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2016 Annual Report

**Joint Party Support and
Strengthening Project**

UNDP Ghana



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2016 Annual Report
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I. Foreword And Project Overview By The Country Director



UNDP Ghana works in three clusters of Sustainable Development, Inclusive Growth and Democratic Governance and Peace Building. The Governance Cluster is committed to ensuring good governance with emphasis on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, transparency, accountability, justice, equality and participation. One of the project initiatives under the Governance Cluster is the Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) Project. J-PASS was initiated in September 2015 with the overall aim of building the capacity of political parties to function effectively as institutions of governance. This is on the premise that political parties are potential governments in waiting and are central to a functioning democracy.

J-PASS is jointly owned, managed, and implemented by UNDP-Ghana, the Electoral Commission and five selected political parties working as equals based on equity without uniformity to engender fairness. The five participating parties were selected based on their performance in the 2012 general elections, grassroots membership mobilisation, evidence of holding internal elections over the past 4 years and participation in elections. These parties are not only beneficiaries and recipients of capacity building support, they also commit their time, and human and financial resources to J-PASS, fostering collaboration and ensuring the parties are active stakeholders in the project. This is rooted in the UNDP Hypothesis of Change that “more and better partnerships will lead to better governance.” The Inter-Party Platform (IPAP) serves as the mechanism through which political party representatives discuss and agree on technical, operational, policy and implementation matters of J-PASS.

J-PASS has three strategic objectives of internal democracy, gender inclusiveness and electoral credibility. In internal democracy, the focus is to provide support to participating parties to resolve challenges of internal democratic practices and enhance public trust in the parties. Specifically, we work with political parties to improve internal communication, improve on membership drive through comprehensive database systems, and collaborate with the Electoral Commission to strengthen political party regulatory framework.

We work closely with participating parties to bring gender dimension to the forefront of politics. We note that action to ensure gender inclusive politics should be driven first and foremost by the respective political parties taking the initiative to ensure active and more women participation in politics. Besides this, we offered support to participating political parties to develop gender policies and strategies and provide technical support towards the implementation of the gender action plans. The project also engages in gender campaigns, provides awareness and sensitization supports to women candidates during elections.

We also work, through J-PASS, to enhance the transparency and credibility of electoral processes and results to improve their acceptability both by political parties and the public. To this end, J-PASS supported the development of party monitoring tools and will continue to provide technical support to parties to enhance their capacity to comply with regulatory frameworks.

We acknowledge the professionalism and the firm dedication by the staff of the Governance Cluster and more particularly the Project Management Unit (PMU) of J-PASS for the progress and achievements so far. We equally recognise the support and cooperation of the five participating political parties - the Convention People's Party (CPP), the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the New Patriotic Party (NPP), the People's National Convention (PNC), and the Progressive People's Party (PPP) - and other partners to the Governance Cluster. We count on better partnership in the future.

II. Strategic Objectives of J-PASS

As highlighted under the project overview, J-PASS has three strategic focal areas: internal democracy, gender inclusiveness and electoral credibility.

A. Internal Democracy

The project provides support to the participating political parties to improve Internal communication and disseminate information, internally and externally, and provide technical IT support to enable parties to develop and utilise information technology in membership mobilisation using comprehensive membership databases.

In collaboration with the Electoral Commission, the project also works to strengthen regulatory framework the govern activities of political parties to enhance their organisational and institutional capacity for better political governance.

B. Gender Equality and Political Inclusiveness

J-PASS works to improve women's participation in politics and decision-making through campaigns, training programmes for party executives and by supporting the participating political parties to create gender mainstreaming initiatives and gender inclusive policies to boost representation of women.

This involves working with the women wings and contestants of each of the party as well as the party executive to develop capacity of women to become political leaders and to empower young women to run for political offices.

C. Electoral Credibility and Transparency

Within this component, the project works with the Electoral Commission to improve it's oversight function of the political parties. It also works with the parties to use IT capacity to ensure accurate gathering of election result and data. Through these improvements, confidence and trust in the Electoral Commission and the parties will be restored.

