Dear Friend and Family of GenCED

Through the kind support of individuals, groups and organisations, GenCED was able to implement its programmes under the 2011 operational plan. We are very grateful to the women’s rights and gender based NGOs and civil society organisations who worked assiduously with us in all the regions we worked in Ghana.

We wish to commend our local and international partners especially those who honored their commitment to us in our work even in the face of a global recession. Here, we would like to sincerely thank the British High Commission and French Embassy for their support.

We would also like to congratulate the Board, Management and our hardworking staff for their commitment and dedicated service which has put the organisation on the pinnacle. It is our fervent hope that all our partners will remain committed in sustaining the gains so far made in promoting women’s in governance in Ghana.

Please Join GenCED and support a worthy cause.

Sincerely and God bless you,

Esther Tawiah

Executive Director
Executive Summary

GenCED has successfully completed another year of promoting women’s representation and participation in decision-making and gender inclusion in Governance. The year 2011 was a landmark in GenCED’s inception year a non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to gender and policy advocacy. We started implementing programmes under the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan.

Throughout 2011, GenCED efforts in gender and policy advocacy, was successful as some level of achievement was obtain through our coalition building and networking approach. We worked collaboratively with other civil society organisations to ensure women understand key policies in the district and partake at all levels of policy-making.
HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF GENDER CENTRE FOR EMPOWERING DEVELOPMENT (GenCED)

About Us

Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED) is a Non-governmental Organisation that seeks to empower women and youth for sustainable development in our communities. Established in May 2011 as an independent, not-for-profit, research and advocacy organisation, duly registered with the registrar general’s department and department of social welfare and community development. GenCED is currently focusing on the following key areas of development as enclosed in the 12 Critical Areas of Worry in the Beijing Platform for Action: Governance, Social interference Issues and Entrepreneurship.

The inspiration behind GenCED’s work is that, the emergence of multiparty democracy provides the opportunity to enhance civic participation, social accountability and economic governance which includes mechanisms/platforms to increase men and women’s access to increased knowledge, participate in decision-making processes and demand accountability from their duty bearers. Gender equality and equity principles are yet to be fully integrated into democratization processes, structures of power and decision-making procedures countrywide. The current weak gender equality in politics and decision-making is a pressing human rights issue, for example, governance is still an ideal situation that most women particularly strive to achieve. Lack of civic knowledge among women has worsened their participation and representation in decision-making, election and governance. This is particularly reflected by their slim percentage in parliament, district assemblies, corporations and other public positions. For example, after more than two decades of implementation of Ghana’s decentralization policy, several challenges still remain to be addressed as women participation compared to men in governance and development is still low.
Education is the lifeblood of GenCED, all our work is educational. We integrate education, particularly for women and the youth, into all our programs. GenCED intends to become increasingly involved in policy dialogue as it emerges, to help broaden women and youth understanding, participation in governance and on their socio-economic development. Women are the custodians of indigenous information, which is critical to family and community welfare, particularly in the areas of health, environmental sanitation, politics and religion, however these type of information will disappear, unless women are integrated into modern systems of politics and democracy since societies and communities are urbanised and modernise in democracy and governance.

GenCED’s work is therefore aimed at helping increase women’s participation in decision-making and in the governance process. GenCED also seeks to do more research on women’s experiences, participation in policy making and their representation in governance to influence the level of advocacy and outreaches which the women need to increase their understanding of the democratic process and also influence national and regional policies on women.

VISION
GenCED’s vision is to become a leading grassroots’ organization, through empowering the marginalised, especially women, economically, politically and socially.

MISSION

GenCED seeks to close the gender deficit in our governance by building the capacity of marginalised especially women through the provision of political education and sustainable human resources development services to participate in district and national electoral politics to catalyse democracy. GenCED seeks to achieve this through evidence-based research, advocacy, training, community outreach and information sharing. GenCED was established to:

- Boost the capacity of women, to participate in development
- Increase the participation of women in the political and economic structures of the country.
OBJECTIVES

As a community focused civil society organisation that seeks to empower women and youth for sustainable development in our communities through advocacy, training, research. GenCED aims at working towards achieving these by upholding key principals like not-for-profit and nonpartisan giving some specific objectives of GenCED include;

- Promoting democracy, decentralisation and good governance
- Educate women on issues that affect their development, climate change, food security and socioeconomic issues
- Promote women and youth participation in good local governance at all level.
- Promote sustainable livelihood programmes
- Build the capacities of women on entrepreneurial skills development.

