

**ASANTE AKIM NORTH DISTRICT
ASSEMBLY**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT MEDIUM
TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN
[DMTDP] 2014-2017**

2016

**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE ANNUAL
ACTION PLAN**

FEBRUARY, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2016 Annual Progress Report is the review of the status of the implementation of the District Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017) based on the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda II (GSGDA II).

The report has been put together from the result of the assessment of a set of indicators and targets which have been adopted for monitoring and evaluating the achievements of programmes and projects implemented in 2016. This document is the Third Progress Report during the plan period.

The report basically provides an update on the status of actions taken on programmes and projects implemented during the year 2016 within the framework of the DMTDP.

The background of the report, purposes of monitoring and evaluation, profile of the district, the process involved in the Monitoring and Evaluation and difficulties and challenges encountered during the preparation of the report have been analyzed.

The document also analyses M&E activities report update on indicators of DMTDP 2014-2017, implementation of M&E plan and policy recommendations have also been made based on the challenges of the Assembly.

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Appendix 1: Level of Implementation of Programmes/Projects in 2016

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante-Natal Care
AANDA	Asante Akim North District Assembly
APR	Annual Akim North District Assembly
BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
C/R	Classroom
CHPS	Community Health Planning System
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DDF	District Development Facility
DPCU	District Planning and Co-ordinating Unit
DMTDP	District Medium Term Development Plan
ECG	Electricity Company of Ghana
GES	Ghana Education Service
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
IGF	Internally Generated Fund
JHS	Junior High School
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NBSSI	National Board for Small Scale Industries

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The 2016 Annual Progress Report [APR] provides an assessment of the implementation of activities and strategies outlined in the 2016 Annual Action Plan emanating from the District Medium Term Development Plan [DMTDP] 2014-2017 prepared under the GSGDA II. The Annual Progress Report uses a set of performance indicators and targets that have been agreed upon by stakeholders to assess the progress of implementation of the key projects and programmes undertaken in 2016 to achieve the development goals and objectives outlined in the DMTDP 2014-2017.

The achievements, problems, constraints and challenges identified during the M&E in the implementation process have been stated. Additionally, the M&E gives meaning to the whole extent of programmes and projects embodied in the 2016 APR which was the operational plan for the Asante Akim North District Assembly. This Annual Progress Report [2016] is part of the M&E which is meant to report on the extent of the implementation of the DMTDP and the achievement of targets set for the period under review.

1.2 District Profile

The Asante Akim North District Assembly is one of the newly created districts in Ghana. It was carved out of the then Asante Akim North Municipal Assembly in 2012. It was established by LI 2057 and inaugurated on 28th June, 2012. Agogo is the administrative capital. The District shares boundaries with Sekyere Kumawu and Sekyere Afram Plains in the north, Kwahu East in the east, Asante Akim South in the South and Sekyere East in the West. The district is located in the eastern part of Ashanti Region and lies between latitude 6^o 30' North and 7^o 30' North and longitude 0^o 15' West and 1^o 20' West. It covers a land area of 1,125square kilometers. The proximity of the district to the Eastern Region provides ready markets for its agricultural produce.

According to the 2010 population and housing census, the total population of the Asante Akim North District is 69,186. This represents 1.4 percent of Ashanti Region's population. The District has five communities assuming urban status when with a threshold population of 5000 as a basis. They are Agogo, Domeabra, Juansa, Hwidiem and Wioso.

The distribution of the population by sex indicates that the male population is 33,731 (48.8%) and the female population is 35,455 (51.3%). This gives a sex ratio (i.e. number of males to 100 females) of 95.1. This further affirms the predominance of females in the district. The district has a youthful population consisting of a large proportion of children under 15 years and a narrow apex made up of a small proportion of elderly persons (65 years and older) in the District. This can be seen by a decline as the population advances in age. Persons in the age cohort 0-14 years represents 39.9 percent, 15-64 years represent 54.8 percent and 65 years and above accounted for 5.3 percent of the total population in the District. This implies that the District has a greater percentage of labour force since a greater fraction of the population can be found in the economically active group.

The District has three (3) paramount chiefs (i.e. Agogo, Juansa and Domeabra). The Akan culture most especially the Asante culture dominates the District. However there are migrant settlers mostly from the Northern and Volta Regions who also practice their culture alongside the Akan/Asante tradition and culture. The major language spoken is Twi. The major festivals celebrated in the district are Adaye Kese and Nhyira Kan festivals both celebrated by the people of Agogo. These festivals provide a platform for the reunion of the people, discussion and the implementation of development projects. The festivals also attract both foreign and local tourists into the District.

