

EUROPEAN UNION & REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Cooperation that Counts



2ND EDITION

GOVERNANCE

Introduction

In a region beset by political turmoil, Ghana serves as a role model for African governance. In 1992, Ghana returned to multiparty democracy having followed a turbulent political trajectory since its independence in 1957. Ghana's 1992 Constitution introduced a hybrid system (based on the American-like Constitution and the Westminster system) with a strong executive branch and currently a Parliament whose 275 members

are elected through a simple majority vote. Six elections have since been held with two peaceful alternations of power.

The 2012 elections were conducted in a framework and under conditions respectful of internationally recognised electoral rights. The overall stability of the country was maintained, in spite of the disappointment of the main losing opposition party. With the peaceful outcome of the recent elections, Ghana continues to set the trend in democracy and political

maturity within the sub-region.

Ghana also enjoys a positive track record on good governance, particularly in the protection of human rights, freedom of press, and fight against corruption. However, the necessity to further strengthen good governance has been recognised as a priority by the Government of Ghana (GoG) and the concerned Independent Governance Institutions (IGIs), Development Partners, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).



The GoG, through the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) 2010-2013, has committed itself to consolidating and advancing democracy. The White Paper on the Review of the Constitution, adopted in June 2012, has made ambitious recommendations in the field of access to justice and economic, social and human rights (with effective implementation of affirmative action policies towards women, children, elderly and disabled people for instance). The de jure abolition of the death penalty has also been included in the White Paper. A Constitution Review Implementation Committee was appointed in 2013 to implement the recommendations of the Government's White Paper. The Committee is also tasked to prepare Ghanaian citizens for a referendum on the entrenched provisions of the Constitution as well as to facilitate the passage of bills for the amendment of the non-entrenched provisions of the Constitution.

Within the framework of the 10th EDF Country Strategy 2008 – 2013, the EU has made major commitments to supporting the GoG in its aspirations to consolidate and further improve its achievements in good governance. With nearly 20% of the total financial envelope for Ghana, the EU's contribution to the achievement of governance priorities as identified by Ghana's National Policy Framework constitutes a focal area of collaboration. Some major areas have been identified in line with national priorities, for which a

substantive support programme was defined:

- Ghana's decentralisation reform
- Migration
- Reinforcing the role of civil society
- Strengthening the Independent Governance Institutions in the electoral process
- Security

GHANA DECENTRALISATION REFORM PROGRAMME

In the last four years, the EU Delegation has worked closely with the Government of Ghana, Development Partners and other key stakeholders involved in the decentralisation to elaborate a comprehensive and well harmonised support programme to the sector. Strong emphasis is put on supporting the government's own policy agenda, and the EU has contributed a total of EUR 50 million, divided into two programmes, to support this initiative.

The Ghana Decentralisation Support Programme of EUR 45 million is fully aligned with the National Decentralisation Policy Framework and aims to increase the performance and quality of service delivery at the local level, with a particular focus on the effective provision of basic services like water, sanitation, and road infrastructure. The programme will work until 2015, towards reaching "milestones" for an effective

devolution of responsibilities and resources to local governments as well as public and social accountability.

In parallel, an institutional capacity support programme of EUR 5 million is accompanying the GoG to effectively "operationalise" the National Decentralisation Action Plan. This is envisaged to be achieved through a direct functional support to the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee, an institutional support to the Local Government Service Secretariat putting in place functioning systems for human resource management at the decentralised level, and a grant to the Institute for Local Government Studies for facilitating the establishment of a social accountability platform on local government performance.

To complement the EU's already substantial support to the decentralisation reform in Ghana, the EU Delegation launched three calls for proposals during the period 2010 – 2013. The calls, under the thematic programme 'Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development', aimed to support the promotion of social accountability.

The first call for proposals, launched in 2010, aimed at facilitating the empowerment of non-state actors (especially grassroots organisations and their networks) to engage with local governments for more effective, transparent, accountable and decentralised local government system that ensures an effective public service delivery.



Four grant projects were awarded for a total amount of EUR 2 million.

