





This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of World Vision Ghana, from October 2019 to September 2020.

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List of Acronyms

AP	Area Programme
CBO	Community Based Organization
CHAT	Congregational Hope for Action Teams
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
CHC	Community Health Committee
CONIWAS	Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations in Water and Sanitation
COVACA	Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease – 2019
CP	Child Protection
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DTST	District Teacher Support Teams
ECD	Early Child Development
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
FY	Fiscal Year
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GIWASH	Ghana Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
HFSR	Household Food Security & Resilience
HIV	Human Immune Virus
LCC	Local Council of Churches
LMS	Limited Mechanised System

MTMSG	Mother-To-Mother-Support-Groups
NaCCA	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organization
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODF	Open Defecation Free
RC	Registered Children
RIPE	Reading Improvement in Primary Education
S4T	Savings for Transformation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHEP	School Health Educational Programme
TP	Technical Programme
VFG	VisionFund Ghana
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WSMTs	Water and Sanitation Management Teams
WVG	World Vision Ghana

Profile

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. Our integrated focus is that We are Christian, Child-Focused and Community Empowering.

Vision

Our Vision for every child, life in all its fullness: Our Prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

Mission

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

Core Values

WE ARE CHRISTIAN
WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE POOR
WE VALUE PEOPLE
WE ARE STEWARDS
WE ARE PARTNERS
WE ARE RESPONSIVE

BOARD MEMBERS



Efua Ghartey
Chair



Baafour Otu-Boateng
Vice Chair



Dickens Thunde
Secretary / National Director



Joseph Mbrokoh-Ewoal
Member



Eva Okyere
Member



Dr. Dasmon Alex Akpabli
Member



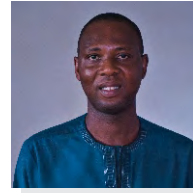
Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor
Member



Dr. Rita Larsen-Reindorf
Member



Dr. Nana Kofi Annan
Member



Dr. Ernest Ofori Asamoah
Member



Carla Denizard
Member / Regional Leader



Dr. Mary Amoako-Coleman
Member



Ms. Nana Afua Okoh
Member

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dickens Thunde
National Director



Richard Nii Okai Okai
Integrated Programmes Director



Frank Kesse
Interim People & Culture Director



Mercy Nuleyan
Finance & Support Services Director



Rev. Daniel Salifu
*Governance & Landed
Properties Associate Director*



MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dickens Thunde

I am full of praise and gratitude to God and to all donors, partners, stakeholders, Board and staff as I share this report.

The Financial Year 2020 started on a very good note and we were poised as usual, to work with the children, their families and communities to improve their well-being. However, the COVID-19 pandemic struck; and being an agile and responsive child-based organisation, World Vision Ghana quickly reorganised and joined the frontliners in the fight against the pandemic.

Right from the onset of the pandemic, World Vision Ghana resolved as always, to support the Government of Ghana to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. This resolve was not in isolation. It was and is in line with the World Vision International (WVI) Partnership's declaration of COVID-19 as a Global Health Emergency Response.

Here in Ghana, World Vision developed an over 10 Million Ghana Cedis (\$2,000,000) response plan to contribute to the eradication of the COVID-19 pandemic

and its impact on health systems, child protection, food security and education in Ghana. The response plan was meant to support Government's efforts to limit the risk of further transmission and contain the outbreak. Furthermore, we adjusted our Field Programmes for the year to accommodate the demands imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on all planned activities and enabled them to respond to the pandemic.

The Ghana Office took several measures to protect staff and their families during the pandemic. These included the provision of periodic COVID-19 updates, mass testing of staff, provision of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, nose masks and hand gloves, where necessary.

Additionally, the roster system was introduced to avoid congestion in the office and staff were provided with the necessary tools to work effectively from home. All official vehicles have been equipped with appropriate quantities of PPE to ensure staff safety during travels.

To the praise of God, I am glad to report

that remarkable successes were chalked in the year under review as documented in this report. Our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions in the country provided a solid advantage for containing the spread of the pandemic. We drilled 120 additional boreholes, provided 209 taps from limited mechanized systems and supported 381 schools and 344 health facilities with handwashing facilities within the year. Additionally, 79 communities have been certified Open Defecation Free and 89 Citizen and Voice Action groups were supported to advocate for improved WASH services delivery, among others.

In the area of Household Food Security and Resilience, 189 Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups were formed. 5,032 savers from 229 groups were linked to the VisionFund Ghana, received loans totaling GH¢1,590,121 to promote their business. 2,880 individuals in 144 communities were provided with 19,613 seedlings such as mahogany, cassia, acacia, baobab among others to transplant on homesteads, farm borders and degraded lands.

World Vision in concert with stakeholders facilitated the use of Community Radio Centres and Community Information Centres (CICs) as learning channels where lessons were broadcast to children in the wake of COVID-19. Close to 57,000 copies of storybooks, in local languages, were printed and distributed to 266 book banks where children borrow books to read.

In the area of Health and Nutrition, thousands of community members are currently able to demonstrate knowledge on preventable diseases and management of malaria and diarrhoea. We have constructed the KIA Green Light Health Centre and provided a Mobile Clinic Van to provide community-to-community primary health care in the Osino Sub-district of Fanteakwa South District. Again, thousands of children benefitted from vitamin A supplementation, deworming and age appropriate immunization through health facility outreach programmes facilitated by World Vision.

