

**NATIONAL AFRICAN PEER
REVIEW MECHANISM –
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**Conducting District Governance
Assessments using mobile
technology**

CONCEPT NOTE

SUBMITTED TO:

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Governing Council of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as part of its District Governance Assessment Project established District APRM Oversight Committees in one hundred and seventy (170) districts in Ghana. The project was informed by the findings of Ghana's Country Self Assessment Report of the APRM which identified inadequate consultations between local authorities and civil society in district level planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes. Consultations at the national level have always been by invitation and have tended to exclude local level actors. For most communities therefore, their experience of development is a process that comes to them from the government, development partners and national non-governmental organizations. Development is not a course of action that they initiate, implement, control, monitor or own. In such an environment, civil society actors are unable to hold local government authorities accountable for their actions and inactions.

1.1 Relevance of the Project

The overall objective of the District Governance Project is to develop a more comprehensive and harmonized approach to governance assessments and social accountability in Ghana. The project brings together local civil society actors, local authorities and public sector service providers to develop local level indicators and track and monitor progress made in ensuring good governance and effective service delivery.

1.2 Problems to be addressed by the Project

The specific problems to be addressed by this project it to (1) reduce the cost of printing, transporting and administering the governance and service delivery assessment instrument, (2) improve the quality of data collection, and (3) complete and present governance assessment reports within set time frames.

The District Governance Assessment Project has been operational in forty (40) out of the 170 districts for the past three years (2009 – 2011). This has been due primarily to inadequate resources to cover all the districts. The project relies on the use of Citizen Report Cards (CRCs) administered by the DOCs to collect citizens' experience with governance and service delivery services. The cost of printing, transporting and administering about 12,000 citizen report cards is a major cost element (about USD120,000.00 for 40 districts).

This proposal seeks to reduce the cost of printing, transporting and administering the CRCs to about a third of the costs (about USD40,000.00) in order to free up resources to increase the number of districts implementing the project.

The capacity of members of the DOC to collate and analyse data has been one of the major challenges of the project. The introduction of the mobile data collection

software with its accompanying basic analyses would improve the results of the surveys.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS

The project serves as a participatory tracking/monitoring and reporting mechanism to analyze and improve governance and service delivery including promoting credible social auditing at the local level.

Proposed Actions and Activities

Action 1: Trainer of Trainers Training

The objective is to train two Trainer of Trainers from the APRM Secretariat who would build the capacity of members of the District Oversight Committees and District Assemblies. To minimize cost we propose to send two officers to EpiSurvey offices in Nairobi, Kenya for the necessary capacity building.

Proposed Activities

- 1.1 Arrangements made with Datadyne, Nairobi office
- 1.2 Travel to Nairobi, Kenya
- 1.3 Capacity building conducted for 2 officers
- 1.4 Pay subscription for the use of the EpiSurvey platform

Expected outputs

- Report on capacity building
- Registration and account on the EpiSurvey platform

Expected outcomes

- Improved skills in the use of the EpiSurvey mobile data collection software

Target group

- Two (2) officers from NAPRM-GC Secretariat, Accra

Action 2: Capacity Building in local governance assessments

The objective of this action is to build the capacity of DOC members and, district assembly (DA) members in mobile data collection. This would be piloted for 10 districts (a district from each of the ten regions).

Proposed Activities

- 2.1 Identify the ten districts (taking into consideration socio-economic differences)

2.2 Conduct local governance assessment capacity building workshops in 10 districts

Expected Outputs

- Report on capacity building using mobile data collection.

Expected outcomes

- Improved skills in conducting district governance assessments using mobile technology

Target group

- 100 DOC members (10 members from each of 10 districts)
- 100 District Assembly members (10members from each of 10 districts)

Actions 3: District Governance Assessment

The objective of this action is to capture information at the district level on the degree to which citizens are satisfied with governance (participation and inclusion, security, access to justice, transparency and disclosure, corruption), service delivery (education, health, garbage collection, water and sanitation, electricity, roads, transport, etc).

Proposed activities

- 3.1 Conduct pilot governance assessments using mobile technology in 10 districts
- 3.2 Conduct validation exercises on the draft governance assessments
- 3.3 District Assembly debates on governance assessment reports

Expected output

- 10 district participate in the governance assessment project using mobile technology
- District governance assessment reports ready within set time frame

Expected outcomes

- Citizens use the results of the governance assessment surveys to demand accountability and improvement of services from duty-bearers
- Improvement in governance and service delivery in 10 districts

Target

10 districts (1 from each of the 10 regions)

