



DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE

USAID's Democracy, Rights, and Governance Program improves local government performance, enhances government accountability, reduces corruption, and strengthens human rights in Ghana.

OVERVIEW

Ghana is a democratic nation with active political parties, a vibrant media, a history of successful political transitions, and free speech and association. The December 2016 presidential election was rated free and fair by international observers, and culminated in a nonviolent transfer of power between parties. In fact, over the last 18 years, the Government of Ghana has had three peaceful shifts of power. However, the performance of national and local governance systems remains weak. For Ghana to reduce poverty and become self-reliant, government must be decentralized, accessible, responsive, and accountable at all levels. USAID's partnership with Ghana focuses on strengthening local governance, increasing government accountability, and combatting corruption.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE

USAID partners with the Government of Ghana to build the capacity of local governments to effectively lead their communities. Noteworthy interventions include:

- Improving local government service delivery and strengthening their ability to generate revenue to meet local development goals.
- Developing the capacity of District Assemblies, in partnership with the German development agency-GIZ, to name streets and address properties; establish a credible tax database; and collect revenue for their Internally Generated Funds account.
- Improving agricultural governance through policy reforms and women's agricultural cooperatives in northern Ghana, Regional Coordinating Councils, Regional Agriculture Development Units, and District Assemblies.

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PHOTO: YOKUJATA-BEDU / USAID



Woman speaks at district accountability dissemination meeting; these meetings increase citizen awareness and government accountability for government activities in the community. Photo credit: Yooku Ata-Bedu:USAID

INCREASING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMBATting CORRUPTION

To achieve long-term stability and economic growth, Ghana needs strong governmental institutions that deliver public services transparently and with accountability. USAID partners with the Government of Ghana to combat corruption through the following activities:

- With the Ghana Audit Service, conduct performance audits of capital development projects in 50 districts.
- Support the Public Accounts Committee of Ghana's Parliament and Civil Society Organizations to reduce corruption, strengthen incentives, and improve accountability through performance audits, town halls, and other information sharing mediums.
- Train over 4,900 civil society organization members (including over 2,146 women) to advocate for legislative change and report corruption.
- Establish an electronic platform for citizens to report corruption.
- Develop an integrated court case tracking system to track criminal cases from their introduction into the system through trial, prosecution, sentencing, and execution of the sentence in prison, or acquittal.