



TARKWA-NSUAEM MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY

OGP ACTION PLAN AND COMMITMENTS FROM 2023 TO 2025

Nov. 2022



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Foreword



The growing demand for greater openness in the governance process and the need to improve on the existing civic participation within the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality make the decision to join Government Reformers across the globe through the Open Government Partnership worthy and timely.

Chapter 20, section 240 (e) of the 1992 Constitution and section 40 of the Local

Governance Act of Ghana, 2016, Act 936 obligate Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies to ensure accountability, inclusion and openness in the delivery of services to the people in their local government area. The law affords the citizenry the opportunity to participate effectively in governance and promote an inclusive society based on public official accountability and responsiveness.

Our Assembly, therefore, seeks to strengthen the open government values of accountability, participation, good governance and openness to empower the citizens, improve well-being and enhance development.

This Action Plan was strategically co-created with multi-stakeholder engagements which include civil society organisations led by Friends of the Nation, State and Non-State Actors and citizens of the municipality to establish and own the values of open government partnership as a worthy approach to shape governance and deliver better living standards for the people we serve.

We the Assembly together with the lead Civil Society Organisation (Friends of the Nation) would ensure the effective implementation of the Open Government commitments to promote transparency and accountability in the Municipality.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BENJAMIN KESIE".

(HON. BENJAMIN KESIE)

MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART ONE

OPEN GOVERNMENT CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIC VISION

1.0. Long-term vision for open government

The Assembly envisions empowering citizens, especially women and the vulnerable through continuous civic engagement and the effective use of mineral development resources to reduce the development challenges in the mining catchment communities to boost economic growth and promote open government principles.

The municipality further seeks to establish a robust project monitoring system by enhancing transparency, inclusiveness and participation of stakeholders and citizens towards project sustainability.

1.1. Achievements in open government

The Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly over the years has made strides towards the achievement of open government through the following areas:

i. Improved Civic Participation, Accountability and Responsiveness

There has been improved citizens' participation in social programmes purposed to build trust and confidence of citizens and be apprised with issues of development in the municipality. This is achieved through Meet-the-Press series, Community Engagements to assess the needs of citizens, Media engagements with phone-in segments, Town Hall meetings, Public Hearings, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Participatory Planning and Budgeting which resulted in the production of the 2022 – 2025 Municipal Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP).

ii. Improved Transparency in Public Infrastructure Delivery

There is established a social audit committee tasked with the mandate to socially audit all infrastructure projects to ensure that project implementation follows the standard practices. The Assembly is also a member of the CoST International (Infrastructure Transparency Initiative) which adopts and implements CoST's infrastructure data standards (IDS) through the uploading of information on the portal for easy access. This has helped to inform citizens and enabled them to hold decision-makers to account.

iii. Gender and Vulnerability

A service hotline has been created for the vulnerable and less privileged in the Municipality to provide feedback mechanism and enhance inclusiveness.

iv. Improved information disclosure and access

The Assembly has developed a comprehensive website www.tnma.gov.gh which regularly updates its citizens with information about the Assembly on all government actions thus projects, programmes, policies and activities.

Documents such as Medium-Term Development Plans, Approved Budgets, Auditor General's Reports, Annual Action Plans and other related documents are published to increase citizens' access to information.

Regular updates are also made on upcoming projects, programmes and policies on the website and notice boards to keep the public informed.

2.0. Current challenges/areas for improvement in open government

Areas that need improvement in open government are as follows:

- a) Low participation of women in decision making:

Women participation in key decision-making processes in the municipality is deficient and affects the completeness and inclusiveness of decisions/policies/programmes.

Further, there is low representation of women in leadership roles at all levels to influence decisions and to encourage women empowerment.

- b) Inadequate disclosure of information and feedback mechanism on project financing, contract management and administrative operations serve as major setbacks to win the confidence and trust of citizens to contribute meaningfully to development.

- c) Mistrust of citizens in mining catchment communities in the application of the Mineral Development Fund to implementation of projects.

