GenCED

GENDRE CENTRE FOR

EMPOWERING DEVELOPMENT

Annual Report 2013

Reports of GenCED’s Activities in 2012
Dear Friend and Family of GenCED

Through the kind support of individuals, groups and organisations, GenCED was able to implement its programmes under the 2012 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 2012 was a landmark in GenCED’s history as we enhanced our credibility as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to gender and policy advocacy. We started implementing programmes under the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan.

Throughout 2012, GenCED maintained its cutting edge efforts in gender and policy advocacy, a feat that has been achieved through our coalition building and networking approach. We worked collaboratively with other civil society organisations to ensure women’s rights and gender equality issues were prioritized at all levels of policy-making. We have also strengthened the capacity of different constituencies of women such as district assembly women, women politicians and tertiary students who are now more able to engage, interrogate and scrutinize public policies and programmes to demand for women rights, social justice and accountability.

Again, feminist research and publications that promote gender equality and women’s rights were produced to benefit a wider reach of women and men in their institutions and organisations. These publications provided the basis for our engagement with government, policymakers and other actors. In this annual report, we provide information on the programmes implemented during the 2012 calendar year under each of GenCED’s four functional areas.

Highlights of the year include the following:

- One hundred and ten (110) district assembly women had their capacities strengthened on critical gender issues within governance within a six-day workshop
- About forty (40) faith-based women were trained on governance and women’s rights issues. The purpose of this training was to strengthen their capacity for effective participation in the decision-making process. The programme has led to an increase in the number of women.
- About ten (10) civic officers of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) were trained to disseminate information contained in the Policy education document and on peaceful elections. Through this programme, over one thousand (1000) students in the second cycle institutions in the Western region have an enhanced awareness of gender equality and the need for peaceful elections.
In the area of Gender and Peace, we continued with our training programmes for women’s groups and community sensitization on the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 which calls for women’s participation and representation in peace building initiatives. This initiative was done during the 2012 parliamentary and Presidential elections in the Eastern region.

While we have made some significant achievements during the past year, we need to continue to explore new strategies to bring our vision of a just and equal society to fruition. We therefore call on governments and all relevant agencies such as the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to enforce its commitment to women’s rights and the gender equality principles

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, 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 advocacy 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 2012

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 three districts in the western region, Jomorro, Ellembele and Sefwei Wiawso

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

Training Programme & Objectives

These workshops are among several actions by GenCED seeking to respond to the issues of citizen and duty bears engagements and women participation in decision making process in
Ghana. The capacity building programmes for the targeted groups were facilitated by GenCED under its Governance program.

Objectives

- The trainings seek to build and strengthen women’s participation in decision making process in the two project districts. The capacity building workshops aimed at building the policy analysis skills of community members to carry out community sensitization, gather information, and develop community action plans.
- The workshops and trainings strengthened the analytical skills of the participants by equipping them with the necessary tools to understand their civic responsibilities and also be assertive in order to be able to demand accountability from their duty bearers.

Outreach Report

GenCED organized community outreach programmes (women)

- *Educational Institutions:*
- *Religious institutions and associations:*
- Market women, community based women and youth groups and workers associations.
- The use of community radio stations and information centres.
- Over 10,000 women were sensitized
Section of participants

Community Responses and Reaction

1. Most communities advocated for more periodic education, they explained that continuous education has the tendency to change citizens’ attitude towards the district assembly since change is a process.
2. 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.
3. 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

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 local governance initiative for sustainable development.
3. The project again contributed significantly to empowering women to effectively articulate their concerns, needs and priorities. Activities under the project also positioned the women and the youth to better understand constitutional provisions on political participation.

Challenges

1. Outreach programmes in the Muslim communities showed that women were not allowed to sit in the front roll to listen. They were not given opportunity by their male counterparts to even express their views or ask questions.

2. The increase in fuel prices affected the overhead cost of the project since the approved project budget was fixed without any allowance for global and local economic financial shocks.

Project Recommendations

- In order to establish the confidence of the women continue use of the platform will help build their confidence.
- The mass media should be used for the sustenance of the education. GenCED is also of the belief that, the local media outlets in the municipality should be encouraged to share information on peaceful elections in the community. GenCED believes strongly that the media is effectively positioned in getting to the masses through information dissemination and sensitization on all social and political issues of and thus proposes for them to do same in the areas of promoting peaceful elections.

