



# FINAL REPORT

## Building Bridges Project

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition

GACC



## **Building Bridges Project**

### **Procurement Training for Partners in the Education and Health Sectors**

#### **1.0 Background**

Globally, huge sums of public funds are spent through public procurement processes for all types of goods, services and infrastructure in education and healthcare. However, in many countries public procurement processes run a high risk of corruption, resulting in limited goods and services relative to the amount paid by the tax payer for these goods and services. Corruption and inefficiency in procurement is widespread in West Africa, and it is costing citizens of the sub-region lots of money that could have been spent in delivering much needed public goods and efficient services.

The World Bank's 'A Global Procurement Partnership for Sustainable Development' publication (2022) mentions that while governments today spend an estimated \$13 trillion on public contracts for goods, services, and public works; they lose a quarter of this spending due to inefficiencies. This presents a considerable expense for most education and health budgets, especially in low and middle income countries. It also has devastating effects on the integrity and sustainability of education and healthcare systems and a country's ability to ensure universal health care and quality education to its citizens.

Corruption in healthcare procurement can result in medicine shortages, inflated drug prices and the infiltration of fake and sub-standard medicines into the health system. In education it can result in inadequate infrastructure, poor quality infrastructure, inflated cost of services and ultimately lower education standards. When procurement goes wrong, there is a palpable dip in the quality of health and education services and in many countries, and citizens end up paying for their healthcare and education out-of-pocket.

The Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) received funding from Global Integrity to undertake public procurement training, particularly electronic procurement training, for selected sub-national institutions in the health and education sector under the Building Bridges program. The Building Bridges program is funded by the Open Society Foundation as part of the Foundation's "Busting Silos" initiative intended to reduce the fragmentation in which organizations operate and support collaboration.

The GACC, has participated in this program with TI BIH, and Law Scanner. The three organizations had agreed to work on the issue of emergency procurement. The GACC's

project focused on electronic procurement since Ghana’s answer to calls for reform in emergency procurement has been electronic procurement. Electronic procurement is expected to address the challenges of emergency procurement owing to its non-human interface, and the concomitant speed of procurement.

## 2.0 Procurement Training and Post Activity Assessment

The Ghana Anti-Corruption Project partnered with PARDA, a local civil society organization, and Ghana’s Public Procurement Authority to undertake training for selected institutions in the health and education sectors in three districts in Ghana’s Upper East Region. The training sought to familiarize participants with Ghana’s nascent electronic procurement system (Ghana Electronic Procurement System [GHANEPs]), as well as the procurement laws. Specifically, the training objectives were;

1. To familiarize participants with the Ghana Electronic Procurements System (GHANEPs),
2. To train participants on Ghana’s procurement laws, and
3. To train participants on corruption risks in procurement

The training was undertaken from August 16 – 18, 2022. A post activity assessment was then undertaken from August 19 -30, 2022. The post activity assessment sought to test participants on the extent of knowledge gained. Participants were drawn from Bolgatanga, Bongo and Tongo districts. These three districts also formed the experimental group for the post activity assessment. The post activity assessment also collected data from a control group. The control group was the nearby Kassena Nankana, Kassena Nankan West and Builsa North districts.

## 3.0 Participation

A total of 37 participants were engaged for the training. The table below offers the break down regarding sex, and sectors. The list of participants is attached as appendix 1.

Table 1: Disaggregated List of Participants

Sectors		Health	Education	Totals
<b>Public Institutions</b>	Male	11	6	26
	Female	5	4	
<b>Private Sector</b>	Male	2		2

	Female			
<b>CSOs</b>	Male		8	9
	Female		1	
<b>Total</b>		18	19	<b>37</b>

From the table, the participants comprised 27 males and 10 females. There were 26 participants from Public Institutions, 2 from the Private Sector and 9 from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). There were 18 participants from the Health sector and 19 from the Education sector.

