**Danida support to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice**

**Basic Information**

**Support at-a-glance**

***Duration of support:***

1993 – 2018 (26 years)

***Total disbursement:***

DKK 70 million (approx.)

***Key National Partners***

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

***Geographical coverage:***

All regional and 110 district offices of CHRAJ.

***Key Outcomes:***

* Development of the National Anticorruption Action Plan (NACAP: 2015-2024)
* Development of several Strategic Plans for CHRAJ including the first two in 1999 and 2003 respectively
* Strengthened capacity of CHRAJ staff at national, regional and district level. CHRAJ is now present in 110 districts

Danida’s initial support to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) was through a project-based support to human rights and democratisation in Ghana (1993-2003). The project specifically focused on support to public institutions and reforms (electoral process, decentralization and reinforcement of CHRAJ). The main activities entailed provision of technical assistance to CHRAJ through the Danish Ombudsman and capacity building of CHRAJ staff in carrying out its constitutional mandate.

The support continued under the first phase of the Good Governance and Human Rights Programme (GGHRP I: 2004-2008). Activities included capacity building of CHRAJ staff through design and delivery of prioritized training programmes including development of specialised skills; upgrading and refurbishing of structures at regional and district level; promoting gender equality through prioritized interventions, including adjudication, mediation and public information; and improving CHRAJ’s institutional image, and public confidence in CHRAJ. A key feature of this programme support was the professional exchanges and continuous institutional/technical mentoring from the Danish Ombudsman to CHRAJ.

The second phase of the Good Governance and Human Rights Programme (GGHRP II: 2009-2013) continued to provide support to CHRAJ. Main activities included building CHRAJ’s capacity to deliver on its constitutional mandate; developing and implementing a strategic plan for CHRAJ (2011-2015), implementing professional and specialised skills training for staff based on CHRAJ’s comprehensive training policy; improving working and user environment in all 10 regional offices and selected district offices; improving systems and processes to ensure high standard of operations; increasing public education on CHRAJ’s role and access to its services; and increasing awareness of gender issues through implementation of the national gender-equality programme.

Danida’s final phase of support to CHRAJ was through the Right to Services & Good Governance Programme (RSGGP: 2014-2018) which primarily focussed on implementation of activities in CHRAJ’s Strategic Plan (2011-2015). These included strengthening CHRAJ’s capacity to deliver on its triple constitutional mandate of promoting and protecting fundamental human rights and freedoms; promoting fair administration of public services and contributing to public demand for better service; and promoting national integrity and combating corruption. The programme support was however suspended in April 2014 due to corruption allegations levelled against the then Commissioner (who was eventually dismissed) and audit findings of ineligible and unsupported expenditures by CHRAJ. CHRAJ’s failure to make the necessary refund of the ineligible and unsupported expenditures despite several requests from Danida, among others, eventually led to the termination of the support in early 2018. Later, CHRAJ refunded the entire amount requested based on audit reports.

**Results and Key Achievements:**

The Joint Evaluation of the Ghana-Denmark Development Co-operation (1990-2006) Final Thematic Paper on Good Governance, Human Rights and Democracy found Danida’s support to the good governance and human rights sector to be generally succesful and the support to CHRAJ as one of the most satisfactory. Furthermore, the Evaluation noted that, in general, the support to capacity building and institutional building can be lauded as one of Danida’s strong points. The Danida Review of Human Rights and Democratisation (Feb 1999) described the support to CHRAJ as an example of strategic and timely support to a key agency. Programme results for the respective programme periods are given as follows:

GGHRP I: 2004-2008: Manuals for incorporation of human rights education in primary schools developed and introduced to all the teacher seminars in the country; 80 employees in CHRAJ’s local departments trained in monitoring human rights; enhanced capacity of CHRAJ to combat corruption; improved case management system for CHRAJ head office; and enhanced information technology (IT) and programme management capacity.

GGHRP II: 2009-2013: Development and operationalization of CHRAJ’s Strategic Plan (2011-2015) provided strategic direction to strengthen its institutional capacity to implement its triple mandate; development of the National Anticorruption Action Plan (NACAP: 2012-2021) marked a significant milestone in CHRAJ’s anticorruption mandate; renewed focus in staff capacity building in administrative justice and anti-corruption enabled increased execution of these two mandates; increased visibility of CHRAJ leading to advocacy from institutions and individuals for targeted resourcing of CHRAJ by government to enable it perform its triple mandate.

RSGGP: 2014-2018: Due to initial delays in its adoption, the implementation period for the NACAP was subsequently revised to 2015-2024. Since the Danish support was suspended soon after the programme was initiated, not much was achieved in this phase.

**Lessons Learned**

The Evaluation of the Ghana-Denmark Partnership (2007-2017) noted that key backbone institutions for democracy and socio-economic development such as CHRAJ have often been extremely complex to work with and has required a good insight and patient building of trust to achieve progress. It added that long-term partnerships and commitments, which have characterised the support to CHRAJ, have been important in this context. As an institution CHRAJ has found it difficult to prioritize its activities given its constitutional mandate and limited resources.

While Denmark, during the first many years of the cooperation, maintained a critical high-level dialogue with CHRAJ, the Evaluation found that the dialogue was less consistent during the last years of the cooperation.

After the Danish funding ended, the Government of Ghana has significantly increased its support. It is now considered a lesson learned that CHRAJ’s dependency on donor funding should not be repeated, and the Government of Ghana should instead fund key national institutions itself.

**Links**

* Evaluation of the Ghana-Denmark Partnership 2007-2017 (2018): <http://danida-publikationer.dk/publikationer/publikationsdetaljer.aspx?PId=8c80db97-19aa-4f83-858a-ee1189f4033d>
* Joint Evaluation of the Ghana-Denmark Development Co-operation 1990-2006 (2007): <https://um.dk/en/danida-en/results/eval/Eval_reports/publicationdisplaypage/?publicationID=78EEFD4A-6547-4CB8-A628-C0C3981817E1>
* Documentation study ‘Pioneering Democracy’ (2018): <https://ghana.um.dk/en/News/newsdisplaypage/?newsID=24DECCDC-9A56-442B-B891-078D07EA63AD>