- d) Openness and Accountability: the inability of the Assembly to reach more people in the sub-district level to effectively participate and engage in areas of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and

programmes due to resource constraints and low capacity of staff to manage innovations is a challenge.

3.0. Medium term open government goals that the government

The medium-term open government goals that the government wants to achieve through the Municipal Assembly include the following:

Strengthen Participatory Planning and Budgeting:

Strengthen local level capacity for participatory Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation systems through workshops and trainings.

Promote Transparency, Inclusion and Participation:

Enhance inclusive and equitable access to, and participation in socio-economic development by ensuring representation of all stakeholder groupings (men, women, children, people with disability, etc) in all geographical areas within the municipality in decisions that affect them.

Infrastructure Delivery and Efficient Management of Resources

Reduce the mistrust in the equitable application of the mineral development fund by ensuring that communities directly affected by mining activities benefit from the fund.

Additionally, strengthen stakeholder engagement to ensure the application of 10% of the Minerals Development Fund (MDF) towards women empowerment initiatives.

Promote Accountability:

Empower and create appropriate platforms for traditional authorities, civil societies, media and other stakeholders in development processes to hold duty bearers accountable.

4.0. The Action Plan's contribution to the achievement of the open government strategic vision?

The vision of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality's OGP Action Plan is to establish foundations essential to the implementation of policies, programmes and projects aimed at empowering the citizenry and promoting shared growth.

It is also to facilitate the creation of a safe, secured and empowered society where women and the less privileged in society including People Living with disabilities will have a voice and be counted among major decisions to improve the quality of policies.

The implementation of the commitment would strengthen local level capacities through effective engagement of all stakeholders in programmes that promote transparency, innovation, accountability, inclusiveness and participatory governance for economic development.

5.0. Government strategic vision's contribution to the accomplishment of the current administrator's overall policy goals

The overall policy goals of the current administration as detailed in Ghana's 2022 – 2025 National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) dubbed "*The Agenda for Jobs; Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All*" seeks to Create opportunities for all Ghanaians; Safeguard the natural environment and ensure a resilient, built environment; Maintain a stable, united and safe society; and Build a prosperous society.

The NMTDPF which is also linked to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), guides the preparation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects at the local level by the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly.

The Open Government strategic vision on good governance and transparency will help to ensure accountability at the sub-national level in the utilisation of public resources to create opportunities and build a prosperous society. Civic participation and inclusion in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes will help to ensure a resilient built environment, safeguard the natural environment and maintain a stable, united and safe society for economic growth.

6.0. ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION IN THE OPEN GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC VISION AND OGP ACTION PLAN

6.1. Lead Institutions responsible for the implementation of this OGP Action Plan

1. Office of the Municipal Coordinating Director of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly
2. Municipal Development Planning Unit of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly

3. Municipal Social Welfare and Community Development Department of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly
4. Municipal Environmental Health Department of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly
5. Information Service Department of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly
6. National Commission for Civic Education of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly
7. Friends of the Nation (FoN)

6.2. Institutional arrangements are in place to coordinate between government agencies and department to implement the OGP Action Plan

There is a Technical Committee, comprising experienced staff, led by the head of the planning unit and the OGP Point of Contact in charge of the coordination, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation of the local action plan.

Selected Departments and Units of the Assembly whose mandates are directly connected to the commitments will be responsible for their implementation. This will be led by the respective heads. Also identified media groups, civil society organisations, and other local and international organisations whose activities are also linked to the commitments will collaborate with the lead department and unit to implement the commitments.

A Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) will be constituted and adopted by the Assembly to handle the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the commitments, as well as assist in the mobilization of additional resources to support the implementation of the plan. Further, all departments, units and associated CSOs shall report to the Municipal Planning Unit. The OGP Point of Contact will be responsible for the collation of all reports on implementation and submit them to the MSF meetings for deliberations.

6.3. Spaces used or created to enable the collaboration between government and civil society in the co-creation and implementation of this action plan

A Technical Committee has been constituted to coordinate and hold periodic meetings and discusses actions towards the co-creation and implementation of the action plan. The committee as well identified resource gaps in the implementation structure and recommends solutions for effective implementation of the action plan.

