



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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ABOUT US

The African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) is an African not-for-profit Parliamentary Development organization registered in Ghana, 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 Centre 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.

Our Vision

We envision an Africa where parliaments enable peace, progress, and prosperity for all.

Our Mission

We work to strengthen African parliaments to be more effective and impactful representative bodies.

Our Values

The values that underpin ACEPA's work are its "PIIP Values.":

- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Inclusivity
- Partnerships

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am grateful for the remarkable progress we have achieved together. The year 2024 has been a testament to growth, resilience, and the power of meaningful collaborations, all of which have brought us closer to realizing our vision and mission at the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA).

In a constantly evolving landscape, ACEPA has remained steadfast in its commitment to championing governance and democracy across Africa. One of our most significant achievements in 2024 was our pivotal role in the passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Law 2024. This milestone underscores our dedication to advancing gender equality and inclusive governance. Beyond this, we expanded our programs, cultivated strong partnerships, and delivered impactful capacity-building initiatives, including workshops and webinars, that have empowered legislators and parliamentary staff across the continent.

During the year under review, we made significant progress under our existing projects. Under our Data for Accountability Project (DAP), we worked closely with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and On Think Tanks. The project, which works to strengthen capacities in parliament to use data to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and enhance evidence informed decision making has also over the past year introduced Parliamentary Committee leadership and members to different sources of data and evidence, equipped them with skills to access and use data for representation and oversight and supported the Committee on Education to undertake a field monitoring or oversight visit using the Community Score Card tool.

The scorecard, which is a social accountability tool, enabled the Committee to assess education service delivery in the Fanteakwa North district of Ghana using citizens' data.

Additionally, we developed Constituency Profiles for eight constituencies, providing time series data spanning a number of years for different sectors of the economy. This data resource is available to MPs and it is expected to help MPs to effectively represent their constituents and influence development planning, budgeting, and implementation at the local and national levels, thereby advancing progress towards the SDGs.

Under the ILGRP project, we have enhanced the capacity of over 300 MPs in Ghana, Kenya, and Togo to initiate, scrutinize, amend, and pass gender responsive laws including budgets; to conduct effective oversight of government's gender equality commitments; and to effectively engage citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs). We have also developed manuals and tools to aid parliaments in conducting Gender and Intersectional Analysis on Bills, similar models and tools for citizens' engagement and parliamentary oversight are being developed. Thematic policy briefs were also developed for use by MPs. To build institutional memories for the Parliament, we have also enhanced the capacity of over 300 staff across the three project countries, equipping them to support MPs and parliamentary Committees in their work to pass more gender responsive and sensitive laws as well as oversight. We have also equipped a number of CSOs in all three countries to effectively engage Parliament around lawmaking and oversight. Beyond the capacity enhancement activities, the project has facilitated actual engagements between parliaments and CSOs/citizens in the various countries. In Ghana, we initiated and reoriented gender champions within the Parliament of Ghana to champion gender issues in parliament and wherever they find themselves.

Furthermore, our Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies (ILGRP) project strengthened partnerships to promote gender-sensitive parliaments. A notable highlight was the courtesy call made by ACEPA, alongside the Program Director

for Africa & MENA from the Parliamentary Centre in Canada and the ILGRP Project Officer in Togo, to His Excellency Sevon-Tépé Kodjo Adédzé, Speaker of the National Assembly of Togo. These efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive and effective governance.

In terms of collaborations and new partnerships, during the year under review, we collaborated with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and we conducted an assessment established a baseline of knowledge and understanding of children's issues and rights among Members of Parliament and staff from selected units of the Parliament of Ghana. MPs from some African-countries, parliamentary staff, and CSOs. In October, we partnered with the Cyber Security Authority (GSA) of Ghana to host a Cyber Security Awareness Webinar, which equipped Members of Parliament from some African countries, parliamentary staff, and CSOs with critical knowledge in an increasingly digital world. Additionally, our collaboration with International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) led to a successful workshop in Ghana. These brought together MPs from seven African countries to focus on the Periodic Review Toolkit of what should be (Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Toolkit which is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council that calls for each UN Member State to undergo a peer review of its human rights records every 4.5 years.)

