



Canada-Africa Parliamentary Strengthening Programme

REPORT ON:

The Training of Members of Parliament -Third Batch
Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana
(At IPA-Tamale 10th-14th October 2005)

PREPARED BY:



INSTITUTE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES
Tamale, Ghana

November 4, 2005

Abbreviations

CRC	Citizens Report Card
CSC	Community Score Card
CSO	Civil society Organization
DCD	District Coordinating Director
DCE	District Chief Executive
DHMT	District Health Management Team
GHS	Ghana health Services
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MP	Member of Parliament
OPD	Out patient Department
PET	Public Expenditure Tracking
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	2
BACKGROUND TO THE COURSE	2
<i>Training Objectives.....</i>	4
<i>Training Strategy and Methodology.....</i>	4
TRAINING METHODOLOGY	5
COURSE MODULES	5
TRAINING SESSIONS AND OUTPUTS.....	6
PARLIAMENTS & THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR OF MDGs – GLOBAL POLICIES & NATIONAL REALITIES	6
PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHTS AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY	6
GENDER DIMENSIONS IN POVERTY MONITORING	7
PARTICIPATORY TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN MONITORING POVERTY ..	8
<i>The Citizen Report Card</i>	8
<i>The Community Score Card</i>	8
ENGAGING CITIZENS IN ASSESSING AND MONITORING POVERTY	9
HANDS ON FIELD-TESTING OF THE TOOLS	10
CONTEXT OF THE FIELD PRACTICE.....	10
<i>Field Assignment for the MPs.....</i>	10
<i>Field level processes.....</i>	11
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ASSESS HEALTH SERVICES	12
<i>The District Interface Session at Tolon</i>	12
<i>Findings from the Field Practice by the MPs.....</i>	13
COMMUNICATING RESULTS, FEEDBACK AND REPORTING.....	13
EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE TRAINING	14
PARTICIPANT EVALUATION	15
SESSIONS AND THEIR RATINGS	15
POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM	17
NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM	17
SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE MP TRAINING PROGRAMS	18
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	18
CONCLUSIONS.....	19
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	19
APPENDIX 1: PROFILE OF MPS WHO PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING.....	20
IPA RESOURCE PERSONS	23
APPENDIX 2: DETAILED TRAINING PROGRAMME.....	24

Introduction

This report summarizes the process and results of the training conducted for the third batch of members of Parliament from Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as part of the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Training Programme coordinated by the Parliamentary Center, Canada, and funded by the Canada Fund for Africa. The training took place in Tamale from the 10th –14th October 2005. Each of the three countries was represented by four MPs each making it a total of 12 MPs. (*Attached in appendix 1 is the list of MPs*)

The theme for this course was: ***“Parliament and Civic Engagement in Community Monitoring of Poverty and MDGs”***.

This report also contains:

- ❑ A background of the course,
- ❑ The objectives of the course
- ❑ The strategy and methodology used to conduct the course.
- ❑ Course delivery and outputs
- ❑ Expected Results of the course
- ❑ Participants’ Evaluation
- ❑ Conclusions and Recommendations

Background to the Course

The growth of representative Parliaments and the increasing voices and capacities of organizations of civil society in Africa are part of the deepening of democracy and the demand for accountability from governments. In theory these institutions represent the voice of the public, the citizens; yet, in many cases under-resourced Parliaments lack the capacity to gain full insight into the public policy choices that governments make; what the public perspectives are on these policies; and most significantly, how to ensure accountability for policies and budgets, that are appropriated through Parliament on behalf of citizens. As African Parliaments become more prominent and permanent, their scrutiny of public policy performance and interface with civil society becomes all the more crucial, if they are to perform their oversight and accountability functions effectively. The mechanisms through which such links are fostered, between Parliament, Government and Civil Society is therefore of crucial necessity for deepening democracy in general, and in particular for addressing pressing needs of poverty reduction among the increasingly despondent citizenry. To this end, the Institute for Policy Alternatives, Ghana, a public-policy think tank and training center and the Parliamentary Center, Canada, have established a training and capacity building initiative for African Parliaments, with two components:

1. ***MPs Training on Community Monitoring of Poverty***, designed to increase the awareness and skills of African MPs on global and national policies for poverty reduction, and on the accountability for MDGs and related pro-poor policies, through monitoring and evaluation.

2. **Parliamentary Staff Training**, designed to build a cadre of Parliamentary staff, to be able to support Parliament and its committees in discharging their mandate of poverty reduction oversight. This training is also for selected staff from community-based civil society organizations that possess the skills to work with MPs in shaping relations with civil society as part of the process of enhancing poverty-focused social and public accountability.

The training of leaders of Parliamentary Committees that have oversight for MDG-related and pro-poor policies and programs involves 4 MPs selected from each country. The choice of candidate is determined by the Parliamentary Committees closely associated with Parliamentary Oversight for Poverty Reduction, Budgets, Public Accounts and related development focal points.

Training for the Parliamentary assistants and NGO leaders comprise 3 candidates selected by Parliamentary Committees that complete the MPs course; of whom 2 each (one male and one female) shall be selected by Parliament, and the third candidate selected by a Civil Society Organization or network of organizations in the same countries where the Parliamentary staff are drawn. Of the three candidates for this training, at least one is expected to be a woman. This training is for duration of six weeks, comprising 4 weeks of course work and two weeks of field practice and internship with organized civil society and practitioners in Ghana.

At the end of each training, for the Parliamentary Leaders, support is provided to develop a pilot project to practicalize the skills acquired, by initiating a poverty monitoring activity based on the use of social and public accountability principles, tools and experiences regarding community monitoring of poverty. The Parliamentary staff and civil society participants in the program, having undergone a longer version course and internship with Civil Society, are then supported to work with the Parliamentary leaders on the pilot initiative, with back-stopping from the Institute for Policy Alternatives and the Canadian Parliamentary Centers' Poverty Reduction Network. This pilot project then becomes the main manifestation of the results of the training and capacity building program.