GenCED Peace Education for 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

The rationale behind this project was to deepen GenCED’s efforts to promote peace in the 2012 general election. Since the return to democratic multi-party democracy in 1992, election management and transition of power from one government to the other has been largely peaceful, with minor incidence of violence. In 2012 however, due to the introduction of the
biometric voters register as well as the issue on creation of new constituencies, tensions have heightened. Observations from practitioners and among citizens indicated that the upcoming December 2012 polls were likely to be characterized with intense competition between the ruling New Democratic Congress and the main opposition New Patriotic Party, which if not properly managed could lead to an outbreak of violence. Due to this observation and concern, GenCED deemed it necessary to create a set of interventions that would promote peace in the area.

The East Akim Municipality was chosen due to recurrent breakouts of minor violence in previous election periods. Secondly, the fact that the presidential aspirant for the New Patriotic Party (NPP) hails from the area gave credence to the fact that the indigenes will be willing to go the extra mile in helping their candidate win elections.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the project were:

- To intensify peace/civic education among the youth to ensure a smooth electoral process.
- To educate the youth to put up responsible behaviour during the elections in 2012 and encourage youth to take part in responsible political activities.
- To educate the youth to really understand their political rights and not to resort to violence.

METHODOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Focus was mainly on women and children. Outreach programs were held in several faith based organizations as well as tertiary and secondary level schools. Using community based radio stations; awareness was created on the need to avoid conflict in the upcoming December polls. Other methods employed included discussions, film shows and community durbars. These outreaches were done in such a manner as to allow interaction between resource persons and the electorate. GenCED in partnership with the National Commission for Civic Education embarked on these outreach programs within the East Akim Municipal Area. Grand durbars were held in both the Abuakwa North and South constituencies to crown efforts on the project.
Outreach programs were done using languages that the people could best understand and relate to. Outreaches were held in Kukurantumi, Kibi, Asikwa, Asikam, Adukrom, Ettorkrom and other small towns and villages within the East Akim Municipal Area. In all such programs, resource persons from the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and GenCED educated persons on the constitutional mandate of the Ghanaian Citizenry as enshrined in the 1992 constitution. Highlights were made on articles 3(1), 21(1) (e), 17 and 41, both indicating that parliament by law cannot declare Ghana as a one party state, giving room for multiparty democracy. 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. 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 peaceful elections and added that this was the first time the school had received such important political information.
A resource person addressing members of the Methodist Church in Kukrantumi

Students listening attentively to Educators

A section of student participant
Community Responses and Reaction

4. Most communities advocated for more periodic peace education, they explained that continuous education has the tendency to change citizens since change is a process.

5. Community participants lamented that after general elections; politicians do not visit the communities. They claimed the only time politicians visit their towns is during campaign seasons when they come to seek mandate from the electorate so there is no need to fight for any political party/leader.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. The people with disability (PWD) were not left out of the peace education 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 peaceful elections and added that this was the first time the school had received such important political information.

Issues

- The manifestoes of Ghana’s four major political parties in elections 2012 were made available to some communities, churches and schools for them to read, assess the manifestoes and ask relevant questions during the 2012 elections. Students who were sensitised on the education policies of political parties and how these policies affect their
lives were willing to participate and contribute to decision-making pertaining to second cycle education.

- 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

Outcome of the Project

Community outreach programmes on promoting peaceful elections for sustainable development have contributed to deepening the understanding of citizens on the political process and has empowered them to influence policy in the local community and demand accountability from duty bearers instead of allowing them to be used for violent reasons. This project has helped first time voters and women to understand the effects of election violence on them.

Challenges

3. Outreach programmes in the Muslim communities showed that women were not allowed to sit in the front roll to listen. They were not given opportunity by their male counterparts to even express their views or ask questions.

4. The increase in fuel prices affected the overhead cost of the project since the approved project budget was fixed without any allowance for global and local economic financial shocks.

5. Mobilising community members was tough due to the diverse nature of activities by stakeholders as well as the project partners GenCED had to work with.

Project Recommendations

- In order to establish the confidence of the electorate in our electoral process and security forces, offenders of electoral regulations must be openly punished. This would prove the unbiased nature of the security forces and encourage the populace not to take matters into their own hands.
- Consent of landlords and house owners should be sought before posters are pasted on their property. Security forces and the legislature must make known measures to be taken
in addressing unlawful posting of stickers and posters so that perpetrators can be brought to book.

- The mass media should be used for the sustenance of the education. GenCED is also of the belief that, the local media outlets in the municipality should be encouraged to share information on peaceful elections in the community. GenCED believes strongly that the media is effectively positioned in getting to the masses through information dissemination and sensitization on all social and political issues of and thus proposes for them to do same in the areas of promoting peaceful elections.

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 GHc55, 821.80 including miscellaneous income. The table below provides information on the income & expenditure for 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE OF FUNDS</th>
<th>2012 GHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION</td>
<td>26,930.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVANCE-OTHERS</td>
<td>9,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRENCH EMBASSY</td>
<td>7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>43,430.00</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.