2024 was an impactful year. The African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) collaborated with none of these achievements would have been possible without the steadfast support of our partners, our dedicated team, and the trust placed in us by the people we serve. Together, we have not only achieved significant results but also laid a strong foundation for an even more impactful 2025. However, we remain mindful of the hurdles we faced, including navigating bureaucratic hurdles within parliaments and encouraging MPs and parliamentary staff to actively participate in project

activities. Additionally, the shrinking availability of donor funds and shifting priorities of funders continue to pose challenges that require ongoing strategic navigation.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am optimistic about future opportunities. Let us continue to harness the power of collaboration, innovation, and shared purpose to drive lasting change. On behalf of ACEPA, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support and partnership. Together, let us build on this momentum to have a massive impact in the years to come.

Rasheed Draman, Ph.D.

2024 IN REVIEW

In 2024, the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA), in collaboration with our valued partners, implemented a wide range of activities and engagements across multiple projects and initiatives. These efforts were aimed at a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including Members of Parliament (MPs), parliamentary staff, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), religious and faith leaders, the media, and citizens—spanning several countries, national parliaments, and regional parliamentary networks.

Our work with these key stakeholder groups focused on four core service areas:

1. Capacity Building
2. Thought Leadership and Policy Engagement
3. Research and Evidence Generation
4. Strengthening National and Sub-Regional Parliamentary Networks

INCLUSIVE LEGISLATURES FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE POLICIES PROJECT (ILGRP)

The Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies (ILGRP) project is a multi-country initiative implemented in partnership with the Parliamentary Centre and funded by Global Affairs Canada. Currently active in Ghana, Kenya, and Togo, the project aims to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of parliaments to promote inclusive, gender-responsive laws, policies, and budgets, while also enhancing the participation of civil society and marginalized groups—particularly women and girls—in democratic processes and decision-making.

ILGRP supports partner parliaments and parliamentarians in recognizing and addressing the differential impacts of legislation, policies, and budgets on the most vulnerable populations. By fostering inclusive legislative practices, the project contributes to more equitable governance outcomes.

Below are highlights of key initiatives implemented across the three countries during the year:



Supporting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Women's Rights Groups (WRGs) for Enhanced Engagement with Parliament

Under the ILGRP project, a total of **28 CSOs and WRGs in Ghana, 30 in Kenya, and 14 in Togo** have benefited from capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing their effectiveness in engaging with legislative and oversight processes in their respective parliaments. These trainings deepened participants' understanding of parliamentary operations, the roles and structures that support MPs, and the mechanisms that facilitate engagement between parliaments and civil society.



Ghana

In Ghana, CSOs and WRGs actively reviewed and provided inputs on four key bills before Parliament:

1. **The Affirmative Action Bill, 2023** (passed into law in July 2024 assented to by the president September 11 2024)

2. **The Social Protection Bill, 2024,**
3. **The Free Secondary Education Bill, 2024, and**
4. **The Intestate Succession Bill, 2022.**

Through this engagement, participants identified gender-related gaps, proposed amendments to strengthen key provisions, and recommended additional clauses to enhance the inclusivity and impact of the legislation. Beyond bill analysis, CSOs and WRGs also enhanced their capacity to monitor the Government of Ghana's gender equality commitments, gaining insights into indicators of progress and effective advocacy strategies.

Kenya

Kenyan CSOs and WRGs supported the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) in formulating gender equality strategic priorities. They also received targeted training on overseeing gender equality commitments, exploring tools and strategies such as:

- Citizen-centered parliamentary oversight,
- Utilizing specialized audit reports, and
- Applying Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) to track and assess implementation.

