

## *Evaluation of the European Commission's Country Strategy for the Republic of Ghana – ref. 951664*

### *Abstract*

*The European Commission's support to Ghana during the period 1996-2004 has been generally relevant to the developmental needs of the country.*

*The Commission's contribution to Ghana's development is mainly visible in terms of increased access to safe water and sanitation and to basic education and health services for the poorest segments of the population. Overall, the effectiveness of the Commission's interventions has been hampered by long delays of implementation.*

### **Subject of the evaluation**

This evaluation assesses the Commission's cooperation strategy for Ghana and its implementation over the period 1996-2002 as well as the relevance, coherence and intended impacts of its cooperation strategy for the period 2002-2006.

### **Evaluation description**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide the Commission with key findings and lessons of experience from its past and current co-operation with Ghana.

#### **Methodology**

The evaluation was based on ten evaluation questions, relating to the five DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact), the 3Cs (coordination, complementarity and coherence) and cross-cutting issues (gender, environment, human rights, and institutional capacity building).

The evaluation was carried out in three phases: a desk phase including the identification of the evaluation questions (i), a field phase (ii), a report writing phase including the drafting of the final report (iii).

### **Main conclusions**

- (1) Overall, the Commission's cooperation strategy for Ghana addresses well the main developmental needs affecting the country. However, the importance given to private sector development has been substantially reduced from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, in spite of the central role that this sector could play in coping with Ghana's economic vulnerability.
- (2) The Commission's interventions in the area of rural development have been effective in increasing access to safe water and sanitation, and to basic economic and social facilities. They were less effective in terms of improving agricultural production systems and diversification of the sector. In the area of transport, interventions have contributed to the objective of fostering growth. In social sectors, the Commission's interventions have contributed to increase access to basic education and health services for the poorest segments of the population.  
  
However, long delays in the implementation have hindered the effectiveness of most of the Commission's interventions.

- (3) Coordination among the donors has proved effective, and, as a result, their activities have ensured a wide coverage of the needs of the country. As regards the Commission's interventions, links between the national and the regional strategies are insufficiently developed, although no conflict is apparent.
- (4) The Commission's interventions have directly and indirectly contributed to good governance to a significant degree. At the opposite, gender and environment were insufficiently addressed.

### **Recommendations**

The Commission should continue to base its strategy on the areas that are currently selected as sectors of intervention. Nevertheless, a greater importance should be given to private sector development, which should be incorporated in the Commission's strategy as a transversal issue that could be mainstreamed in the main areas of intervention. The Commission should also make explicit linkages between its national and regional strategies.

As regards the implementation, steps should be taken to better mainstream and monitor gender and environment issues and to reduce implementation delays, in particular as regards the disbursement of funds through budget support.

Donor: European Commission	Region: ACP	DAC sectors: various (multi-sector, cross-cutting issues)
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