Programme Priorities

Governance

Women participation in decision-making has consistently been at the centre of the global agenda since the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in 1985. In Ghana gender equality and equity principles are yet to be fully integrated into democratization processes, structures of power and decision-making procedures. **Women participation compared to men in governance and development is still low, nevertheless some women have exhibited the qualities of good leadership.**

However, for women to be efficient and effective, they need education and advocacy to encourage their participation in decision-making. This project develops research and advocacy materials to demystify governances and demonstrate women’s need to participate effectively in electoral politics. There will be advocatory activities which are more geared towards more discussion and participation of women in our governances and also with political parties to increase seats for women within parties and also in national and district assembly elections.
GenCED drive is to encourage, promote and strengthen women to be in governance. If women who form majority of Ghana’s population actively participate in good governance by seeking transparency, efficiency and accountability, poverty would significantly be reduced. The general lack of civic knowledge among women has worsened their participation and representation in decision-making, election and governance. This is particularly reflected by their slim percentage in parliament, district assemblies, corporations and other public positions.

The project aims at giving an intensive political education (electoral issues, policies of governances and women involvement in governance) to women about our national and district authority. The general objective of the Women and Governance project is to educate the women in the localities to be able to participate in politics to enhance their participation in governance. This will include women’s empowerment through advocacy, research, knowledge sharing and networking (to address gender equity and equality).

The specific objectives of the project are to

- Increase women’s awareness of their civic rights and responsibilities;
- Increase the pool of informed women who can participate in the electoral process as candidates and voters;
- Increase women’s representation in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors and thereby improve their capacity for development-related decision-making;
- Increase community members’ control of the electoral process and promote the principles of free and fair elections;
- Create awareness of the virtues of accountability, transparency, and good governance;
- Increase the opportunities for communities to update their information on governance;
- Encourage women to assume key leadership positions at local and national levels by participating in governance.
• Network and build coalition with partners and critical actors to influence decentralization/ local governance to promote gender responsiveness
• Tracking parliamentary proceedings that centre on gender issues

**Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EntDEP)**

EntDEP focuses on developing economically marginalised women and unemployed youth through the provision of financial advisory services, education and entrepreneurial development initiatives. The nation’s greatest asset is her human resource, the unemployed youth and women have the propensity to boost the economy by increasing current production level. The rising unemployment rate and seeming lack of jobs informed GenCED to address this concern by providing training and capacity building on wealth creation for the youth and women. The wealth creation aims at poverty reduction and self-reliance.

This program seeks to provide a comprehensive and adoptable approach to human resources development and also to empower youth for employment or self-employment. The program assists vocational trainees, young entrepreneurs, community-based business groups, and farmer groups. Training in credit management, financial literacy and business education are integral parts of the financial support package.

GenCED undertakes the following activities under EntDEP;

• Creating platforms for the youth to meet entrepreneurs who will share their experiences and give practical advice on how to set up and run a business.
• Create a common ground for youth to network, form partnership leading to creation of businesses
• Organise conference and seminars where various state and non-state actors collaborate to grant support to vocational trainees.
• Build capacities of women and young entrepreneurs on financial literacy.
• Educate the youth and women on the importance of savings, accessing funds and controlling expenditure
• Help communities to identify, explore and develop economic opportunities in an area (Agriculture, food processing etc.)

GenCED Governances Programs for 2011

GenCED’s Policy Education Program

The Policy education program seeks to contribute to the education of policies and better understanding of policies in the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections. GenCED proposes to use this monitoring and policy education as a way of making sure parties with good policies are elected and be accountable to their policy strategies. The overarching goal in proposing this project is to conduct a set of interventions that will ensure that policies are understood by the electorate and as a result influence the manifestos of the political parties, in order to promote better governance. This imitative was implemented in the East Akim municipality in the Eastern region.

Training of Educators

Ten (10) “Policy Educators” to carry out community sensitisation on public policies, ideologies and manifestoes of political parties. The capacity building workshop strengthened the analytical skills of participants by equipping them with the necessary tools to understand social sector public policies, ideologies and manifestos of political parties in order to demand transparent and accountable governance from their duty bearers and voter education

Section of the participants
Outreach Report

GenCED organized community outreach programmes for the electorate (women and first time voters) on political party ideologies and policies (social & political) to ensure and guarantee the utmost understanding of the policies by the electorate and as a result, influence their voting patterns, in order to promote better governance process at that level. Focus was mainly on women and first-time voters. Outreach programs were held in several faith based organizations as well as tertiary and secondary level schools. With over 1000 women and 1500 student sensitized. GenCED in partnership with the National Commission for Civic Education embarked on these outreach programs within the East Akim Municipal Area.