1. The Assembly has established a Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) which meets to ensure that essential technical expertise, logistics, and finances are available to implement the specific commitments in the action plan.
2. The Municipal Coordinating Planning Unit (MPCU) as part of their quarterly meetings reviews, evaluates, and makes relevant recommendations to enhance implementation of programmes and activities.
3. WhatsApp platforms have been created for the Technical Committee and MSF to enhance regular updates of information.
4. Town Hall and community meetings are organised to disseminate information on Assembly's performance and receive feedback on the implementation. Town hall meetings are streamed live on Facebook.
5. All media platforms in the municipality including TNMA's website are updated regularly to keep the public informed on activities carried out.

6.4. Measures to ensure diversity of representation (including vulnerable or marginalized populations) in the spaces

Open fora were organized and key stakeholders who represent the interest of various groups including Civil societies, Women groups, Assembly members, Youth groups, PWDs, Political actors, Trade groups, Traditional leaders, Faith and Gender based organizations, among others were selected using stakeholder mapping. This afforded us the opportunity to identify and categorize key stakeholders for fair representation on both the Technical Committee and the Multi-Stakeholder Forum.

6.5. Participants in these spaces

1. Municipal Chief Executive
2. Staff of the Municipal Assembly
3. Staff of Academic Institutions
4. Students Representatives
5. Law Enforcement Officials
6. Mining Companies Representatives
7. Media
8. Other Government Officials
9. Assembly Members
10. Traditional Leaders
11. Citizens
12. Trade Associations
13. Civil Societies
14. Faith-Based Groups
15. Gender Based Organisation
16. PWDs groups
17. Youth Associations
18. Women Groups

6.6. Groups that participated in these spaces

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6.7. Public-facing meetings held in the co-creation process?

4

7.0. Collaboration of government and non-governmental stakeholders through the implementation of the action plan

The members of the Technical Committee made up of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders will collaborate with the Multi-Stakeholder Forum to track the implementation of the plan.

The technical committee will continue to hold regular meetings to come up with innovations to augment the implementation and to address any challenges that may arise during implementation.

The MPCU, a statutory body of the Assembly, as part of their quarterly meetings will discuss ways to create more support for the sustenance and adherence to the implementation of the plan. They will also ensure the speedy implementation of the plan and collaborate to keep the operations of OGP in focus.

8.0. Independent Monitoring Body identified for this plan.

An independent monitoring body (Oversight Committee) composed of professionals from the academic circles especially from the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) and CSOs who are not directly involved in the implementation of the action plan, will be formed to independently assess and evaluate the action plan co-creation process, the implementation and the outcomes achieved from the commitments.

8.1. Contact details for the independent monitoring body.

1. *Dr. Frank Boateng, (Consultant) UMaT, email: fboateng28@gmail.com*
2. *Miss Rhoda Gyampoh, Exe. Sec. (Inspirers and Advocates), email: rhodagyampoh2015@gmail.com*
3. *Mr. Emmanuel O.B Addowah, Exe. Dir. (ComCA GH.), comcaghana@yahoo.com*

8.2. Activities in place to discuss progress on commitments with stakeholders

- Organise open forum and round-table discussions with the public, government officials and CSOs to update, share experiences and take feedback for corrective measures on the implementation of our commitment plan.
- Hold bi-annual Town Hall meetings to discuss the update and progress of implementation of the commitments and progress of developments with members of the civil society, stakeholders, media and the general public.
- Organise quarterly Municipal Planning and Coordinating Unit (MPCU) meetings.
- Hold Community engagement meetings to discuss updates on the commitments.
- Maintain collaboration with the media to strengthen the partnership in promoting OGP values.

8.3. Regular check on progress with implementing agencies

The Municipal Planning Unit led by the OGP Point of Contact will organise meetings and compile monthly reports of the respective commitments showing the progress of implementation.