III. Key Achievements in 2016

For 2016, The Joint Party Support and Strengthening Project provided support in the three key areas. Some of the main support and result achieved in 2016, is captured below.

A. Development of the Parties' Communication Policy and Strategy

J-PASS provided technical assistance to political parties to develop their own communication policies and strategies to enhance internal democracy and expand participation to the district and constituency levels. With the support of three UNDP consultants, the policies and their implementation strategies were developed. The implementation of the strategy is part of the project 2017 plan.

B. Development and Establishment of Membership Databases

To enhance membership and revenue mobilisation, good records management and logistical capacity of political parties, J-PASS provided support towards the development and establishment of comprehensive membership databases for the respective political parties. Each database followed common standards but tailored to suit each party's specifications and need. Further, logistical support in the form of laptops, UPS, servers, and docking-stations were supplied to the participating political parties for full operationalisation of the database.

C. IT and Database Training

To ensure effective management and usage of the databases, J-PASS provided tailored IT and database training to ten IT/database management specialists, comprising two members from each of the five participating political parties. The training was a 10-day programme conducted by the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE) using a customised training manual. This training has been applauded by the political parties as being useful and impactful which was confirmed by participants via an activity report back. Attendance ranged from 2 days to the entire 10 days, which is depicted in Figure 1.

Regional Composition Of Participants

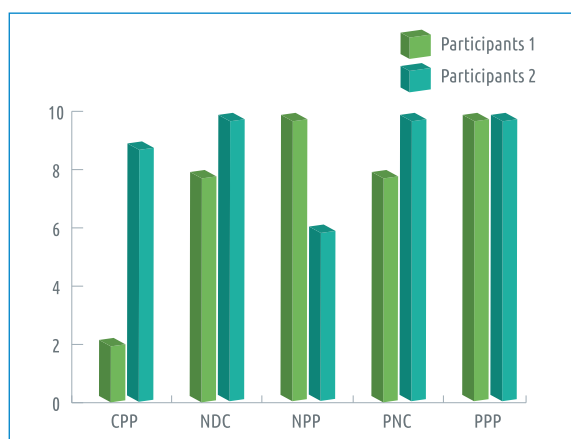


Figure 1: Participants Attendance of the Training Programme

Figure 1, showed the participation of the political parties during the training. All the five political parties at least attended full training for the 10 days. However, some of the officers were unable to attend the full ten days.

The terminal assessment (post training feedback) of the training revealed that both the programme and the instructors were positively rated by participants on a five-point scale. The training programme was assessed on the criteria of content, hands-on practice, demonstrations and examples used. The instructors

were also rated on a five-point scale based on criteria including pedagogy, instructor-participant relations, knowledgeability, and teaching style. The training programme was rated 4.2 out of 5 while the instructors were rated 4.6 out of 5 representing 86% and 92% respectively (Figure 2).

Ratings By Participants

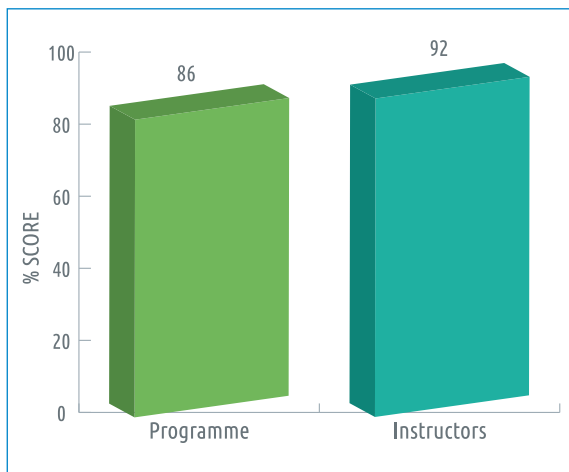


Figure 2: Participants Rating of Training Programme and Instructors

D. Development and Dissemination of Party Manifestos

J-PASS provided assistance to the participating political parties to develop and publicise manifestos outlining their policy agenda and allowing the electorate to hold them accountable for their electoral promises. Policy dialogues which will be discussed later was organised to provide platform for political parties to discuss their programme for Ghana as contained in their various manifestoes.

