



# ANNUAL REPORT - 2023

December 2023

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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In pursuit of the mission of the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) to enable representative institutions in Africa to achieve excellence in law-making, oversight, and representation for development, a number of actions and programmes were pursued through the ambit of projects and special initiatives.

Projects that were implemented during the course of the year include:

1. Data for Accountability Project
2. Inclusive Legislatures for Gender Responsive Policies Project
3. Freedom of Religion or Belief Projects
4. Special Initiatives

A number of capacity enhancement, technical support, and research activities were implemented for Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Staff, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Women's Rights Groups, Faith Leaders, the media, etc. on various thematic areas across our projects. Our beneficiaries span countries and institutions in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo to mention a few.

ACEPA's work in 2023 was with the support of the following funders and partners: Church of England; Global Affairs Canada; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Norwegian Helsinki Committee; International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB); African Parliamentarians' Association for Human Rights (AfriPAHR); Parliamentary Centre; Ghana Statistical Service (GSS); On Think Tanks Consulting (OTT); and The British High Commission Banjul. We also acknowledge the Parliaments of Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo, and the Pan-African Parliament.

## 2. MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We ushered in 2023 on a high note, having expanded our team and project portfolios from the previous year. The year has been hugely successful owing to the dedication and zeal of the staff of ACEPA.

A lot of interesting work was done under our Global Affairs Canada-funded Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies (ILGRP) project, which is implemented in partnership with the Parliamentary Centre, Canada.

One of the highlights in Ghana, for instance, has been working with the Affirmative Action Bill Coalition (AA Bill Coalition) and other Civil Society actors to support the Parliament of Ghana around efforts to pass the Affirmative Action Bill 2023. We have also done a lot of engagements with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) towards enhancing and increasing their engagement with Parliaments in Ghana, Kenya, and Togo.

Our evidence-informed policy-making work also continued under our Data for Accountability Project which is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and implemented with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and On Think Tanks (OTT) Consulting. Getting reliable data and evidence to inform decisions is very crucial to development and we are happy that through the project, we can support Committees and Parliamentary staff from the Ghana Parliament to monitor Ghana's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using data.

Our efforts towards the promotion, protection, and advancement of human rights particularly religious rights and freedoms saw significant achievements with the launch of the Parliamentary Caucus for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in Ghana,

Sierra Leone and Malawi as well as support Parliamentarians, Faith leaders, CSOs, and human rights advocates to play a lead role in championing policies and legislation that protect the Human Rights of citizens and freedom of religion or belief (FoRB).

ACEPA was also privileged to have worked with and supported stakeholders from the Parliament of Uganda, the Pan African Parliament, the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone, and our ongoing support to the West Africa Association of Public Accounts Committees (WAAPAC).

Amid all the successes, navigating bureaucracies within Parliaments and getting MPs and parliamentary staff to take part in project activities remains a challenge that the organization will have to strategize to overcome on an ongoing basis. We also recognize the shrinking of donor funds and changing priorities of funders as an ongoing concern that we have to constantly strategize to navigate.

As we round up the year, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the team at ACEPA for their dedication, support, and contribution to all our achievements during the year. I also extend a heartfelt appreciation to all our funders, partners, clients, and beneficiaries, without whose benevolence and support we would not have achieved our goals. It is our hope that the next year brings with it more opportunities and successes.

**DR. RASHEED DRAMAN**

# 3. ABOUT THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (ACEPA)

The African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) is an African not-for-profit Parliamentary Development organization registered in Ghana. With over 10 years of operation in Ghana, we are dedicated to building the capacity of African Parliaments and elected representative bodies at all levels of governance. ACEPA supports African countries in ensuring effective performance throughout the governance chain - from local to national and regional representative institutions.

ACEPA has excellent working relationships with more than 20 African countries/Parliaments. Its dedicated staff have more than 50 years of combined work experience with Parliaments and Legislative institutions in Africa and across the globe. ACEPA is the first African institution dedicated to supporting national and sub-national Legislatures across the continent and was created to respond to the urgent need for an indigenous African institution that truly understands the needs and demands of African Legislatures.

The main objective of ACEPA is to provide capacity-building and other forms of support to elected representative institutions at all levels of governance in Africa as well as Civil Society Organizations.