#### **4.0 Achievement of Training Objectives**

The specific objectives of the training were;

1. To familiarize participants with the Ghana Electronic Procurements System (GHANEPs),
2. To train participants on Ghana’s procurement laws, and
3. To train participants on corruption risks in procurement

The participants were taken through 7 modules of training that cover the three aforementioned objectives. The training schedule is attached as appendix 2.

The training on Ghana’s Electronic Procurement System (GHANEPs) provided an overview of the system. The participants were then taken through the features of the GHANEPs by the Head of Information Technology Support Services – Mr Thomas Bondzi. The participants practised using the system in real time. They learnt to register in the system, prepare and upload procurement plans, tender requests and contracts. Members of the private sector also learnt how to respond to tenders using the GHANEPs. At the end of the practical sessions, the officials of the Public Procurement Authority (PPA) and the participants agreed that the system needs to be revamped to allow users to complete forms offline and submit them when they have access to the internet. This became apparent with the erratic access to internet experienced by the participants. The PPA officials also agreed to work a help video that would be posted on the GHANEPs website to help new users navigate the platform. Thus, the training contributed to accepted new reforms of the GHANEPs website. The GACC will follow up with the PPA to ensure that these reforms are implemented.

The training also focused on Ghana’s procurement laws. It was very clear that the procurement officers and other officers from the health and education sectors were oblivious of the country’s procurement laws. Mr David Damoah, Head of Corporate Affairs and

Facilities Management of the PPA, took the participants through procurement laws relating to procurement thresholds, methods of procurement, tendering processes, engaging consultants, complaints and administrative review, and prosecutions. The private sector was particularly appreciative of the section on complaints and administrative review. An entire module was dedicated to emergency procurement. Participants were taken through the law on emergency procurement. This session was well received by the participants.

The third session was on Corruption in Procurement was delivered by Bright Sowu, Head of Programs at the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC). The participants were taken through corruption risks related to the stages of procurement – Planning, Sourcing, Bid Evaluation and Contract Execution. The presentation used case studies to explain the various corruption risks at each stage of procurement. The presentation also gave participants the contact of anti-corruption institutions that could receive reports on corruption in procurement.

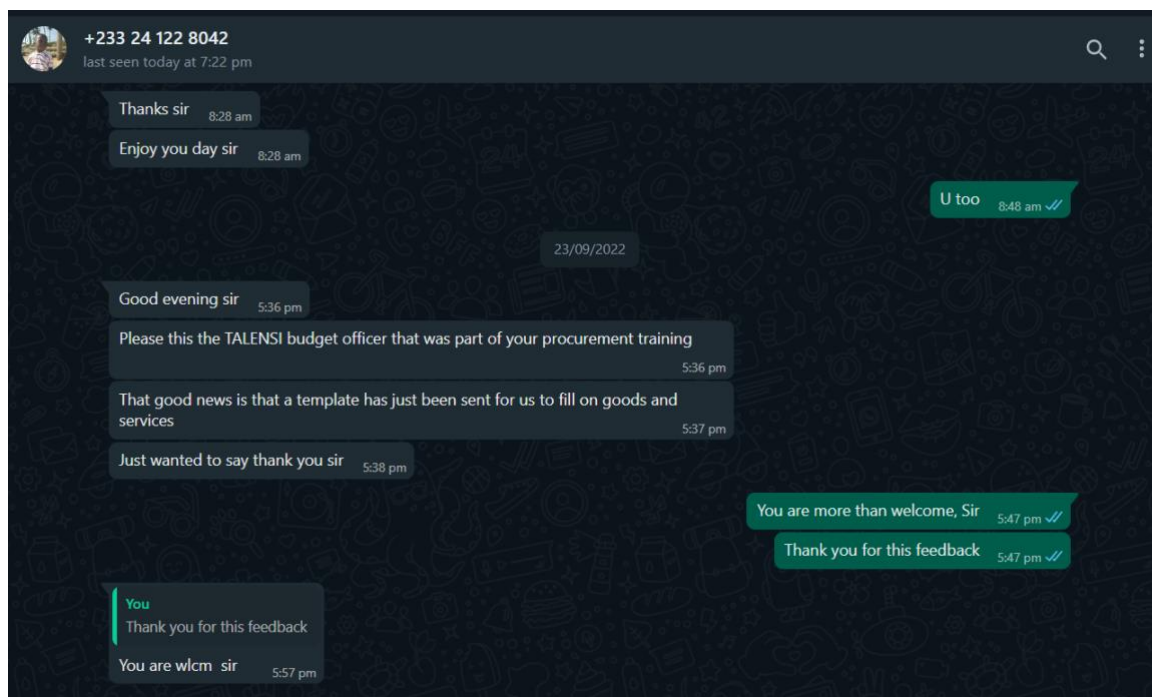
The training was well appreciated by the participants. Interviews carried out by the GACC Monitoring and Evaluation team revealed the following assessments by participants;