Togo

In Togo, CSOs and WRGs participated in training sessions focused on strengthening their role in parliamentary oversight—particularly concerning gender equality. The sessions helped build knowledge of practical tools and approaches to ensure that the needs of women, girls, and marginalized populations are considered during legislative scrutiny and oversight by the National Assembly.

Enhancing Parliamentary Capacity for Gender-Responsive Legislation and Oversight

As part of the ILGRP project, significant efforts were made to strengthen the capacities of Members of Parliament (MPs) in Ghana, Kenya, and Togo to more effectively advocate for inclusive, gender-responsive laws and budgets, and to exercise robust oversight—particularly on commitments made by the executive relating to gender equality.

Ghana

The project provided targeted support to two key Parliamentary Committees in Ghana:

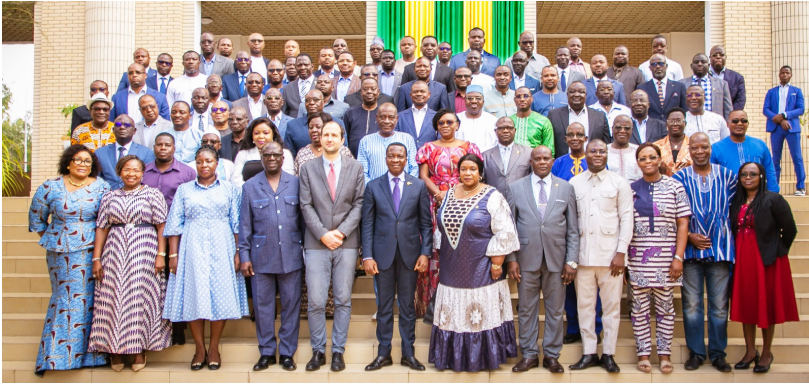
- Gender, Children and Social Protection Committee, and
- Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee

These committees were guided to review the Affirmative Action Bill, 2023—now the Affirmative Action Act, 2024—through a gender lens. The project convened a series of engagements involving committee members, parliamentary leadership, and civil society stakeholders during the Bill's consideration stage with support from the Affirmation Action Bill coalition. This collaborative and inclusive review process played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful passage of this landmark legislation—an achievement ACEPA is proud to have supported.

Togo

In Togo, **170 Members of the National Assembly** received training on the principles of gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting. Through these efforts, The entire membership of the parliament are better equipped to champion equal rights and promote gender-sensitive policy outcomes by initiating, scrutinizing, and passing legislation

and budgets that reflect the needs of both women and men, girls and boys.



Kenya

In Kenya, the project supported members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) and the Young Parliamentarians Caucus, enhancing their capacity to oversee the government's gender equality commitments. These trainings emphasized effective oversight strategies, enabling MPs to monitor implementation and ensure accountability.

Support for Female Parliamentarians

Female MPs in both **Ghana and Kenya** also benefited from specialized training focused on:

- Managing effective women's caucuses, and
- Understanding the role of parliamentary caucuses in advancing gender-responsive legislation and budgeting.

In addition, women parliamentarians in Kenya received coaching on public speaking and debating techniques, aimed at boosting their confidence and effectiveness in parliamentary debate and advocacy.

Building Institutional Capacity for Gender-Responsive Parliamentary Administration

A critical component of the ILGRP project has been the capacity strengthening of parliamentary staff across Ghana, Kenya, and Togo to ensure that parliamentary administrations are equipped to support the development and implementation of gender-responsive legislation and budgets. The project has focused on enhancing both individual and institutional capacity by providing staff with the skills, tools, and resources necessary to support Committees and Members of Parliament (MPs) effectively.



Ghana

In Ghana, 101 staff members from various departments within Parliament have been trained on:

- Core gender concepts and intersectionality
- Gender and intersectional analysis of Bills, laws, and budgets
- The application of gender analysis tools and checklists

- Techniques to support MPs in drafting, debating, and amending inclusive laws and budgets
- Skills to support MPs in oversight functions

These staff applied their training by reviewing the Affirmative Action Bill, 2023 and the Intestate Succession Bill through a gender lens and developing two sector-specific budget briefs based on the 2024 national budget.