E. Technical Support for the Design of Political Party Monitoring Tools

Technical supported was equally to the Electoral Commission to design effective party monitoring tools to ensure successful monitoring of compliance with the Political Party Act 2000. The aim was to engender political discipline and positive political conduct. Participating parties will be given support to build capacity to comply with the Political Party Act 2000 and Electoral Commission personnel will be trained on how to use the monitoring tools effectively in 2017 workplan.

F. The Maendeleo Policy Forum (MPoF)

The UNDP Regional Service for Africa in collaboration with UNDP Ghana through the J-PASS Unit successfully organised the 5th edition of the Maendeleo Policy Forum in Accra in August 2016 as part of the commemoration of UNDP @50 in Ghana. The Forum's theme was "Elections in Sub-Saharan Africa:



General Trends, Challenges and Opportunities”, allowed for candid reflection by participants and provided opportunity for shared learning on the conduct of credible and transparent elections on the continent. The key speakers were Mrs. Charlotte Osei, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Ghana; Dr. Brigalia Bam, Chancellor of Walter Sisulu University and a Member of the African Union Panel of the Wise; and Mr. Denis Kadima, Executive Director of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). Report of the 5th edition of the Maendeleo Policy Forum is available on UNDP Regional Service Centre website at <http://www.africa.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/Reports/undp-rba-maendeleo-elections-subsahara-africa-2016.pdf>



G. Development of Parties' Gender Policy and Strategy

Technical assistance was provided to the five parties for the development of gender and inclusive policies. This sought to provide each party with a framework and action plan to include a gender dimension in their activities; each policy was accompanied by an implementation strategy. So far three political parties have adopted their gender policy and the remaining is in the process of securing approval from the highest decision making body of the party. The project will continue to work with the political parties to implement their strategies in 2017.

H. Gender Training to Party Executives

Gender mainstreaming training was provided to training political party executives on gender mainstreaming in political party activities. The training was provided to selected executive members of the five political parties from the 10 regions of Ghana. A total of 113 party executives attended the training, 57 women and 56 men (Figure 3), with the average number of 21 trainees representing each of the five political parties (as depicted in Figure 5).

Gender Comparison

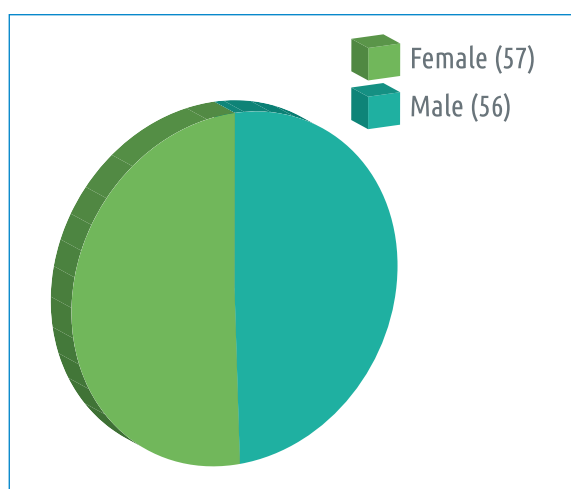


Figure 3: Gender Composition of Participants

In terms of regional distribution of the participants, the majority (20.4%) were from the Greater Accra Region, followed by the Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions with 11.1% respectively. The Western, Northern, Upper East and Central Regions recorded less than 10 percent representation. This demonstrates that more attention should be paid to these regions in future gender training programmes. To build capacity, J-PASS's Training of Trainers (ToT) Approach should give more priority to these regions in terms of gender training to bridge the gap as displayed in Figure 4.