This initiative is an active collaboration between the Canadian Parliamentary Centre, Ottawa, Canada. in the context of the African Parliamentary Network for Poverty Reduction and the Institute for Policy Alternatives, Ghana, as a training provider. The training programme is funded through the Canadian Parliamentary Centre, under the Africa-Canada Parliamentary Strengthening Program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canada Fund for Africa. In this collaboration, the CPC provides content support and coordinates relations with participating African Parliaments and civil society groups.

Training Objectives

1. Understanding the policy context of MDGs and how they translate into national policy priorities, programs and budgets;
2. Enhancing role of Parliament in MDG oversight
3. Increasing the awareness and familiarity with tools for engaging citizens in the monitoring of performance of selected MDG results (with a focus on poverty, HIV and AIDS and Gender equality)
4. Understanding strategies for influencing policy reform through citizen engagement.

Training Strategy and Methodology

The course had two components namely, (a) the theoretical, and (b) the practical.

The theoretical component was anchored within contextual framework of the MDGs and the tools used to monitor poverty dimensions of the MDGs.

The Millennium Declaration fostered an international consensus around 8 global development goals, commonly referred to as the MDGs. Prominent among these is the reduction of poverty by half by the year 2015. Subsumed in MDG 1 are critical factors, which exacerbate poverty under different socio-political, economic and ecological circumstances. For many the developing world, the lack of access to basic rights and resources (such as education, health, water supply and sanitation) are the most visible manifestations of poverty. Over the past 2 decades, susceptibility to HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other preventable diseases have become the mantra of the poor, who lack information and ability to influence their life and livelihood choices. The most affected and excluded among Africa's poor are women and children, consequently, MDG 3 focuses on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. The MDGs, in effect, are a global policy commitment to which all governments have to adhere.

This course provides the opportunity to gain insights and answers to following questions:

- ✓ *What have governments done since the Millennium Declaration to assure citizens of their countries that the MDGs are being pursued?*
- ✓ *How are domestic development policies, budgets and public expenditures aligned with the MDG goals?*
- ✓ *Who holds governments accountable for MDG results?*
- ✓ *How can citizens be involved in the assessment of MDG results?*

in

The second component of the course provided a hands-on field practice in communities near the training site in Northern Ghana. The MPs, with the

support of IPA field staff, had the opportunity to test the tools of engagement in community monitoring with local municipalities and communities of marginalized people.

Training Methodology

The methods that were employed to run the course were “adult-learner centered” and participatory in nature, in order to facilitate the exchange of skills among MPs:

- The lectures were designed primarily to provide a framework for discourse, rather than teaching.
- Slides were used to convey guiding principles
- Working Group Exercises were adopted to provide MPs with hands-on and face-to-face discussions among themselves
- Plenary presentations by the MPs themselves provided an opportunity to learn from their own experiences
- Participatory Monitoring tools (*Community scorecards, citizens Report cards and PET*) provided hands-on experiential tools for engaging communities.

Course Modules

The focus of the 2005 course is on “**Community Monitoring of Poverty and the MDGs, with a focus on Poverty Reduction, HIV and AIDS and Gender Equality**”. In choosing this focus, the connection between poverty, HIV and AIDS and gender issues will be explored, and the techniques for engaging communities in monitoring policies and programs will be enhanced. The modules for this course were delivered in two Phases, which include the theory, and the hands on field practice.

The theoretical Modules and sessions

Module 1: Parliament and the Policy Framework of MDGs – Global Policies and National Realities (with a focus on Poverty Reduction, HIV/AIDS and Gender Equality)

Module 2: Parliamentary oversight for Policies and Social Accountability

Module 3: Priorities for community monitoring – Poverty, HIV and AIDS and Gender Equality

Module 4: Participatory Tools for Community Monitoring – Citizen Report Card and Community Score Card

Module 5: Engaging Citizens in Monitoring using the (**CSC and CRC**)

Module 6: Communicating Results and Feedback (**Interface session**)

Course Programme

The detailed course programme is attached(as appendix 2)

Training Sessions and Outputs

Parliaments & the Policy Framework for of MDGs – Global Policies & National Realities

The first step in promoting public accountability and oversight begins with the understanding of the context of public policy in order to demand accountability. Using the evolution of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the major public policy initiatives globally, and in Africa, this module covered:

- ❑ An understanding of the paradigm shifts in the concept and practice of development policy, including background and components of the MDGs
- ❑ An examination of how the MDGs shape and condition country-level policies, in particular on Poverty Reduction (MDG1); on Gender Equality (MDG 3) and on HIV and AIDS (MDG 6)
- ❑ A discussion of the role of Parliament in the new policy frameworks

During the discussions that ensued in the presentation of this module, it emerged that different countries approach poverty-targeting in their national public policies differently. While Zambia has produced an elaborate national Poverty Reduction Strategy and Program, Botswana focuses on the use of a 7-year national development plan as the main public policy instrument to guide its broad-based development (with poverty reduction programs derived from it). Zimbabwe relies on “special programs” that seek to integrate the poor in national development.

At the end of the module, participants were engaged in:

- ✓ Debates about the nature and scope of their national policies and how these affect Parliament’s ability to hold governments accountable. In Botswana, holding government accountable was less an explicit objective of Parliament than was the case in Zambia; in Zimbabwe, “checking government” in a partisan manner was generally accepted as a practice of accountability.

