

Our stories

I Am Aware – Brong Ahafo Region Scoping Highlight Story

By Mihret Getabicha

Rainy season in Ghana sometimes means long walks spent jumping over puddles and trying, but failing, to stay dry. And for some, the month of June signals the start of many cloudy days spent huddled in tro tro's with fellow commuters escaping the weather.



Schoolchildren returning from exams in Sene East District

In communities with a strong infrastructure, rain may be a minor inconvenience but it certainly would not prevent ambulances from reaching their destinations or limit transportation to schools. For certain districts in Ghana, however, the rain presents a major challenge.

I Am Aware (IAA) travelled to the Brong Ahafo Region in June 2015 to begin the expansion of its data-sharing project in challenged districts. Upon arriving in Sene East, we were greeted by a truck full of students returning home from their last day of exams. We learned that rainy season means the roads to and from school are almost impossible to navigate by car. Thus, these students relied on large trucks to transport them from school to their homes.



When districts lack the resources for maintaining their roads or removing stranded vehicles, public service delivery is severely limited. Realizing this, the scope of the IAA project expanded after its successful implementation in 2012, and one of the data collection areas added was 'roads.' The other data collection areas include: education, health, water, sanitation, security, and agriculture.

By providing citizens with user-friendly data on the state of their roads, and other public goods and services, IAA hopes to strengthen citizen advocacy and encourage duty bearer accountability. After all, access to education and essential services shouldn't depend on the weather.



Sene East District Assembly Building