

Factsheet African Policy Dialogue:

Democratic development-oriented local governance and economic transformation in Ghana

Led by Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS)

In 2017, the Government of Ghana started implementing two major policies: the 'One District One Factory' (1D1F) industrialization programme and the promotion of democratic local governance and popular participation (devolution). In relation to the first policy, 1D1F, due to failures of industrial policies in the past, some of the key actors are sceptical about the government's capacity to implement it. Hence, broad-based support from key stakeholders at the national and local levels is needed. The implementation of the second policy, local democratic governance, is likely to be affected by the December 2019 referendum, which seeks amendments to the country's Constitution to allow citizens to directly elect metropolitan, municipal and district chief executives, and political parties to participate in local government elections. To enhance the chances of success of both programmes, there is a need to learn from past failures; analyse the historical, social, political and economic context in which they are being implemented; and draw on lessons from countries that have established similar policies. All of these things require research evidence. The proposed Democratic Development Local Governance (DDLG) platform, therefore, seeks to facilitate a structured relationship between the (central and local) government and private investors to enable rapid feedback on the implementation of the policies and programme and to adjust them when needed. This will enhance the likelihood of the two policies attaining their intended outcomes, namely: the structural transformation of Ghana's economy, provision of sustainable jobs, and promotion of a local democratic system of governance.

Objectives

- To use research and practice evidence to inform the development and effective implementation of the two policies/programmes in the country
- To ensure that research evidence informs the design of the two policies/programmes
- To ensure that the design of 1D1F policy aligns structural changes with broader societal objectives, such as job creation and equity
- To ensure that the design of the democratic local governance and popular participation policy promotes entrepreneurial sub-national government that works with multiple state and non-state actors to proactively search out new opportunities for inclusive local economic growth

Main actors

- Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), Accra, Ghana
- Other actors: Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Decentralisation; GIZ; 1D1F Secretariat; 10 selected local governments; Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development; National Association of Local Government Authorities (NALAG); Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG); United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Office of the Head of Local Government Service; political parties; and the Dutch Embassy in Ghana

Activities and deliverables

- Functional and active DDLG platform
- Stakeholder mapping consultations and reports
- DDLG inaugural forum
- Local industrial policy study synthesis report(s)
- DDLG studies synthesis report(s)
- Empirical studies on the 1D1F and implications for the DDLG
- Three policy briefs
- Two newspaper articles
- Two national policy forums
- Three breakfast/lunch meetings
- 1D1F policy framework document designed and approved
- DDLG policy framework document designed and approved
- Meetings on the development of the two policy frameworks
- Regular social media messages
- Newsletters
- Networks with other local platforms
- Policy influencers/champions
- Relationship between central government and local governments and between local governments and private investors structured in a way that enables and encourages rapid feedback on 1D1F policies and implementation
- Local government-private sector dialogue at sub-national level organized to create jobs, promote local value chains, and ensure income growth and mutually enforceable performance standards
- DDLG provides access to research evidence on political decentralization (devolution) to key policymakers at national and sub-national levels
- Local governments involved in the implementation of the 1D1F industrial programme
- Institutionalization and effective implementation of the 1D1F industrial programme, enabling coordination of both central and sub-national government positions on the 1D1F, as well as the interest of enterprises with sufficient autonomy, budgetary control and political support