Parliamentary Oversight and Social Accountability

The process of poverty monitoring is anchored in the basic principles and concepts of Social Accountability. In this framework, citizens see the oversight role of Parliament as an obligation imposed on the institution. The module formed the conceptual basis for the weeklong course by addressing such issues as:

- The meaning of Accountability in the context of African realities. Attempts were made to develop a shared understanding of the concept of accountability, and how these relate to the societal meaning and public implications of the concept.
- How notions of accountability are applied in the conduct of public life.
- Who demands accountability and for what?
- What obligations do Parliaments have for accountability?

During the deliberations that ensued, participants:

- ✓ Discussed the various modalities through which their Parliaments enforce accountability for public policies;
- ✓ Outlined some of the challenges encountered, especially by opposition parties as they seek answers to public policy performance by officials of the Executive Branch of Government.

Botswana Experience in the Practice of Budget Oversight and Accountability

In Botswana, a more collaborative basis has been established to enhance Parliamentary engagement in, and oversight of budgets and expenditures. Through the Budget Committee of Parliament, estimates are presented and thoroughly discussed. The final budget that submitted by Government is therefore well-aligned with the demands of key Parliamentary constituencies; this makes for ease in oversight of Public Expenditures.

Gender Dimensions in Poverty Monitoring

In building skills for Parliamentary oversight of public policies and programs, the most fundamental principle is to identify priorities for this monitoring. Among the 8 MDGs, the most critical for Southern Africa are the three goals relating to Poverty, HIV and AIDS and Gender Equality. In this module, participants were assisted to focus on the Gender Dimensions in the monitoring of poverty, through a presentation on:

- ✓ The significance of MDG 3 on Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women;
- ✓ The interface between poverty and gender issues and how focusing on the most marginalized components of society permits Parliament to engage the poorest of the poor;
- ✓ An overview of the specific techniques to organize poverty monitoring activities that have strong gender equality characteristics.

- ✓ In the ensuing debate, gender issues were said to be highly politicized in the 3 Parliaments, given the challenges of securing effective and adequate representation of women in Parliament. The practice of appointing a number of women to reflect gender balance in the Parliament of Botswana was vigorously debated, with some MPs suggesting that while this is laudable, only the “most powerful and privileged women end up being appointed MPs.

Participatory tools for Community Engagement in Monitoring Poverty

The Citizen Report Card

A fundamental step in engaging citizens is to understand the process of participatory monitoring and evaluation, and to be able to use the right tools for this engagement.

The Citizen Report Card is a tested methodology that is capable of being deployed quickly and, with minimum training, used effectively by Parliament to gather information about performance of public services through the perspectives of their constituents, citizens and community groups.

The presentation focused on an introduction to the basic principles of the Citizen Report Card and how its is developed, and how to adapt these tools for their own use in communities and with relevant target groups.

The Community Score Card

A fundamental step in engaging citizens is to understand the process of participatory monitoring and evaluation, and to be able to use the right tools for this engagement. The Community Score Card is a process of systematic engagement with rural communities that allows MPs to facilitate dialogue among poor people, for the purpose of assessing their conditions and engaging them to assess the performance of government programmes and expenditures that are designed to alleviate poverty. At the end of this module, participants will be:

- ✓ Able to facilitate discussions with communities for the purpose of constructing a Community Score Card focusing on a particular issue of poverty;
- ✓ Assess how the perspectives of the poor themselves can be used to propose policy reforms;
- ✓ Develop strategies for feeding-back community perspectives to the decision-makers.
- ✓ Adapt these tools for their own use in communities and with relevant target groups.

Engaging Citizens in Assessing and Monitoring Poverty

Parliaments are about representing people and making their voices heard before, during and after public policy measures, such as PRSPs have been formulated and implemented. This module is a field-based exercise that provided participants with hands-on experience in engaging citizens, especially the poor, in the assessment of specific poverty-targeted programmes and policies.

During this session, participants were able to:

- ✓ Understand the basis of community animation as a critical first step in engaging communities and in preparing them for assessing policies and programmes;
- ✓ Discuss how to apply simple tools for community engagement -- generating dialogue and consensus between health service providers and citizens who consume these services.
- ✓ Develop approaches for communities to understand how to rate performance
- ✓ Improve their skills in recording the outcomes of these engagements.

Hands on Field-Testing of the Tools

The Tolon/Kumbungu District was selected for the hands on field practice for the Members of Parliament from Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Tolon/ Kumbungu is one of the rural District in the Northern Region of Ghana is about twenty Kilometers from Tamale the regional capital of Northern Region. The hands field practice covered a period of two days, October 12-13, 2005. The first day was wholly used for the engagement with service providers as well as the communities. The second day was also used for the conduct of the interface session at Tolon, the District Capital.

Context of the Field Practice

The Tolon/Kumbungu District Assembly has been implementing the Government's pro-poor health policy; the exemption policy and health infrastructure development with funding from the HIPC savings. This presented a good prospect for the field practice for the MPs to assess a HIPC project and programme in two communities (Yoggu and Gbulung) using the skills they had acquired.

The two communities, (Yoggu and Gbulung), have benefited from the HIPC funds by way of projects and a health programme.

Yoggu for instance benefitted an amount of one hundred and twenty million cedis(₵120,000,000.00) for the construction of a health centre. Although the construction work on the health centre has been completed, but the facility has not yet been commissioned to begin operation.

Gbulung on the other hand has a functioning clinic that has been in operation over the last five years. The clinic has been implementing the health exemption programme of the government, and so receives regular fund and drugs and equipment allocations from the District health management team in support of the programme.

Field Assignment for the MPs

The MPs were put into two group with each group being support by a couple of IPA staff and member Each from the CSO (Amasachina self help Association) group working in the District on monitoring of HIPC projects.

