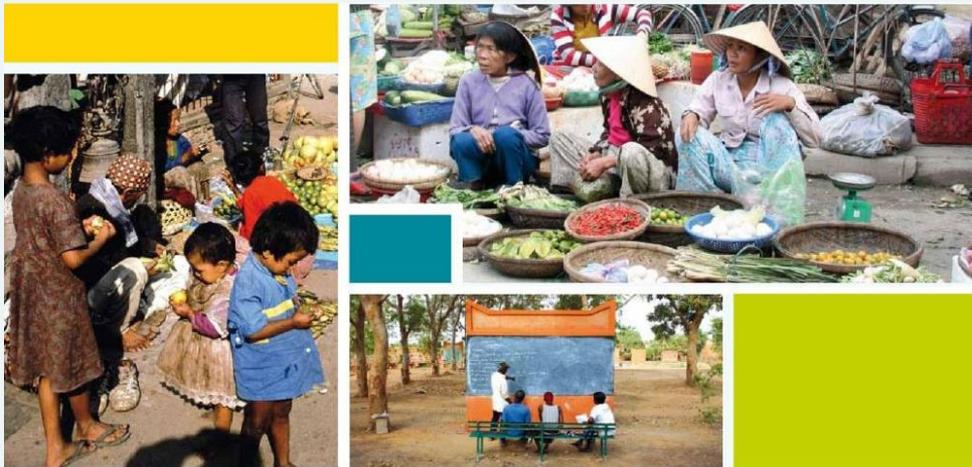


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**Title: Quality of Governance and Inclusive Development Outcomes:
The Ghanaian Experience**



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nopoor
Enhancing Knowledge for
Renewed Policies against Poverty



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Outline of Presentation

- Background/Context
- Research Question and Methodology
- Key Findings
- Policy Implication



Background/Context:

- In the 1990's a wave of democratic reforms swept across developing countries changing their politics and governance
- Underlying the democratic reforms were citizens expectation of improved governance that can reduce/eliminate poverty, secure development and social welfare
- Over the course of the last 25 years, how has the promise of democratic good governance able and capable of fostering socio-economic development? -
 - has it been positive?
 - Is it on course?
 - has it remain largely unmet?



Research Question:

- What configuration of democratic politics and bureaucratic capacity is conducive to producing pro-poor inclusive developmental outcomes?
- Does improved democratic governance foster the successful implementation of a pro-poor inclusive development agenda ?



Methodology:

Case study Approach

Data was collected using 3 key sources:

Desk Review

- review of key existing literature (quantitative and qualitative) on the connection between democratic institution and inclusive development outcomes

Focus Group Discussion

- 2 FGD were organized in Kumasi (middle belt of Ghana) and Tamale (northern Ghana where poverty is endemic)
- participants included front line bureaucrats, local elected leaders/officials, duty bearers, political party activist and ordinary citizens

Expert Interview

- national level experts involving key policy makers, academics, civil society activist



Key Findings (1): Ghana has emerged over the last two decades a relatively successful, democratic well-governed state

Since 1992:

- seven (including the latest 2016) relatively free and fair election
- peaceful transfer of power in 2001, 2009 and recent 2017
- stable, secure two party political system

Evolution and development of key institution of democratic governance

- an active legislature with strong presence of opposition parties
- independent Judiciary upholding the rule of law
- strong and vibrant civil society tracking the failings of governance
- thriving independent private media
- established constitutional watchdog bodies

Relatively successful state/bureaucratic capacity building reform

- decentralization and local government
- public sector reform



Key Findings (2): Democratic governance has fostered relatively successful inclusive growth and development outcome

Sustained economic growth

- between 1992 - 2006 growth has averaged well over 4%; averaging 9-14% between 2008-2011
- transitioned to lower middle income country in 2011

Impressive poverty reduction

- national poverty rate fell from 52.7% in 1991/92 to 21.4% in 2012
- share of extreme poor declined from 37.6% in 1991/92 to 9.6% in 2012
- rural poverty falling from 65% in 1991/92 to 39% in 2006

Progressive social protection framework

- pro-poor social interventions: health, education,
- livelihood intervention: LEAP; YEP



Key Findings (3): Emerging political and institutional challenges and rising inequality have limited the potential for broad-based inclusive development outcomes

Deteriorating quality of the democratic political space

- patron-client competitive electoral system
- “voice without accountability”
- limited policy space for citizens at the local level

Poor/low supply of political and bureaucratic governance and official accountability, which is manifested in the following:

- mismanagement of the economy: growing public corruption
- declining quality in public service delivery
- weak bureaucratic capacity to manage pro-poor programmes

Rising inequality

- poverty remains high in some place and among socioeconomic groups: northern regions; informal sector workers, youth, women, and children
- increase in non-monetary dimensions of inequality



Policy implications:

Ghana's progress and challenges point to 3 key policy implications:

- Democratic governance matters for inclusive development;
- The nature and dynamic of a country's democratic politics (political settlement/configuration) has implication (positive or negative) for successful implementation of a pro-poor inclusive development agenda;
- Improving transparency and accountability in governance as well as building an effective bureaucratic capacity for implementing/delivering pro-poor programs remain key to achieving inclusive development outcomes.