The Technical Committee will hold regular meetings to discuss progress made towards the realization of the action plan, lessons learnt as well as strategies to overcome difficulties encountered. Reports of the Technical Committee will also be submitted quarterly to the MSF for discussions. Targets set for various implementing commitments will be assessed using performance contract.

8.4. Sharing of the results of your monitoring efforts with the public

The results of monitoring efforts will be disseminated with the public through official website: www.tnma.gov.gh and on all social media handles – Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and LinkedIn to ensure ease of access and accountability.

In addition, implementation of the action plan results will be published on the Municipal Assembly's notice boards.

Radio dialogue sessions with phone-in segments will also be held to engage the public on progress and findings.

The monitoring results will also be discussed as part of the agenda in statutory meetings – the General Assembly, Management and HODs meeting, MPCU meetings and presented in Town Hall meetings.

PART TWO

COMMITMENTS

1.0. Increase transparency, accountability and equitability in the application of mineral resources

1.1. Problem

Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality aside agriculture, is well-known for mining of mineral resources such as gold and manganese. Mining supports the development of the local economy and has been a major source of employment, especially for the youth. Due to the mining activities, the municipality also benefits from the Minerals Development Fund (MDF) established under the Act of Parliament, Minerals Development Fund, Act 912 (2016). The application of the fund is to provide financial resources for the benefit of communities affected by mining operations and for related matters to ensure improvement in the standard of living of citizens within Mining Communities. Despite the purpose for the fund, inhabitants of communities directly affected by the mining operations are dissatisfied with the application of the MDF, agitating strongly that the assembly concentrates only on resolving the developmental challenges of non-mining communities. Communities other than these mining catchment areas which are indirectly affected by the operations of the mines due to haulage of heavy mining equipment and materials also do not adequately benefit from the application of the fund. The constant haulage affects the condition of roads in these communities resulting in accumulation of dust on farms and properties, affecting the overall health of the citizens, with no compensation paid. However, about 70% of citizens engaged during the co-creation process, including some notable personalities, have no knowledge of the existence of the fund, whilst about 80% lacked an understanding of the fund and its application. Most citizens are also not aware of infrastructural projects constructed in their communities using funds from mineral resources.

1.2. Status quo

The Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly consists of 438 communities of which 10 percent are mining catchment communities. The municipality is bedeviled with numerous developmental challenges ranging from social, economic, infrastructure to

governance. Meanwhile, resources available to address these challenges including the MDF are limited. Major mining companies in the municipality, i.e., Gold Fields Ghana Limited, AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Mine and Ghana Manganese Company Limited concentrate mostly on their operational communities in the implementation of their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR). Prioritized needs of the operational communities are addressed through the mining companies' CSR especially in the areas of social amenities to enhance their living standards hence the impact of the Assembly is minimal. Inhabitants of communities that are not directly affected by mining are deprived of benefits from the CSR. To avoid duplication of efforts, the Assembly channels the greater part of the MDF to development of non-catchment communities. Again, education and sensitization carried out to bring citizens up to speed on the application and use of the MDF are minimal.

1.3. Action

It is planned to develop a page on the Assembly's website to enhance transparency and accountability by incorporating all information on projects funded from mineral resources including those by the mining companies to boost access to information.

The Assembly envisions equitable distribution of the MDF by ensuring that 80 percent of mining catchment communities benefit from the fund in the composite budget allocations each year.

Also, mining companies will be engaged to negotiate for an expansion of CSR to include communities that are not within their operational zones but are indirectly affected by mining activities.

Citizens, groups and stakeholders will be empowered through education and training on the application of the mineral development fund, legal frameworks and mining regulations for transparency and accountability.

1.4. How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem described above?

The commitment will contribute to meeting the needs identified through:

1. An informed citizen/community with understanding on the application and benefits of mineral resources for accountability and transparency.
2. Empowered citizens with requisite knowledge and skills for improved living conditions.
3. Expanded social interventions to include all 438 communities in the municipality for collective economic growth.
4. Improved recognition and reputation of the Assembly through socially empowered citizens.

