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The views expressed in this report are those of the evaluator. They do not represent those of UNDEF or of any of the institutions referred to in the report.

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non-traditional areas such as contesting for and winning political office. While the project conducted almost all of the activities outlined in the project document, the lack of qualitative monitoring tools and practices prevented a deeper assessment of the impact of the targets set.

Having said that, the project did clearly have an impact: the WOMGA opened channels of communication with local authorities and their activities led to changes in public service delivery. In this respect, WOMGA achieved creditable results including a reduction in the structural marginalisation of women in these districts. Some further examples of impact include:

Monitoring the Government Free School Feeding Programme. WOMGA members monitored the quality and quantity of food provided to students by the caterers. Subsequently they made suggestions to the School Feeding Programme authorities on how to improve the quality and some of their suggestions were adopted.

Monitoring the performance and operation of the Community Health Programme (CHiPs) Compounds. In one incident, inactivity at a CHiPs compound was observed by a WOMGA member in Asemaneye where patients were told there were no drugs available at the compound. This was reported to the District Health Directorate which responded by ensuring the compound was supplied with the needed drugs. The WOMGA in their monitoring of this sector also observed and acted on incidences where free medical supplies e.g. mosquito nets, were being sold instead of distributed, and incidences of bribe-taking.

In all these examples, when the WOMGA platforms acted, the authorities were compelled to investigate and sanction accordingly. This has served as a disincentive for corruption and misappropriation of public goods in the districts. By tackling corruption and misuse of public goods there is better access to and quality of services and the project has given legitimacy to the claims of women in the eyes of the authorities.

The challenge of how to sustain WOMGA, however, was not well addressed in the project design and implementation. The project document anticipated that the operational cost of sustaining WOMGA would be \$10,000 US per year; however no activities were conducted to raise these funds nor were any staff members given responsibility for the development and implementation of the sustainability activities. In spite of this, there are signs of sustainability: some WOMGA groups have been registered<sup>1</sup> as Community Based Organizations (CBOs) with the District Assembly.

In conclusion, this UNDEF-funded project has played a role in beginning to fill the gap in







By institutionalizing the WOMGA platforms so that they could engage in regular dialogue with local government authorities, the project effectively contributed to the overall development goal of increasing women's participation in decision-making process and public service delivery. The intervention logic was sound and had clarity and coherence.