Group 1: Was assigned to monitor the public expenditure tracking (PET) to track expenditure flow form the HIPC funds from the national through the District to Yoggu community for the construction of the health centre in Yoggu. The group was composed of: (see table 1: below)

Table 1: Public Expenditure Tracking Group

Name	Country	Field practice community
1. Hon. Emmanuel M. Hachipuka	Zambia	Yoggu
2. Hon. Nason S.	Zambia	Yoggu
3. Hon. K. M. Matimba	Zimbabwe	Yoggu
4. Hon. Paul Kadzima	Zimbabwe	Yoggu
5. Hon. Olibile Gaborone	Botswana	Yoggu
6. Hon. Patrick M.G Masimolole	Botswana	Yoggu
IPA support Staff for MPs field Practice		
1. Mohammed Hashim	IPA-Lead Person	Yoggu
2. Hellen Akambong	IPA	Yoggu
3. Abdul-Karim	Amasachina	Yoggu

Group 2: Was assigned to monitor the operations of the health exemption programme at the Gbulung clinic using the Community Score Card (CSC)

The group was composed of: (see table 2: below)

Table 2: The health Exemption Monitoring group (using CSC)

Name	Country	Field practice community
1. Hon. Chance Kabaghe	Zambia	Gbulung
2. Hon. John Chibanga	Zambia	Gbulung
3. Hon. Chief G.M. Chimombe	Zimbabwe	Gbulung
4. Hon. Lovemore Moyo	Zimbabwe	Gbulung
5. Hon. Ezeikel Obakeng Moumakwa	Botswana	Gbulung
6. Hon. Samson Moyo Guma	Botswana	Gbulung
IPA support Staff for MPs field Practice		
1. Mohammed Lukmanu Aminu	IPA-Lead Resource Person	Gbulung
2. Nathan Appiah Boateng	IPA	Gbulung
3. Rubabatu Osman	IPA	Gbulung
4. Bethel Babalola	IPA	Gbulung

Field level processes

Day one:

The two groups jointly paid a courtesy visit to the Tolon/Kumbungu District Assembly and met with the District Officials led by the District Chief Executive (DCE). During this visit the MPs introduced their mission to the District officials. The Officials on the other hand briefed the MPs about the exemption policy and the programme in the District as well as some aspects of the operations of the District Assembly. The groups again jointly called on the Tolon Naa at his Palace for a courtesy, however, the chief was away and so the elders at the Palace received the team during the visit.

Community Engagement to Assess Health Services

The MPs thereafter, moved into their two separate groups for detailed engagement.

Group 1: which was using the PET then went back and met with the core staff of the District Assembly since the Assembly was the main implementer of the health centre project at Yoggu. After the session with the Assembly the group subsequently moved to Yoggu community, where it engaged the people in the assessment. . The group first paid a cutesy call on the chief of Yoggu and received his blessing before, commencing the engagement process. The group used various techniques, which included community-wide forum, focus groups, ranking and plenary to facilitate their engagement session with the people.

Group 2: Also visited the District Health Management Team (DHMT) as its first point of call soon after the two cutesy calls, and met with the officials of the unit. At the DHMT, the group collected supply side data covering details of the exemption policy and programme, budgetary allocations to support the programme over the years and the performance of the programme (successes and challenges, among other things) in the District. From the DHMT the group moved to Gbulung for the community engagement. The group first paid a cutesy call on the chief of Gbulung and received his blessing before, commencing the engagement process. The local health official running the clinic at the community was however, attending a workshop in Tamale and therefore, the group could not meet the local health official to collect further supply side data from the clinic, the main implementer of the exemption programme in Gbulung, before engaging with the people. The team finally engaged the people of Gbulung using various CSC techniques, including community forum, focus group, ranking and plenary to facilitate aspects of the engagement.

At the end of the engagement processes in the two communities, the people were invited to send between five and ten representatives each, to attend the interface session at District Assembly hall in Tolon,

Day 2:

The morning part of day two was used by the two working groups to prepare their field report, for presentation at the interface meeting at the districts assembly Hall in Tolon.

The District Interface Session at Tolon

The interface session was conducted in the afternoon of the second day. 15 members at the interface represented the two communities. The District Assembly was also well represented by its core staff including the DCE, DCD, and Planning Officer among others. The DHMT was also represented by, the Disease Control Officer, the Public Health Nurse (immediate Ag Director of Health Service for the District) and other officers. The interface session lasted for about three hours.

The two groups of MPs first presented the preliminary findings from their previous day engagement with the service providers as well as the communities during the interface. The community members then validated the presentation MPs through their voices in support of the scores they assigned the indicators that they used to assess:

- The exemption programme in Gbulung as well as;
- The construction of the clinic in Yoggu.

The District Assembly and then the DHMT were giving the opportunity to respond to the presentation and the voices of the communities in separate turns. The forum finally discussed the way forward to improve health care service delivery under the exemption programme in the District. That brought the interface session to a close on the second day.

Findings from the Field Practice by the MPs

From the field engagement, MPs found out that the DHMT

- Received an amount of ₦666,500,000.00 through the District Assembly, for the exemption programme in the District.
- Another ₦120,000,000.00 of the HIPC fund was used by the District Assembly to put up the health centre at Yoggu between 2003 and 2005.
- The DHMT is able to procure drugs from the regional stores on credit basis, when funds run out, to continue with the exemption services.
- The exemption programme has resulted into substantial increase in attendance at the out patient departments (OPD) at all the health facilities. Maternal mortality as well as infant deaths has also reduced significantly to 6 and 16, respectively in the previous year as a result of the exemption programme.
- The engagement with the communities also revealed that the attitude of the health staff towards patients claiming benefit under the exemption programme is very good, while drug availability at the health facilities, awareness of the exemptions and access to the health staff are also scored good by the people.
- However, the number of health staff at the health facilities is bad, and for the case of Gbulung, there is only one professional health staff, which supported by a local trained volunteer at the clinic.