## WHAT WE DO

Our work encompasses:

- Technical support for institutional reforms within representative institutions.
- Capacity enhancement for elected and nominated representatives through training and the development of training materials.

- A forum for peer-to-peer learning and skills acquisition facilitated by leading African experts in the area of representation, legislation, and oversight and a Center of Excellence for improving parliamentary practice on the African continent.
- A platform for knowledge exchange and institutional memory: serves as a forum for experience and knowledge sharing between current and former MPs (national and sub-national) from Africa and other regions of the world.
- Leadership training in all aspects of Parliamentary development on the continent - from law-making to oversight, representation, and constituency work.
- Cutting-edge research informed by extensive field experience on Parliaments and their role in consolidating democratic governance in Africa.



## VISION

Effective parliaments for greater development.



## MISSION

ACEPA's mission is to enable representative institutions in Africa to achieve excellence in law-making, oversight, and representation for development.

# 4. 2023 IN REVIEW

During the year under review, ACEPA executed activities across various projects, targeting Members of Parliament (MPs), parliamentary staff, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and religious/faith leaders from different countries and national/regional parliaments and networks.

Services provided to our clients and beneficiaries during the year revolved around the following service areas:

1. Capacity Building
2. Thought Leadership Engagements
3. Research; and
4. Building Strong National and Sub-Regional Parliamentary Networks

In this section, we present highlights of our major interventions and initiatives implemented under the various projects.



## 4.1 INCLUSIVE LEGISLATURES FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES PROJECT (ILGRP)

The Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies (ILGRP) project is implemented in Partnership with the Parliamentary Centre and funded by Global Affairs Canada. The project which is implemented in Ghana, Kenya, and Togo aims to improve the effectiveness of parliaments to advance inclusive and gender-responsive laws, policies, and budgets as well as enhance the engagement of civil society and marginalized people (in particular women and girls) in decision-making and democratic processes.

The project supports three partner parliaments and parliamentarians to consider the differential impacts of policies, laws, and budgets on the poorest and most marginalized populations, particularly women and girls. This project is a pioneering effort to provide support for the strengthening of Parliaments on inclusiveness and gender equality issues.

Key initiatives implemented under the project for the three countries during the year are as follows:

### Capacity Building for Members of Parliament on Gender Responsive Lawmaking and Budgeting

As part of the ILGRP project, a series of training and practical support was provided to MPs from selected Committees and women's caucuses to enhance their capacity to initiate, scrutinize, amend, and pass gender-responsive laws and budgets. In Ghana, the target committees include the Gender and Children Committee, the Committee on Subsidiary Legislation, and the Committee on Constitutional, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs.

In Kenya, members of the Kenya Women Parliamentarians Association (KEWOPA) and Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) as well as Female MPs in Togo were key beneficiaries. A key component of these was Gender Equality Awareness sessions, which try to ensure that all beneficiaries acquire some basic level of understanding of Gender Equality concepts and issues.

## Capacity Building for Parliamentary Staff on Gender Responsive Lawmaking and Budgeting

A series of training and practical sessions were organized for different groups of Parliamentary Staff across the three parliaments to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to assist Members of Parliament (MPs) in the initiation, amendment, scrutiny, and passage of inclusive and gender-responsive laws, as well as to provide technical support to parliamentary staff to assist MPs to effectively engage in policy processes that promote inclusive and equitable economic and social development.

Staff were trained on many topics including but not limited to: Gender Equality Awareness; Gender and Intersectional Analysis; Gender Impact Assessments; Gender Based Analysis Plus; and Gender Responsive Budgeting. In Ghana, for instance, staff from the following departments benefited from the capacity building initiatives: Committees, Drafting Unit, Research, Hansard, Legislation Office, Parliamentary Training Institute etc.

## Training for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Women's Rights Groups (WRG)

A major focus of the ILGRP is increasing the engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Women's Rights Groups (WRGs), and citizens in the work of Parliament. In furtherance of this goal, the project organized training sessions for selected CSOs and WRGs on effective engagement in the Legislative and Oversight Processes of the Parliament of Ghana.