Additionally, **10 Gender Equality Champions** within the Parliamentary Service of Ghana were trained to advocate for gender equality and inclusion within the internal policies and procedures of Parliament, including human resource practices.

Kenya

In Kenya, the project worked closely with staff from the Directorate of Litigation and Compliance of the National Assembly. Key focus areas included:

- The integration of gender data in law-making
- Application of Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) to legislative processes
- Reviewing parliamentary practices, tools, and manuals through a gender perspective
- Enhancing staff capacity to ensure compliance with gender equality standards in legislation and oversight

Tools and Resources

Across all three project countries, the ILGRP project developed a range of custom tools and checklists to support the initiation, analysis, amendment, and passage of gender-responsive laws and budgets. These practical resources have helped institutionalize gender-sensitive practices within

parliamentary systems.

High-Level Engagements

The project also facilitated high-level engagements between Speakers and senior parliamentary officials from the three countries and the ILGRP management teams from ACEPA and the Parliamentary Centre. These interactions were instrumental in securing ongoing political and institutional support for the project's objectives and sustainability.

Commemorating the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

As part of the ILGRP project in 2024, ACEPA partnered with the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation–Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) initiative to host a high-level discussion in Ghana to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The event focused on promoting women's leadership and participation in decision-making, especially within electoral and political spaces.

The discussion brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from Parliament, local government authorities, CSOs, political parties, and the Canadian High Commission. The keynote address spotlighted provisions in the newly passed Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024, particularly those related to GBV prevention and response.

Participants engaged in rich dialogue on the various ways women experience GBV across different settings and sectors, and explored practical strategies to eliminate GBV and support survivors. The event underscored the critical link between gender equity, political empowerment, and GBV prevention.



DATA FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT (DAP II)

The Data for Accountability Project (DAP II) is a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Parliament of Ghana to utilize data in monitoring national progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the project is implemented in partnership with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and On Think Tanks (OTT) Consulting.

DAP II focuses on strengthening the use of data in parliamentary oversight, representation, and law-making processes. It specifically supports the work of three key parliamentary committees:

- Committee on Education
- Committee on Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Committee on Local Government and Rural Development

In addition to MPs, the project benefits staff from the Research Department, Committee Secretariat, other relevant information units within Parliament, and staff from the Ghana Statistical Service.

The following section highlights major initiatives and achievements under the project in 2024.

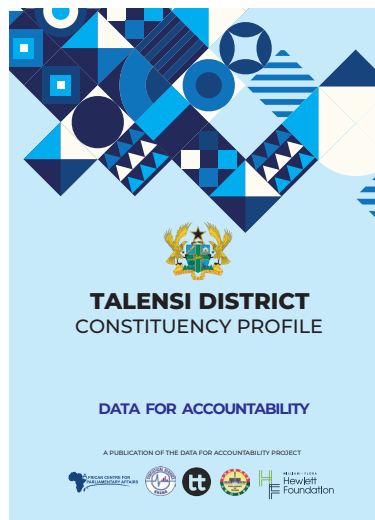
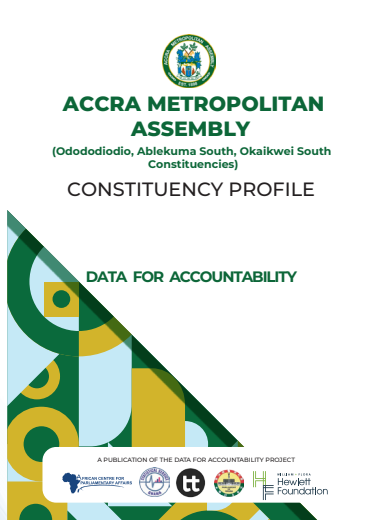
Oversight Field Visit by the Committee on Education of the Parliament of Ghana