Communicating Results, Feedback and Reporting

Parliamentary Committees have a unique function in translating public sentiments into advice for policy improvements. This module focused mainly on enhancing the process of communicating results of performance assessments, and it was the last module to be presented, after the MPs returned from their field practice. They developed their own “rudimentary report” and, using this first, “draft” report, the module demonstrated:

- ✓ How to summarize the results of their field visits by producing a simple report.
- ✓ Strategies communicating evaluation findings and the pros and cons associated with each.
- ✓ Uses of the report for Parliamentary oversight, advocacy and policy reform.

Expected Results of the Training

This training program has two very specific outcome results, namely:

1. Members of Parliament will enhance their understanding of the basic concepts and tools for monitoring pro-poor public policies and programs; and,
2. Apply these skills to engage their communities and constituencies in assessing specific policies, budgets and programs in their home countries.

The first outcome result was judged to have been achieved, based on evidence provided from the course evaluation below.

The second outcome result can only be assessed after the MPs have designed and implemented their pilot initiatives.

Participant Evaluation

Sessions and their ratings

Theme and Session	Rating														
	Knowledge Before					Knowledge After					Performance Rating of Presenter				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Module 1: Parliament and the Policy Framework for the Pro-poor policies	1	6	5	-	-	-	-	6	5	1	-	-	-	5	7
Module 2: Monitoring Poverty for Social Accountability	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	-	-	-	9	3
Module 3a: Public Expenditure Tracking Tool	5	4	3	-	-	-	1	6	5	-	-	-	1	7	4
Module 3b: Community Score Card	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	-	-	-	7	2
Module 4b: Gender Issues in Monitoring Poverty	2	4	4	1	-	-	-	2	8	1	-	-	-	8	3
Your experience in the Field Practice in using tools 3a and 3b	4	3	4	-	1	-	-	6	5	1	-	-	1	7	4
Module 5: Reports and their Disseminations	4	2	5	1	-	-	-	3	6	1	-	-	7	4	1
Module 6: Guidelines for Pilot Projects	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	4	2
Please rate the following Services	Very Satisfied					Average					Poor				
Organization and arrangements for the training	10					2					-				
Training Materials	8					1					-				
Hotel Facilities and Services	10					2					-				
Your own Role in the Dialogue Process	6					6					-				

Comments:

Module 1:

- Very encouraging
- The presentation was good
- I had adequate knowledge, the knowledge on MDGs certainly gained during course, Good Presentation
- The programme was good and it has helped me to draw up and have knowledge for pro-poor people and its very good
- I was satisfied with the module and content

- Very well presented and my hope is that my Parliament has a lot to benefit

Module 2:

- Very good
- It is a good exercise and it will help us to complete the project for the poor people. So accountability is good
- I have gained very good knowledge, the presentation/lecture was good
- More training is needed

Module 3a:

- A very good processes but needs dedicated staff
- Discussion with the Assembly very good, it is a good tool previously unknown to the staff, the staff were very good
- PET is good thing so that we can follow whether money went to the attended project. Good
- Very interesting experience and challenging
- I shall do my best to learn more about the module

Module 3b:

- I shall improve
- Easy
- I had not used this tool, it is a good tool

Module 4:

- Must be enhanced
- She was very good in her presentation and speech punctuation
- Easy
- I shall have to improve

Your experience in the filed practice in using tools 3a and 3b

- I shall have to improve
- Good thing and should be encouraged
- I am happy for the opportunity to learn these tools
- Very useful

Module 5:

- Should be more consistent
- This subject I appreciated greatly
- Reports were good
- I shall have to improve

Module 6:

- I shall have to improve
- This was good

Organization and arrangements for the training

- Very well organized
- Too casual and expected identification – Team leader
- Interesting presenters
- Easy
- Very good

Training Materials

- Very good
- Easy
- Very Good

Lodging/Hotel facilities and services

- Enjoyed
- I would have preferred a toilet brush as one of tools for each room
- Have roofs have holes – raining
- Easy
- Very good

Your own role in the Dialogue Process

- Interesting and fruitful
- The training was very well organized
- Easy
- I enjoyed
- Wanted to learn more

Positive aspects of the Program

- This is a good training especially to us as leaders
- I am able to work with the community - participatory at both village level and assembly, the training was interactive
- The staff extremely helpful
- The presentation, the discussion, the food and accommodation
- Interchange with other MPs, exposure to Ghana's governance's structures and efforts by government to eradicate poverty
- The staff very sociable and cooperative, community active, participation and cooperation and their knowledge of development sites is good
- The participation of communities in projects formulation and implementation stages
- Get connected with colleagues from other parliamentarians from other countries
- The communications by the entire organizations and participation during the training was quite positive
- Diet was the only thing I experienced that it was more traditional which is a good thing and the training was lovely which I did not expect such
- Understood PRSP issues much better
- The presenters were cheerful and helpful, the respect given to traditional leaders by locals is very high which helps the dissemination of information

Negative aspects of the Program

- Lack of adequate information at the district Health Centre e.g. the number of people covered by HIPC Funds
- It is only that north Ghana is hot but anything is just okay
- There was nothing negative that I experienced during the training
- There is room for improvement in time keeping
- That most policies are not documented enough to the communities

- The food too repetitive
- Needed other MPs from Parliaments other than Southern Africa
- Personnel who are supposed to disseminate information to the communities were doing very little

