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YOOKU ATA-BEDU: USAID

GHANA

DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

USAID/Ghana’s Democracy, Rights, and Governance Program works to increase government accountability and transparency and reduce corruption. All activities support the inclusion of women, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups in political processes.

OVERVIEW

Ghana is a vibrant democracy with active political parties, a history of peaceful political transitions, and freedom of speech and association. The last presidential election, in December 2016, was rated free and fair by international observers, and culminated in a peaceful transfer of power between parties. However, national and local governance systems are weak and need to be more accountable to citizens. Ghana’s efforts to reduce poverty depend on having a government that is accessible, responsive, and accountable at the local and national levels.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE

USAID works with local government institutions to increase their responsiveness to the needs of citizens, and to help them to better generate revenue, and to improve service delivery.

- Supporting decentralization and improved service delivery by building the capacity of district assemblies to effectively collect revenue;

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- Supporting target district assemblies, regional agriculture development units, and regional coordinating councils to improve agricultural governance.

INCREASING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & COMBATTING CORRUPTION

USAID works to strengthen government accountability for improved development outcomes.

- Partnered with the Ghana Audit Service to conduct performance audits of capital development projects in 50 districts;
- Supports the Public Accounts Committee of Ghana's Parliament and citizen associations to reduce corruption, strengthen incentives and improve accountability;
- Trained civil society organizations to advocate for legislative change and report corruption;
- Established an electronic platform for citizens to report corruption.

STRENGTHENING ELECTION INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

USAID works to strengthen electoral institutions and processes.

- Supported the Electoral Commission to institute reforms, improve communication with citizens, and train more than 100,000 political party polling agents ahead of the 2016 election;
- Mobilized civil society to advocate for electoral reform and educate voters on electoral processes;
- Supported the deployment of 4,000 domestic election observers, and a parallel vote tabulation to independently verify results of the 2016 general election;
- Mobilized clerics, traditional leaders, and other influential community members into early warning groups that responded to potential electoral violence;
- Supported multi-media campaign promoting peace around the 2016 elections.

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

USAID works to safeguard the rights and promote the inclusion and participation of vulnerable populations, especially women and persons with disabilities.

- Engaged 165 women's associations to advocate for improved agricultural development opportunities for women in Ghana;
- Supporting the Ghana Federation of Disabilities Organizations to build the capacity of 7 national, 10 regional, and 30 grassroots disabled persons' organizations;
- Supported civic education for women, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented voters in Ghana's 2016 general election.