meetings took place in all 50 SA districts to discuss the progress and challenges of GSAM implementation in the various districts. DSCs that could not select capital projects during the previous quarter for citizen monitoring did so during their meetings. DSC members in a number of districts participated in community sensitization sessions, community interface meetings and site monitoring of newly selected projects.



DSC meeting in the Nkwanta South District of the Volta Region.

4.2.2 Select New Capital Projects for Citizen Monitoring in 50 SA Districts

As at the end of June, 88 capital projects had been selected from the 2016/2017 AAPs in 43 of the 50 SA districts for citizen monitoring, majority of which are education (42%) and health-related (36%) projects, as shown in table one.

In the previous quarter, projects could not be selected for citizen monitoring in a number of districts because the absence of DCEs, which was as a result of the political transition, made it difficult for assemblies to confirm which projects will be implemented during the year. Many assemblies have now confirmed their development programs for the year, following the confirmation and assumption of duty of DCEs across the country, and this has paved the way for the CSOs, in collaboration with the DSCs, to review these annual plans and to identify projects whose implementation citizens should monitor and evaluate.

Table I: Classification of Capital Projects being monitored by Citizens in 41 Districts

Classification	Number	Percentage
Education	37	42.0
Health	32	36.4
Water and Sanitation	7	8.0
Security	6	6.8
Economic	5	5.7
Transportation	1	1.1
Total	88	100.0

The selection of capital projects for citizen monitoring is expected to be completed in the remaining **Seven(7)** districts during the fourth quarter of Yr3 and details of these projects shall be shared with the USAID at the end of Yr3 (September, 2017).

Meanwhile, the CSO partners have continued to organize community gatherings in the new project-beneficiary communities to orient the people on the GSAM project and how to monitor and evaluate capital projects in their communities using scorecards.



Community sensitization exercise at Wassa Ajumako in the Amenfi East District of the Western

These gatherings are also used to make available to citizens information on capital projects (i.e. project duration, name of contractor, project cost, etc.) that will help them in monitoring the projects.

In all 1,946 citizens, comprising 964 males and 982 females have participated in these events.

Below are comments made by some citizens who participated in the community gatherings:

.....

“We didn’t know we have the power and the right to visit project sites and monitor the work of the contractors till now. This meeting is an eye opener and we appreciate it very much. We will involve ourselves in monitoring projects in this community from now till they are completed.”

– Bismark Ntim, community member, Mim, Bosomtwe District.

.....
“We learnt that it is not good to buy building materials like cement, iron rods, from contractors because it affects the quality of projects being constructed. As citizens, we own the projects and should always guide against theft of materials to be used for construction.”

– Issaka Kwame Isaac, Assemblyman for Odome, Nkwanta District.

.....
“Some district officials hide things on capital projects from us, but GSAM has helped us to get information on projects. In fact, GSAM has educated citizens a lot.”

– Alexander Seshie, Assemblyman from Ahunda in Adaklu District.

.....
“We have been sensitized to monitor the works of the contractor so that we can see to it that they use the right mix of cement in moulding blocks.

– Rose Ankugah, resident of Ankoviefe community in Ho West District.

4.2.3 Training of Community Monitors

The CSO partners commenced a series of training for community volunteers in the communities where capital projects from the 2016/2017 AAPs are being implemented. These volunteers, referred to as community monitors, comprises of youth groups, women groups, religious leaders, Assembly members, opinion leaders, CBOs and PWDs, among others. They are responsible for mobilizing other community members to monitor capital projects and serve as the focal persons for demanding accountability from local authorities.

With the assistance of personnel from the District Assemblies, CSOs took the volunteers through DA planning, budgeting and procurement processes and how to use scorecards and ICT to monitor capital projects in their communities. So far, 541 volunteers, comprising 354 males and 187 females have participated in these training sessions with 58 of them being PWDs. The training will continue in the next quarter.

Fausty Setordzi, a community monitor in Ahunda in the Adaklu District, who participated in one of the training sessions, had this to say:

“I used the training and knowledge we gained from GSAM to monitor the classroom project that the assembly is putting up here in Ahunda, even though the project is not one of those selected under GSAM. I even asked for the cost and duration of the project and who the contractor is and they told me.”

.....



A participant making a point during the training at Motopenso in the Asunafo South District



Training of CDMs at Sekyere East District

4.2.4 Support Community Monitors to Carry out Bi-Weekly Monitoring Visits in 50 SA Districts

Having reviewed and selected capital projects from the 2016/2017 AAPs, the CSOs, together with community monitors and other community members, commenced the monitoring of these projects to assess project planning and implementation, such as timeliness and quality of execution, monitoring and supervision, etc.



