

**POVERTY REDUCTION EFFORTS IN GHANA: THE EXPERIENCE
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION MICRO PROJECTS PROGRAMME IN
THE NORTHERN REGION**

by

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the MSc and that, to the best of my knowledge it contains no material previously published by another person nor material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the University, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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ABSTRACT

Notwithstanding the poverty related interventions of Micro Projects Programme (MPP) in the Northern Region, there still exist problems of uneven quality of service delivery and availability of funding for new priorities, which have contributed to increasing poverty concentration in the Northern Region. A large contributing factor is inadequate development of rural infrastructure; Households in these regions have remained largely disconnected from economic growth taking place in the rest of the country, with limited opportunities to escape from poverty because of their limited access to education, health services, market and other public services.

This study is on the poverty reduction efforts in Ghana: the experience of the European Union MPP in the Northern Region. Specifically, the study focused on the examination of the MPP and how it fits into the poverty reduction policies/programmes of Ghana as well as analysing the contribution of MPP to poverty reduction in the Northern region. The study further sought to identify some of the key challenges that hinder poverty reduction efforts of the MPP. In order to effectively assess the contribution of the MPP to poverty reduction in the study area, the research employed both the case study and comparative research methods and these provided a basis of establishing whether there has been any change and what part of the change could be attributed to the MPP's interventions.

From the result of the study it was realized that the MPP is compatible with the national and local poverty reduction policies and programmes. Furthermore, it was found out that the MPP contributes to poverty reduction in the region; however its impact on poverty reduction was found to be constrained by the nature of infrastructural investment – that is higher impact was realised on physical access rather than on the quality of service. The MPP was also found not to have a clear-cut monitoring and evaluation system that tracks the impact of projects on poverty reduction. The programme did not contribute significantly towards improving community participation in project initiation, planning and management.

To improve the MPP's interventions and poverty reduction effort in the Northern Region it was recommended that the project design be reviewed to ensure that the programme package is not limited to infrastructure provision but where it is so, there should be complementary projects responding to other development needs. It was also recommended that appropriate approaches be developed to encourage effective community participation. It was further recommended that monitoring and evaluation systems are established to ensure that projects focus on original objectives. It was recognised that one intervention cannot address all problems of poverty as a result there is the need for complementary programmes and projects to cater for other developmental needs.

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ACRONYMS

ACPC	African Caribbean and Pacific Countries
BWIs	Bretton Woods Institutions
CEDEP	Centre for the Development of People
CIC	Community Implementing Committee
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
CWP	Communities with Project
CWOP	Communities without Project
DMTDP	District Medium Term Development Plan
DIC	District Implementing Committee
EC	European Commission
EDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GOG	Government of Ghana
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey
GPRS I	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HPIC	Heavily Indebted Poor Country
IAE	Institute of Adult Education
I-PRSP	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPMU	Micro-Project Management Unit
MPP	Micro-Project Programme
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
WFP	World Food Programme