The training sought to enhance CSOs'/WRGs' understanding of how parliament works and how they can better engage the Parliament of Ghana in legislative and oversight processes. Beneficiary Organizations in Ghana include NetRIGHT, International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA), ABANTU for Development, NORSAAC, Center for Democratic Development (CDD), and Alliance for African Women Initiative (AFAWI), amongst others. Engagement with CSOs under the project has also been in the form of supporting them to make input into draft laws and Bills. In Ghana, for instance, CSOs were supported to make input into the draft Property Rights of Spouses Bill, 2020.

In Kenya, CSOs were supported to submit 3 Memoranda on Gender Responsive Budgeting for Mental Health, Menstrual Health, and Environment and Climate Change to Parliamentarians for the Financial Year 2024-25 Kenya Budget Policy Statement.

### Development of tools and checklist

As part of capacity enhancement efforts, tools, and checklists have been developed to aid parliamentary staff, MPs, and CSOs to include gender considerations in lawmaking and budgets, as well as in oversight processes.

### Support for Parliamentary Administrations

Another major focus of the IGLRP is supporting Parliamentary Administrations to become more gender-sensitive and responsive. The project in the previous year commissioned two assessments in all countries looking at 1) Administration and HR Management practices processes and policies and 2) Strategic Plans of Parliaments to determine their gender sensitivity. These assessments were concluded during the year under review and have led to the identification of gaps and areas that need to be improved and the adoption of gender-sensitive strategic priorities.



*Group photograph of our Kenya team and participants*

## 4.2 DATA FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT (DAP)

The Data for Accountability Project (DAP II) works with the Parliament of Ghana to use data to monitor the country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and implemented with Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and On Think Tanks (OTT) Consulting.

The project supports three Committees in the Parliament of Ghana namely the Committee on Education, the Committee on Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development. Also, staff from the Research Department, Committees, and other information units as well as staff of GSS are beneficiaries of the project. Key initiatives of the project in 2023 are presented below.

### Training for Parliamentary Staff

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) launched a new product dubbed "Statsbank" in the year as part of efforts to ensure access and use of statistical data to inform decision-making. To support the use of the StatsBank, the project organized training for staff from the Research Department and Committees of the Parliament of Ghana on how to access, analyse, and use data from the StatsBank and other data sources to produce evidence products for individual MPs and Committees. Staff was supported during the sessions to practice accessing data from the Statsbank, analyzing it, and developing some information products for use by MPs.

### Training and Engagement Session for Members of the Committee on Poverty Reduction Strategy

The project organized a training session for the Committee on Poverty Reduction Strategy on using the district-level Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and the Statsbank for oversight and planning. The training enhanced MPs' understanding of how the MPI - a source of data- helps identify the poorest groups and specific areas of deprivation and enables them to play a role in the effective prioritisation and inclusion of all disadvantaged people within the planning process in their respective districts. It also equipped the MPs with skills to access data from the Statsbank and how to use the data for oversight at the local level.

The training allowed MPs to engage actors from selected District Assemblies. The training came in the wake of the conduct of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Pilot Project in 30 districts by the GSS, an initiative that follows a national level MPI that was conducted in 2020.

## Enhancing the Oversight Capacity of the Committee on Education

The project conducted training on the Community Score Card tool for members of the Education Committee to build the knowledge and skills needed to apply the tool to monitor and assess progress on SDG 4 – Quality Education; and to get local-level data.

The Community Score Card is a social accountability tool that increases participation, accountability, and transparency between service users, providers, and decision-makers, with the ultimate goal of influencing the quality, efficiency, and accountability of the services that are provided. A follow-up refresher training was also conducted for the Committee in preparation for a field monitoring visit.

## Sharing knowledge and contributing to the Evidence Informed Policy Making and Statistical Data Sectors

Sharing learning from the work of ACEPA is a key component of our projects. To this end, a number of learning outputs were produced under the DAP project as part of efforts to strengthen the parliamentary and data sectors. In our publication [Data Use in Parliaments](#), GSS statisticians share tips from what they have learned about communicating data to parliamentary audiences, and the relationship between GSS and Parliament is explored in detail in [Parliament and GSS: A Growing Relationship for Evidence Use in Ghana](#).

A [Think Piece](#) sharing insights from Ghana on strengthening parliaments for SDG implementation and a [podcast](#) on supporting evidence use in the Parliament of Ghana were also produced and disseminated. Also as part of the project's approach to share learning to fortify the field of EIPM in Africa and beyond through communication, project partners participated in the On Think Tanks (OTT) Conference 2023. The conference brought together a number of Think Tanks, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), funders, and policy experts. It provided an opportunity to showcase DAP and share learning from the project.