Christianity is the dominant religion comprising 79.8 percent; Islam follows with 10.2 percent and traditional religion comprising 1.2 percent. 0.7 Percent of the population belong to other religious groups'. A significant percentage of 8.2 percent does not belong to any of the above mentioned religious denominations.

1.3 Background to Monitoring and Evaluation

Section 46, sub section 3 of the Local Government Act 1993 (ACT 462) and the National Development Planning Systems Act establishes Monitoring and Evaluation functions of MMDAs.

These Acts established the District Planning Co-ordinating Units (DPCUs) to assist the MMDAs to execute the designated Planning, Programming, Monitoring, Evaluation and Co-ordinating functions.

The Annual Progress Report uses a set of performance indicators and target for monitoring and evaluating the achievements and impacts of the programme intervention undertaken by the Assembly.

1.4 Purpose of Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the day to day follow up of activities to measure progress and ensure that activities are occurring according to plan and are on schedule.

Evaluation on the other hand is an assessment of overall achievements and impacts the implementation of policies, programmes/projects have had on the beneficiaries. Evaluation provides crucial information about the status of MMDAs programmes, projects of policies. It also promotes credibility and public confidence in Local Governance. MMDAs conduct monitoring and evaluation for various purposes including:

- Analyzing the project situation
- Identifying problems facing the community and finding solutions to address the problems
- Determining whether the project was designed is the most appropriate way of solving the problem
- Evaluation provides crucial information about the status of MMDAs programmes, projects or policies.
- It promotes credibility and public confidence in Local Governance

1.5 Processes Involved in Monitoring and Evaluation

Both primary and secondary data collection methods were used in collecting data for the preparation of this document. Among the Primary data method used were personal interviews, focal group discussions and spot checks while under the secondary data method, data were obtained from the Budget, Annual Action Plans, the Medium Term Development Plan and other documents from the Decentralized Departments. Among the challenges encountered in producing this document are:

- Inadequate funds and logistics
- Delay in receiving reports from the Departments
- Inconsistencies in the Data collected
- Setting targets with indicators which do not have data on them

CHAPTER TWO

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) ACTIVITIES REPORT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Monitoring is the day to day follow up of activities to measure progress and ensure that activities are occurring according to plan on schedule.

Evaluation on the other hand is an assessment of overall achievements and impacts of the implementation of policies/programmes /projects and the M&E activities report.

MMDAs receive funds locally and externally i.e. Internally Generated Funds and Government and Donor Funding to implement their policies, programmes and projects and the M&E activities report.

The Monitoring and Evaluation activities report helps to

- Assess whether the DMTDP targets are being met and the status of implementation
- Promote credibility and public confidence in Local Government
- Provide valid, reliable and timely information to programme /project management staff
- Identify achievements, constraints and failures so that improvement can be made to the DMTDP and project designs to achieve better impact
- Help the MMDAs to formulate and justify budget request from central Government, Development Partners, NGOs as well as identify potentially promising programmes and practices
- Provide information for effective co-ordination of the MMDAs at the Regional level
- Improve service delivery and influence allocation of resources and demonstrate results as part of accountability and transparency
- Reinforce ownership of DMTDP and build M&E capacity within the MMDAs

2.2 Status of Implementation of Programmes/Projects

A total number of Thirteen (13) projects were undertaken in the district for the year 2016. The implementation status of the programmes and projects in the District is shown in the Appendix 1

2.3 UPDATE ON REVENUE

The major sources of revenue for the district are rates, lands and forestry, fees/fines and licenses, the DACF, DDF and Donors grants. Fees, fines and license account for more than 70% of the Internal Revenue Generated by the Assembly.

Performance in Internal Revenue generation is not encouraging. This is attributed to the following issues in the District.

- Failure of revenue collectors to pay all monies collected
- Unwillingness of the people to pay taxes,
- Inadequate logistics for revenue generation
- Inadequate human resource base
- Absence of motivation for revenue collectors
- Absence of vehicle for revenue mobilisation

The total amount of receipts in the district for the year 2016 was Four Million Twenty Eight Thousand Ghana Cedis Seven Hundred and Forty Four Ghana Cedis Six pesewas (GHc4, 028,744.06). The breakdown of the revenue that accrued to the Assembly during the year 2016 is presented in table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Total Revenue Accrued for 2016

Source of Fund	Receipts (GHc)
DACF	2,485,283.68
DDF	749,707.71
IGF	453,834.85
MP's share of DACF	196,966.41
Other Funding Sources	146,951.41
TOTAL	4,028,744.06

Source: Department of Finance, 2017

2.3.1 UPDATE ON DISBURSEMENT

The total expenditure for the year 2016 is Three Million Eight hundred and Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty Three Ghana Cedis Seventeen pesewas (GHc3, 848,363.17). Table 2.2 below shows the expenditure made in the year 2016 from Sources of Funds.