1.5. What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategy does this commitment relate to?

The Commitments relate to the National Policy Framework i.e. **Agenda for Jobs** which is the long-term Open Government strategy for Ghana and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for which the Assembly is aligned. Specific teams include the following:

Leverage the presence of mineral resources to finance rail infrastructure (SDG Target 11.2)

Ensure effective sharing of mineral revenue for the development of mining communities (SDG Targets 16.5, 16.6))

Promote effective stakeholder involvement in development planning process, local democracy and accountability (SDG Target 16.7)

Build capacity of key stakeholders, such as traditional authorities, civil society groups, private sector and NGOs in development dialogue (SDG Targets 16.7, 17.17)

Strengthen systems and structures for ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of public funds (SDG Targets 16.5, 16.6, 16.a)

1.6. Primary Policy Area

Social Accountability, Regulatory governance.

1.7. Primary Sector

Environment & Climate, Extractive Industries.

1.8. What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

Why is this commitment relevant to this value?	
Public Accountability	The commitment is relevant to Public Accountability because it will provide clear information about the results of consultation processes and outcomes of commitment implementation. Possible reasons for the selected interventions will be disclosed for feedback.
Civic Participation	The commitment is relevant to Civic Participation because it will allow for diversity in the selection of projects to include the catchment and non-catchment communities. Priority projects will be identified, and appropriate solutions proposed through the utilization of mineral resources.

1.9. What resources are needed to achieve this commitment?

Budget (estimated budget allocation and specify currency)	200,000 Ghana Cedis
Staff (number of staff required to implement the commitment)	10
Time (months needed to implement the commitment)	12 months
Other resources required (please describe)	Human resources, Logistics, Technology

1.10. Milestones

No .	Output Description	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Agency	Contact person	Status
1.	A webpage well developed	01/01/2023	01/03/2023	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	In progress
2.	MDF equitably distributed to benefit 80% of mining	01/01/2023	01/03/2023	Municipal Budget Unit	Melvin Appiah Ohene Bright	Not started

	catchment communities					
3.	Expanded CSR to include communities that are not within mining operational zones but are indirectly affected by mining activities	01/01/2023	01/03/2023	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	Not started
4.	Empowered citizens, groups and stakeholders through education and training on the application of mineral development fund, legal frameworks and mining regulations	01/01/2023	01/03/2023	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	Not started

2.0. Establish synergy with the public and private sector to improve transparency and accountability in water services delivery.

2.1. Problem

With an ever-growing population which currently stands at 218,664 (PHC 2021), the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality plays host to persons with diverse backgrounds, mostly from neighboring districts and outside Ghana due to the municipality's endowment in mineral resources such as gold and manganese. The situation puts a strain on the available water resources.

Considering the total number of facilities provided, about 85% of the population should have access to potable water supply, unfortunately, only about 45% can boast of consistent water supply. Again, private sector interest in the provision of water is minimal. This stems from the fact that the facilities do not have effective management systems to ensure sustainability.

According to the 2021 PHC, about 16% still depend on rains, streams, springs and rivers as their source of drinking water which is perceived to be unwholesome due to inadequate information and access to education.

However, considering the large demand and its resultant frequent breakdown of water systems, the rate of response to maintenance have become a major setback for the Municipality. Consultations with communities revealed that there is not enough information on the water systems and management resulting in lack of sense of ownership.

During the cocreation process and existing data analysis, we also identified the following challenges:

- i. Poor accountability of water services operation to citizens.
- ii. Poor communication between service providers and citizens
- iii. Low understanding of the functions of local authorities and community-level stakeholders
- iv. Delivery of water services lacks effective participation of the pertinent stakeholders.
- v. Poor and ineffective community – level leadership commitment
- vi. Weak enforcement of bye laws and regulations

2.2. Status quo

The Local Governance Act, 2016, (Act 936) permits MMDAs to collaborate with private and state-owned enterprises operating in the district to carry out any commercial activity that falls within the scope of their respective functions and as well determine the allocation of the cost and benefits in respect of that activity.

