

PROJECT DETAILS

Country(ies): Ghana
Duration: April 2004 – April 2010
Budget: CAD \$ 3,459,238
Funder: Canadian International
Development Agency (CIDA)
Partner(s): The Parliament of Ghana
Status: Closed

About the Parliamentary Centre

The Parliamentary Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that supports parliaments around the world. Our assessment, strategic planning and training programs, combined with research products and networking channels, help legislatures measure their performance, build capacity, tackle key issues and promote mutual learning.

In short - we help legislatures better serve their people.

About the Project

Building on the partnership for capacity-building in governance between the Parliamentary Centre and the Parliament of Ghana since 1994, The Ghana Parliamentary Committee Support Project-Phase II (GPCSP II) has been implemented since 2004. The project aims at strengthening accountability, transparency and participation in the parliamentary governance of Ghana, with particular attention to achieving effective poverty-reduction efforts in the country. Through a multifaceted set of mechanisms to build committee capacity and impact, six partner Committees of the Parliament of Ghana,

which include the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Poverty Reduction Strategy are direct beneficiaries of the project.



Members of Poverty Reduction Committee of Parliament visit MiDA supported maize farms (in the Volta Region) Oct 2009 – Ghana

Accomplishments

The Committees have through the project intervention improved Parliamentary oversight engagement of Government Agencies, collaboration with Civil Society on public programmes implementation and encouraged citizens' participation in Parliamentary Governance through outreach on and joint Parliament-citizens interrogation of progress and outcomes of pro-poor programmes of Government.

Specific results achieved include more regular and institutionalized oversight consultations with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) on Ghana's progress towards the MDGs and related poverty reduction programmes of Government; the passage of strategic legislations towards sustained poverty reduction, namely the Human Trafficking Act and the Domestic Violence Act (Act 732); and strengthened parliamentary contribution to accountability efforts in Ghana.

Some other accomplishments and milestones of the project include:

- The Financial Oversight capacity of Parliament has been strengthened with the result that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) initiated since 2007 a Public Hearing of audited accounts of public agencies. This increased capacity is demonstrated in the continued holding of these sittings despite the high attrition of experienced MPs following Ghana's general elections in December 2008.
- Project has helped institutionalize Parliament's effective oversight of Ghana's Poverty Reduction Agenda. Parliament holds roundtable with civil society and the NDPC to review, annually, progress of implementation of the Ghana's Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy, subsequent to specific programmes of Government are examined through Committees' hearing on programmes of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government.
- Through parliamentary outreach and interrogation on implementation of specific pro-poor policies, rural communities received accountability feedback on such policies. Policy implementers at parliamentary interfaced forums are receiving feedback on policy performance and accounting for their stewardship.
- Parliamentary Support Office established and strengthened with professional project management skills are being applied as the office coordinates Parliament's with Ghana's Development Partners on the MDBS programme.
- A Gender Training Manual has developed for Parliament of Ghana, as part of sustainability measures for improved gender awareness of MPs. Also an HIV/AIDS Communication Tool kit is produced by the project which as reference kit for MPs' constituency outreach and advocacy on the disease. A compendium of field visits reports have also been prepared to facilitate skills transfer on the innovative civil-society-Parliament collaboration policy implementation oversight work of Parliament.



Hon. Alhaji Imoro Yakubu, Vice Chair of the Poverty Reduction Committee, in a feedback session with farming community on Government's food security programme