



Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services (METSS II) Project

BACKGROUND

Ghana is among 19 countries selected by the United States Government for its Feed the Future Initiative, which is aimed at reducing hunger and poverty. To ensure accountability and measure progress, Feed the Future programs undergo rigorous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements.

As a result, the Economic Growth Office of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) entered into a seven and half-year (February 2014 – September 2021) agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to set up a mechanism that will provide monitoring and evaluation support services for its nearly US\$250 million portfolio of programs.

The agreement established what is now called the Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services (METSS II) project. METSS II project has four main components: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E); Knowledge Management; Research and Targeted Studies; and Capacity Building.

Under the agreement, USAID, USDA, a US land-grant university and a local Ghanaian University form the four main partners for the implementation of the METSS II project. The US land-grant university- Kansas State University- offer both administrative support and research and analytical resources to METSS II and is responsible for research and analysis as well as monitoring and evaluation activities of the project. The local Ghanaian university- University of Cape Coast- on the other hand provides local technical and administrative staff, office

facilities, and academic personnel. These combined resources give the project access to both local and international experts with a broad range of technical skills, language, and cultural understanding for Ghana.

METSS II therefore seeks to:

- * Strengthen and expand support to the EG Office, implementing partners and the Government of Ghana (GoG) to collect, analyze, and report on a robust set of indicators that are part of the EG Office's portfolio;
- * Analyze and distil information from indicators, studies and quarterly reports to find thematic linkages for collaboration across the EG portfolio and to better understand how USAID's programs are working together to achieve their impact;
- * Collect, process, store, and disseminate information on the outcomes and the impact of USAID interventions;
- * Serve as advisory services to technical experts in three Government of Ghana Ministries- Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and Ministry of Trade and Industry; and
- * Forge strong relationships with government institutions by bringing together all development partners and NGOs to discuss policy and coordination issues.

The METSS Components

Monitoring & Evaluation

- * Implementing Partner M&E Plans Review
- * Data Quality Assessment
- * Implementing Partners Results Review
- * Evaluations

Research & Special Studies

- * Surveys
- * Analytical Studies

Capacity Building & Support Services

- * DPs Coordination
- * Trade Africa Initiative
- * Embedded Advisors
- * Partnership for Growth

Knowledge Management Learning & Communication

- * Knowledge/Data Repository
- * Learning Events
- * Data Transformation



Photo Credit: USAID/ADVANCE





FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- Provided coordination support to the Energy and Access to Credit components of the Partnership for Growth - a joint U.S. Government and Ghana Government initiative, for the development of a framework for the new phase of PfG.
- Provided support to the Agriculture Sector Working Group to promote donor coordination in Ghana's agriculture sector
- Engaged policymakers and legislators to pass the Ghana International Trade Commission (GITC) bill into law to provide Ghana with the legal and institutional framework to apply trade contingency measures in line with the provisions of the WTO as done by the US International Trade Commission
- Provided technical assistance and support for the establishment and operationalization of the GITC Secretariat as well as the appointment and inauguration of a five-member Governing Board in 2018 by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Danquah Akufo Addo.
- Extended resources to the American Chamber of Commerce to help strengthen the Chamber's advocacy activities on trade, investment, energy, and agricultural issues, which has helped to influence policy decisions in these sectors and has also ensured constant membership engagement and interest.
- Provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Trade and Industry to align the Ghana national Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Strategy document to the Government of Ghana's 10-Point Industrial Transformation Agenda as part of efforts to assist Ghana to take advantage of AGOA to expand exports to the U.S. market.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

- Assisted more than 23 USAID partners to design Monitoring & Evaluation Plans to guide the performance measurement of their projects;
- Supported the Government of Ghana to collect, report, and utilize quality data in agriculture, nutrition, trade, and energy sectors
- Assisted the EG Office to conduct data quality assessments of its standards indicators reported by more than 23 USAID/Ghana partners.
- Supported the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and database for its flagship Planting for Food and Jobs campaign.
- Provided assistance to 11 energy sector agencies under the Ministry of Energy to develop M&E plans for their use

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, LEARNING & COMMUNICATION

- Developed an online Knowledge Management Platform (www.ghanalinks.org) that helps USAID partners and other stakeholders to access and translate data into useful information for decision-making
- Published Ghana's first comprehensive District Profiles Report on the three Northern Regions of Ghana, and parts of the Brong Ahafo Region
- Created infographics on development outcomes reported by USAID projects in Ghana

RESEARCH & SPECIAL STUDIES

- Carried out a "Suppressed Demand and Willingness to Pay for Electricity" Survey in 2017 to help guide policy makers in Ghana's energy sector to make better investment decisions
- Carried out an Agricultural Production Survey in 2013/14 and 2016/17 to track the impact of agricultural interventions in Northern Ghana and parts of Brong Ahafo Region
- Carried out a Population Based Survey in 2012 and 2015 to track the level of poverty and nutrition among selected households in the three Northern Regions and parts of Brong Ahafo Region;
- Conducted a Nationwide Poultry Survey to assess the competitiveness and performance of Ghana's poultry industry
- Completed more than a dozen research papers and analytical studies to guide policy decision making in the area of poverty, nutrition, and women empowerment



Photo Credit: METSS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Duration:

February 2014 – September 2021

Implementing Partner(s):

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kansas State University & University of Cape Coast

Funding:

US\$26,795,667.21

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