**THIRD QUARTER REPORT (JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2014)**

**Name of WP: Representation & Participation**

**Name of IP: IMCC**

**UNDAF OUTCOME: Key national institutions of democracy are effective, accountable, gender responsive and promote peace inclusive governance, human security with focus on vulnerable groups, by 2016**

**EXPECTED OUTPUTS:**

**1.0 Governance institutions operate within a decentralised, enabling environment and promote inclusive, accountable and transparent governance**

2.0 Mechanisms in place to ensure that women and vulnerable groups are informed about their right to participate actively in decision making

KEY RESULT 10.1.1

Institutional and organizational (administrative, legal and regulatory) reforms within key governance institutions for improved democratic governance realized

KEY RESULT 10.1.2

Representation and participation in democratic processes for women, youth, and the disabled and other marginalized groups are improved

KEY RESULT 10.2.1

Political parties, civil society and other stakeholders develop platforms to promote the increased participation of women and vulnerable groups in governance

Target 1.1.1: Average rating of local government service performance being “very or fairly well” is 50% by end-2014

Target 1.1.2: 60% of all decentralisation recommendations in Government’s White Paper implemented (activated) by end-2014

Target 1.1.3: Six key governance institutions with the capacity to strategically plan; monitor and evaluate the success of their programs by 2014

Target 1.2.1: 57% of males and 50% of females sampled attended at least one public meeting in 2014

Target 1.2.2: 54% of Ghanaians trust political parties “somewhat” or “a lot” by end-2014

Target 1.2.3: 15% women elected into the local Assemblies in 2014 local elections

Target 10.2.1: Four (4) platforms established and/or supported to promote women’s participation in decision-making processes by 2014

Target 10.2.2: Average of 50% increase in key technical capacities for women groups and PWD group leaders as well as average of 50% skills usage 6 months after capacities built

**Background and Introduction**

Ghana has enjoyed increasingly stable and deepening democratic governance compared to other countries in the sub-region. However, according to the UNDP, there still remain a number of critical challenges that require urgent resolution to deepen and sustain the progress made. These include: conflict of roles between and among the arms of government and governance institutions; resource disparity undermining the role of different arms of government; inadequate participation of civil society in governance processes; low representation of women, youth and other marginalised groups in decision making processes; little interest of citizens in the democratic processes; and a perception of corruption in the public sector.

To this end, the UN has identified key results to be achieved in the area of political governance under Outcome 10 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2012-2016). The UNDP Governance Cluster had implemented some activities in 2012 under its Peace, Representation and Participation as well as Transparency and Accountability programmes aimed at addressing the critical deficits, which were successful. The cluster has currently developed two-year work plans in collaboration with its national and civil society partners for implementation in the years 2013/2014 to build on the gains made at the end of the 2012. The new work plan is hinged on the Cluster’s theory of change which states that:

“Institutional performance can be improved by simultaneously building the capacity of citizens and institutions to partner with each other. By prioritising those aspects that enhance political processes, strengthened partnerships will lead to improved service delivery and human development, increasing public participation and confidence in political processes. In summary, more and better partnerships will lead to better governance.”

Therefore, this is a consolidated report of all the activities of the various responsible parties for the third quarter of 2014. This includes; support Youth Manifesto Coalition through its “the Voices of Youth Coalition”, Empower People with Disabilities (PWDs) to effectively engage with District Assemblies in the Western, Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions, analysis of rejected ballots in election 2012, Support MMDAs to activate the Public Relations and Complaints Committees through logistics and capacity building, Promote Youth Participation in the District Medium Term Development Planning Processes in Asougyaman and Gomoa West Districts, assessing the Impact Assessment of Gender Statistics and Sex Dis-aggregated Data Training held under the previous AWP in Sekondi and Asamankese, undertaking advocacy on the CRC Report and improving women’s participation through the passage of the affirmative action legislation.

**Progress (Implementation of Work Plan, Achievements to date)**

**YES**

YES Ghana set out to support Youth Manifesto Coalition through its “the Voices of Youth Coalition” and expanding the mapping of youth and youth-serving organisations, recruiting five research and data-entry volunteers to lead the expansion process and upgrading the online directory website: www.ghanayouthdirectory.org to accommodate institutions beyond youth groups. By May of 2014, all of these activities had been undertaken pending additional funds for further programming under this programme. In addition, the IMCC Secretariat under its mandate as IP undertook field visits to YES Ghana’s project locations. The team visited Winneba, Ajumako, Donkorkrom, and Wenchi to verify the extent to which the ‘Youth encounter with duty bearers’ radio programmes had been undertaken. Contact persons at the community radio stations, MMDA staff and some youth group members confirmed taking part or hearing on radio phone in programmes in all the four districts on key youth issues. They also received printed copies of the manifesto and the youth brief. The radio programmes have enabled the formation of District youth caucuses to ensure youth have a strong and ongoing voice and engagement with duty bearers. YES Ghana which has completed implementation of its activities is planning to implement additional activities pending additional funds allocation. YES Ghana has completed implementation of the first AWP.

