**REPORT ON DISTRICT DISSEMINATION OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY REPORT**

**WEST GONJA MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**

**24TH JUNE, 2024**

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**1. Introduction**

The meeting started at 11:30am on Monday the 24th of June 2024 in the Municipal Assembly hall with a welcome address from Assistant Municipal Coordinating Director welcoming participants to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) dissemination. This was followed by an opening prayer from a participant and thereafter, self-introduction. Fourteen participants were present at the meeting.

**2. Opening Remarks**

The Municipal Coordinating Director welcomed all participants and thank all of them for taking part in this all-important national assignment. He acknowledged the importance of the report to the development of the municipality and therefore tasked all participants to pay keen attention to the presentation and ask all relevant questions. He also thanked the organizers, Ghana Statistical Services (GSS) and the Ministry of local Government Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD) for the effort made to have the dissemination for the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) dissemination at the district level across all the 261 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in the country.

**3. Rationale for the Dissemination**

Traditionally, poverty measurement focused mainly on monitory value to evaluate the living standards and overall well-being of people. However, some schools of thought see poverty measurement as a multidimensional approach rather than only the monitory value. Therefore, using a multidimensional approach to assess poverty provides better understanding of the population, complementing traditional monetary poverty statistics. The dissemination was to make data available to informed decision making at the assemble level. It also aim at providing an elaborate explanation to the multidimensional view of poverty including its incidence and intensity. These will make duty bearers effortlessly identify and provide targeted interventions for the allocation of resources, monitor and evaluate local government development programs, track trends of multidimensional poverty and monitor progress across a range of interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets at the district level.

**4. Workshop Participants**

The workshop was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders. These included the Municipal Planning and Coordinating unit members (DPCU), heads of decentralized departments and media as well as representatives from civil society organizations. The participants brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the discussion, contributing valuable insights on how the MPI could be used to inform policy decisions and improve outcomes for the most marginalized communities.

**5. Presentation on the Overview of Multidimensional Poverty**

Mr. Ibrahim Issah Bukari, the Municipal Statistician, presented an overview of the multidimensional poverty index of the Municipality. He highlighted the four dimensions and explained extensively the 13 indicators from the 4 dimensions used to measure poverty, highlighting that equal weight are assigned to all of them. The presentation also highlighted the incidence and intensity of poverty in the Municipality. In terms of incidence of poverty in the municipality was 39.7% and 44.9% intensity of poverty making the municipal the third best in the region even though it is below the national average.

The presentation also included a comparison among 20 largest communities in the district. There is a vast gap between the communities ranging from 9.2% for Boroto to 94.2% for Langantire

**6. Main Findings**

A significant portion of the population in the West Gonja Municipal Assembly are living in poverty (39.7%) as revealed by the report. Lack of access to basic services, high unemployment rates, lack of health insurance and limited educational opportunities were identified as key drivers of poverty in the Municipality. In terms of deprivations across the various indicators, employment was leading with 49.7% followed by school lag with 8.4%. In contrast, mortality and school attainment are the least with 0.1% and 1.3% respectively. The report also highlighted the disparities in poverty levels between different communities, with some areas experiencing higher levels of deprivation than others. These findings underscored the need for targeted interventions to address the specific needs of these communities and reduce poverty at all levels.

**7. Participants' Perspectives on Utilizing the Report**

The Municipal Coordinating director and the assistant planning officer at the workshop expressed their enthusiasm on utilizing the MPI report to inform their work and advocate for policy changes at the municipality level. Many participants highlighted the value of the MPI in providing a more comprehensive understanding of poverty and guiding decision-making processes. They emphasized the importance of using the MPI to target interventions to the most vulnerable populations and track progress over time.

**8. How does the district intend to use the MPI in their Annual Action Plan**

They emphasized the importance of using the MPI as a tool for monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of poverty alleviation programs. The municipal planning officer express his intent and outlined their plans to incorporate the MPI findings into their annual action plans, using the data to prioritize interventions and allocate resources more effectively and efficiently. They also noticed with importance the use of the MPI as a tool for monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of poverty alleviation programs. By integrating the MPI into their annual action plans, the municipal aims to improve outcomes for the most marginalized communities and reduce poverty levels

**9. Participant Feedback on Multidimensional Poverty**

Almost all the participants expressed shock after haven received the detailed presentation on the MPI. The participants pledged their support for the MPI as a more comprehensive measure of poverty, highlighting its ability to capture the full range of deprivations experienced by individuals and communities. They emphasized the need for policymakers to consider a broad range of indicators when designing interventions to address poverty and improve outcomes for the most vulnerable populations. They appealed to GSS to capture more of the communities under the MPI report and give out the various community’s population to aid their policy planning at the municipal level.

**10. Disagreements on Largest Localities**

None of the participants disagreed with the findings of the MPI about specific community or communities.

**11. Suggestions for Improvement**

Stakeholders at the meeting proposed several recommendations including

* It was suggested that highlighting deprivation localities is not enough and that areas of deprivation should be indicated for those localities.
* There was the need for this important report to have come earlier than now even though it’s not late to be put to use.
* Include all localities in the report in order to know what is happening in all places in the Municipality.

**12. Conclusion**

The importance of the dissemination of the MPI at the district level cannot be under emphasized. It is the beginning of a brighter future, step in the right direction towards addressing areas of deprivation and improving wellbeing of marginalized communities. The workshop highlighted the importance of taking a holistic approach to poverty measurement and using the MPI to inform decisions and targeted interventions effectively. Incorporating the MPI findings into the municipal’s annual action plan will help improve upon targeted interventions that seek to reduce poverty at all levels and improve the well-being of all people. The workshop participants expressed strong support for the MPI as a valuable tool for poverty alleviation. They also emphasized the need for continued collaboration and engagement between Ghana Statistical Service and the Municipal Assemble in data sharing and capacity building.

**13. Appendix: Photos**

