

Our stories

I Am Aware – Volta Region Scoping Highlight Story

By Mihret Getabicha

After a successful pilot in 2012, the I Am Aware (IAA) project travelled to four districts located in the Volta Region during the summer of 2015 to inform citizens of an extended four-year engagement. This engagement would involve a more localized focus on providing challenged districts with improved access to data on the state of public service delivery.



Mohammad Awal (in blue shirt) Team Leader for the project responding to questions during Q & A time - Tongu District Assembly on 29 June 2015

When we arrived, we anticipated a frosty reception from some of the District Assemblies. Last year, the low scores earned by the districts in the District League Tables (DLT) caused many citizens to complain to their public officials. During presentations in one of the districts, we learned that local chiefs even went to their representatives' residences to demand answers!



Central Tongu District Assembly Q & A

with the district. Several of the duty bearers and District Assembly members began asking questions about how the IAA data could be used to make better policies. And some DCEs were happy to see IAA's physical presence in the district so that there could be a better, more localized, understanding of the data gathered on public service delivery.

This was great news for the effectiveness of the DLT in prompting citizen advocacy.

Luckily, we were thrilled to receive a warm welcome after explaining the reasons behind our visit and the nature of the extended engagement



IAA presentation to the Kadjebi District Assembly on 25 June 2015

Without accurate and timely data-gathering, it's impossible to legitimately demand accountability and transparency from duty bearers. As the popular saying goes, "In God we trust. For everybody else, bring data!"