The table below summarizes the project's intervention logic

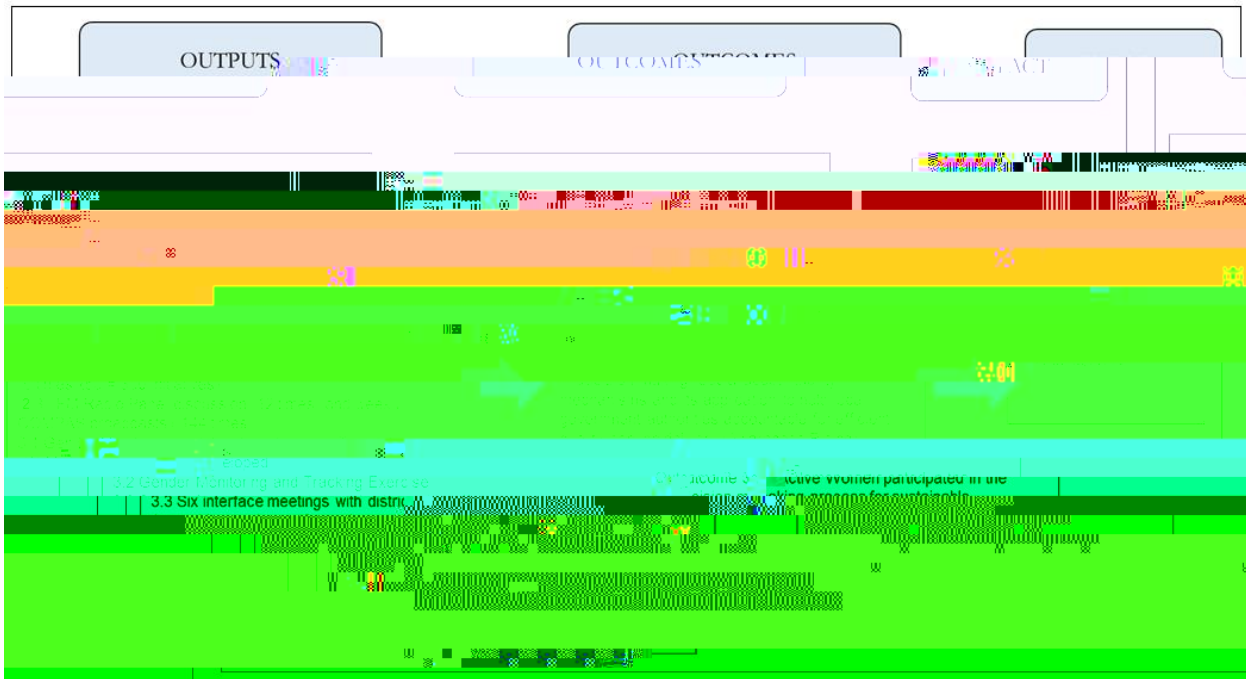


Table 1: summary of the project logical framework<sup>5</sup>

The evaluation took place between March and April 2017 with the field work in all three districts occurring within the period of 27th to the 31st of March 2017. The methodology used was in line with UNDEF evaluation requirements and United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) participatory approaches ensuring inclusion of all categories of stakeholders. The evaluation also adopted the standard questions that focus on the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and value added from UNDEF funding<sup>6</sup> as seen in the structure adopted by this report. The evaluation questions addressed are further outlined in the evaluation matrix in Annex 1. A qualitative methodology was adopted involving (but not limited to) the following:

Focus group discussions (30 women comprising 20 per cent of the 150 WOMGA members)  
Identifying evidence and success stories through the Most Significant Changes approach  
Analysis and Reporting

Ghana's Local Government Act<sup>9</sup> which guaranteed citizens' rights to participate in local governance.

The project's targeting of the three districts was also relevant since the few women's groups that do exist in the region focused on welfare and religion rather than on advocacy for women's rights.<sup>10</sup> At the local level in all three districts, public officials attested to the importance of the workshops, conferences and round table discussions held in the community. They commended the high level of preparation they had to do for the sessions where they faced thorough questioning by the WOMGA members and the community.

The interest shown in the WOMGA by other development actors such as World Vision, Cocoa life, ABANTU for development is indicative of the relevance, appropriateness and the high expectations of the project. It is also indicative of the dearth of donor interventions in these districts thereby increasing the relevance of UNDEF's project. The project also received significant patronage from local dignitaries such as Chiefs, Queen mothers and assembly members.

While the UNDEF funded programme has ended, its continued relevance is evidenced by the fact that women continue to be interested in joining WOMGA and in participating in the training provided by the project.

#### *(ii) Effectiveness*

To a large extent the project has achieved its objectives. Although the project experienced some short term problems in its early stages it managed to adapt to ensure activities implemented had an impact. Before the project there were no women's groups in the three districts, no regular stakeholder forum to monitor women's issues, only 29 per cent of the target population with any knowledge about the Local Government Act 462, and only 11 per cent of women with access to information on district budgets. There had also been no success story of women's participatory local governance. In this way, the project, to a large extent, has improved the situation significantly.

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<sup>9</sup> (12%) of local people particularly women across the surveyed Districts/Municipal are aware and knowledgeable

The project benefited from a number of contextual factors: the timing of the baseline study (Nov-Dec 2014) coincided with the development of the next District Medium Term Development Plan. The project also coincided with the conduct of the district level elections. The appropriateness of the timing was reflected in outputs of the new MTDP where in Bia West the inclusion of a budget line for women s capacity-

2.2 Percentage of  
weekly radio  
program listeners  
became aware of  
the local  
governance acts





sustainability strategy (output 1.2.4) as well as the publication<sup>12</sup> of the change stories (output 3.5.3) were not completed as planned.