Monitoring of the Mim 12-Seater KVIP project by CEDEP (left) and the current state of the project (right).



Community members monitoring the construction of a 40-unit market stalls in Tainso in the Brong Ahafo Region.

The Assembly Member for Bawa Akura, Hon. Bitadimey Bright Nchaab (in white) and other citizens of Bawa Akura in Karachi East District raising concerns about the quality of blocks to be used for the construction of a classroom project in the community.

Through the monitoring, citizens and CSOs identified a number of concerns that were brought to the attention of their assemblies. For instance, in Tainso in the Brong Ahafo Region, citizens raised concerns about the quality of the foundation of the 40-unit market stalls that is being constructed for the community. Consequently, the Assembly examined the foundation and assured the citizens of the quality of work that was being done.

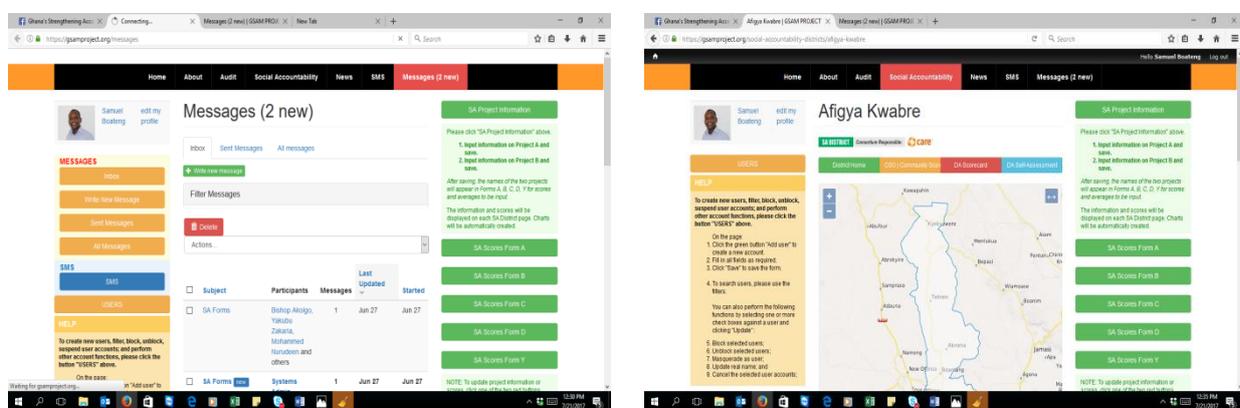
In Mim, the community members bemoaned the poor manner in which the contractor was handling the construction of a 12-seater aqua privy toilet in the community. They observed that the ongoing structure had collapsed on a number of occasions and had to be restarted. Following a meeting between the community and the contractor, work on the project has seen some improvements as shown above.

4.2.5 Retrofitting of Citizen Monitoring Website and Database on Capital Projects & Installation of Video Conferencing Facilities)

Significant progress was made on the retrofitting of the citizen-monitoring website, also referred to as the e-platform, in line with the action plan agreed during the last quarter. The platform was re-designed and the CSO monitoring forms were digitalized to make it easy for CSOs to transmit monitoring information on real-time basis. Dashboards have been created for CSOs to upload monitoring information and for the consortium and other key stakeholders to access information generated by citizens and CSOs on DAs' capital project performance. A dashboard has also been created for blogging success stories and uploading of newsletters, fact sheets and other communication materials.

Below are some snapshots of the e-platform as it currently exists:





The final stage of the process, which involves the real time prototyping of the system and re-training of users, shall be completed by the end of September 2017, but before then, the platform will be operational online by August 1, 2017. All stakeholders will be provided with access code to access their various web pages for project updates. The site with limited access is available on www.gsamproject.org.