The partners were privileged to host a session (together with some other actors in the evidence-informed policy-making space) titled "Working politically: evidence users in times of uncertainty". The session focused on the practical experiences and needs of evidence users in times of political uncertainty, drawing on experience in all branches of government in Africa, Latin America/the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

It explored how uncertainty changes what evidence is needed by users, how they use it, and how they navigate periods of instability. It also reflected on the role of evidence brokers in supporting evidence use at such times, and proffered advice and recommendations for think tanks/CSOs.



*Group photograph of ACEPA team, Staff of GSS, and trainees*

## 4.3 FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF (FoRB) PROJECTS

Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) is one of our thematic areas of work and under that, we implemented two projects which are 1) Freedom of Religion or Belief Leadership Network (FoRBLN) and 2) Support to the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) to advance issues of democracy and human rights on the African continent.

The work on IPPFoRB supports the African Parliamentarians' Association for Human Rights (AfriPAHR) lead FoRB advocacy on the continent. ACEPA's FoRB work has been mainly in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. Highlights of key interventions during the year are presented below.

### Launch of Parliamentary Caucuses and Training Workshops on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)

One of the approaches adopted by the project for the promotion and advancement of FoRB in target countries was to establish Parliamentary Caucuses on FoRB to champion advocacy and legislation that protect human rights in general and religious freedom in particular. In 2023, the project successfully launched two Parliamentary Caucuses on FoRB in Malawi and Ghana. The launches were attended by parliamentarians, faith leaders, CSOs, media practitioners, Human rights activists, and in the case of Ghana, the Speaker of Parliament.

Beyond the launch, ACEPA has conducted a series of trainings for the Caucuses in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia. The Caucuses have also benefited from peer-to-peer learning exchanges. The Caucus from Sierra Leone visited The Gambia and vice versa, and another visit to Ghana by caucus members and faith leaders from Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Malawi.

### Training for Faith Leaders and Civil Society Organizations

The project also targeted religious leaders and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for capacity building towards FoRB advocacy in the various countries. The project identified these actors as a critical target group that will work with the Parliamentary caucuses to effectively push FoRB and human rights issues. Four trainings were therefore held for faith leaders and CSOs in all the countries.

## Campaigns for the Promotion and Protection of FoRB

A number of campaigns to promote and protect the rights of FoRB were carried out in The Gambia and Sierra Leone. These took the form of national dialogues or seminars and constituency-level engagements. Experts and members of the Parliamentary caucuses led these.

The events sought to create awareness about FoRB in various countries; document citizens' experiences and challenges related to FoRB; and identify advocacy issues that should be pursued at the local and national levels.

## Fifth International Parliamentary Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), Kenya 2023

A team from ACEPA participated in the 5th International Parliamentary Conference on FoRB held in May 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference organized by the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) in collaboration with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and FORB Leadership Network aimed at equipping legislators to respond to new challenges and trends in the field of international religious freedom.

Following similar events in Oslo in 2014, New York in 2015, Berlin in 2016, and Singapore in 2019, the IPPFoRB's network has expanded to more than 350 parliaments. ACEPA, being the secretariat for coordinating the FoRB project on behalf of IPPFoRB, FoRBLN, and AfriPAHR, was able to mobilize African MPs from Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia and Sierra to participate in the conference. The conference allowed participants from Africa to learn from participants from other networks and CSOs across the globe and network with (MPs, CSOs, Youth leaders, and other stakeholders) on issues of FoRB and human rights

## International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA) Ministerial Conference

In furtherance of ACEPA's work in FoRB, our Executive Director attended the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA) Ministerial Conference in Prague in November 2023. The conference explored past experiences in Central Europe under Communist rule and considered how this may help in understanding how repressive regimes currently restrict freedom of religion or belief. The conference also focused on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) within authoritarian regimes.



The conference attracted religious freedom enthusiasts from across the globe who shared ideas and experiences on issues of FoRB.



*Group photograph of some stakeholders of FoRB at an event in The Gambia*

## 4.4 SUPPORT TO THE WEST AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

Our work supporting the West Africa Association of Public Accounts Committees (WAAPAC) as the Secretariat continued in earnest. In 2023, ACEPA led the organization of four events for the association.