As a result of logistical constraints, weak enforcement of policies/laws, lack of technical support and the ineffectiveness of leadership to ensure transparency and accountability in the provision of water services to meet the demand of citizens, the collaboration has less been adhered to.

The Tarkwa - Nsuaem Municipality has a total of 197 water facilities comprising 5 Small town Water systems and 192 Boreholes. About 45% of these facilities are rehabilitated annually by the Assembly and other few benevolent stakeholders due to poor management.

Communities however demand from service providers quality and reliable water supply services as well as transparency and accountability in water services delivery as information about the operations of government officials, service providers and community management teams are kept in the dark.

2.3. Action

Reinforce a collaboration with private sector to strengthen local management of water systems in the municipality for citizens to have access to quality service delivery.

Ensure consistency in the flow of information using appropriate technology e.g. media and other platforms to improve sanitation, discourage pollution of water sources through sensitization and enforcement of local laws.

Strengthen the Water and Sanitation Management Teams in the communities to mobilize resources for maintenance of water systems, ensure participation leading to community ownership, transparency and accountability of operations and increase coverage of citizens to safe drinking water sources.

2.4. How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem described above?

Expected Outcomes

- Increased access to safe and hygienic drinking water sources.
- Improved quality delivery of services and enhanced information management technology.
- Strengthened synergy of water resource management institutions and local law enforcement.
- Expanded citizens participation and improved feedback mechanisms.

2.5. What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategy does this commitment relate to?

This commitment relates to the Municipal Assembly's long-term goal of establishing a robust system to enhance transparency, inclusiveness and participation of stakeholders and citizens towards project sustainability.

It is to ensure that the Municipality will have clean, hygienic and safe water sources and facilitate equitable access to quality water and service delivery.

2.6. Primary Policy Area

Civic Space, Social Accountability.

2.7. Primary Sector

Public Services, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.

2.8. What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

Why is this commitment relevant to this value?	
Civic Participation	The commitment is relevant to Civic Participation because it will create a platform for communities to meaningfully participate in the water services delivery and organize sensitization programmes to ensure marginalized groups are represented and have access to information regarding water services delivery.

2.9. What resources are needed to achieve this commitment?

Budget (estimated budget allocation and specify currency)	150,000 Ghana Cedis
Staff (number of staff required to implement the commitment)	10
Time (months needed to implement the commitment)	12 months
Other resources required (please describe)	Human Resource, Logistics, Technology

2.10. Milestones

No .	Output Description	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Agency	Contact person	Status
1.	Collaboration with private sector well strengthened to manage water systems for access to quality services	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	In progress

2.	Enhanced information management using appropriate technology for an improved sanitation	01/12/2022	01/12/2024	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	In progress
3.	Enforced bye-laws on sanitation for improved water sources	01/12/2022	01/12/2024	Environment Health Unit	Mr. Daniel Lamptey	In progress
4.	Strengthened Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMT) to mobilize resources for maintenance of water systems.	01/12/2022	01/12/2024	Municipal Water and Sanitation Office	Mr. Michael Kojo Johnson	In progress

3.0. Improve the participation of women and other vulnerable groups in governance

3.1. Problem

The need for women and vulnerable groups to participate actively in governance to effect change has been a general concern. Women face several challenges due to cultural, religious and societal stereotyping that limits their involvement and activeness in decision making processes. In the same vein, Persons with disabilities face greater challenges due to their special and unique needs that limit their ability to engage actively in social interactions to influence policy priorities.

Social and economic felt needs of these groups are mostly given less attention or left unaddressed due to the dominance of the male counterparts in many decision-making spaces. For instance, the General Assembly which is the highest decision-making body of the Municipal Assembly, made up of 43 members has only 1 person with disability

(2%) and 11% women representation. Equally, at town hall meetings and most social accountability platforms, a derisory 20% of women are represented.

The level of unequal representation affects the number of gender and vulnerable based programmes and activities contained in the plan and budget of the Assembly. There is also a challenge of inadequate logistics and low commitment of officials to implement, adopt and enforce policies to improve the level of participation of women and the vulnerable groups in governance process.