The Data for Accountability Project (DAP) supported the Committee of Education of the Parliament of Ghana to conduct oversight of education service delivery in the Fanteakwa North District of Ghana using the Community Score Card. The exercise aimed at getting evidence and data from citizens to feed into the work of the Committee, which has oversight responsibility over the education sector. The Committee held engagements i) with service providers to understand the range of services ii) with citizens in Ahomahomasu community on their experience around education service provision, culminating in the generation of a community scorecard around some key indicators and iii) with both citizens and service providers to discuss findings from the interactions with the community and to develop an action plan for reforms. Over 116 citizens took part in the exercise.



Training for the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development of the Parliament of Ghana

In the year in review, ACEPA in collaboration with GSS organised a training session for members of the Committee for Local Government and Rural Development of the Parliament of Ghana. The session focused on enabling MPs to understand and use two products developed by GSS – the Statsbank and the District Level Multidimensional Poverty Index Reports for effective prioritization and inclusion of all disadvantaged people within the planning process in their respective districts and oversight of district plans.



Development of Constituency Profiles

Constituency Profiles have been developed for eight constituencies in Ghana. The profiles provide time series data spanning a number of years for different sectors of the economy. This data resource is available to MPs and it is expected to help MPs to effectively represent their constituents and influence development planning, budgeting

and implementation at the local and national levels, thereby advancing progress towards the SDGs. Constituency is a group of voters in a specified area who elect a representative to a legislative body.



Building a Robust Procedural and Administrative Database for the Parliament of Ghana

In collaboration with the Data Management Department of the Parliament of Ghana, ACEPA organised a workshop bringing together Heads of Department and Data Management Focal Persons from the Parliament of Ghana to deliberate and chart a course towards the development of a robust procedural and administrative database in the Parliament of Ghana. The workshop delved into the kinds of data generated by the departments through their daily operations, how the data is generated, and how it is organised and managed. Participants had the opportunity to elaborate on their unique departmental mandates, highlighting the methodologies they employ to collect, organise, and store relevant information. This event was the first of its kind under the auspices of the newly established Data Management Department.

On Think Tanks Conference

Our Executive Director, Dr. Rasheed Draman, with support from the DAP project, represented ACEPA at the On Think Tanks Conference 2024 in Barcelona, Spain. This event brought together leaders from various Think Tanks to reflect on their work, share best practices, and envision the future of the work of Think Tanks. Dr. Draman was a panelist for one of the sessions “2024: A Year of Elections - The Role of Think Tanks.” The panel discussion explored the role of Think Tanks before, during, and after elections; a timely conversation as a number of countries went to the polls.



THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF (IPPFoRB)

The “Support to IPPFoRB to advance issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Africa” project aims to advance issues of democracy and human rights, including freedom of religion or belief on the African continent through a collaborative partnership with ACEPA, African Parliamentarians’ Association for Human Rights (AfriPAHR) and International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB). Under the year in review, the following key initiatives were implemented:

Training on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Toolkit

We enhanced the capacity of Members of Parliament belonging to Parliamentary Caucuses on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) from seven African Parliaments to effectively

advance and promote human rights in their respective countries. MPs from Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and The Gambia were trained on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) toolkit. The training ensured that MPs would play an active role in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in their respective countries. The UPR is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council that calls for each UN Member State to undergo a peer review of its human rights records every 4.5 years.





IPPFoRB Oxford Academy

ACEPA was part of the 6th IPPFoRB Academy held at St. Hugh's College in Oxford, England, represented by our Executive Director, Dr. Rasheed Draman. The IPPFoRB Academy is a unique and interactive residential training programme for parliamentarians that provides capacity building on the subject of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). Parliamentarians from Southeast Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa took part in the programme. The training fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in safeguarding religious freedoms around the world. It provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to collaborate with distinguished experts in the field, engage in in-depth discussions on crucial issues related to FoRB, and develop concrete action plans to support religious freedom both locally and internationally.



CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING FUND (CSSF) PROJECT

The Civil Society Strengthening Fund (CSSF) is an initiative funded by STAR-Ghana and the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI). It aims to empower civil society organisations in Ghana to be more resilient, responsive, and effective in addressing the needs of their members. This is accomplished through partnerships with Civil Society Organizations in implementing their strategies and missions using flexible and restricted funding.



Orientation on Civil Society Strengthening Fund (CSSF) Project

Two staff members from ACEPA took part in an orientation session organised by the STAR-Ghana Foundation and the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) as part of the Civil Society Strengthening Fund (CSSF) initiative. The session focused on strengthening relationships between the STAR-Ghana Foundation/West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and their partners and on developing a common understanding of the CSSF program's minimum requirements and expectations.

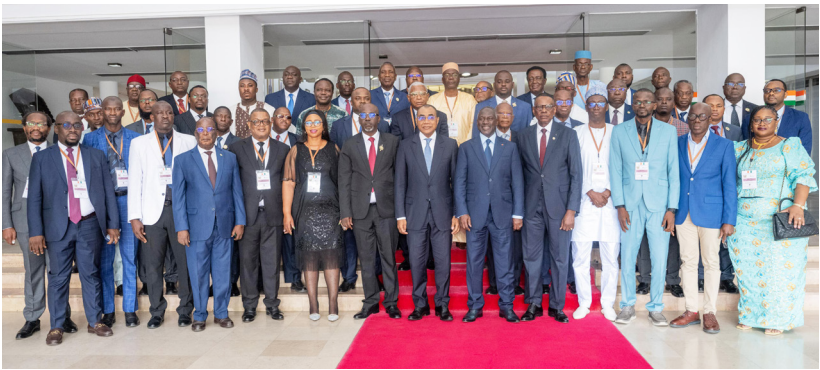
Resource Mobilisation and Financial Sustainability Training

Two of our staff also took part in a training on Resource Mobilisation and Financial Sustainability organized by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) for organisations being supported under the CSSF. The training aimed at supporting organisations, including ACEPA, to establish structures, mechanisms, and strategies for long-term resource mobilization and financial sustainability to fulfil its vision and mission.



SUPPORTING THE WEST AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

As the host of the Secretariat of the West Africa Association of Public Accounts Committees (WAAPAC), ACEPA supported the association in carrying out a number of activities during the year. Highlights of our work with WAAPAC are presented below.



Constitution Review

We coordinated the revision of the WAAPAC constitution. The revision was spearheaded by a constitution review committee that was constituted at the Association's 2023 annual conference. Implementation of the constitution adopted in 2014 over the years reveals gaps that needed to be addressed, hence the review.

Development of a Strategic Plan

We also initiated and led efforts around developing a strategic plan for the Association. The plan will guide the Association's work and operations for five years.



Annual Conference and General Assembly

WAAPAC successfully held its 10th Annual Conference and General Assembly in September 2024. The conference was hosted and supported by the National Assembly of Côte

d'Ivoire under the distinguished patronage of Hon. Adama Bictogo, Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire. The conference was on the theme "Domestic revenue mobilisation for enhanced fiscal stability and resilience in West Africa" and brought together Public Accounts Committees and Finance Committees from the West African sub-region, representatives from National Audit Offices and sister networks, namely the Southern Africa Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) and South African Association of Public Accounts Committees (SAAPAC).

OTHER INITIATIVES

ACEPA also worked on a number of short-term initiatives and assignments. These include:

Baseline Study of the Parliament of Ghana on Children's Right

ACEPA, in collaboration with UNICEF Ghana, conducted a baseline study of the Parliament of Ghana on Children's rights issues. The study sought to assess the knowledge, understanding, and experience among Members of Parliament of Ghana and technical staff on the rights of children and related issues in Ghana; and understand the information and technical requirements of MPs when it comes to promoting the rights of children in Ghana. The assessment also sought to provide support to UNICEF in the development of capacity strengthening modules for Members and staff of Parliament on the subject.