Table 2.2: Total Disbursement for 2016

Source of Fund	Expenditure (GHc)
DACF	2,505,285.60
DDF	692,127.05
IGF	456,158.34
MPS SHARE DACF	69,201.57
OTHER FUNDING SOURCES	125,590.61
TOTAL	3,848,363.17

Source: Department of Finance, 2017

2.3.2 Measures to Increase IGF

Due to the low level of Internally Generated Funds to support the implementation of Developmental projects and programmes in the district, a number of measures were taken in the year under review to increase revenue generation in the district. The measures are as follows,

- Training of Revenue Collectors
- Ceding of some revenue items to sub-district structures
- Regular Update of Revenue Data
- Implementation and monitoring of the District's Revenue Improvement Action Plan.

2.4 UPDATE ON CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ISSUES

2.4.1 OPERATION COWLEG

Operation Cowleg is a task force formed by the REGSEC to regulate the activities of Fulani Herdsmen whose cattle were destroying farms in the Afram Plains portion of the Asante Akim North District. The activities of these herdsmen occasionally resulted in conflicts between the farmers and the herdsmen which sometimes claimed human lives.

The Assembly in consultation with REGSEC deplored 32 Military and Police Team to flash out all nomadic herdsmen and their cattle. The District Police Commander also engaged the cattle owners whose cattle destroyed farms to pay appropriate compensation to the affected farmers.

The DISEC and the District Police Command have strategized and embarked on patrols at the various flashpoints within the District. There have been several stakeholder meetings, DISEC, inter district joint security meeting (Drobonso and Asante Akim North) to find a lasting solution to this situation. Also, the District Police Commander has been efficiently working to maintain peace and order in the District.

2.4.2 SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

To achieve a Universal Basic Education by 2016, the Government of Ghana introduced the School Feeding Programme to provide free meals to basic school basic school pupils. The strategy is to encourage parents and guardians to send their children to school at the recommended age. Table 2.3 shows the list schools that benefit from the School Feeding Programme.

Table 2.3: School Feeding Programme Beneficiary Schools (2016)

NO	NAME OF SCHOOL	ENROLMENT		
		BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1	Asenkyem M/A KG/Primary	65	98	163
2	Brantuokrom M/A KG/ Primary	103	120	223
3	Magyeda M/A Primary	69	80	149
4	Adiemra M/A KG/ Primary	98	100	198
5	Pataban M/A Primary	100	112	212
6	Domeabra Methodist Primary/KG	32	50	82
7	Pekyerekye Presby Primary	130	153	283
8	Domeabra Presby Primary/KG	169	203	372
9	Pekyerekye Methodist Primary	123	150	273
10	Menam M/A Primary	99	106	205
11	Domeabra SDA Primary	151	180	331
12	Beshwe/Dawereso M/A Primary	58	63	121
13	Onyemso Presby Primary	94	99	193
14	Amantena Presby KG/Primary	121	178	299
15	Ananekrom M/A Primary	304	416	720
16	Juansa Methodist KG/Primary	149	162	311
17	Juansa Presby KG/Primary	142	155	297
18	Domeabra R/C KG/Primary	44	50	94
19	Juansa M/A KG/Primary	160	172	332
	TOTAL ENROLMENT FOR 2016	2,211	2,647	4,858

2.4.3 LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT AGAINST POVERTY (LEAP)

In the year 2016, all LEAP beneficiaries were migrated from MTN Mobile Money unto E-Zwich Platform. All the LEAP beneficiaries were issued E-Zwich cards to access their moneys in all banks that have E-Zwich facilities.

The GN Bank and the UT Bank were the two main banks that conducted the registration under the supervision of Ghipps from Bank of Ghana. The Department played a role of mobilising and arranging for venues for the exercise.