Outreach programs were done using languages that the people could best understands and relate to. Outreaches were held in Kukurantumi, Kibi, Asiakwa, Asikam, Adukrom, Ettorkrom and other small towns and villages within the East Akim Municipal Area.
It further indicated that, the constitution allows freedom of association in article 21 so it is therefore binding on all Ghanaians and all political opponents to tolerate each other. The people with disability (PWD) were not left out of the peace education project.

Section religious women groups

Section of students

Community Responses and Reaction

1. They also raised very important questions as to how they can ensure promises made to them would be fulfilled. In response, the community educators talked about the decentralisation process and the role of the Municipal assembly in helping fulfil development needs of the community members.
2. They also expressed fear of being attacked if they voted in favour of a political party that has policies which will inure to the development benefits of most citizens in the village and communities. They recounted that during the 2008 elections, a group of people threatened inhabitant of the community to vote for a particular party resulting to near chaos. They revealed that some citizens were physically abused in the run-up to the 2008 elections for declaring support for a particular party.

3. The people with disability (PWD) were not left out of the project. When GenCED visited the School for the Deaf in Kibi, the teachers and students of the school expressed their appreciation to GenCED for educating them on the ideologies of the political parties.

**Issues**

- The high points of the outreach and the forums were when religious leaders like the Chief Imams and Pastors called on their congregations to articulate their needs and as a result vote based on issues that will improve their lives. They said by so doing, the communities will see more development. They also took the time to advise their congregations to eschew any form of violence in the upcoming elections and prayed for peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections.

- Educators entreated citizens to participate in the governance process; demand accountability from authorities and show interest in the day to day running of the nation so that they are not used by politicians to engage in activities that will undermine the development of their communities and the nation at large.

**Some Immediate Results**

In all, the team succeeded in implementing 33 out of the 35 outreach programs with the exception of two churches that were unable to give a suitable time for meeting with resource persons. It is however believed that these other persons were reached using the community forums. An estimated 6000 persons were reached in the East Akim Municipal Area with majority being women and the youth.
1. The outreach program was a success in the communities. The sessions were very interactive and deliberative, giving opportunity for participants to effectively participate in the process.

2. Through the implementation of these broad project objectives, GenCED contributed significantly to improving opportunities for ensuring an increase in understanding the effects of electoral violence on women which again affect community welfare and sustainable development.

3. The project again contributed significantly to empowering women to effectively articulate their concerns, needs and priorities as well as using their roles as wives and mothers to advise the men and youth against violence. Activities under the project also positioned the women and the youth to better understand constitutional provisions on political tolerance.

4. Citizens were given reassuring words for the elections as most of them expressed their grave concern and worry over how politicians conducted themselves in election years.

**Entrepreneurship Program**

Under GenCED entrepreneurship programm, a one day seminar for the women of believers’ bible church in East legon in Accra speaking on the theme ‘Attitude to our Business’ which highlight on issues such as book keeping and financial management. The project was successful as the women was well attended and fully participated in the discussion.

**Financial Reports**

GenCED maintains financial records with supporting documentation in accordance with general accepted accounting principles. Pertinent program records are maintained and available for examination by independent auditors on yearly basis by authorised funding agencies upon request. Annual auditor’s reports include Independent auditor’s reports and compliance.
The total income for the year 2012 amounted to GHc 55,821.80 including miscellaneous income. The table below provides information on the income & expenditure for 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE OF FUNDS</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose / Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GHS</td>
<td>Policy Literacy Education among women and first time voters in the Eastern Region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH HIGH COMMISION</td>
<td>29,696.00</td>
<td>For rent, administrative support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</td>
<td>26,123.80</td>
<td>For rent, administrative support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>55,821.80</td>
<td>For rent, administrative support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**

The project really helped in creating awareness among the women and first time voters to articulate their needs and seek accountability from leaders entrusted with the nation’s resources. Electorates also realised they have the utmost power to decide on how their resources must be used and who controls their resources for the benefits of all by exercising their franchise in the elections and not allowing themselves to be used for violence purpose. Citizens were full of commendation for GenCED and the French Embassy for such a brilliant initiative; they proposed that the education should be extended to other parts of the country and also to increase the use of the mass media to reach out to more Ghanaian electorates on promoting peace in the coming elections.