4.3 Outcome 3: Increased use of Citizen-Generated Information on MMDA Capital Projects in 50 Districts.

4.3.1 Generate citizens scorecards on District Assembly’s capital project performance in the 50 SA districts

The second round of the generation of scorecards on district assemblies’ capital project performance, which commenced in the previous quarter continued within this quarter. So far, CSOs and citizens have collaborated to generate scorecards on capital projects from the 2016/2017 AAPs in 25 of the 50 SA districts. They are:

Northern Region	Brong Ahafo Region	Western Region	Central Region	Eastern Region	Volta Region
East Gonja	Atebubu Amanten	Amenfi Central	Ewutu Senya East	Lower Manya Krobo	Ho West
Tatale Sanguli	Sene East	Bodi	Asikuma Odoben Brakwa	Birim North	Krachi East
Zabzugu	Asunafo South	Sefwi Akontombra	Abura Asebu Kwamankese	Kwehu Afram Plains North	Nkwanta South
Gushegu	Sunyani West	Wassa East	Agona East		
	Kintampo South	Wassa Amenfi East			
		Ahanta West			



A middle-aged man completing a scorecard based on the discussions among men in Betinase in the Krachi East District of the Volta Region.

From left to right: citizens in Kpedze in the Ho West District, Jingban in the Gushegu District and Kajebriil in the Ahanta West District developing scorecards on their District Assemblies’ capital projects.



As at the end of June, 2,651 citizens (comprising 1,461 males and 1,190 females) in communities where projects from the 2016/2017 AAPs are being implemented have been able to assess their District Assemblies' capital projects. The total number of citizens who have been able to monitor and assess capital projects and demand accountability since the commencement of the project now stands at 7, 660 (comprising 4, 071 males and 3, 589 females).

4.3.2 Hold District-Level Town-Hall Meetings on the Outcome of CSO Monitoring and Community Scorecards in 50 SA Districts

CSO partners commenced another round of district town-hall meetings to discuss the scorecards generated by project beneficiary communities and CSOs. Through these town hall meetings, departmental heads, traditional authorities and other district level stakeholders get access to district assemblies' capital project performance and are able to share their views on key issues emerging from the scorecards.

As of the period of reporting, these meetings had taken place in nine (9) districts. They are; **Bodi, Wassa Amenfi Central, Sefwi Akontombra and Wassa East districts in the Western Region, Kwahu Afram Plains North district in the Eastern Region, Awutu Senya East and Agona East districts in the Central Region, Asunafo South and Sunyani West districts in the Brong Ahafo Region.**

During the meetings, district authorities, notably DCEs, District Coordinating Directors (DCDs), Planning Officers, Budget Officers, Engineers, responded to key concerns regarding capital project implementation and blamed the slow pace of work on certain projects on the delayed release of the District Assemblies' Common Fund (DACF).

Action plans were developed to serve as a reference point or checklist for tasks assigned to people with timelines. Three hundred and eighty (380) participants participated in these town hall meetings, with 293 being males and 87 being females.



A citizen making a point at a town hall meeting in Kukuom in the Asunafo South District.

Community Action Plan to improve capital project implementation developed in Bouya in the Sene East District.

5. SUCCESS STORIES

In this quarter, we share two success stories. The first is from the Agortime Ziope District of the Volta Region, which shows how citizen monitoring has ensured timely and quality implementation of a classroom project for the Adzonkor community. The second is from the Bosomtwe District in the Ashanti Region on how the District Assembly is initiating reforms to improve capital project planning and implementation as a result of citizens' monitoring feedback.

1. “This is the school we wanted” – Theodora Dogbe

Adzonkor is a farming community in the Agortime Ziope District of the Volta Region of Ghana. It is about 30min drive from Kpetoe, the district capital. The people cultivate mainly cassava maize and vegetables. For several years, the community had a three-unit classroom block that served as a JHS. Children from other communities, such as Wudzedeke, Keyime, Atsrulume, Kotsrala, Keklebesi and Agbaleve, also attend the school.

Due to congestion in the old classroom block, the teachers raised a thatch pavilion for some of the Form One (I) pupils. The form one class alone had over 80 pupils. However, the improvised classroom was not conducive for teaching and learning because the pupils got easily distracted by happenings around them and it was not possible to have lessons during the rains. As a result, the Agortime Ziope District Assembly in its 2015/2016 Annual Action Plan approved the construction of a three-classroom block with ancillary facilities for the school in Adzonkor, with funding from the DACF.

As part of the USAID-funded Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project, CARE Net, one of the project's civil society organisation (CSO) partners, mobilised the people of Adzonkor to monitor the implementation of the classroom project so as to ensure quality and get their concerns addressed.

CARE Net trained the community to use scorecards to capture their feedback on the project's implementation and then facilitated interface meetings between the community and the Assembly to discuss issues raised in the scorecards and to agree on action plans to address areas of concern with regards to the implementation of the project. Following the engagements between the community and the Assembly, the project was successfully completed and handed over for use in October 2016, although the library remains unfurnished.