Allocation By Region

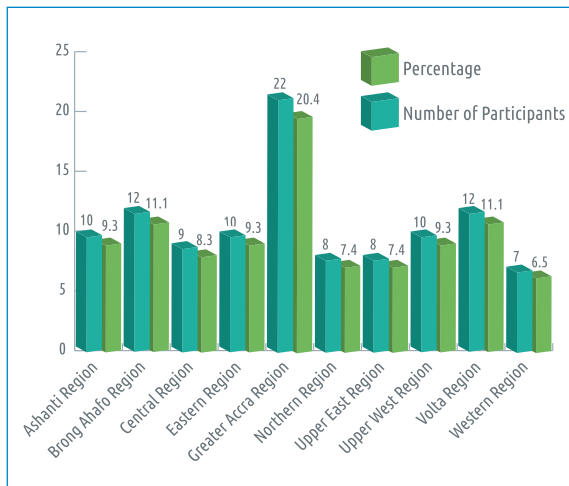


Figure 4: Regional Distribution of Participants

Allocation By Political Party

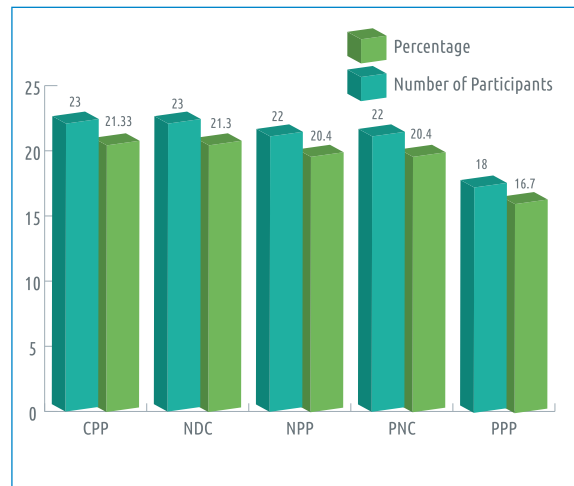


Figure 5: Political Party Composition of Participants

In Figure 6, the NPP and PPP have recorded the highest number of participants trained on gender issues in the Greater Accra Region, however, the NPP has no members in the Northern Region trained. Except for the Greater Accra Region, all parties have a relatively fair regional distribution of their participants in the gender training programme excluding the PPP. Although the PPP has one of the highest number of members trained, they are unevenly distributed across the regions. The PPP has the lowest number of its participants in the gender training programme in the Central, Eastern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. Thus, the PPP needs to prioritise training more people in these regions though all political parties need to shift their attention away from the Greater Accra Regions to the other regions.

Number Of Participants By Region Based On Political Affiliation

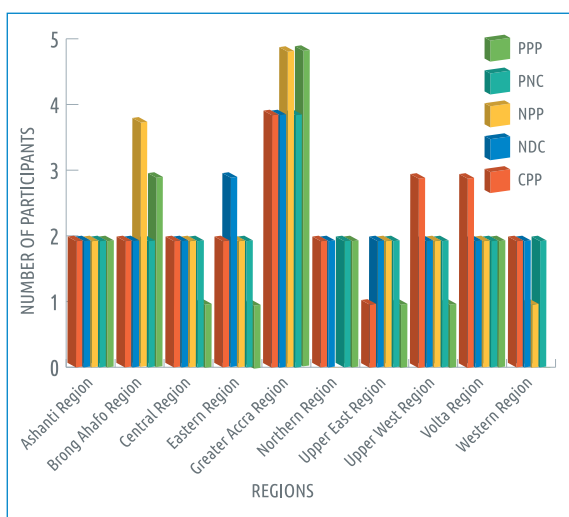


Figure 6: Regional Distribution of Political Parties' Participants

It is important to note that, for sustainability reasons and to provide exit strategies, J-PASS is shifting its approach in gender training to Training of Trainers (ToT). This involves training of 5 trainers from each of the five political parties who will in turn train their respective party members on gender mainstreaming.