The other two calls for proposals were launched in January 2013. The first, with an envelope of EUR 2.25 million, is addressed to Regional Authorities with the aim of strengthening their institutional capacities and internal structure to efficiently and effectively carry out their general and planning functions. It is envisaged to enhance the harmonisation and monitoring of public policies at local level and to improve the availability, access and quality of public services to citizens for the betterment of their living conditions. The second call, with an amount of EUR 3 million, specifically targets civil society organisations seeking to work collaboratively with Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies and the citizenry to enhance service delivery of water, good sanitation, improved maternal health etc., at the local level.

MIGRATION

The Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project (EUR 3 million) was approved in 2013. The GIMMA is based on the priorities identified by the Government of Ghana, the gaps and needs expressed in the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) Strategic Plan 2011-2015, and most importantly, the extensive consultation process during the drafting of the national migration policy development process. The project seeks to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts

to manage migration through a comprehensive management approach. By the end of the project, it is expected that the capacities of GIS are enhanced in order to apply migration-related legislation, to promote legal migration and to protect the borders. Finally, a migration data sharing framework will be established, so that policy makers and relevant institutions are able to make timely and informed migration management decisions.

REINFORCING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

One aspect of the 10th EDF focus was strengthening the role of civil society in national policy formulation as well as its role in holding the government accountable outside the public sphere. In line with requirements on aid effectiveness and alignment, the EU together with DFID, UK, DANIDA and USAID have put together a multi-donor pooled fund for civil society, dubbed "Strengthening, Transparency, Accountability and Responsiveness in Ghana" (STAR-Ghana). The purpose of the fund is to provide grants and capacity building support to civil society organisations in Ghana and, more precisely, STAR-Ghana's objective is to increase the influence of CSOs and Parliament in the governance of public goods and service delivery. The programme has the government, private sector and traditional authorities as its targets.

The programme provides support to selected Parliamentary Committees and to civil society organisations (project-based funding and sustainability grants) under a number of selected thematic areas, including oil and gas, health, education.

The EU's contribution to STAR-Ghana amounts to EUR 4.5 million.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

In addition to the support to civil society, the National Indicative Program of the 10th EDF also sought to strengthen the role of selected Independent Governance Institutions involved in the electoral process in Ghana. Support (EUR 7 million) was provided for the 2012 Elections to the Electoral Commission, the National Commission on Civic Education and the National Media Commission to build their capacities and to improve on voter and civic education, to strengthen the role of women in politics, to further engage with political parties and civil society as well as to strengthen media monitoring and media self-regulation. The support is still on going in the post elections period in line with the electoral cycle approach.

Complementary to the support given through the 10th EDF, funding was also given under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) covering 2007-2013, which aims at promoting democracy and human rights worldwide. A call for proposals was launched at the end of 2009 for which civil society organisations and Independent Governance Institutions presented applications for funding to undertake actions in respect of the following objectives: increased women's participation and representation in politics in Ghana; better understanding of democratic processes and participation by Ghanaian citizens and especially their roles and responsibilities in the election process; peaceful and transparent elections through sensitisation on democratic principles and responsibilities for non-violent elections; media sensitisation especially in the rural areas; and sensitisation of political party agents. These themes were mainly related to the 2010 District level elections but partly also to the 2012 general elections.



Also under the EIDHR, a call for proposal was launched in January 2013 to promote children's rights and wellbeing. It specifically aims to support CSOs initiatives enhancing children's protection against abuse, exploitation and exposure to harmful practices.

SECURITY

The EU supported the Ghana Police Service (GPS) with an amount of EUR 3 million to enhance the capacity of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) during 2008-2011. The project targeted specifically the

GPS Forensic Science Laboratory in order to enhance the performance of the application of science to crime prevention and detection. The project was finally evaluated in January 2013 and the intervention was found successful. The main results were:

- 1) Forensic science laboratory rehabilitated and refurbished to adequate standards;
- 2) State of the Art Forensic equipment, including DNA analyses equipment, successfully procured, installed and functioning;
- 3) Training of CID staff completed with more than 36 police officers trained in the new forensic

investigation techniques at the Lithuanian Police Laboratory and the French police Laboratory.

Through the various instruments available to the EU and the Member States- at both national and regional levels- it is envisaged that financial support will help to tackle some of the root causes of instability, insecurity and violence in the West-Africa region. For instance the fight against organized crimes, illegal trafficking (e.g. in drugs) and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea will be high on the agenda in the years to come.

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