Theodora Dogbey, a community member who took part in monitoring the project, stated in an interview that the community was happy that they were involved in monitoring the project.

"This is the school we wanted. If we were not involved, maybe the work would not have gone on well. We visited the site often to see the work and we encouraged the workers to do a good work," she said.

Theodora said following from the monitoring of the classroom project, she and others had become more confident to monitor other projects that will be implemented in the community and to ask questions and put forward their concerns.



Left: Theodora Dogbey in a discussion with the Acting Headmaster (left), Bless Vieku (right) of CARE Net and other community members during a visit to the school. **Right:** a section of the new classroom block. According to the Acting Headmaster of the Adzonkor JHS, Gyamfi Richmond, the new classroom block has reduced the congestion in the old classrooms. "We divided the classes into two and so now we have one set of JHS 1-3 in the old block and another set in the new block." He said the school's biggest challenge now was how to renovate the old block. Some of the windows have fallen off and cracks have developed on several portions of the floor. "We have

written to the Assembly and the MP to come to our aid and so we are hoping they will help us,” Mr Gyamfi noted.

Angel Agbeti, a form 2 pupil of the school, said she and other pupils are happy about the new block because “it is nice and better for learning.”

###

2. Citizen feedback on assembly’s projects prompts reforms in Bosumtwe District

In Bosumtwe in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, the District Assembly is initiating reforms to improve upon the planning and implementation of capital projects to address the development needs of citizens in the district.

This is in response to feedback that the District Assembly has received so far from citizens of the district, following from their monitoring and evaluation of the Assembly’s capital projects. Through the USAID-funded Ghana’s Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project, the Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP), a civil society organization, works with citizens in the Bosumtwe District to use scorecards to monitor and evaluate projects being constructed by the Assembly and to interface with the district authorities to address areas of concern.

Citizens in two of the communities in the district – Esereso and Pipie No.1 – recently rated the District Assembly averagely for its performance in the execution of two classroom projects that were being implemented from the 2015/2016 Annual Action Plans. This was due to delays in the execution of the two projects.

According to the Assistant Development Planning Officer for the Bosumtwe District Assembly, Ebenezer Kwame Amorfa, the Assembly has participated in a number of interface meetings with citizens to discuss the issues emanating from the scorecards and due to its commitment to responsive and accountable governance, it is making efforts to address the concerns raised.

“One of the things that we are working to improve, going forward, is the selection of contractors,” he said, explaining that due to the feedback the Assembly has received regarding the performance of some contractors, more due diligence is to be conducted in the selection of contractors for new projects.

Mr Amorfa said the GSAM project was having a meaningful impact on the district because through the project, the assembly’s monitoring of projects has improved due to the involvement of the citizens and CSOs.

He again mentioned that people are engaging more with the assembly to discuss capital projects and other concerns.

“Now, people walk in to the Assembly anytime to put forward their concerns. There is a particular woman who comes often to meet the DCE and put pressure for her concerns to be addressed.”



Some community leaders and members of Esereso inspecting progress of work on the six classroom project in Esereso No.1.

###

6. OTHER PROGRAM NEWS

6.1 Update on Advocacy

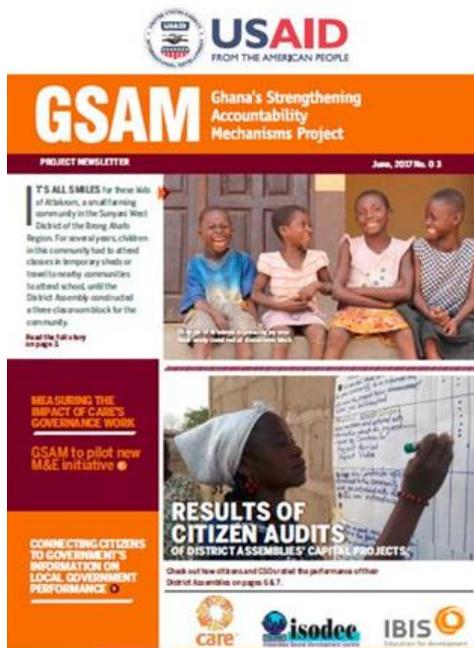
CARE International entered into a partnership with the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) to support advocacy efforts under the GSAM and Northern Ghana Governance Activity (NGGA) projects, which are both funded by the USAID. Both projects are working in a total of 117 districts across the country, 11 of which have both NGGA and GSAM interventions.

