 

ANLOGA DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



**OPEN GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP (OGP) ACTION PLAN AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2023 AND 2024**

***COMPILED BY:***

**OGP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY, 2023**

# Foreword

Anloga District is one of the 18 Administrative District of the Volta Region of Ghana with capital located at Anloga. The district was established by the Legislative Instrument (L.I.) 2372 of 2018 and inaugurated on the 19th of February, 2019. The district derives its mandate and functions from the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936), section 12 sub section (1) to (9) as the highest political and administrative authority within the district responsible for the formulation and execution of plans, programmes and strategies for the effective mobilisation of the resources necessary for the overall development of the district.

The constitution of Ghana highlights the importance of participation at the local governance level. Recognizing the strategic objective of the Open Government Partnership programme which is based on the idea that governments should be more transparent, inclusive, participatory and accountable to citizens, the Anloga District Assembly is among two Assemblies in the Volta Region of Ghana to join the OGP platform in 2022. The Open Government Partnership is an international initiative that seeks to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, enhance citizen’s participation, promote accountability, and adopt new technologies to enhance good governance. As a Local government institution, we are committed to ensuring good governance through transparency, effective citizen participation and accountability in our service delivery.

****As a requirement under the OGP arrangement, participating organizations must develop and carry out bi-annual action plans with the public and track commitments made in the plan. This OGP Plan represents the blueprint of the Anloga District spanning the period 2023 to 2024. The document was prepared through a participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society, and the private sector, traditional authorities, vulnerable groups and religious groups among others. 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 district.

**(HON. SETH K. YORMEWU)**

**DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

# PART ONE

# OPEN GOVERNMENT CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIC VISION

## **Long-term vision for open government**

The 2030 Agenda (SDGs) acknowledges that promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, is among the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To escape from poverty, the poor need productive jobs that lead to higher income. The Anloga District Assembly envisions empowering citizens, especially women and the vulnerable group through continuous civic engagement and vocational supports to help boost economic growth and promote open government principles. Following the widespread conviction that poverty can only be reduced if people have decent and productive jobs, the first Sustainable Development Goal aims to “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”.

## **1.2 Achievements in open government**

The Assembly in the process of deepening transparency, accountability and ensure inclusiveness has instituted participatory measures aimed at creating the enabling environment for the citizens to fully and effectively participate in all activities. These include, Community Fora, Town Hall Meetings, Participatory Planning and Budgeting, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting and Social Auditing among others. The support of local NGOs/CSOs/Institutions such as National Development Planning Commission, Friends of the Nation, The Development Institute, GIZ, among others have enhanced citizen engagements. Plan and budget preparation and implementation have become more participatory and addresses the needs of the people. The Assembly had established a website, Facebook and other social media platforms for sharing relevant information particularly on projects and programmes being executed. Participation in Town Hall meetings have been enhanced to include people with special needs such as the deaf and damp with the right interpretation. Other interventions include;

* Spatial Planning: Planning schemes for 5 communities are currently been developed.
* Development Planning: The Assembly is currently implementing a comprehensive Medium Term Development Plan (2022 – 2025) based on the needs/aspirations of all communities within the district co-created through community engagement and public hearing.
* Gender: established Gender-Desk in the Assembly, with a dedicated hotline (+233(0)597399959) to handle all Gender issues and ensure gender is effectively mainstreamed in all activities particularly the plans and budgets.
* Client Focus: A dedicated Client Service Unit has been established in the Assembly to receive and direct all clients who come to transact business/seek information in the Assembly.
* DCE’s engagement with the public: The District Chief Executive has a schedule of visits to selected communities within the district to listen to and address pertinent issues confronting them.
* The Assembly has developed a comprehensive website (www.anda.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 Annual Action Plans, Approved Budgets, Fee Fixing Resolution, 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.

With a number of existing departments and agencies, the Assembly is well positioned with the requisite human resource and capacity to execute the OGP programme and implement the Local Action Plan. Under the Political and the Administrative leadership of the District Chief Executive and the District Coordinating Director respectively, these departments are headed by qualified, well-motivated and well-trained staff poised to deliver on the objectives of this partnership.

