



*Mineral Development Fund Monitoring Committee in Akyempim, Wassa East District, Ghana in May 2018  
(Photo Credit: WAGES)*

## **ROSES AFTER THE DROUGHT**

**A Case Study on the Minerals Development Fund Monitoring Committee  
Bogoso, Prestea Huni-Valley Municipality, Ghana  
By Morrison Emmanuel – October 2019**

*The Minerals Development Fund Monitoring Committee was formed to monitor the activities of the Municipal Assembly regarding the use of the Minerals Development Fund (MDF). The monitoring committee and the municipal assembly in Prestea Huni-Valley Municipality have been working together to ensure community engagement and proper usage of the fund. Through a series of trainings on advocacy and social accountability, led by the WAGES project, both the MDF monitoring committee and the assembly members have seen a positive shift and tangible results in their communities.*

## **Introduction:**

The Minerals Development Fund Act, 2016 (Act 912) was passed on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The Minerals Development Fund (MDF) was established to provide resources for the benefit of the affected mining communities among others. These expected benefits have not been realized. The purpose of the Fund is to ensure infrastructural and socio-economic development. Over the past years, this Fund has not been utilized for the full benefit of the affected communities, but rather used for other activities within the Assembly. This is because there were no proper regulations to inform use of the Fund.

The World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) aim to support sustainable economic growth in two Districts, in the Western Region of Ghana, through their joint initiative, the West African Governance and Economic Sustainability in Extractive Areas (WAGES) project.

Under the local governance component of the project, the MDF Monitoring committee was formed to monitor the activities of the municipal assembly regarding the use of the fund. The committee is made up of representatives of the various groups within the Municipality. Some of these groups include; the Concern Youths Association of Prestea, Traditional Authority, Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining and the Blessing Youths Association among others.

## **Problem:**

Ghana had been exploiting her mineral resources for the past decade but the affected areas are still underdeveloped. The MDF was established to develop the areas affected by the mining operations. Some of the projects executed previously didn't serve their intended purposes because there was low community involvement. An example is a Kumasi Ventilated-Improved Pit, which was constructed in the Prestea Afagya community, but was not used because there were no demarcations between the toilet seats. It was later demolished and rebuilt by the Assembly. A portion of the Fund was also previously used to carry out activities under waste management, which is responsibility of the assembly, and not particularly the MDF. This was due to insufficient revenue received by the Assembly.

## **The intervention:**

There was the need to train the various groups of people to act as watchdogs to ensure that any project executed in their community was of good quality and would have the capacity to serve its intended purpose. Trainings were given to the monitoring committee on how to assess the ongoing projects to ensure accountability and to promote community participation. The trainings were to empower the committee and to give them the necessary tools to demand accountability. Decision makers like the chiefs, assembly members and community members have also been given training on community participation and accountability.

## Results:

The Municipal Assembly has also adopted an open door policy to share any information on the projects executed by the MDF Monitoring Committee. This was achieved through advocacy and workshops facilitated by WAGES for the staff of the Municipal Assembly. The involvement of the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) and the Municipal Coordinating Director (MCD) has been very effective so far. The WAGES initiative has helped them to bridge the gap between the Assembly and the stakeholders.

*"Through the activities of the Monitoring Committee, the assembly has now become more transparent and accountable to the people. There are signposts erected at the various construction sites indicating the source of funding, the consultant, the contractor and the project title," - community member.*

*"The monitoring of the MDF activities has brought down the level of funds wastage since the committee was formed" – community member*

Previously, there was no proper monitoring of the projects executed with the MDF. This resulted in most projects left uncompleted. Community engagement was also overlooked because there was no committee to monitor. Now there is increased community involvement after a series of

community sensitizations have been organized, in order for people to broaden their knowledge on accountability. After the formation of the Monitoring Committee, they have embarked on several monitoring exercises. Some of the projects that have been visited so far are 3-unit classrooms and boreholes, among others.

The recommendations and findings are objectively accepted and are included in the Assembly's main reports. The group meets with the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) and the Municipal Coordinating Director (MCD) after every visit to the project sites and reports with findings and recommendations are handed over to them. This has been done at both the municipal and the national level and is being followed. For example, they recommended that tiles should be used instead of terrazzo in all the projects undertaken to enhance easy sweeping, and that has been implemented.

The WAGES project aims to break the vicious circle in which local communities, especially women and youth, are excluded from the benefits of mining investments. Through WAGES, **World University Service of Canada** (WUSC) and the **Center for International Studies and Cooperation** (CECI), work in three regions of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea impacted by extractive industries. The project works to empower local communities, and specifically integrate women and youth, to participate fully in local governance, economic opportunities and the sustainable development of these areas. The project collaborates with local and national governments, select mining companies, as well as small and medium-sized businesses and civil society organizations to attain those objectives. Global Affairs Canada funds the implementation of WAGES from 2016 until 2022. For more information on the project follow this link: <https://resources.wusc.ca/project/wages>

# WAGES

WEST AFRICA GOVERNANCE AND  
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