The programme officer based in Juaboso relied on monthly payments upon submission of a monthly budget to be approved by the Executive Secretary of GenCED before activities were implemented. On two occasions, there was not enough funding, which possibly indicates poor budgeting for district level activities. This resulted in some overruns on activities.

The amount spent on the radio talk shows was not an efficient use of funds. Discussions with the state broadcaster in the districts revealed that it was more economical to procure a package for an extended program than the one-off talk show programs. It would have costed approximately \$410 US a month to have a regular media show with consistent scheduled time slots and daily message reinforcement, instead of the \$50-150 US per show paid when the broadcaster had an empty slot for WOMGA.

WOMGA members consistently requested an increase in the travel and transport allowance to attend meetings. Although poverty in the three districts is endemic and some of the participants are subsistence farmers there are also traders and retired professionals among the WOMGA members. The demand served as a consistent distraction for the project manager and also used as an excuse for not participating in activities.

*(iv) Impact*

The evaluation found that the project had considerable impact. The monitoring of government programmes that the WOMGA platforms undertook was effective. The process of political



Also WOMGA members who participated in the various school Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) have been able to challenge and abolish illegitimate levies being demanded and collected from students at school. This was done by bringing informing the District Director of Education. A benefit from the training provided by the project enabled WOMGA members to substantiate their allegations with evidence, making their submissions unassailable. The Education Department responded by sanctioning those concerned, and, in some cases resulted in the dismissal of school staff.

Monitoring the performance and operation of the Community Health Programme (CHiPs) Compounds. In one incident, inactivity at a CHiPs compound was observed by a WOMGA member in Asemaneye where patients were told there were no drugs available at the compound. This was reported to the District Health Directorate which responded by ensuring the compound was supplied with the needed drugs. The WOMGA in their monitoring of this sector also observed and acted on incidences where free medical supplies e.g. mosquito nets, were being sold instead of distributed, and incidences of bribe-taking. In all these examples, when the WOMGA platforms acted, the authorities were compelled to investigate and sanction accordingly. This has served as a disincentive for corruption and misappropriation of public goods in the districts





Association and Nyamebre nye brepa). This has given a fresh lease of life to the WOMGA, providing another reason to sustain the group, since

This evaluation concludes that the project was worthwhile and good value for money. GenCED's intervention filled a gap in participatory governance in Western Ghana and has had a significant impact in the three districts. The enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the women involved, coupled with the appreciation from local authorities and traditional institutions reflects the degree to which the project created change and improvements from the baseline situation.

Since a number of WOMGA members were elected for public office, this evaluation concludes that it would be near impossible to revert to the situation before the project where women were largely excluded from local governance now that WOMGA has assisted in making women's



Relevance	1.1 Details of the project's significance with respect to increasing voice of women, accountability and responsiveness within the local context.	1.1.1 How well does the project relate to governance priorities at internal, local, and national levels?
		1.1.2 How well did the project relate to UNDEF's aims and objectives?
		1.1.3 To what extent were project stakeholders including beneficiaries involved in the formulation and design of the project?
Effectiveness	2.1 To what extent did the project achieve its objectives? 2.2 Assess the level of stakeholder involvement and its impact on the achievement of objectives	2.1.1. How do the results contribute to each of the outcome areas of the objectives?
		2.1.2. In what way has GenCED contributed to the objectives?







Date	
Esther Tawiah	GenCED Exec. Director
Praise Nkansah	Service Personnel



Community Health Improvement Services  
Community-Based Organization  
Civil Society Organization  
Functional and Organizational Assessment Tool  
Ghana Broadcasting Corporation  
Gender Monitoring and Tracking Tool  
Gender Centre for Empowering Development  
Ghana Health and Education Initiative  
Local Governance and Decentralisation Program  
Medium Term Development Plan  
National Commission for Civic Education  
Non-Governmental Organization  
Project Document  
Parent Teacher Association  
UN Democracy Fund  
UN Evaluation Group  
UN Development Programme  
United States Agency for International Development  
Women Group Advocacy Platforms