First was an Executive Committee Meeting held in April 2023 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The meeting brought together members of the WAAPAC Executive Committee to deliberate and plan for activities for the year. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the group to discuss and plan the annual conference and General Assembly.

Second was the annual general assembly in August 2023 held in Cotonou, Benin. This brought together Members and Clerks of Public Accounts Committees and Finance Committees from West African Parliaments as well as from sister networks such as the Southern African Association of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC), the East African Association of Public Accounts Committees (EAAPAC) and Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) from South Africa. The conference was on the theme "Effective Public Debt Management: The Role of Public Accounts and Finance Committees in West Africa".

Third, training was organized for the WAAPAC Community of Clerks on the back of the Annual Conference. The training was attended by Committee Clerks from WAAPAC countries and sister networks attending the annual conference. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of staff on report writing within the parliamentary context and equip them with skills to effectively manage committees. The fourth and final activity for WAAPAC during the year was the organization of regional training in collaboration with the African Organization of Public Accounts Committees (AFROPAC) on Public Financial Management.

The training brought together 40 participants from six countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Mali as well as representatives from AFROPAC Executive Committee members and SADCOPAC. The training explored themes such as effective oversight of public resources, strengthening relationships between Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), and the role of Parliament in curbing illicit financial flows among others.



*The 1st Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin (2nd from left) with WAAPAC Executive Committee Members at the opening of the 2023 annual conference*

## 4.5 OTHER INITIATIVES

Outside our main projects, ACEPA was privileged to implement one-off initiatives for some of our clients during the year. These are presented below.

### Training for Research Officers from the Parliament of Uganda

ACEPA organized a training for 10 Research Officers from the Parliament of Uganda in February 2023. The training was held in Accra, Ghana, and aimed at enhancing the capacity of the researchers to provide effective research support to MPs. The training explored in-depth topics focused on three themes i.e., Policy Analysis, Research Methods, and Report Writing.

As part of the training, participants got the opportunity to interact with their counterparts from Ghana as well as MPs from the Parliament of Ghana.

### Speaker's Breakfast Meeting

ACEPA's Executive Director, Dr. Rasheed Draman was a distinguished Guest Speaker at the "Speaker's Breakfast Forum" in November 2023. The forum which is under the patronage of the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Rt. Hon. Alban Bagbin was organized by STAR Ghana Foundation (in collaboration with the Speaker's Secretariat/Parliament of Ghana) as part of events to commemorate STAR Ghana Foundation's 5th anniversary.

Dr. Draman in his address, shared insightful perspectives on the involvement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the work of the Parliament of Ghana. The speech emphasized the paramount significance of democracy and the fact that the effectiveness and efficiency of democracies hinge upon openness and well-structured avenues for constructive engagement.

### Training for the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone

In the lead-up to Sierra Leone's elections of June 2023, there was a need to strengthen the capacity of the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRCSL) to play a lead role in advocating peaceful campaigns and national cohesion. To that end, as of an ongoing collaboration between the IRCSL and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), ACEPA was engaged to facilitate two workshops – in Freetown and Accra, Ghana on the theme: "Building a Peaceful and Cohesive Society".

The capacity enhancement of the IRCSL formed part of efforts towards preventing violent conflict before, during, and after elections as well as strengthening the fragile peace and building a cohesive society in Sierra Leone.

There were two activities under this initiative:

- A two-day training workshop to train key stakeholders across Sierra Leone. Country; led by resource persons with background in conflict, peace, and mediation from ACEPA and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre.
- A second training, in Accra, Ghana for the Executive Secretary and other senior members of the IRCSL. The training took the form of an experience-sharing exercise with a focus on practically what the IRCSL can do to ensure a peaceful election.

### Training for Staff of the Pan-African Parliament

A team from the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) under the leadership of the Executive Director facilitated a five-day retreat for staff of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) in December 2023 in Pretoria, South Africa. The retreat to enable the staff of PAP to take stock of the year; deliberate on some of their internal processes, and identify ways to become more efficient; and plan for 2024.

The retreat covered several key areas that are germane to the effective functioning of the PAP including strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, internal audit reviews, the Africa Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tool (AMERT), Systems Applications and Products (SAP) within the African Union (AU), Results Based Management & Budgeting, and team building.

