

Ghana (2009-13)

Global Research Project: Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability

Grantee: Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC)

In 2009, Ghana's Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) participated in several rounds of technical training in issues of budget analysis and evaluation of government spending programs. ISODEC was one of 14 organisations from developing and transition countries, selected through an open call, on the basis of their mix of expertise in public policy analysis and policy advocacy – as part of GDN's Global Research Project on Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability.

Following these trainings, ISODEC conducted a programme budgeting analysis (PBA) and Benefit Incidence Analysis (BIA) of Ghana's public programmes in health, education and water. In addition to collecting spending data from all 10 regional capitals and 13 districts, the team conducted key informant interviews at different levels of the governance structure.

The research credibility that followed the project proved instrumental, along with the support of UNICEF, to establish a national Budget Media Monitoring Network in 2011. The Network established by ISODEC has an exclusive mandate to monitor and evaluate budget implementation and ensure transparency, accountability and effective utilization of state resources. The Network has proven instrumental in raising public awareness on budget accountability issues at a time when Ghana publicly committed to align its pro-poor policies with MDGs, and some of the conclusions reached by ISODEC in its GDN-funded analysis have been taken up in the national policy debate.