**LoGNet**

LoGNet set out to Empower People with Disabilities (PWDs) to effectively engage with District Assemblies in the Western, Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions. Workshops were held for a targeted group of 130 PWDs across the selected areas. Topics for discussion included; Assessing funding opportunities for PWDs, How to effectively engage district level officials. LoGNet identified opportunities for collaboration with PWD federations in the various regions as well as the potential of using members of the PWD community as resource person facilitated and could enhance greater participation of PWDs. However, a lack of funds to do follow up activities as indicated in work plan. e.g implementation of monitoring and communication plan hampers the level gains that could have been achieved. Additional resources to cover more regions and implement the monitoring and communication plans will enhance the gains.

Further, as part of its mandate; a team of two comprising two research fellows from the IMCC Secretariat, visited LOGNet project sites/activities in Cape Coast, Takoradi, Sunyani and Ho. Firstly, the team participated in three LoGNet workshops in Sunyani (May 2014), Ho (May 2014) and Sunyani (September 2014). The team also visited contact persons on the field whose details were provided by LoGNet before the fieldwork mission in September. These were beneficiaries/participants of the workshops organised by LoGNet in May and August 2014.

The contact persons across the project locations as well as relevant staff of MMDA’s confirmed to the team that they had participated in the workshops organised by LoGNet on empowering people with disabilities (PWDs) to effectively engage with District Assemblies in Western, Central, Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions for an average of 40 participants in each of these locations. The team also interacted with the Zonal Coordinator for Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Region who indicated that for 2014 only, the capacity of about 160 PWDs have been enhanced to facilitate their participation in the activities of MMDA’s and the governance process as a whole at district level especially in relation to access to the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) and identification of funding sources. It beneficial to note that LoGNet has in place Zonal and Regional Coordinators who also engage with target groups to find out about their levels of engagement as well as offering support. LOGNet has been deemed to have completed implementation of its 2014 AWP.

**YBF**

The YBF set out to Promote Youth Participation in the District Medium Term Development Planning Processes in Asougyaman and Gomoa West Districts. Consequently, the YBF in collaboration with its partners developed an issues brief for each MMDA and then organised youth forums to deliberate on the identified youth issues and how these could be integrated into the medium term development plans of the two local authorities. Therefore, the IMCC as part of its mandate undertook field visits to Gomoa West (Apam) and Asougyaman (Atimpoku) in the Central and Eastern regions to verify the extent to which the YBF was promoting youth participation in the making of MMDA Medium term development planning processes. It was confirmed that initial engagements took place between the YBF, contact persons for youth groups and MMDA staff to identify youth development issues in project districts. The YBF has since completed implementation of its activities and planning to implement additional activities pending additional funds allocation.

**ILGS**

The ILGS set out to implement and assess the Impact Assessment of Gender Statistics and Sex Dis-aggregated Data Training held under the previous AWP in Sekondi and Asamankese. Reconnaissance with pilot districts were conducted with great success with a validation of action plans, Data Gathering Instruments (DGI) for assessment of the gender statistics training were developed and validated and Fieldwork to collect data in the selected MMDAs was undertaken. Beneficiary staff of the assembly confirmed participation in the training programmed organised by the ILGS. The IMCC as part of its mandate undertook field visit to ascertain the level of implementation. Beneficiaries informed the team that following on from last year, they had additional engagement with the ILGS for the validation of data gathering instruments (DGI) for assessment of the gender statistics training and their action plans. They further confirmed meeting ILGS staff who came round on fieldtrip to collect assessment data on the earlier training that took place. The ILGS has completed implementation of its AWP.

**CRIC**

The CRIC set out to undertake advocacy on the CRC Report. Original, braille and abridged versions of CRC report were produced and distributed and the entrenched and Non-Entrenched provisions of the constitution have been drafted and Regional Stakeholders’ briefing events were held. Also the consolidated local govt bill is undergoing consultation. The IMCC as part of mandate under the 2014 AWP visited Techiman, Elmina and Mampongteng where it was confirmation that the CRIC had undertaken consultation and advocacy workshops in the Brong Ahafo, Central and the Ashanti Regions respectively in June and July. In addition, staff at the IMCC attended one of such consultation events in Kumasi.

**CDD**

As a result of the worrying trend in recent elections in the 4th Republic of the incidence of rejected ballots, the CDD set out to undertake analysis on these astronomical figures of ballots which were declared rejected. Therefore, they undertook advocacy needed for Electoral Reforms based on Review of 2012 Election Experiences.