I. “Ntikahodie” Dialogue Series

To promote discussion on key issues of national importance, UNDP Ghana through the J-PASS Unit in 2016 launched the Ntikahodie Policy Dialogue Series. In the lead, up to the 2016 elections, two policy dialogues were organised; the first on gender and women political parties in September 2016 and the second on Paris Climate Change Agreement. This was organised in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Cluster policy in November 2016.

i. “Ntikahodie” Gender Policy Dialogue

The “Ntikahodie” Gender Policy Dialogue was organised in collaboration with SHEROES Foundation and the Gender Centre for Development (GenCED) under the theme “Gender Equal Participation and Leadership in Politics and Electoral Process in Ghana: The Role of Political Parties”. The Dialogue examined the role of women’s inclusion and participation in political processes and provided an open, frank, and inclusive platform for political parties, stakeholders, candidates, academics and policy makers to reflect on these issues. The Dialogue brought together gender equality advocates from different and discussed obstacles to gender inclusiveness. In the end, the following issues were identified as undermining gender equality in Ghana’s political processes: lack of affirmative action law, patriarchal mind-set, ineffective campaigning, inadequate funding, inadequate information and mentorship support. The report of the dialogue is available at UNDP.

The event was held in Accra and attended by over 190 participants, including female parliamentary candidates from the five J-PASS participating political parties. Dr. Rose Mensah, Executive Director of Abantu for Development, moderated the event with key speakers including Dr. Ekuru Aukot, Founder of Thirdway Alliance and Former Chair of Selection panel, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in Kenya; Madame Fatou Diop, President of the National Gender Parity Observatory in Senegal; and Mrs. Hamida Harrison, the Convener of the Women’s Manifesto in Ghana.



ii. “Nkitahodie” Climate Change Policy Dialogue

A second “Nkithodie” policy dialogue was organised in Collaboration with the Sustainable Development Cluster of UNDP Ghana to engage with political parties on the Paris Climate Change Agreement and it’s



consideration in the manifestos and development policies of political parties. As critical agents of change, engagement with political parties is necessary to highlight environmental issues and to get parties committed to addressing climate change in development policies.

The event was attended by 190 participants attended the Policy Dialogue including representatives of the five participating political parties who highlighted their manifesto plans to address climate change and environmental issues in Ghana. The dialogue benefited from presentations by climate experts such as Professor Chris Gordon, Director of the Institute of Environmental and Sanitation Studies at the University of Ghana, and Mr. Seth Osafo, a lawyer and international climate change expert. The Dialogue was moderated by Mr. Bernardino Koku Avle, Director of News Programming, Citi 97.3 FM.

J.More-Women-In-Parliament Campaign

As part of J-PASS' gender inclusiveness strategic objective, J-PASS launched the More-Women-In-Parliament campaign to put a spotlight on women's representation in Ghana's political processes and encourage Ghanaians to vote more women into power. The campaign included short videos which were commissioned and disseminated via various social media platforms and brochures and stickers to raise awareness of the need to encourage more women to take part in politics.

IV. Messages from Participating Political Parties

Below are statements from the five participating political parties – Convention People’s Party, National Democratic Congress, New Patriotic Party, People’s National Convention and Progressive People’s Party – outlining their views of the J-PASS project for 2016.

A. Convention People’s Party (CPP)

We at the Convention People’s Party wish to express our deepest appreciation to the UNDP for its support through J-PASS. We particularly wish to thank the project Management Unit, for great sense of duty. It has been wonderful working with them.

J-PASS is necessary and timely because it came at a time when our party truly needed to strengthen its capacity and its data management system. Indeed, J-PASS became a significant lifeline. Through J-PASS our democracy is truly flourishing by availing ourselves a partnership based on amity, goodwill and the desire to share and exchange



experiences. A kind of partnership that aims at building and strengthening the capacities of political parties on strong values of freedom, opportunity, equality and international best practices!

Through J-PASS we can see our party rapidly becoming a better institution for governance as our technical and administrative processes are being enhanced through training, workshops and the supply of critical materials. Through this project, the capacities of our IT officers have been improved. They are now better placed to manage our data system and to train our members on same.

The party has noticed with great admiration the great efforts made by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through J-PASS to improving the lots of the five main political parties in Ghana without discrimination. These efforts are immeasurably helpful to our existence and for that we remain thankful.

While we appreciate this intervention, we will still urge the UNDP to pay special attention to the project and possibly increase financial support to the project as a way of sustaining and advancing the achievements so far made.