## **Current challenges/areas for improvement in open government**

Although Ghana’s local government system has been in existence for over thirty years, reoccurring challenges such as poor engagement between citizens and local government authorities, inefficient delivery of municipal services, and poor accountability mechanisms are major setbacks that are gradually eroding the confidence of citizens in the system. Community and stakeholder consultative sessions leading to the preparation of district’s maiden Medium-Term Development Plan (2022-2025) and the co-creation of this maiden OGP Local Action Plan (OGP LAP) provided enough evidence of how prevalent these weaknesses in the local government system were. This OGP would focus on contributing to an improvement in the effectiveness of service delivery, strengthening government accountability, and creating the civic space for ordinary citizens and civil society to actively participate in local governance. Government accountability and transparency are an undergirding factor in trust-building due to their ability to provide strong safeguards against official corruption and abuse, which erodes public faith in government at all levels. Enhancing unfettered access to permissible information strengthens the capacity of citizens and other stakeholder groupings to ensure duty-bearers account for their stewardship. This enables stronger oversight, improves transparency around the feasibility of capital projects, and ensures that government decisions/policies have strong built-in accountability arrangements.

In spite of the various enactments, regulations and policies and the pursuance of activities on deepening local governance at the subnational level, increasing citizens benefits and promoting the participation of the vulnerable and marginalized in the governance process, much is yet to be achieved. The Assembly is still challenged and unable to reach majority of its citizens and get them actively involved in its activities as required by the laws and policies due to resources constraints, capacity issues and poor networks. As a result, our people are seeking greater openness in the governance process, enhanced participation in Assembly’s activities and calling for means of greater transparency, responsiveness, accountability, and effectiveness in the functioning of the Assembly. There is therefore, the need for a vibrant civic space and well-informed citizen base and which is active enough to contribute meaningfully to the development and governance process, which OGP programme presents.

## **Medium term open government goals**

The Medium-term open government goal that the government of Ghana through the Anloga District Assembly want to achieve is to promote local democracy, participation and accountability through strong and viable stakeholder involvement in decision making. The specific objectives to achieve the above goal are to;

* Promote transparency and accountability through increased access to information
* Promote ownership of the development activities and programmes
* Promote popular support for the development agenda
* Promote responsibility among citizens
* Build a strong active citizenship that facilitates good governance and ensure maximum security
* Strengthen the local governance system by enhancing citizens’ participation especially women and Persons with Disabilities in decision making, electoral democracy and leadership.
* Promote proactive, participatory and gender-based planning, budgeting and implementation of development projects and programmes.
* Build a vibrant Civil Society network and create congenial civic space for effective collaboration and participation in the governance process.

Successful implementation of the LAP 1 commitments will be guaranteed through mobilization of significant resources and cooperation. Our networking mechanism will be broadened to engage and attract external support, membership and resources to assure the successful implementation of the LAP 1 commitments and subsequent actualization of the aforementioned goals.

## **The Action Plan’s contribution to the achievement of the open government strategic vision**

This action plan clearly specifies strategies to be implemented towards the achievement of Open governance in the Anloga District. Effective public participation allows the values of the public to be identified and incorporated into decisions that ultimately affect them. The District’s OGP strategic vision is to promote local democracy, participation and accountability through strong and viable stakeholder involvement in decision making.

Specifically, the commitments spelt out in this OGP plan are intended to elicit citizens participation in local governance, improving access and quality of service delivery, and enhance on the principle of transparency and accountability. The plan provides the avenues for constructive engagements between government and the governed. By engaging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Traditional Authorities, Citizens etc. in the development process in the district, these actors are more likely to appreciate the developmental challenges confronting the district and are therefore more inclined to empathize with the district.