Starting from the 43rd Payment Cycle LEAP beneficiaries have accessed their moneys with the E-Zwich. An initial problem was with those who had the UT Cards as it became difficult for some of them to access their money. Unfortunately, the UT Bank has no branch at Agogo, Konongo nor Ejisu, but Kumasi. Hence those with such problems had to be corrected and issued with the GN Bank Cards which is more localised at Agogo and Konongo. The 44th and 45th payment since then has been conducted without any problem. LEAP beneficiaries are regularly advised to keep their cards safely.

The district wide registration of free NHIS package for leap beneficiaries registered 240 disabilities for the year 2016.

2.5 Support for Persons with Disabilities

The total number of PWD applications was 281 for the year under review. Of this number, a total of 254 PWDs were supported and benefited from the disability fund. Beneficiaries came all over the district, ranging from children as low as 6 months to adults over 70 years.

The District Assembly within the year accessed a total amount of GHC 104, 094.87 as its share of the Disability Fund. The funds were expended in areas of Education, Health, Income Generating activities of the PWDs as well as their Organizational strengthening, monitoring and evaluation of beneficiaries of the fund and administrative duties as prescribed in the guidelines for the disbursement of the fund.

A total number of 76 persons benefited from an amount of GHC 23, 700.00 during the first quarter of 2016 whilst 176 persons were able to access a total amount of GHC62, 600.00 during the third quarter which include the 6 tertiary level beneficiaries who were supported with GHC 700.00 each. Tables 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 presents a detailed information on the total number of PWD applications,

the total number of beneficiaries and the specific area and actual amounts received by the beneficiaries for the year under review respectively.

Table 2.4: Total Number of PWD Applications by Sex and the Specific Forms of Disability

Total	No. Of Males	No. of Females
281	140	141
Specific Form of Disability	No. of Persons	
Physically Challenged	173	
Visually Impaired	49	
Hearing	51	
Mentally Retarded	5	
Epilepsy	2	
Autism	1	
Total	281	

Source: Social Welfare Department, 2017

Table 2.5: Total Number of Beneficiaries of the Disability Fund by Sex and the Specific Forms of Disability

Total	No. Of Males	No. of Females
254	126	128
Specific Form of Disability	No. of Persons	
Physically Challenged	157	
Visually Impaired	45	
Hearing	45	
Mentally Retarded	4	
Epilepsy	2	
Autism	1	
Total	254	

Source: Social Welfare Department, 2017

Table 2.6: Area of Support and the Specific Share of the Disability Fund

Area of Support	No. of Beneficiaries	Share of the Fund (GHc)
Special Emergency Support from the District Assembly in Income Generating Activities	2	400
Educational Support (Special School)	8	3,800
Educational Support (Basic School)	8	2,900
Educational Support (Tertiary)	6	4,200
Educational Support (SHS)	3	1,400
Vocational Support to PWDs	7	1,800
Income Generating Activities Support	211	64,100
Health Support for PWDs	7	5,200
Purchase of mobility Devices for PWDs (wheel chairs)	2	1,800
Total	254	85,900

Source: Social Welfare Department, 2017

2.6 Child Right Promotion and Protection

A total number of seventy four cases were reported to the Social Welfare and Community Development Department in the year 2016. Table 2.4 gives a breakdown of the cases reported to the department.

Table 2.7: Number of Reported Cases

NATURE OF CASE	NUMBER REPORTED
Child Maintenance	56
Pregnancy Maintenance	3
Abandoned Baby	0

Child Custody	6
Paternity	0
Family Welfare and Marriage Reconciliation	9
Hospital referral case	0
Total	74

Source: Social Welfare Department, 2017

2.7 Water and Sanitation

The district experienced a drastic water shortage especially during Dry season in 2016. This brought about the establishment of bore holes in the rural areas and the district capital to augment water supply in the district.

The sanitation problem encountered by the Assembly was at the Agogo Russia Market. The Assembly has accepted proposals to modify the place to a healthy and clean environment, which will also generate more revenue for the district. But currently the modification of the place is on hold due to financial constraints of the Assembly.

2.8 Health Cases Recorded

In 2016, a total number of Nine Thousand One hundred and thirty eight (9,138) reproductive health cases, One hundred and forty thousand three hundred and fifty seven (140,357) Clinical health cases and two thousand four hundred and ninety five Immunization cases were recorded in the district in the year 2016. Table 2.8 presents a breakdown of the specific cases recorded.