Suggestions for Future MP Training Programs

- Parliamentarians should be attending various training to improve on performance
- Selection of MPs and staff to participate in the training must be those who are directly involved in committees related to poverty alleviation
- I think I am happy with training of staff
- While it is okay for MPs to receive attendance certificate it may be that a six-week course for staff should be by exam
- Twelve was good
- More time required for MPs
- Time frame was too short, we need longer sections
- I want to suggest that the nature of these programmes be extended to the SADC countries
- The whole training program was good, I can only say that keep up your spirit everything you do is second from home
- Nothing at the moment
- As African countries, most of them have traditional leaders, IPA should also engage in sampling and train some chiefs depending on their chiefs country by country

Conclusions and Recommendations

This training programme represented a watershed in the planning and delivery of training for the Parliamentary Strengthening process, both in its planning and delivery. For a start, only 1 (Zambia) of the 3 Parliaments is a regular participant in the African Parliamentary Network for Poverty Reduction. Botswana and Zimbabwe are neither members of this network nor are they PRSP countries. This unique situation posed positive challenges for the training, including:

The challenge of explaining the rationale and process of the training on “community engagement in poverty monitoring” and their implications for strengthening Parliamentary oversight for poverty monitoring.

How public policies that are oriented towards poverty reduction, including PRSP, but not only PRSPs can be influenced through Parliamentary engagement in monitoring and evaluation, including budget oversight.

Conclusions

Overall all, the experience in this training suggests the following conclusions:

1. A course on Parliamentary strengthening located in a remote area of the country was most appreciated, as a practical demonstration of how MPs need to engage communities in their work.
2. However, the one-week training for MPs on evaluating poverty reduction policies and programmes was considered too short to improve competencies in “policy analysis and monitoring and evaluation”.
3. Limiting the course to only 4 MPs was considered too restrictive as whole Committees of Parliament will need to be provided with skills in order for the issues to be effectively adopted and implemented by Parliament.

Recommendations

Based on the MPs' own testimony and the observations of the training managers, the following recommendations are presented:

1. **Scope and Content of Training:** Parliamentary Center, in partnership with IPA and other training institutions across Africa, need to develop a more comprehensive training program for Parliamentary strengthening that span a broader spectrum of skills. These could include (a) Policy formation, stressing how MDGs link to country-based and country-owned policy and development programmes – PRSP, National Development Plans, etc.; (b) The Making, Management and Oversight of Budgets; (c) Policy and Budget monitoring; (d) Community engagement in monitoring poverty; (e) Gender issues in Parliamentary Oversight; (f) Accountability to Parliament – monitoring policies, expenditures and corruption.
2. **Determination of Training Content:** The Parliamentary Network on Poverty Reduction and other networks facilitated by the Parliamentary Center should be convened, with representatives from Regional Parliaments – SADCC, ECOWAS and the Pan-African Parliament, to review a comprehensive training process and approve these for Parliaments to participate in.
3. **Length and Duration of Training:** This training program must be presented as a long-term process, spanning at least 1-2 years, during which the MPs and their staff receive training in agreed modules, totaling 6-8 modules, each of them including specific field practice.
4. **Certification:** Upon completing and implementing skills in agreed modules, trainees should be presented one certificate, carrying the weight of a post-graduate diploma, by a network of institutions with accreditation to issue those certificates.
5. **Examinations:** Parliamentary staff participating in the training must be made to write exams, in order to ensure that those who pass these exams can use their certificates to earn promotion as a proof of real skills acquired.

Appendix 1: Profile of MPs who Participated in Training

Name: Hon. Nason Sambwa **Country:** Zambia
Party Affiliation: MMD **Governing** [X]
Parliamentary Committee(s): **Position in Committee:**
1. Economic Affairs & Labour Member
2. Health Member
Full Address **Email Address & Telephone**
Parliament Building 260 - 97-745115 (Cell)
P.O. Box 31299 260 – 4221989 (Land line)
Lusaka – Zambia Kasama/Zambia

Name: Hon. Chance Kabaghe **Country:** Zambia
Party Affiliation: **Opposition**
Forum for Democracy & Development (FDD)
Parliamentary Committee (s) **Position in Committee**
1. Economics & Labour Affairs Member
Full Address: **E-mail Address & Telephone**
P.O. Box 32967 ckabaghe@amanita.com.zm
Lusaka – Zambia 00260 97794466

Name: Hon. John Chibanga **Country:** Zambia
Party Affiliation: U.N.I.P **Opposition**
Parliamentary Committee(s) **Position in Committee**
Economic Affairs & Labour Member
Agriculture & Lands Member
Full Address: **E-mail Address & Telephone**
Chibanga & Sons johnchibanga@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 540114 00260 95998801 (cellphone)
Lundazi – Zambia 00260 6480504 (Land line)

Name: Hon. Chief. G.M. Chimombe

Country: Zimbabwe

Party Affiliation: Nil

Parliamentary Committee(s)

Public Accounts
Lands

Position in Committee

Member
Member

Full Address:

St. Michael's Mambo School
P. Bag 1005,
Dorowa – Zimbabwe

E-mail Address & Tel #

N/A
00263 21 2258 or
00263 11 771 935

Name: Hon. Lovemore Moyo

Country: Zimbabwe

Party Affiliation: MDC

Opposition

Parliamentary Committee(s)

Public Accounts
Education, Sport and Culture

Position in Committee

Member
Member

Full Address:

91 Larspur Road
Harrisvale
Bulawayo – Zimbabwe

E-mail Address & Telephone

00263 11 616 27
00263 23 249 508
00263 9 200917 (Res)

Name: Hon. Kennedy Mangena Matimba

Country: Zimbabwe

Party Affiliation: Zanu PF

Governing

Parliamentary Committee(s)

Public Accounts
Local Government

Position in Committee

Member
Member

Full Address:

Bikita Rural District Council
P.O. Box 227
"Nyika – Bikila
Zimbabwe

E-mail Address & Telephone

00263 11 509785

Name: Hon. Olebile Gaborone **Country:** Botswana

Party Affiliation: Botswana National Front **Opposition**

Parliamentary Committee(s) **Position in Committee**
1. Agriculture & Environment Chairman
2. Trade Security & Tourism Member

Full Address: **E-mail Address & Telephone**
Box 30143
Twkweng – Botswana 00267 3957008

Name: Hon. Samson Moyo Guma **Country:** Botswana

Party Affiliation: BDP **Governing**

Parliamentary Committee(s) **Position in Committee**
1. PAC Member
2. Labour Relations Member

Full Address: **E-mail Address & Telephone**
P.O. Box 2388
Botswana IRBBOTS@INFO.BW
00267 3922300

Name: Hon. Paul Kadzima **Country:** Zimbabwe

Party Affiliation: ZANU PF **Governing**

Parliamentary Committee(s) **Position in Committee**
Public Accounts Member
Defense and Home Affairs Member

Full Address: **E-mail Address & Telephone**
P.O. Box 118
Nyanga 00263 298 838

PARLIAMENTARIANS FLIGHT DETAILS

#	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	ARRIVAL DETAIL	DEPARTURE DETAILS
1.	Hon. Emmanuel M. Hachipuka	Male	Zambia	Kenya Airways KQ500 07Oct, 2005 @1010	Kenya Airways KQ502 15Oct, 2005 @2035
2.	Hon. Chance Kabaghe	Male	Zambia	Kenya Airways KQ500 07Oct, 2005 1010	Kenya Airways KQ502 15Oct, 2005 2035
3.	Hon. John Chibanga	Male	Zambia	Kenya Airways KQ500 07Oct, 2005 1010	Kenya Airways KQ502 15Oct, 2005 2035
4.	Hon. Nason Sabwa	Male	Zambia	KQ 500 07Oct, 2005 1010	KQ502 15Oct, 2005 2035
5.	Hon. Chief G.M. Chimombe	Male	Zimbabwe	South African Air SA207 07Oct 2005 2245	South African Airways SA208 15Oct, 2005 2355
6.	Hon. Paul Kadzima	Male	Zimbabwe	SA207 07Oct 2005 2245	SA208 15Oct, 2005, 2355
7.	Hon. Lovemore Moyo	Male	Zimbabwe	SA207 07Oct, 2005 2245	SA208 15Oct 2005, 2355
8.	Hon. Kennedy M. Matimba	Male	Zimbabwe	SA207 07Oct, 2005 2245	SA208 15Oct, 2005, 2355
9.	Hon. Samson Moyo Guma	Male	Botswana	SA207 07Oct 2005, 2245	SA208 15Oct 2005, 2355
10.	Hon. Ezekiel D. Mومakwa	Male	Botswana	SA207 07Oct, 2005 2245	SA208 15Oct 2005 2355
11.	Hon. Olebile M. Gaborone	Male	Botswana	SA207 07Oct, 2005 2245	SA208 15Oct, 2005, 2355
12.	Hon. Patrick. M. G. Masimolole	Male	Botswana	SA207 07Oct, 2005 2245`	SA208 15Oct, 2005, 2355

□

IPA Resource Persons

1	Dr. Sulley Gariba	IPA
2.	Coleman Agyeyomah	IPA
3.	Lukamanu Mohammed Aminu	IPA
4	Mohammed Hashim	IPA
5	Reine-Bruce-Ackaman	IPA
6	Bethel Babloala	IPA

Appendix 2: Detailed Training Programme

INSTITUTE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVE
Tamale, Ghana
**Training Programme on Parliament & Civic Engagement in
 Community Monitoring of Poverty and MDGs**

October 10-14, 2005

Module	Contents	Approach
Day 1: Monday October 10		
9:00 am – 10:30	Introduction and Participant Orientation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participant Profile and Expectation; ✓ Rationale, objectives and content of the training: explains why the course has been developed; ✓ Who the course is targeted at ✓ Staying healthy in Ghana 	A Participatory session in which participants review the agenda, settle-in and prepare for course work
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/tea break	
11:00 -12:00	Orientation about Ghana and its Northern Provinces	
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch	
2:00 – 3:30	Module 1: Parliament & the MDG Policy Framework	
	<p>First step in the social and public accountability cycles understanding the context of public policy, using the global commitment to MDGs, and their translation to PRSP as one of the major public policy initiatives in Africa. Added to this is the NEPAD Initiative, which provides a continental flavour to growth, development and poverty reduction efforts. At the end of the module, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Relate their own country experiences with the broad framework provided by MDGs ✓ Summarize what processes parliament can use to ensure that global policies – MDG, NEPAD – are translated into national priorities with budgets 	
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee/tea break	
4:00 – 5:30	Module 2: Monitoring for Social and Public Accountability – the Role of Parliament	
	<p>In introducing basic concepts of Social & Public Accountability. At the end of the module, participants will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Familiar with the global context and concepts of social and public accountability as they relate to Parliament. ✓ Be able to relate these concepts to their country-specific realities. ✓ Develop a share understanding of what specific institutions have mandate for social and public accountability and what type of demand for accountability exists in various countries 	<p>A start-up lecture, using slides and reference materials</p> <p>Participant exercises are built into the materials, requiring small group work</p>
Day 2: Tuesday October 11		
	Module 3: Participatory tools for Community Monitoring of Poverty 3a: Participatory Public Expenditure Tracking (PET)	
	<p>The process of engaging citizens in assessing their own conditions takes different forms. One of the tools for citizen engagement is the Public Expenditure Tracking (PET), which was strong relevance to Parliament. In this session, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop an understanding of the approach for Public Expenditure Tracking ✓ Acquire basic skills in how to design a simple expenditure tracking system for Parliament ✓ Explore examples of where this method has been used and to what effect ✓ Develop a practical demonstration of the use of PET in the field, with a Case Study which will be used for the actual field practice 	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:00 – 12:30	3b: Community Score Card	
	<p>After tracking expenditure appropriated by Parliament for poverty reduction, the next step in engaging citizens is to assess the performance of the public services intended for them. This session is about the application of the Community Score Card as one of the tools for engaging citizens. At the end of this module, participants will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Able to use participatory assessment tools, such as the Community Score Card to engage citizen in performance assessment. 	Group exercises will be used to develop indicators for assessing the performance of a Health Service provided by