There is however the need to address the situation through rigorous education and sensitization, adoption of a different, accessible and responsive approach to entice women and the vulnerable to accept public roles and engage in social interactions.

3.2. Status quo

Currently, efforts have been made to factor in the Assembly's plan and budget more gender-responsive and social programmes that economically empower women and the vulnerable. The Assembly as part of efforts to improve the lives of the vulnerable, is implementing the government-initiated Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty programme (LEAP) by providing cash and health insurance incentives to extremely poor households.

There is also a dedicated toll-free line for receiving and addressing issues related to women and the less privileged. However, there are still gaps especially with regards to the inclusion of these special groups in the planning, adoption and implementation stages of policy making processes. The issue of equality and equity is not well addressed, and a lot more needs to be done at all levels of decision-making to eliminate the cultural and traditional boundaries to well equip women and the vulnerable.

3.3. Action

- a. Develop and operationalize a public participation framework relevant for women and persons with disabilities to ensure a 30% and 10% respective representation in all social accountability platforms.
- b. Empower women and persons with disability through sensitization, training and capacity building programmes on human rights, local governance and legal frameworks to encourage them to take up roles and positions in governance.
- c. Create an easy and accessible platform to provide secure participatory opportunities to vulnerable groups to enhance their inclusion in social interactions and decision-making.
- d. Enhance the quality of participation and inclusion by identifying and nominating Ambassadors/Role Models among the women/disability groups to build their confidence level, provide leadership and motivation.

3.4. How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem described above?

- a. Increased participation and inclusion of women and persons with disability in public engagements, local governance and decision making.
- b. Empowered women and persons with disabilities in leadership positions.
- c. Reduced society and traditional stereotypes among the vulnerable groups.
- d. Reduced discrimination among gender and vulnerable groups.

3.5. What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategy does this commitment relate to?

The commitment relates to the National Policy Framework i.e. **Agenda for Jobs** to:

Ensure the protection of women's access, participation and benefits in all socio-economic related issues.

Improve access to education, health and skills training in income-generating activities for vulnerable persons.

Ensure compliance with Disability Act to enhance inclusion in decision making and protection of all forms of discrimination.

3.6. Primary Policy Area

Inclusion, Safety Nets & Economic Inclusion

3.7. Primary Sector

Cross-sectoral, Equity.

3.8. What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

Why is this commitment relevant to this value?	
Civic Participation	Implementation of the commitment will create enabling environment that allows women and marginalized groups to be represented at all levels of decision making and enhance gender mainstreaming.

5.0. What resources are needed to achieve this commitment?

Budget (estimated budget allocation and specify currency)	150,000 Ghana Cedis
Staff (number of staff required to implement the commitment)	10
Time (months needed to implement the commitment)	12 months
Other resources required (please describe)	Logistics, Human Resource, Technology

6.0. Milestones

No.	Output Description	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Agency	Contact person	Status
1.	Public Participation Framework for Women and Persons with Disabilities developed and operationalized to ensure 30% and 10% respective representation in all social accountability platforms	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Social Welfare and Community Development Department	Wisdom Bakuyeyaa	In progress
2.	Women and Persons with Disability empowered to take up roles and positions in governance.	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Inspirers and Advocates	Rhoda Gyamph	In progress
3.	Easy and accessible platform to provide secure participatory opportunities to vulnerable groups created to enhance their inclusion in social interactions and decision-making.	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Inspirers and Advocates	Rhoda Gyamph	In progress

4.	Ambassadors/Role Models among women/disability groups identified and nominated to inspire their confidence level, provide leadership and motivation.	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Inspirers and Advocates	Rhoda Gyamph	Not started
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4.0. Enhance civic participation in procurement and contract management

4.1. Problem

Public Procurement Act, 2016 (Act 936) as amended, makes provision for public institutions to engage citizens at some levels of public procurement of goods, services and works. Public institutions over the years have complied with the usage of the Act and ensured the reduction of procurement infractions as possible. However, there are still challenges with regards to citizens' participation in the procurement process and disclosure of contract information to gain the trust and confidence of citizens in the management of procurement and contracts. Citizens are inadequately involved in project initiation and planning stages, contracting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation which their consequences have been delay in project execution, substandard projects and abandoned projects. During the co-creation process, about 85% of the participants engaged expressed little knowledge of procurement processes and lacked understanding of information on public infrastructure. There are also inadequate avenues available for citizens to gain access to procurement data and contract information such as contract award details and processes, contract sums of projects, project execution and completion details. This as a result has further impeded civic participation in the procurement process and demand for accountability and value for money in projects delivery.