Again, the CPP is grateful for the support and looks forward to more of these interventions. We believe it will deepen our fledgling democracy and promote the aspirations of our political party system and the tenets of democratic governance in Ghana. UNDP can always count on our support as a Party.

B. National Democratic Congress (NDC)

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) wishes to thank UNDP-Ghana and the entire J-PASS management team for their relentless effort in supporting the party in areas of membership database management, supply of IT equipment, development of internal communication, and gender policies with implementation strategies as well as a manifesto print for the party.

We also acknowledged the gender training programs across the country which equally had a great impact on awareness creation on gender



equality,
increased
participation
of women
in politics and
decision making
among others.

The J-PASS platform has become not only a key forum for political dialogue, reflections and fiscal support but an important and real centre of decision making, helping shape and deepen democracy in Ghana.

As we continue to build a stronger relationship, we the NDC party fully recognise and appreciate your support and efforts in championing the course of political parties for a better Ghana, we shall continue to work with J-PASS/UNDP towards ensuring progress in a fair and responsible manner.

Thank you.



C. New Patriotic Party (NPP)

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) wishes to express our profound gratitude to the UNDP for the creation of the Joint Party Support and Strengthening Project. J-PASS has become a success story in the continuous development of Ghana's Democracy. The capacities and supports provided to the party in areas of relevance, i.e. the supply of ICT equipment, development of our party internal communication policy and the gender sensitization train-

ing of some party executives throughout the country have gone a long way to enrich the party's internal democracy.

The Training on Gender and active participation of females in politics organized for the Regional Executives in all the ten regions of Ghana is of particular and immense importance to our Party. The party appreciates further collaboration with the UNDP and J-PASS in the sensitization programme/training that would cover all constituency executives.

J-PASS remains very relevant in strengthening of multi-party democracy in Ghana. It is therefore our expectation that there will be a deeper commitment and cooperation among the parties and UNDP to help build and improve on the capacity of members. The NPP commends the Project Management Unit for the dispassionate manner with which they have handled the project.

D. People's National Convention (PNC)

J-PASS project has been and still is relevant and beneficial to the forward move of the People's National Convention (PNC) as a party and the democracy of the country.

Significant is the support that was given PNC particularly in the drafting of its current Manifesto; the IT and database training for PNC's IT officers; the procurement and deployment of comprehensive IT

equipment; the Gender Training organised for the Regional Executives across the country; the drafting and development of the party's Internal Communication Policy and Implementation Strategy as well as the Gender Policy and Implementation Strategy.

While recognizing the great assistance, we received to develop our gender and communication policies for instance, we look forward to even more support from J-PASS/ UNDP to facilitate the implementation process.

As we move forward, it is the expectation of PNC that there will be a deeper collaboration between the Party and J-PASS/UNDP in helping build the capacity of its party members across the country.

E. Progressive People's Party (PPP)

The Progressive People's Party (PPP) finds it necessary to be part of Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) Project

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“NKITAHODIE” GENDER POLICY DIALOGUE

TOPIC: GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND POLITICAL PROCESSES IN GHANA: THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Party acknowledges the efforts being made by J-PASS to strengthen political parties to better serve their purpose as institutions of and for governance. J-PASS has been helpful in several ways including the following.

To improve internal democracy, J-PASS project sponsored a needs assessment study to produce a communication policy document which the party is currently implementing. To facilitate the implementation process, J-PASS sponsored the development and deployment of a new database system, with its own laptops and an ultra-modern server and accessories. Training was also provided to equip managers of the system with the necessary knowledge and skills.

A communications desk has also been created, chaired by Mr. Patrick Armah to also advise the party hierarchy in the implementation of our new communication Policy. The PPP has also procured and installed a computer in each of our 10 regional offices so our regional branches can have access to the new database system provided by J-PASS.

On gender inclusiveness J-PASS sponsored the development of a gender policy for the party which is currently being implemented. A new desk has been created at our Party Head Office, chaired by Ms. Bridget Boafo to advise the Party on the implementation of the Gender Policy which we have received from J-PASS. Also, selected Regional Officers of the party benefitted from gender awareness and training programmes sponsored by J-PASS.





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