

Date: 03/18/2021

To: Berta Heybey, Managing Director Monitoring and Evaluation

From: Shreena Patel, Evaluation Lead [Energy] and Ishani Desai, Program Monitor

CC: Shreena Patel, Senior Director Evaluation

RE: Cancellation of Mathematica's Ghana II Access Project Evaluation

This memo describes the decision to cancel Mathematica's independent evaluation of the Ghana II Access Project, which is a component of the larger Ghana II Power Compact evaluation, in response to the project de-funding. After de-funding, MCC would no longer be directly responsible for the Project achievements and therefore the EMC determined an evaluation was not warranted.

Evaluation Management Committee Decision to Cancel Evaluation

In December 2019, MCC terminated \$190,000,000 of the Ghana II Power Compact funding, due to the Government of Ghana's (GoG) failure to adhere to its responsibilities under the Compact. As a result of this termination, in March 2020, the Access Project was largely defunded, with 91% (\$9.1M) of the Access Project funds being officially reallocated to the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) Financial and Operational Turnaround (EFOT) Project. The plan was to either: 1) refund the Access Project if/when contingencies are released and available at a later date or 2) secure funds from the GoG to fund the Access Project. While the Access Project was not formally de-scoped, it was de-funded and \$900,000 remained as the Project line budget due to a signed customer outreach contract.

In early 2020, there was uncertainty if the Access Project would be implemented; however, in May 2020, the GoG re-funded the Project, funding all of the construction contracts. MCC agreed to continue providing engineering oversight for the Project until the Compact End Date (CED). By early 2021, it was apparent that some of the initial aspects of the Project were not going forward (such as the security light sustainability work).

Due to the rapid changes and uncertainties around the Project, a series of MCC Evaluation Management Committee (EMC) decisions were taken over the past year:

- **April 2020:** Given the uncertainty and lack of project funding, the EMC agreed to cancel baseline data collection. This decision implied that the Access Project would be evaluated using an ex-post evaluation, if any.
- **June 2020:** Due to the coronavirus and lack of a clear implementation timeline with GoG funds, the EMC postponed designing the Access Project evaluation until a later date when more information would be available.
- **February 2021:** The EMC determined the way forward on the evaluation and made the decision to cancel it for the following reasons:
 - The Project scope had changed and it was no longer clear whether the original program logic and results framework of the project still held. This posed a challenge for conceptualizing evaluation questions.

- MCC no longer had control over key aspects of the original program logic.
- Given that MCC was only overseeing the Project and not funding the infrastructure, MCC's role in accountability became less clear and MCC would no longer be directly responsible for the Project achievements. It was ultimately decided that MCC is not accountable for the results of a Project it de-funded.
- The EMC decided it was important to continue monitoring the Project, particularly the aspects that MCC is directly responsible for, which is the customer outreach work, through other mechanisms.

Based on the assessment described above, MCC canceled Mathematica's Ghana II Access Project evaluation.

Overview of Evaluation

MCC contracted Mathematica in September 2017 to lead the independent evaluation of the Ghana II Power Compact, which includes the Access Project evaluation. The original intent of the Access Project evaluation was to understand the effect of improved infrastructure (high voltage distribution system (HVDS) and security lighting) on business outcomes in markets and economic enclaves. MCC committed a total of \$4,291,076.26 to the Ghana II Power Compact evaluation from FY2018 – FY2027. As of January 2021, MCC has spent approximately \$1,126,181 on Mathematica's services for the Ghana II Power Compact evaluation, of which approximately \$83,237.90 was allocated to the Access Project prior to canceling it. No funds have been spent on data collection for the Access Project.

Description of the Risk(s)/Risk(s) Mitigation

The main risk to the Access Project evaluation was the constant changes to the scope and timeline and ultimate de-funding of MCC Compact Project funds, which called into question the accountability goal of the evaluation since it was no longer clear that MCC was responsible for the results of the project.

Relevant Evaluation Materials

The design for the Access Project was included in the original Evaluation Design Report (EDR) for the Ghana II Power Compact, which was published in 2019.

The original EDR is available online [here](https://data.mcc.gov/evaluations/index.php/catalog/249) [https://data.mcc.gov/evaluations/index.php/catalog/249].



Approved M&E MD

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