The collaboration seeks to explore how the activities of GSAM and NGGA can be useful to the work of Parliament at two different levels: at the committee level (with the Public Accounts, Finance and Local Government Committees) and then at the level of individual MPs, particularly those in whose constituencies these projects have interventions. A number of meetings have so far been held and both CARE and ACEPA are putting together concept papers to guide the collaboration going forward, updates of which shall be reported in the next report. It is hoped that this collaboration will boost the scaling up of GSAM and NGGA advocacy efforts at the national and sub-national levels.



The Executive Director of the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA), Dr Rasheed Draman (middle) sharing his thoughts during the meeting with the GSAM team to discuss possible areas of collaboration between ACEPA and the GSAM and NGGA projects. The others are Dr Yakubu Zakaria (right), Public Policy and Advocacy Specialist for the GSAM project and Ms Agnes A. S. Titriku (left), Programme Manager, ACEPA.

6.2 External Communication Update



The third edition of the USAID-GSAM Newsletter was published in June to update the project's stakeholders and other targets on the progress of implementation of the project and showcase a number of success stories and advocacy related activities. The newsletter was used to share the results of the first round of CSO/citizens scorecard assessment of capital project planning and implementation. It also featured an article explaining the processes that the Consortium followed in developing scorecards for 50 District Assemblies based on the Ghana Audit Service performance audits of those districts.

Click on it to read.

1000 copies were printed for distribution to the project's stakeholders in the 50 SA districts, the USAID, Consortium members, National Steering Committee members, Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), among others. Feedback received from some stakeholders regarding the previous editions showed that the Consortium needs to continue with the publication of the newsletter.

A number of briefings and media interviews also took place during the quarter. GNA, Daily Graphic and Citi FM were invited to the premises of CARE to interact with the Chief of Party and other key personnel on aspects of GSAM implementation and this resulted in some news publications on GSAM, some of which were good. Articles were also submitted for publication

in the Public Agenda newspaper following some discussions with the leadership of the paper for some partnership in that regard. At the district level, media houses were invited to a number of GSAM activities and these activities were subsequently reported in the media. Below are online links to two of these publications:

- [USAID supports GSAM project in 100 districts](#)
- [CARE International to pilot development evaluation mechanism in Ghana](#)

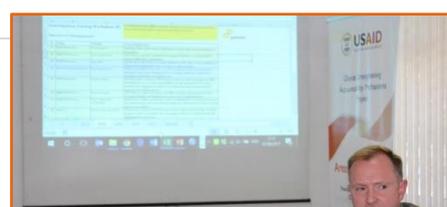
The project’s Facebook page – www.facebook.com/gsamproject/ – remained active during the period with a number of posts (as shown below) aimed at publicizing the project and its activities. These posts attracted a number of comments and shares and reached over thousand people on Facebook. Meanwhile, the number of dedicated followers of the page stood at 315 as at June, with 82 percent being males and 74 percent being 34 years and below.



6.3 Preparation for the Pilot Evaluation of the GSAM Project under the Halcrow Initiative

The GSAM project continued its activities under the Halcrow Initiative, which began in the second quarter of the third year of the project – February 2017. The Halcrow Initiative is a learning project that CARE UK is implementing with funds from the CARE UK Halcrow Investment Fund.

CARE UK in collaboration with PAMOJA Evaluation Services in the UK organized a five-day workshop between June 5-9 for selected staff of the GSAM project, who have been constituted into an evaluation team to lead a pilot





The workshop, which is the second since the initiative began, updated the knowledge and skills of the evaluation team on various aspects of Contribution Tracing. Following the workshop, the team has since put together a draft CT workbook, interview guide, evaluation plan and other materials and is preparing to carry out the evaluation in August 2017.

“Through this workshop, we learnt a lot on how to code qualitative data for the purpose of analysis, how to conduct in-depth interviews and how to assign probabilities to various pieces of evidence. We also gained an improved understanding of what kind of data to collect during our monitoring and evaluation activities.” – Michael Tetey, Zonal M&E Officer, ISODEC.

Contribution Tracing, which is based on the principles of Process Tracing and Bayesian (Confidence) Updating, has been designed by Gavin Stedman-Bryce of PAMOJA Evaluation Services, to support the formulation and validation of a ‘contribution claim’ about the role played by an intervention to determine if outcomes of interest are realized. It measures how much particular items of evidence increase or decrease our confidence in relation to our contribution claim.