Training for Members of Opposition, Parliament of Uganda

ACEPA organised a course on Strengthening the Role of the Opposition in Parliament for Effective Governance and Oversight for Members of Opposition from the Parliament of Uganda. The training which was held in Accra, Ghana has seven MPs and one staff member participating. The group was led by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Joel Senyonyi. The course, led by experts from ACEPA, aimed at equipping the MPs with tools and skills that will make them more effective as members of the opposition. It also provided the delegation the opportunity to interact with the past and current Minority Leaders of the Parliament of Ghana.



Cyber Security Awareness Webinar

As part of commemorating Cyber Security Awareness month, which is observed every October, ACEPA partnered with the Cyber Security Authority (CSA) Ghana to host a webinar for Members of Parliament from some African countries, parliamentary staff, and CSOs under the theme “Combating Misinformation and Disinformation in a Digitally Resilient Democracy - Our Collective Responsibility.” The session explored tools/techniques used for misinformation/disinformation; essential safeguarding mechanisms to curb the phenomenon and enhance cyber security; cyber threats to elections and the role of various stakeholders in protecting the integrity of digital platforms and spaces.

PARTICIPATION IN SECTOR EVENTS

Over the course of the year, ACEPA was privileged to be invited to a number of convenings within the governance and parliamentary space in the country and beyond. Members of the ACEPA team who represented the organisation at these events did so either as Resource Persons, Panellists or just as participants, where they provided expert knowledge and thought leadership on various issues; shared experiences and lessons from the work we do as well as project the work of the organisation. The sector events we took part in include the following:

1. Workshop on Using Evidence in Policy Making, organised by Development Impact West Africa (DIWA)
2. Rise Women Conference 2024, organised by Emerging Public Leaders (EPL)
3. Research Validation and Project Co-creation Workshops on Macroeconomic Policy and Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE), organised by AFIDEP and the Hewlett Foundation.
4. Public Forum on Four Years of the Private Members' Bill (PMB) in Ghana, organised by Parliamentary Network Africa and the University of Ghana Parliament House.
5. Ghana Speaks High-Level Forum 2024 on Advancing Peace, Unity, and National Cohesion, organised by the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)
6. Delocalized Meeting of the Joint Committee on Administration, Finance, and Budget; Public Accounts; and Macroeconomic Policy and Economic Research of the ECOWAS Parliament

7. Workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Think Tanks, organized by the Citizens Bureau of the Parliament of Ghana
8. Stakeholders' engagement session on the International Transactions and Natural Resources Agreements Bill, 2024, organised by the Parliament of Ghana
9. Legislative Strengthening Conference, organized by USAID, Washington.
10. Parliamentary Caucus Launch of the African Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation (APNIFFT).
11. Gender Equality and Environment Training organized by Global Affairs Canada through the Canadian High Commission in Accra, as part of International Development Week (IDW) 2024, celebrated from 3rd to 7th February 2024.

PUBLICATIONS

At ACEPA, we believe that knowledge sharing through publications is a vital tool for strengthening the governance and parliamentary sectors. Over the past year, we produced a range of publications that serve as resource and reference materials on the thematic areas we work in. Below are our publications for 2024.