**"This is the first time we are learning about procurement thresholds" – Ghana Education Service, Tongo**

**"The Directorate will meet with Sub-Unit Heads to reform some practices, owing to the training" – Ghana Health Service Directorate, Bongo**

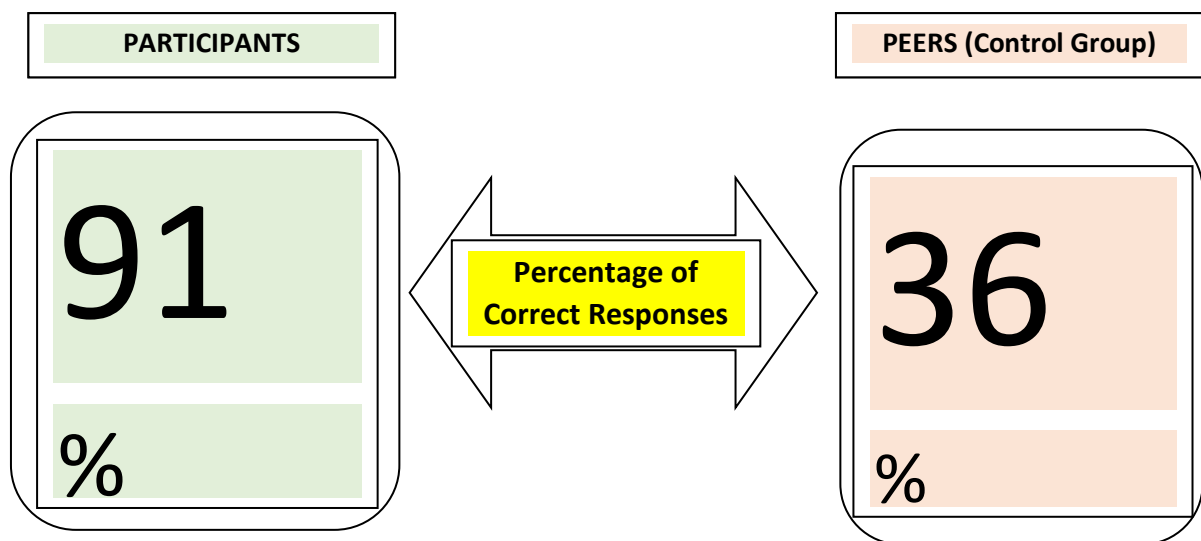
Other participants also sent WhatsApp messages later to say they are practising the knowledge, and to express their gratitude. Figure 2 below is a snippet of such messages;

Figure 1: Participant Appreciation via WhatsApp



The post activity assessment involved 16 participants from the training cohort and 9 respondents in the control group. The post activity assessment questionnaire is attached in appendix 3. The questions were mostly objective questions that tested their recall of the training content. A few items were also open ended and sought to get respondents' assessment of certain issues and competencies. The result from the assessment is embedded in this report as appendix 4. The results show quite a considerable gap between the participants in the training (experimental group) and their peers (control group), as shown in figure 2 below;

Figure 2: Results of Post Activity Assessment



From the figure above, participants in the training scored an average of 91% while those who were not scored an average of 36%.

