\*\*\*\*\*\*, the Municipal Director of the National Commission for Civic Education,

In the first place, when it comes to assembling members of the community for development, at the NCCE we use something we call social auditing. Through social auditing, we can gather as a community in a meeting to identify our top priorities.

Let’s say, for example, that our priority is to build a market, but we have limited resources. So, we all come together to develop a community action plan. You consult the chief for land, and then involve all stakeholders, imams, pastors, and other contributors, to ensure that we’re building the market properly and responsibly, without waiting for the assembly to step in first.

When you reach a point in the project where funding becomes a challenge, that’s when you can invite the assembly stakeholders. You show them the progress you’ve made so far and say, ‘This is where we’ve reached; now we need your support to move forward.’

Rather than folding your arms and waiting for the assembly, which, most of the time, is also dealing with limited resources, the community should take the initiative. Yes, through social auditing, we can take ownership of development and provide many social amenities ourselves without waiting endlessly for the assembly.

This is how assembly members and communities alike can contribute to development, even without direct support from the assembly

Next is that Sensitization is key. Sometimes, we may need something as basic as a toilet, but we don’t have the money. In such cases, all we need to do is organise the stakeholders, all the people in the community, and come together to act.

I’ve been to the assembly, and currently, there are no funds. But this is exactly the purpose of a community assembly: to mobilize ourselves to solve our problems. For instance, if we want to build a toilet, we can all agree to contribute, say, 50 cedis per household every month.

We can plan to start the project a year from now. That way, we have enough time to raise funds and also ensure that the resources are not mismanaged. In this case, we’re talking about an aquatic toilet.

At some point, after we’ve made significant progress, we can return to the assembly and say, ‘We asked for help to build a toilet. You couldn’t support us then, but this is what we’ve managed to do on our own. Now, we’re stuck, we’ve reached our limit, and we need your help to finish.’

By doing this, we’re showing that we’re committed to the development of our community. We’re contributing our quota without waiting for the assembly to take the first step.

In doing this, you are contributing your quota towards developing your community without inviting the assembly.