Publications

1. Gender Responsive Budgeting in Ghana: An Analysis of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme
2. Gender Responsive Budgeting in Ghana: An Analysis of the Trade Sector
3. Navigating Electoral Transitions in Ghana: Experience from the DAP Project
4. Institutionalising Evidence Use in Ghana's Parliament

Blogs

1. Ghana's 2024 Elections – 3 Key Voting Blocs That Will Shape This Year's Elections
2. Enhancing Oversight of the Education Sector: Deploying the Community Scorecard in Fanteakwa North District
3. Kenya Seeks Legislative Partnership with Canada as Speaker Fergus Visits the Center for Parliamentary Studies
4. Data for Accountability: Reflections from 2023

Newsletters

1. Inaugural ACEPA Quarterly Newsletter - January-March 2024

2. ACEPA Quarterly Newsletter - April-June 2024
3. ACEPA Quarterly Newsletter - July- September 2024
4. ACEPA Quarterly Newsletter - October-December 2024

Public Engagement

Over the past year, we have leveraged both traditional and digital media to amplify our initiatives, engage diverse audiences, and drive meaningful conversations on governance and participation.

Media Coverage

Our work has been featured in various media outlets, including the Multimedia Group, Media General, Citi News, the Ghanaian Times, and The Founder, to mention a few, reinforcing our role as a key voice in governance and policy discussions. Through strategic press releases and media partnerships, we have expanded our reach, ensuring that critical issues around governance, democracy, inclusivity, and women's participation in decision-making processes receive the attention they deserve and are duly represented. We have served as a watchdog over our parliaments, discussing issues that are of interest to the citizenry and ensuring that the public is duly informed. Below are some news stories we were featured in:

- Ruling on vacant seats: NPP, NDC should come together and leave the past behind – Dr Rasheed Draman (Published by 3News.com)
- Resolve ongoing impasse before end of 8th Parliament – ACEPA urges MPs (Published by citinewsroom.com)
- Akufo-Addo must consult Bagbin, Torkornoo to resolve parliamentary impasse – ACEPA (Published by citinewsroom.com)

- Decision by NPP MPs to boycott Parliament bad for Ghana – ACEPA (Published by citinewsroom.com)
- The way the Constitution is designed makes the work of Parliament difficult – Draman (Published by 3News.com)

We also featured on radio talk shows and news features as on two major networks as listed below:

Multimedia Network

- 26th March 2024 on the topic “Parliament vs. The Executive: The Constitutional Dilemma.” - PM Express Show
- 19th April 2024 on the topic “The Welfare of Members of Parliament”-Joy News Feature
- 20th May 2024 on the topic “The \$400M Tax Waiver Controversy: Parliamentary Oversight” - PM Express Show
- 17th July 2024 on the topic “Dual Citizens Holding Public Office: Will MPs endorse a constitutional amendment”- PM Express Show

TV3 Network

- “Make a deal”–ACEPA advises parliamentary leadership over vacant seats saga -The Key Points on TV3

Social Media Impact

This year, our social media platforms have played a crucial role in engaging stakeholders, fostering dialogue, and mobilizing communities. Through targeted campaigns, informative content, and interactive discussions, we have:

- Increased our audience reach and engagement, with a notable rise in followers and interactions across platforms.
- Active updates on our website

- Launched new digital initiatives, including a quarterly newsletter, live webinars, and advocacy campaigns during our 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, that have sparked important conversations.
- Used data-driven insights to refine our content strategy, ensuring that our messaging remains relevant, impactful, and accessible to diverse audiences.

By combining media coverage with a strong digital presence, we have strengthened our ability to inform, inspire, and engage. Moving forward, we remain committed to enhancing our communication efforts and leveraging innovative strategies to drive awareness and participation.

LOOKING INTO 2025

As we step into 2025, ACEPA reaffirms its role as a dedicated parliamentary development organization, focused on strengthening parliamentary institutions, deepening parliamentary engagement, and organisational development, all aimed at strengthening ACEPA's position as the premier provider of parliamentary strengthening solutions in Africa.

With a focus on building capacity and enhancing the effectiveness of African parliaments, we will continue to provide technical support, policy analysis, and thought leadership that drives democratic development and inclusive governance.

We have ambitious aspirations to contribute significantly to fostering responsive parliaments that enable and drive sustainable development in Africa, and in so doing we look forward to collaborating with our partners, stakeholders, and communities to drive meaningful change in the coming year.

OUR TEAM



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GALLERY



