



## **VOICE GHANA supports persons with disabilities in Eastern and Northern Regions to make inputs to their assemblies' plans**

VOICE GHANA, a disability rights and advocacy organisation based in Ho, Volta Region, is implementing a two year project in the Eastern and Northern regions with funding support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). Mr. Francis Asong, the Executive Director of VOICE GHANA disclosed this in a press briefing in Ho yesterday.

He said the beneficiary districts in the Eastern Region are Kwahu Afram Plains South, Kwahu Afram Plains North, Asuogyaman, Yilo Krobo, Upper Manya, Lower Manya, Kwahu South, Fanteakwa, Akuawpim South and Suhum Municipal. In the Northern Region, East Gonja, Nanumba North, Mion, Kpandai, Nanumba South, Tatale, Karaga, Gushegu and Saboba Districts as well as Yendi Municipal are all benefiting from the project.

According to Mr. Asong, officials of the beneficiary Municipal and District Assemblies as well as the leadership of groups of persons with disabilities in these districts, have welcomed the project, and expressed their willingness and readiness to ensure its successful implementation.

As part of the project, VOICE GHANA has started empowering and creating platforms for persons with disabilities in the respective districts to participate in local level development and decision making processes. The organisation has also collated cross-cutting development priorities from groups of persons with disabilities in each districts, which they have presented together with the leadership of these groups, in interface meetings with the respective Municipal and District Assembly officials, for inclusion into their development plans.

Mr. Charles Nyante, the Programs Manager of VOICE GHANA said the target Municipal and District Assemblies were enthused of how VOICE GHANA is supporting them to include key development issues from persons with disabilities into their respective development plans. He hinted that "the Assemblies have assured VOICE GHANA and all persons with disabilities of their readiness to include the issues in their 2018-2021 Medium Term Development Plans and Budget, which preparation is underway".

"I think your coming is very timely because we are in the process of gathering inputs from community members to inform our Medium Term Development Plan preparation, and we appreciate your efforts for collating very important development issues from persons with disabilities to inform our plan", Mr. Mohammed Akalifa, the District Coordinating Director of the Nanumba South District Assembly, disclosed.

Ms. Hellen Dondo, Secretary of the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the Saboba District, also confirmed that they have previously engaged their District Assembly but not in the manner VOICE GHANA has done by documenting their development issues into position paper, which was submitted to the Assembly for consideration into their plan, and she is delighted about this.

Ultimately, the project is to help beneficiary persons with disabilities to participate effectively in Public Hearing sessions and Town Hall meetings of their respective Municipal and District Assemblies in demanding benefits from provision of public goods and services.

## **Signed**

**Francis Asong**  
**Executive Director**  
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