Table 2.8: Health Cases Recorded in 2016

Health Case	No. of Cases Recorded
Reproductive Health	9,138
Antenatal Registrants	2,615
Deliveries	2,414
Postnatal Registrants	2,533
Family Planning	1,576

Clinical Health	140,357
OPD Attendance	140,357
Immunization	2,495
Penta 3	2,463
Tuberculosis	32

Source: Department of Health, 2017

2.9 HIV/AIDS Activities

During the year the Assembly with the assistance of the Health Directorate and HIV/AIDS Desk Officer organized an Advocacy/Outreach program at Behome and Ananekrom to educate mothers about the existence of HIV/AIDS and how to take preventive measures from contracting the disease. The Assembly participated in the Regional Celebration of the world Aids day.

2.10 OTHER PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE ASSEMBLY DURING THE YEAR

The Assembly has instituted sponsorship programmes to support Education in the District especially in Girl Child Education. This year the Assembly provided financial support to some students both males and females. The amount involved is Five thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc 5000)

Below is the breakdown of the number of beneficiaries as per sex.

Table 2.9: Support to Students

NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	MALES	FEMALES	AMT. PER STUDENT (GHC)	TOTAL AMOUNT (GHC)
25	6	19	200.00	5,000.00

- **SUPPORT TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS**

The Assembly provided Four Thousand Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GHC 6000.00) to support fifteen (20) PLHIV in the district. The details of the distribution are listed below.

Table 2.10: Support to PLHIV

NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	MALES	FEMALES	AMT. PER STUDENT (GHC)	TOTAL AMOUNT (GHC)
20	7	13	300.00	6,000

- **IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME**

The Assembly supported the District Health Management Team with an amount of Four Thousand Cedis for the immunization programme. (i.e. 300 females and 260 males benefitted). The immunization covered hard to reach areas in the Afram Plains portion of Agogo and Ananekrom Sub districts.

- **TRAINING WORKSHOP**

The Assembly recognized that females are marginalized especially when it comes to decision making and development of the District/communities. To involve women in the decision making process, the Assembly in collaboration with the member of parliament for the constituency organized capacity building workshop for women, selected from various parts of the district and a few men to sharpen their skills and empower them to actively participate in local governance and be part in decision making process in their communities and the District as a whole. In all hundred (100) females were invited whilst twenty (20) males participated.

- **SUPPORT TO ORPHANS**

The Assembly assisted twelve (20) orphans by supplying them with school uniforms and some exercise books. Out of the 20 pupils eight (13) were females and four (7) were males

- **ASSISTANCE TO THE AGED**

Six aged (4 females and 2 males) were provided with funds totaling two thousand four hundred Ghana Cedis (GHc 2,400) to pay for their medical expenses.

- **PUBLIC EDUCATION/WORKSHOP ON THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANIZED IN 2016**

- Bush Fires
- Sandwinning
- Overgrazing/Destruction of farms by Fulani Herds

- Galamsey
- Effect on child abuse
- Immunization and roll back malaria

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE UNEMPLOYED YOUTH PER SEX**

The Assembly supported fifteen (20) unemployed youth to be trained to acquire employable skills (i.e. hair dressing and shoe making). The breakdown of support per sex is as follows:

Table 2.11: Financial Support to the Unemployed Youth per Sex

SEX	NO.	AMOUNT PER PERSON	TOTAL GHC
MALE	5	500.00	2,500.00
FEMALE	15	500.00	7,500.00
TOTAL	20		10,000.00

- Ten (10) master craftsmen were also supported with startup capital. Six (6) females were given financial assistance of Three Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc 3000.00) whilst Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc2000) were given to four male craftsmen.
- The Assembly organized workshop for Amantena Area Council on Child Labour. There were 25 participants (i.e. 15 females and 10 males)
- Support for orderly development
- Maintenance of Street Lights
- The celebration of National functions (Farmers Day celebration , Independence Day)
- Human Resource Management
- Consultancy Services
- Preparation of Composite Budget and Annual Action Plans
- Preparation and Submission of Financial reports
- Maintenance of Office Equipment
- Motor Vehicle Insurance
- Procurement of 4 No. Motorbike
- Procurement of Computers, Cabinets and Office equipment

- Acquisition of Land and preparation of Drawings
- Office and Residential Accommodation rentals
- Organization of Capacity Building workshops for Assembly Members, Area Council members and Unit Committee members
- Support for Sports Activities
- Support for Cultural Activities

2.11 Implementation of M&E Plan

The DPCU is mandated by section 46, sub-sections 3 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Act 462 to execute planning functions. The NDPC (systems) Act, 1994, Act 480, the DPCU's planning programming, M&E and coordinating functions.