## **Contribution of Government strategic vision to the accomplishment of the current overall policy goal**

Citizen participation in decision-making, policy formulation, and development activities of local governments is an essential component of Ghana’s decentralization agenda. The Anloga District Assembly had just developed its maiden Medium Term Development Plan spanning the period 2022-2025. The preparation of this Medium Team Development Plan (2022-2025) is a fulfillment of requirements under Ghana’s Decentralization Policy which designates District Assemblies as planning authorities. One of the key priority areas of the Plan under governance, corruption, and public accountability, is to engender citizens’ trust and ownership of government interventions through active citizen engagement and popular participation. This vision finds expression in the OGP LAP 1 through commitments that foster active citizen participation and government accountability in the delivery of services to its people.

The engagement of the people in decision making can be an early warning system for public concern, a means through which adequate and timely information can be disseminated and can contribute to sustainable decision making. Effective public participation allows the values of the public to be identified and incorporated into decisions that ultimately affect them. The citizens in the district through the implementation of OGP programme stand to be well informed about the activities of the Assembly and empowered to hold authorities to strict accountability. Women who are usually under-represented in decision making process through the OGP will have fair representation in decision making process across all levels.

OGP will afford the Assembly to be more open, transparent and accountable in the discharge of its mandate for improved service delivery. This plan intends to create an atmosphere of mutual ownership of actions and strengthens efforts aimed at building trust and confidence in government through citizen engagement and active participation.

The Open Government strategic vision on good governance and transparency will help to ensure accountability at the sub-national level in the utilization 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.

## **1.6 Engagement and Coordination in the Open Government Strategic Vision and OGP Action Plan**

### **1.6.1 Lead Institutions responsible for the implementation of this OGP Action Plan**

The following shall constitute the lead institutions responsible for the implementation of the OGP action plan

* Office of the District Coordinating Director of the Anloga District Assembly
* Development Planning Unit of the Anloga District Assembly
* Budget Unit of the Anloga District Assembly
* District Social Welfare and Community Development Department of the Anloga District Assembly
* District Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit of the Anloga District Assembly
* Information Service Department of the Anloga District Assembly
* National Commission for Civic Education of the Anloga District Assembly
* Keta Office of the Friends of the Nation (FoN)

### **1.6.2 Institutional arrangements in place to coordinate between government agencies and department to implement the OGP Action Plan**

The District Planning Coordinating Unit (DPCU) led by the OGP Point of Contact responsible for the Local OGP shall be the coordinating and facilitating agency for the purpose of implementing this OGP Local Action Plan. The commitments will be implemented by appropriate Departments and Units led by their heads whose operations reflect the commitments.

In addition, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector Associations, the Media, and other Local and International Organizations, Departments, and agencies whose activities are related to specific commitments will collaborate with the lead Department and Units to implement the commitments. All the lead Departments and Units and their collaborating/supporting CSOs shall report to the Coordinating office (Development Planning Unit) led by the OGP Point of Contact. The OGP Point of contact will collate all reports on implementation and submit them to the Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) meetings for deliberations. The MSF will provide technical feedback and assist in mobilizing additional resources to support the implementation of the Plan.

### **1.6.3. Spaces created to enable the collaboration between government and civil society in the co-creation and implementation of this action plan**

Working Team: A team of 11 members from government, civil society, traditional authorities and a representative of vulnerable group was constituted to develop this LAP. The team developed the vision, mission and goal for the OGP Local Action Plan, identified stakeholders, developed a community engagement strategy and prepared a workplan.

Thereafter, a Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) meeting was organized to make inputs into the plan and also to ensure that essential technical expertise, logistics, and finances are available to implement the specific commitments in the action plan. Representation at the multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) consist of 30 members representatives: 15 from government; 10 from CSO, media, and vulnerable groups (women, youth, people living with disability etc.), and 5 from the private sector. The MSF will continue to provide oversight responsibility during the implementation of this LAP.

A WhatsApp platform has been created to share information and updates during the co-creation process and will serve as one of the mediums of information sharing during the implementation stage. The Assembly has a website for sharing information to the general public. Though this platform was not used during the co-creation process, it will serve as another medium of sharing information on the implementation of the plan.