With all the investment of time and resources of USAID, the implementing partners and

6.1 USAID/SfDR/ GSAM Field Monitoring Trip in GSAM Districts

USAID is supporting GIZ in funding the Support for Decentralization Reform Project (SfDR). The project, very similar to the GSAM project, has three main focal areas; improving the revenue generation and management of districts – through street naming and Property Addressing System; improving planning and budgeting capacities of district administrations and; Enhancing cooperation between key actors of the decentralization process that is, supporting inter-governmental and civil society cooperation. The SfDR project is being implemented in 60 districts, 28 of which also happen to be GSAM districts.

Since USAID focuses on building high level of synergy among its funded projects, a joint team from USAID, SfDR and GSAM undertook monitoring visits to some districts where both the GSAM and SfDR converge, as well as to separate districts where either GSAM or SfDR operate alone. The team has so far visited 25 districts and held meetings with district level stakeholders, during which they identified community-level interface meetings, radio discussions and town-hall meetings as some of the mechanisms they can jointly adopt to deliver activities in their joint districts effectively.



The USAID/GSAM/SfDR team at one of its meetings with district-level stakeholders.

6.2 USAID Data Quality Assurance

The USAID team led by the Monitoring, Evaluation and GIS Specialist and the DRG PMS - AID, Monitoring & Evaluation conducted Data Quality Assessment (DQA) on the GSAM performance indicators during the quarter. The half-day session assessed issues around validity, reliability, precision, integrity and timeliness of data reported as indicator updates. The assessment team requested for further documentation on some issues most of which has already been submitted. Following the submissions of the documents, it was agreed that, a follow up meeting would be held where conclusions will be drawn and report written by USAID.



Daniel Baako and Yaw Akuamoah, both of the USAID, conducting the DQA.

7. UPDATES ON PROJECT FINANCE

Table I: Financial Expenditure during the Period under Review (USD)

A	B	C	D	E	F=B+C+D+E	G=A-F
Obligated Amount	Cumulative Expenditure end of June 2017	Estimated Expenditure end of July 2017	Projected Expenditure end of August 2017	Projected Expenditure end of September 2017	Projected Cumulative Expenditure end of September 2017	Balance end of September 2017
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

5,622,859.82	4,622,315.28	183,416.40	220,232.98	357,387.06	5,383,351.71	239,508.11
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Cost Share: The cost share estimates for the quarter is One Hundred and Eighty One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety US dollars (\$181,890). The cumulative cost share reported so far stands at Seven Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twelve US dollars, Forty-Two Cents (\$ 789,812.42).

8. MAIN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

The main activities planned for the fourth quarter of year three include:

1. Selection of new capital projects from 2016/2017 AAP for citizen monitoring in 9 SA districts
2. Train Community Monitors in facilitating participatory planning processes (refer to Activity
3. Support community monitors to carry out monitoring visits in 50 SA districts
4. Complete 2nd round of citizen scorecard generation on District Assemblies' capital project performance in the 50 SA districts
5. Develop and disseminate bi-annual capital project performance updates in the 50 SA districts
6. Disseminate bi-annual performance updates on second round of scorecards through LPMs and discussions in the 50 SA districts
7. Organize first exchange visit to well-performing districts
8. Hold first annual forum on social monitoring and community action planning

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

9.1 Progress towards Targets

NO	Indicator	A	B	C	D	$E=(C/D)*100$	Remarks
		Baseline	Life of project target	Cumulative Target as at Year 3	Cumulative Actual	Percentage of Achievement	
1	Percentage of citizens satisfied with District Assembly's (DA) capital projects	38.52%	60%	50%	41.8%	83.6%	Indicator is updated annually. Figures presented represents percentage achievements as at September 2016. It will therefore be updated at the end of the 3 rd year.
2	Percentage of citizens who have knowledge on capital projects undertaken in their communities	17.7%	40%	30%	26.7%	89.0%	Indicator is updated annually. Figures presented represents percentage achievements as at September 2016. It will therefore be updated at the end of the 3 rd year.
3	Percentage of citizens who have participated in the last annual development planning sessions.	26%	40%	35%	27.8%	79.4%	Indicator is updated annually. Figures presented represents percentage achievements as at September 2016. It will therefore be updated at the end of the 3 rd year.
4	Percentage of citizens who say that their DAs met with them to build consensus or provide information	0	40%	30%	12.9%	43.0%	Indicator is updated annually. Figures presented represents percentage achievements as at