In implementing the M&E plan as mandated by the aforementioned Act, the District Planning and Co-ordinating Unit (DPCU) collaborated with other organizations, agencies, the private sector, Donors, Civil Society organizations and other stakeholders whose inputs and contributions were needed and who took part in the development of the M&E Plan.

The implementation of the M&E Plan was done with some difficulties. Inadequate resources and logistics were some of the challenges the DPCU and its implementing partners faced. The level of implementation of programmes and projects as revealed by the 2016 Annual Progress Report is as follows provided.

Table 2.12: Level of implementation of the M&E Plan as at 2016

THEMATIC AREA	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION (2015)
Ensuring and sustaining Macro-Economic Stability	17
Transparent and Accountable governance	45
Accelerated Agricultural Modernization and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	30
Infrastructure, Energy and Human Settlement	25
Human Development, productivity and employment	28

Enhancing competitiveness in the private sector	20
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2.11.1 Participatory M&E

The participatory M&E exercise provided an opportunity for the citizens and other stakeholders in the District to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the DMTDP (2014-2017). It allowed the stakeholders to participate fully in M&E process. It provided a common platform for various stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the achievements and impacts of the interventions undertaken by the District Assembly, the Central Government, the donors and other players in the district.

The participatory M&E provided a feedback from citizens about the extent to which the implementation of the DMTDP 2014-2017 has achieved its goals under each of the Thematic Areas.

Surveying, interviews and focal group discussions were among the tools used to assess the impact of the interventions of the citizenry.

CHAPTER THREE

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

3.1 Policy Recommendations and Conclusion

The difficulties the district faces in generating the expected revenues must be resolved. Since the Assembly does not have control over the release of the DACF. The irregular release and the deductions at source by the Common Fund administration is a challenge to the Assembly since it affects its budget and Plans.

The poor revenue performance comprises the ability of the District to implement its development plan successfully. A review must be taken of the incentives, supervising and monitoring structures that regulate revenue generation. Tax education should be organized for the citizenry to know the importance of tax. District Assembly should also use the money collected to finance projects in the development plan.

Agriculture is the main sector of the employment for about 70 percent of the population in the District. However, agriculture is rain fed. This is a major source of vulnerability to the people because of the vagaries of the weather. The Assembly should investigate the possibility and feasibility of partnerships with private sector and communities to develop water conservation and irrigation to ensure all year round farming activities, increase agricultural productivity and provide stable income for the farmers.

The MOFA should encourage the farmer to cultivate improved seeds and planting materials. The Assembly and the MOFA should promote the establishment of storage facilities including community level facilities. The MOFA should see to it that extension services are made readily available to the farmers by provision of alternative extension service.

Most of the farm roads to market centers are in a deplorable state. The Assembly should rehabilitate them to facilitate the farmers to sell their farm produce to the markets.

To increase enrolment and the livelihood of achieving universal primary education, strategies must be developed to encourage parents and guardians to send their children to school at the recommended age. The School Feeding Programme that is being implemented in some schools in the District is one of such incentives that may encourage enrollment. More effort should be made to improve learning and teaching. The monitoring and supervision system in education must be

strengthened to ensure that teachers are performing as they should. Incentives should be provided to teachers in the rural areas. The Assembly should collaborate with the private sector, CBOs, NGOs, GES and other organizations to develop and promote the use of ICT in schools. The Assembly should continue to provide conducive atmosphere for learning and teaching by rehabilitating the existing school building and constructing new structures.

The high unemployment rate and limited job opportunities for school leavers in the District have been identified as disincentives to invest in further education after the completion of the Junior High School. Thus, the creation of job opportunities outside the agriculture sector will be important for ensuring an increase in average number of years that children in school.

The District must undertake a careful review of its water and sanitation projects and plans. Access to safe water is a problem in the District especially in the remote rural areas. The Assembly should increase the level of capital investment in the provision of safe drinking water with emphasis in the rural areas. Access to safe sanitation is lower in the urban compared to rural communities. Drainage and waste disposal facilities must be provided to reduce health hazards.

The District Health Directorate must review its strategy to increase the usage of insecticide-treatment bed nets in the District. The Environmental Health Department of the Assembly must be strengthened to work with the Health Directorate, incentives and sanctions must be developed to encourage communities to maintain healthy environs to reduce the risk of disease.

Publicity campaigns should be intensified to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS. Organizations involved in the HIV/AIDS programmes in the District should organize campaigns to educate residents on the virus.

The district should also place more emphasis on vocational and technical education by providing more scholarships to deserving students to acquire employable skills.