### **1.6.4 Measures to ensure diversity of representation**

The Working Team conducted a stakeholder mapping to identify all the various stakeholders including marginalized groups such as people with disabilities, women groups, youth groups, aged, religious groups among others. The various stakeholders were invited to participate in community engagement meetings. The Multi-Stakeholder Forum consists of 30 members representatives: 15 from government; 10 from CSO, media, and vulnerable groups (women, youth, people living with disability etc.), and 5 from the private sector. The mission/mandate of the MSF is to put into practice OGP’s principle of co-creation between government and civil society. The MSF oversees the OGP process to ensure it is open and inclusive of all stakeholders. Gender representation was key in the selection of participants during the co-creation process.

### **1.6.5 Participants in these spaces**

The various stakeholders’ groups who participated in the co-creation process are as follows;

* Government officials/technocrats
* Assembly members
* Traditional Authorities-
* Non-governmental organization (Friends of the Nation)
* Media
* Private Sector
* Market Women Association
* Persons with Disability Association
* Youth Groups
* Women Groups

### **How many groups participated?**

10

### **How many meetings were held in the co-creation process?**

4

### **Collaboration of government and non-governmental stakeholders through the implementation of the action plan**

The Working Team led by the OGP Point of Contact, and the Multi Stakeholder Forum will be responsible for tracking progress and providing support to each commitment. The working team and the MSF will develop indicators for tracking progress. The Working Team will also help address any challenge experienced during implementation of the LAP I. The MSF will provide leadership in the form of coordination and facilitation to give effect to the translation of the Action Plan into concrete actions and meet quarterly.

The District Assembly and its collaborating institutions such as Friends of the Nation and other CSOs will explore other sources of funding for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

### **1.6.9 Monitoring of the OGP Action Plan**

The MSF has identified one external institution to conduct the independent Monitoring of the Action Plan 2023-2024. The Regional Planning Coordinating Unit (RPCU) – A well experienced RPCU in monitoring and evaluation and project implementation will be the external body to conduct independent evaluation of the implementation of the 2023-2024 OGP LAP1. RPCU will conduct an independent assessment and evaluation of the co-creation process, the implementation of the OGP LAP I and the results achieved from the implementation of the commitments under the guidance of the OGP Local and the IRM.

**Contact details for the independent monitoring body**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Name of contact at the monitoring body*** | ***Title*** | ***Email*** |
| Mr. Isaac Adzah Tettey | Regional Economic Planning Officer | [isaactee@yahoo.co.in](mailto:isaactee@yahoo.co.in) |

### **Activities in place to discuss progress on commitments with stakeholders**

The following activities have been earmarked to discuss progress on the commitments with stakeholders.

* Quarterly MSF review meetings to discuss progress, challenges and way forward.
* Quarterly District Planning and Coordinating Unit (DPCU) meetings to discuss progress, challenges and way forward
* Media engagement
* Community engagement/Town Hall meetings

### **Regular check on progress with implementing agencies**

The Action Plan Coordinating Unit (DPCU) led by the OGP Point of Contact will organize monthly visits to lead Departments and Units to check on progress. The Working Team will hold quarterly follow-ups with the implementing agencies through face-to-face meetings to discuss the progress of implementation. There will quarterly review meetings with the implementing agencies to discuss the progress of implementation.

### **Dissemination of results to the public**

The result of the monitoring efforts will be shared first with the MSF at their quarterly meetings. It will also be shared at the Assembly’s District Planning Coordinating Unit (DPCU) quarterly meetings. There would also be media engagement on the results. The OGP point of contact, technical working team, and independent monitoring body will be the panel. The results will also be shared on the OGP webpage on the Assembly’s website.

### **1.6.13 Endorsement from Non-Governmental Stakeholders**

*List the non-governmental stakeholders who participated in the co-creation process and endorse this action plan*.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Name*** | ***Title*** | ***NGO*** |
|  |  |  |
| Randolph Kwesi Benyi Johnson | Community Development Coordinator | Friends of the Nation |