	about issue concerning selected capital projects.						September 2016. It will therefore be updated at the end of the 3 rd year.
5	Percentage of citizens who can identify at least two processes in MMDAs developments in 50 SA districts	0	60%	40%	35.9%	89.5%	Indicator is updated annually. Figures presented represents percentage achievements as at September 2016. It will therefore be updated at the end of the 3 rd year.
6	Percentage of capital projects being monitored with community score cards/report cards	0	30%	20%	10.9%	54.5%	Indicator is updated annually. Figures presented represents percentage achievements as at September 2016. It will therefore be updated at the end of the 3 rd year.
7	Number of communities that have received reports of GAS performance audit findings of capital projects	0	1250	1,250	1,250	100%	None
8	Number of communities that have received reports of citizen score cards results on capital projects	0	1,500	1,500	763	50.9%	Dissemination is ongoing. It is expected that, 1500 communities would have been reached at the end of the 3 rd year.
9	Number of bi-annual capital project performance updates developed, published and distributed using information from the E-Platform	0	300	200	50	25%	Project performance updates have been developed, published, and distributed being distributed in all 50 SA districts. The consortium plans to have 2 rounds of scorecard generations before the end of year 3 to make up for the gap created as

							results of delays in project start up activities.
10	Number of district steering committee members/citizens that employ ICT in monitoring capital projects in the 50 SA districts	0	1350	1350	1,357	100.5%	Disaggregation by Gender: Male=793 , Female =557
11	Number of individuals in CSOs who received USG - assisted training to strengthen transparency and accountability	0	100	100	407	407%	Disaggregation by Gender: Male=289 , Female =118
12	Number of CSOs receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.	11	38	38	27	71%	All 27 partner CSOs have receive training in advocacy and networking strategies and continue to receive USG support to implement advocacy interventions. Currently all 27 partner CSOs are implementing advocacy sub-national level advocacy interventions which ranges from ensuring timely payment of contractors implementing capital projects, enforcement of disability requirements in capital project, Ensuring citizens participation in the selection and location of DA capital projects etc.
13	Number of local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for	0	8	8	6	75%	CSOs used town hall meetings, community scorecards, radio

	citizens to engage their sub - national government						jingles, alternative spaces, printed materials and group discussions as mechanisms to engage their sub-national governments. The other two mechanisms (E-platform and policy briefs) have not yet been utilized yet.
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9.2 Next Steps: Plans for Data Collection in the Next Year

The consortium will continue to adopt the under listed measures collect and report on reliable data on project deliverables during the next quarter:

Routine Monitoring and Data Gathering: The consortium will continue its routine monitoring and site visits to project communities in the next quarter. The consortium will intensify its documentation and journaling approaches to obtain ad-hoc information during field monitoring

Use of smart phones: The consortium will, through its Community Development Monitors continue to use the Samsung smart phones to collect data on capital projects from project communities.

Standardization of data collection approaches: The consortium will continue to ensure standardization of data collection and reporting among its CSO partners.

Routine Data Verification: Data submitted by partner CSOs will routinely be verified to ensure that, they conform to USAID's data quality standards.

10. IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES / PENDING ISSUES

No major challenges were encountered during the quarter as CSOs continued with their activities.

11. LESSONS LEARNT

Lessons learnt during the quarter reflect what was reported in the previous quarters. Meanwhile, the project team remains guided by the learning from the previous quarters. For instance, the project team has deepened its engagements with district authorities and political heads having realized that, these actors are willing to engage citizens if the necessary platforms are created.

12. CONCLUSION

Most of the activities planned for the period such as radio activities, dissemination of scorecards on citizen generated information on 2015/2016 CDPs, selection and monitoring of capital projects from 2016/2017 AAPs and training of community monitors were well on course. Significant progress was made in the retrofitting of the e-platform with the system expected to be fully functional online by 1 August 2017.

Most of our effort within the next quarter will be focused on completing the second round of scorecard generation on projects selected from the 2016/2017 AAPs and dissemination of scorecards through town hall meetings, community level discussions and radio discussions.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Consortium does not propose any new recommendations. However, the Consortium will like to re-emphasis the need for the USAID and other development partners to continue their engagements with the Government to ensure that projects that were started from the previous years are completed and not abandoned as a result of the new political leadership.

Appendix I

Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms – GSAM

Below is the list of radio stations that were engaged by the GSAM Consortium between November, 2016 – June, 2017 for the broadcast of jingles, LPMs and radio discussions on GAS performance audits and the results of citizen monitoring of capital projects implemented from the 2015/2016 AAPs of 50 District Assemblies.