The IMCC as part of its mandate also undertook field visits to Droboso in the Sekyere Afram Plains, Asiwa and Jacobu all in the Ashanti Region and Bia District (Western Region), Dormaa West (Brong Ahafo) and Akyemansa (Eastern Region) to verify if electoral officers in these Districts were in touch with the CDD researchers in relation to research fieldwork and advocacy on spoilt ballots. Officers indeed confirmed engagement as well as correspondence from their national HQ urging cooperation for the project.

**Department of Gender**

The Department of Gender of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection set out to implement under the UNDP’s Annual Work Plan the following activities:

1. A validation workshop on the Affirmative Action Bill. The UNDP sponsored a two day validation workshop on the Affirmative Action Bill (AA Bill) at Mac Dic Royal Plaza in Koforidua on 25th and 26th June 2014. The workshop was organised for the National Affirmative Action Legal Committee to further solicit for their inputs into the Draft Bill 2. At the workshop, the Working Committee on the Affirmative Action Bill reviewed the Draft Affirmative Action Bill, filled in the gaps, and streamlined certain portions to enhance the quality of Bill. The comments from the workshop are being synchronized to be incooperated into the Draft Bill for onward submission to the Attorney General’s Office for further comments and review. A comprehensive report of this workshop; narrative and financial has since been submitted to UNDP.
2. A sensitization seminar for 40 participants on the GHANAP 1325. The Department of Gender, presented a proposal to the UNDP to fund a two day sensitization workshop for 40 participants on GHANAP 1325. The proposal was to sensitize participants on the GHANAP 1325, and develop strategies for the implementation of the GHANAP 1325. The participants will consist of Regional Planning Officers, Regional Directors of the Department of Gender, and Regional Executive Secretaries of the Peace Council. This activity will be carried out in collaboration with the Peace Council. However the Peace Councils will be inaugurated in August 2014. This activity therefore will be implemented only after the Peace Councils have been inaugurated.

**IMCC**

The IMCC set out to Support MMDAs to activate the Public Relations and Complaints Committees through logistics and capacity building. 100 Presiding members, Coordinating Directors, PRCC Schedule Officers and Civil Society Leaders/Opinion Leaders across twenty pilot MMDA’s altogether have been trained on effective complaints management and Public relations and effective image building in Kumasi and Ho.

The IMCC with the help of UNDP colleagues deplored logistical support by way of one desk top computer and a combi printer, Microsoft office and Norton’s anti-virus, one desk, one swivel chair, one visitor chair and a three in one visitor chair (desktop computer, all in one printer, scanner, copier, desk and 2 chairs and 3in1 visitors chairs), to all pilot MMDA’s across ten regions by Central Furniture Works and Alliance Technologies.

Prior to the final selection, the IMCC undertook prequalifying and scoping assessment to identify and confirm the selection of the pilot MMDA’s. Additional funding to support the rollout of this support package to all MMDA’s across the nation will enhance the process of governance and ensure greater local peoples participation in local governance.

**Emerging Issues and Lessons Learnt**

The needs of PWD’s and the development of appropriate interventions need to be taken up seriously as they continue to be marginalised without concrete evidence of their numbers in local communities due to the absence of any deliberate and structured audit of their population. This is therefore affecting the targeting of interventions to support them.

Partners noted that the MMDA reports on implementation of the medium term development plan should be widely circulated to enable stakeholders assess progress of development in their respective areas and to ensure greater engagement of young people especially.

The process of complaints and stakeholder involvement by way of redress through the public relations and complaints committees needs to be strengthened even further across all 216 MMDA’s. Therefore, support should be increased to cover a total of 100 MMDA’s in the short term and all 216 in the medium term.

It is widely accepted that funding levels have been inadequate to cater for the level of interventions and advocacy needed to achieve greater results. Therefore, the UNDP must consider increased funding in order to achieve greater and more sustainable results.

**Opportunities and Challenges**

LogNet has highlighted the challenge of securing the needed funding to replicate their training workshops in all the regions and the Districts to cover a lot more people. Therefore, the appeal is to DP’s to do more to provide the necessary funding to support such initiatives.

Youth Bridge noted the readiness of stakeholders particularly the youth for engagements as an encouraging opportunity which must not be missed and must necessarily be harnessed.

The IMCC sees greater benefits from the support package to both local government staff and civil society as well as local people. Therefore, there is the need to increase funding to ensure coverage of about 100 MMDA’s in the short and all 216 in the medium term.

There is a significant challenge with timely activity reporting and quarterly reporting by implementing parties and the third quarter report also suffered delays by partners. The lack of funds also hampered the organisation of at least one quarterly meeting as well as the steering committee meetings which have suffered delays.

**Planned Follow-up Actions (Recommendations)**

LogNet, YES, YBF and the IMCC and almost all partners have expressed the need for greater funding to allow for increased targeting and therefore increased results.

**Appendix:**

1. **Financial Report for the Quarter**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Budget** | **Total Expended at the end of Quarter** | **Balance at the end of Quarter** | **Estimated expenditure for Next Quarter** |
| $ 600.00 | $600.000 | $0 | $ |