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adapt these tools for their own use in communities and with relevant target groups. 	<p>Government under the HIPC initiative in Northern Ghana</p> <p>Hands-on practice will be used to introduce the tools and techniques</p>
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch	
2:00 – 3:30	Debate: is Development Serving the Needs of the Poor? An assessment of the impact of development assistance on the poorest of the poor in Northern Ghana	
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
4:00 – 5:30	Module 3 – incorporating Gender issues in Community Monitoring of Poverty	
	<p>One of the key goals of the MDGs is to “promote gender equity and empower women”. This session will review the key indicators associated with the MDG 3, and outline some of the key steps needed to engage communities in the monitoring of gender equality dimensions of development and poverty reduction. In this session, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand the context in which MGD 3 was formulated ✓ Review the main priorities for gender equality that Governments and their partners have signed up to in the fulfillment of this MDG ✓ Develop perspectives on how parliaments can hold governments accountable for enhancing gender equality and promoting women’s rights in development 	
Day 3: Wednesday October 12th		
8:00 – 9:30	Preparing for Field Work	
	<p>Group 1: Public Expenditure Tracking: Participants engage with the local NGO coordinating PET efforts to receive detailed Tamale Metropolitan Assembly in reviewing the policy and program objectives of the Pro-poor Health Initiative founded by the HIPC funds of Ghana; they then develop key indicators and prepare questionnaire</p>	<p>Group 2: Community Score Card: Participants engage with community facilitators and District Assembly staff to review the background to the community water and sanitation program, and prepare for community engagement</p>
8:00am- 5:00pm	Module 4: Engaging Citizens in Assessing and Monitoring Poverty – Field Work	
	<p>Parliaments are about representing people and making their voices heard before, during and after public policy measures. This module is a field-based exercise that seeks to provide participants with hands-on experience in engaging citizens, especially the poor, in poverty assessment. At the end of the module, participant will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop community-based criteria for assessing policies and performance of public institutions and services ✓ Enhance their ability to generate dialogue and consensus between service providers and citizen who consume these services ✓ Understand how to rate performance ✓ Improve skills in recording the outcomes of these engagements. 	<p>Field visit to two sites: (1) How local government and beneficiary groups track public expenditure intended to improve health services, using Public Expenditure Tracking (PET). How rural dwellers assess the performance of health services designed to serve the poorest of the poor, using the Community Score Care</p>

Day 4: Thursday October 13th		
9:00 – 11:30	Module 5: Communicating Results – Reporting & Feedback with Communities	
	<p>Parliamentary Committees have a unique function in translating public sentiments into advice for policy improvements. This module seeks to enhance the process of communicating results of performance assessments. At the end of the module, participants will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Able to summarize the results of their field visits by producing a simple report ✓ Understand the various modes of communicating evaluation findings and the pros and cons associated with each ✓ Be able to design appropriate communication strategies for poverty assessment results; ✓ Be able to arrange a feedback session involving both the providers and the consumers of services. 	In the morning, participants will be supported to summarize and synthesize the results of their field work
11:30 – 12:30	Light Lunch	
2:00 – 4:00	Community Interface Session	
	<p>Experience an interface session: Upon completing field engagement with citizens and representatives of the poor, Members of Parliament will need to facilitate an interface between policy makers, service providers and the representatives of the poor, who assessed these policies and services. The objective is to report back findings and establish a reform agenda. At the end of this session, which will be conducted in the field, MPs will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand how information on poverty assessment is fed back to the citizens and decision-makers ✓ Be able to conduct sessions to moderate the views of the different constituencies ✓ Have enhanced skills on how to develop a reform agenda based on poverty assessment 	Later (in the afternoon) participants will attend a “real” interface session with local government officials
6:30 – 7:30	Dinner Seminar – Making Health Services work for the Poor: A keynote speaker and representatives of MPs dialogue about experiences across Africa. This is followed by a cocktail	
Day 5: Friday October 14th – Wrap-up, Evaluation & Graduation		
8:00 – 9:30	Module 6: Developing a Pilot Projects: Country Groups break into their various committees for this exercise	
	<p>The ultimate goal of the course is to build competency of MPs and their staff in initiating, coordinating and managing processes of social and public accountability of poverty reduction. In this last module, participants will be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Familiar with the concept of evaluation and its role in carrying out the mandate of Parliamentary oversight for poverty reduction ✓ Understand the steps involved in conducting an evaluation ✓ Able to formulate a concept note for a pilot activity on evaluating poverty reduction from Parliament, based on the basic tools acquired from the course. 	
10:00 – 11:00	Graduation Ceremony – Participants are presented with Certificates during a brief Graduation Ceremony Officiated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University for Development Studies, Dr. John Kaburise	
1:30 – 2:30	DEPARTURE FOR ACCRA BY AIR	
2:30 – 3:30	Lunch	
4:00 – 5:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Session with leadership of Ghana Parliament ✓ De-briefing at Parliamentary Center – African Poverty Reduction Network offices in Accra 	