No.	District	Radio Station	No.	District	Radio Station
Audit Districts			SA Districts		
1.	Sekyere Kumawu	Metro FM	1.	Bosomtwe	Metro FM
2.	Atwima Nwabiagya		2.	Afigya Kwabre	Metro FM
3.	Offinso North	Cruz FM	3.	Sekyere East	Metro FM
4.	Amansie West	Shaft FM	4.	Adansi North	Shaft FM
5.	Asante Akyim South	Hello FM	5.	Amansie Central	Time FM
6.	Sekyere South	Hello FM	6.	Ejura Sekyere Dumase	Today's Radio
7.	Techiman North	Classic FM	7.	Ahafo Ano North	High FM
8.	Asutifi North	Anapua FM	8.	Sekyere Central	Hello FM
9.	Jaman South	Kiss FM	9.	Sunyani West	Ark FM
10.	Tain	Tain FM	10.	Asunafo South	Nananom FM
11.	Nkoranza South	Akyeaa FM	11.	Banda	Tain FM
12.	Sene West	Orkema Burst FM	12.	Atebubu Amantin	Orkema Burst FM (Kenanet Multi Media)
13.	Shai Osudoku	Rite FM	13.	Kintampo South	Nkomode FM
14.	Upper Manya Krobo		14.	Sene East	Kaakye FM (GBC Kaakye Island Radio)
15.	Kwaebibirem	Denkyenbour FM	15.	Jaman North	Gye Nyame Radio
16.	Fanteakwa	Radio 1	16.	Kwahu Aframs Plain North	Radio Afram
17.	Ayensuano	Bryt FM	17.	Kwahu South	Hi FM
18.	Birim South	Ofie fm	18.	Suhum	Radio 1
19.	Asuogyaman	Rite FM	19.	Lower manya Krobo	KW fm
20.	Ajumako Enyan Essiam	Breezy fm	20.	Akwapim South	Bryt fm
21.	Gomoa East	Golden Star FM	21.	Birim North	Agoo fm
22.	Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyira	Arise FM	22.	Awutu Senya East	Pink FM
23.	Twifo Ati Morkwa		23.	Agona East	Golden Star Fm
24.	Mpohor	Radio Shama	24.	Assikuma Odoben Brakwa	Hope FM

25.	Shama		25.	Abura Asebu Kwamankesse	Ahomka FM
26.	Wassa Amenfi West	Royal FM	26.	Bodi	Akwaaba FM
27.	Suaman	Brosaman FM	27.	Wassa East	Radio Shama
28.	Aowin	Brosaman Radio	28.	Wassa Amenfi East	Kasapreko FM
29.	Jomoro	New Day FM	29.	Wassa Amenfi Central	Royal FM
30.	Biakoye	Lorlonyo FM	30.	Ahanta West	Radio Ahanta
31.	Kadjebi		31.	Sefwi Akontombra	De-Beat FM
32.	South Dayi	Volta Star	32.	South Tongu	Sela Radio
33.	North Dayi	Dayi FM	33.	Adaklu	Kuul FM
34.	Central Tongu	Dela Radio	34.	Agortime-Ziope	Kuul FM
35.	North Tongu	Sela Radio	35.	Nkwanta-South	Beyond FM
36.	Krachi West	Kaakye FM	36.	Krachi East	Oti FM
37.	Krachi Nchumuru		37.	Ho West	Volta Star
38.	North Gonja	Simli	38.	Zabzugu	Gbantambu Radio
39.	Bunkpurugu Yunyoo	Pib-Ri Community Radio	39.	Tatale-Sanguli	Gbantambu Radio
40.	Sawla Tuna Kalba	Yagbon Radio	40.	East Gonja	Kanyiti FM
41.	Karaga	Zaa Radio	41.	Bole	Yagbon Radio
42.	West Gonja	Pad FM	42.	Gusheigu	Zaa Radio
43.	Kpandai	Kpandai Star FM	43.	Tolon	Simli Radio
44.	Sissala East	Radford FM	44.	East Mamprusi	Eagle FM
45.	Sissala West		45.	West Mamprusi	Eagle FM
46.	Lawra	West Link Radio	46.	Nadowli Kaleo	Radio Upper West
47.	Wa East	Radio Upper West	47.	Wa West	Radio Upper West
48.	Pusiga	Radio Upper West	48.	Builsa South	Radio Builsa
49.	Kassena Nankana West	Radio Builsa	49.	Bawku West	Dastech FM
50.	Builsa North		50.	Garu Tempani	Quality FM