The team from ACEPA was responsible for the overall facilitation of the programme, team building sessions, and sessions related to Results-Based Management & Budgeting. Other aspects of the retreat were led by teams from PAP and the African Union Commission (AUC).



*Mr. Lampo and Dr. Draman at the PAP Training*

# 5. LOOKING FORWARD INTO 2024

As we step into the new year, we are filled with hope and optimism for the future. In 2024, we will remain dedicated to promoting strong, transparent, and efficient parliamentary and representative institutions globally.

Globally, a number of countries are heading to the polls in 2024, with 18 of them from the African continent; which will usher in a number of new Parliaments.

This presents a big window of opportunity for the work we do and with the increasing dissatisfaction among citizens, particularly young people with democratic institutions across various countries on the continent, it will be critical that Parliaments especially, incoming ones, are up to the task to deliver effectively on their mandates.

We hope to expand on the geographical and thematic scope of our work in the coming year, develop new partnerships, and build networks within the governance and parliamentary sectors, locally and internationally, and advance initiatives that improve legislative capabilities, accountability, and citizen participation. We will also be focusing on developing innovative solutions that adequately respond to the needs of our clients and stakeholders within the context of supporting the essential work of parliaments and representative institutions in advancing democracy and good governance.

As we look forward to 2024, we remain grateful to everyone who has supported our mission so far and we look forward to your continued support for the work ahead.

# 6. MEET THE TEAM



**RASHEED DRAMAN, PH.D.**  
Executive Director



**GIFTY ADIKA, PH.D.**  
Senior Governance  
Advisor



**ISSIFU LAMPO**  
Senior Governance  
Advisor



**AGNES TITRIKU**  
Programs Manager



**IBRAHIM MAIDA INUSAH**  
Project Officer



**LILLIAN BRUCE**  
Local Gender and CSOs  
Advisor



**EMMANUEL BENCHIE**  
Finance Manager



**BENEDICTA NAA. O. ABLATEYE**  
Communications Officer



**FREEMAN DAGADU**  
Asst. Programs Officer



# 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the entire ACEPA team for their unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the year.

Your commitment to excellence and passion for our mission has been the driving force behind ACEPA's many achievements.

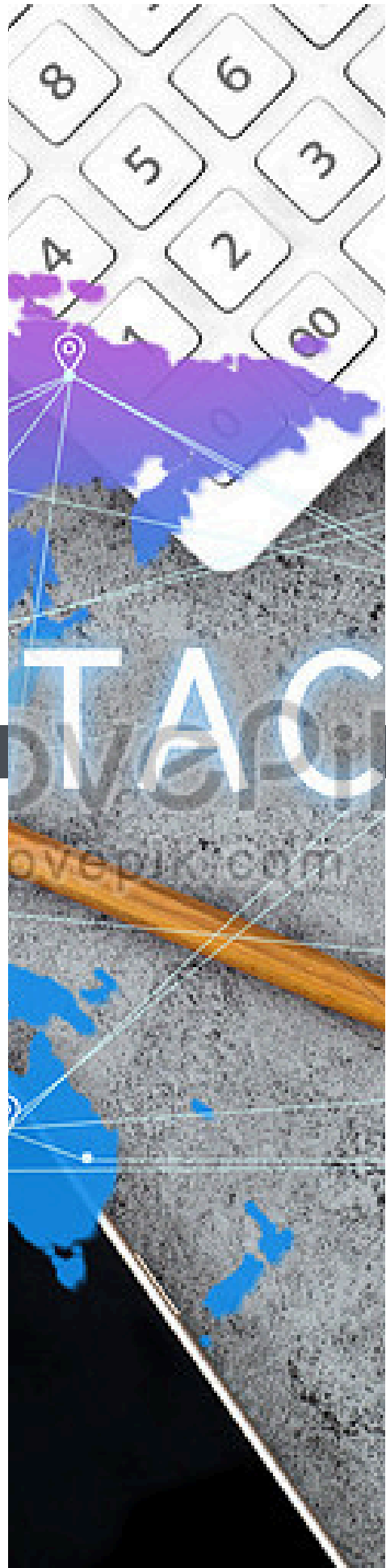
We also extend our gratitude to our funders and partners! Your unwavering support has been key to the great strides we made this year.

## CONTACT

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# 8. GALLERY