This activity showed remarkable results, and achieved its objectives by far.

## 5.0 Picture Gallery

Some pictures from the training are posted below:









## Appendix 1: Participants Registration List

The list is embedded below:



Participants  
Registration List.pdf

## Appendix 2: Training Schedule

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
<b>Day 1: Tuesday, August 16</b>		
9:00 – 9:15	Arrival & Registration	PARDA Admin
9:15 – 9:20	Self- Introduction	All
9:20 – 9:30	Welcome Remarks  Purpose of Workshop	Dr. Micheal Wombeogo; Executive Director, PARDA  Bright Sowu; Head of Programmes, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC)
9:30 – 11:00	Ghana’s Public Procurement Laws	Mr. David Damoah, Esq.; Head – Corporate Affairs and Facilities Management, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
11:00 – 11:20	Snack and Health Break	
11:20 – 13:00	Ghana’s Public Procurement Laws	Mr. David Damoah, Esq.; Head – Corporate Affairs and Facilities Management, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 16:00	Preparing Winnable Tender/Bids – Service Providers (Suppliers, Consultants and Contractors)	Mr. David Damoah, Esq.; Head – Corporate Affairs and Facilities Management, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
<b>Day 2: Wednesday, August 17</b>		
09:00 – 11:00	Ghana’s Public Procurement Laws  <i>Special Session on Emergency Procurement</i>  Q & A	Mr. David Damoah, Esq.; Head – Corporate Affairs and Facilities Management, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
11:00 – 11:20	Snack and Health Break	

<b>11:20 – 13:00</b>	Overview of Ghana Electronic Procurement System (GHANEPs)	Thomas Bondzi, Head – I.T Support Services, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	Snack and Health Break	
<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	Overview of Ghana Electronic Procurement System (GHANEPs)	Thomas Bondzi, Head – I.T Support Services, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
<b>Day 3: Thursday, August 18</b>		
<b>9:00 – 11:00</b>	Introduction to Ghana Electronic Procurement System (GHANEPs) for Procurement Officers	Thomas Bondzi, Head – I.T Support Services, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
<b>11:00 – 11:20</b>	Snack and Health Break	
<b>11:20 – 13:00</b>	Introduction to Ghana Electronic Procurement System (GHANEPs) for Service Providers (Suppliers, Consultants and Contractors)  Q & A	Thomas Bondzi, Head – I.T Support Services, Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	Lunch	
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	Corruption Risks – Responsibility to Probe and Report	Bright Sowu; Head of Programmes, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC)
<b>15:30 -16:00</b>	Departure Protocols	PARDA Admin

### Appendix 3: Post Activity Assessment Questionnaire

Institution: ..... Date: .....

s/n	Items
1	When a procurement value is above your entity head, which structure works on it?
2	If a procurement value goes beyond the entity tender committee, which structure deals with it?
3	What is the threshold of procurement your entity head can sanction? Goods (30)? Services (30)? Works? (45)
4	What is the threshold of procurement your entity tender committee can sanction? Goods (200)? Services (200)? Works? (400)
5	Which entity approves the procurement plan?
6	How regularly are procurement plans updated?
7	What is the sole sourcing? Single sourcing?
8	What is the protocol for disposing off items?
9	When using restricted tendering, what is the minimum and maximum number of suppliers you can invite?
10	Which of the following is not a requirement for a tenderer?  I. Legally registered II. Financially sound III. Up to date on tax payments IV. Not suspended or convicted of professional misconduct V. No conflict of interest VI. Meet other criteria as procurement entity considers appropriate
11	Are you familiar with the GHANEPs?
12	Can you name any corruption risks at the planning stage of procurement?
13	Can you name any corruption risks at the sourcing stage of procurement?
14	Can you name any corruption risks at the bid evaluation stage of procurement?
15	Can you name any corruption risks at the contract execution stage of procurement?

**16** If you spot any corruption in procurement, where would you report it?

**Appendix 4: Results of Post Activity Assessment**

This is embedded below:



Post Activity  
Assessment.xlsx