4.2. Status quo

There is an existing mechanism to include stakeholders or direct beneficiaries of a project from the initiation/planning stage to site selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of the procurement process. This mechanism needs to be reinforced to make it more effective by building up the capacities of members to be up to speed with new innovations that will enhance transparency in the procurement process and contract management. There is also inadequate disclosure of information to prospective bidders or suppliers, though the initial stage of the public procurement process is advertised in the dailies. However, the disclosure of information throughout

the procurement and contract management process to citizens during the selection of suppliers for a project is not thoroughly done and makes it more discretionary and less participatory.

4.3. Action

1. Develop a progressive open contracting system to ensure participation of citizens at all levels of the procurement process to enhance transparency and accountability.
2. Design a template/handbook for citizens to facilitate their understanding of the public procurement process, contract management, and build their capacities to demand accountability of projects for value for money.
3. Adopt the use of technology to facilitate timely publication and reporting of relevant issues on procurement and contracting, and as well provide reliable data for use by stakeholders to enhance feedback on all stages of the procurement process.
4. Conduct a participatory monitoring and evaluation at the start of the commitment, mid implementation and at the final stage to measure the level of understanding of the stages.

4.4. How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem described above?

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased public participation and inclusion in the procurement and contracting process.
2. Improved technology and innovation that limit human interface, expand access to procurement opportunities and improve assessment of the processes for transparency.
3. Enhanced capacity of bidders/suppliers and citizens in open contracting through education and training to build trust, inspire confidence and influence negative perception in contract management and public procurement.
4. Enhanced disclosure of procurement data, contract records and information to ensure citizens' understanding and satisfaction of procurement processes to promote transparency.

4.5. What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategy does this commitment relate to?

This commitment relates to the government's goal to ensure fairness, transparency and non-discrimination in public procurement in order to promote a competitive local

industry and increase the confidence of varied stakeholders in public procurement processes.

4.6. Primary Policy Area

Open Contracting

Public Procurement

4.7. Primary Sector

Cross-sectoral

Public Services (general)

4.8. What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

Why is this commitment relevant to this value?	
Access to information	The commitment is relevant to Access to information because it will enhance information regarding activities and outcomes for easy access by all stakeholders and citizens. It will facilitate the publication and dissemination of information on procurement and contract in all relevant formats to citizens.
Civic Participation	The commitment is relevant to civic participation because it will allow citizens and stakeholders to participate and understand the procurement processes, identify priorities, and propose solutions regarding public procurement and contract management at the local level.

4.9. What resources are needed to achieve this commitment?

Budget (estimated budget allocation and specify currency)	200,000 Ghana Cedis
Staff (number of staff required to implement the commitment)	10
Time (months needed to implement the commitment)	12 months
Other resources required (please describe)	Human resource, Technology, Logistics

4.10. Milestones

No .	Output Description	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Agency	Contact person	Status
1.	Developed progressive open contracting system to ensure participation of citizens at all levels of the procurement process	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	Not started
2.	Designed template/handbook for citizens to facilitate understanding of the public procurement process, contract management and for capacity building	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Municipal Procurement Unit	Ernest Anokye	Not started
3.	Reliable data and relevant issues on procurement and contracting published and disseminated using appropriate media	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	Not started
4.	Participatory monitoring and evaluation at the start of the commitment, mid implementation and at the final stage conducted	01/01/2023	01/12/2024	Municipal Planning Unit	Theophilus Tamatey-Agbo	Not started