World Vision worked with faith leaders from the Local Council of Churches to sensitise their congregants on COVID-19 prevention. We engaged key church partners to develop appropriate messages on the spiritual nurture of children during COVID-19 pandemic. The church partners include, the Ghana Christian Council, the Christian Broadcasting Network, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Theovision International, and Challenge Enterprise.

In the area of child protection, World Vision intensified its collaboration with stakeholders at the local and national levels to protect children against violence and child marriage in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Children played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the need to protect them and their families from the spread of the virus and abuse as schools were closed. World Vision celebrated these children as “hidden heroes” and their stories shared across the Partnership.

I urge you all to read the full account of the summary of World Vision's success during 2020.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all our local and international donors, Support Offices, the Government of Ghana, partner institutions and peer agencies, the Board of World Vision Ghana, the West Africa Regional Leader and staff for their unwavering support and cooperation. Once again, I salute the staff of World Vision Ghana for their excellent performance even in the face of challenges.

Blessings.



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Efua Ghartey

The Financial Year 2020 was the first time the Board went through a Peer Review after transitioning to an Intermediate status. Consequently, a significant portion of the Board's annual programme was aimed at preparing the Board for the Peer Review.

In furtherance of this major objective, the Board had a number of development sessions to review its strategic governance oversight and governance processes, ensuring all Board Directors were well prepared for the Peer Review.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ghana Peer Review was carried out virtually within the month of September. The Board held several meetings to review the responses to the worksheets and the self-review report. External and internal partner surveys were also carried out and reports provided as part of the Peer review process.

During the virtual Peer Review period, that is, from 22nd – 29th September, the entire Board agreed to be together to have the virtual engagement with the

Peers, hence with support from some of the Board members, video conferencing equipment were deployed for the full Board engagements on September 22nd and September 29th. On September 29th, the Peers presented the final report to the Board and declared Ghana as meeting all green in both strategic governance oversight and governance processes, amidst high commendation for going from strength to strength.

WVG's Board held its first Annual General Meeting in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992). Major Board decisions and outcomes included: Approval of the FY18 Audited Accounts/Financial Statement; Approval of categories of members of the company; Approval of Pricewaterhouse Coopers to audit the FY19 audited accounts; and Approval of Auditors' fees.

Three persons (2 females, 1 male) were recommended to the Board for approval as new Board members following transition of three (3) Board members. Three more individuals (2 males, 1 female) were proposed for approval as Friends of

WVG.

The selection process was facilitated by the Board Committee Chairs and the Governance, Nominating and People and Culture (GNPC) Committee members in line with the recruitment procedure of the Board.

A joint WVG and VisionFund Ghana (VFG) Board meeting was held on October 24, 2019, during which the improved integration between the two entities was discussed. The Terms of Reference for the joint Board was also reviewed while Nkwanta Cluster was recommended for the next field visit.

Following the change of name from “World Vision International in Ghana” to “World Vision Ghana” the Board took the steps to publicize the change of name from World Vision International in Ghana, to World Vision Ghana and this was done accordingly.

A Board development session was held in January 2020 to provide Board members with a better perspective of Governance

principles, Board value additions, Peer Review and Board effectiveness.

A farewell ceremony was held on 14th February, 2020 in honour of Mr. Emmanuel Baba Mahama (the former Board Chair) and Mr. James Otioku (former Chair, Board Risk and Audit Committee) whose full term (of nine years) ended in December, 2019. Citations were presented to express appreciation for their service to the most vulnerable children during their tenure of office.

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board held a number of extraordinary virtual Board sessions to: (i) receive management update on COVID-19 interventions and also approve six (6) key recommendations outlined by management, (ii) to review the calendar of events for the rest of the FY due to COVID-19 pandemic, and (iii) discuss the best way of utilizing funds mobilized from Board members towards COVID-19.

The World Vision Ghana Board members made personal financial donations in support of the COVID-19 response agenda. Total funds received from Board members totalled GHS34, 690. This was followed by further engagement with management to ensure judicious use of funds to promote maximum response to the pandemic.

The lease for the National Office property was reviewed and signed off by the National Director and the Board Chair and submitted to the Lands Commission to produce the final lease document. The lease spans from 2018 to 2068 and would be submitted for final signing when the Lands Commission completes its final processes. The transfer of the Amasaman property to VisionFund was also fully executed.

All said, the year saw the Board honing its governance skills and moving closer to its objective of positioning itself, in the ultimate interest of the vulnerable Ghanaian child, as one of the best Intermediate Boards within the Partnership. We have goodness, kindness and unfailing love of the Lord to thank for this progress. We recognize that “the horse is made ready for the day of battle but victory rests with the Lord”.

We will continue to pray and trust that this same bounty of God's grace would be extended so that WV Ghana would continue to relentlessly pursue our vision, for every child, life in all its fullness; our prayer for every hear, the will to make it so.



Photo Credit: World Vision / Aaron Acrommond



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Summary of WASH Achievements

The Quick Read



120

boreholes drilled within the year

+

209

taps from 21 Limited Mechanised Systems provided



13 schools and **9** health care facilities were provided with institutional latrines

381 schools and **344** health facilities were supported with handwashing facilities



communities certified Open Defecation Free

171,356

people reached through hygiene behaviour change programmes



87

CVA groups established with its resultant benefits to communities

243

Water and Sanitation Management Teams formed/reactivated

89

Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) groups supported to advocate for improved WASH services delivery

505

Faith leaders trained in WASH Sermon Guide

Improved access to safe water for multiple uses

The Ghana Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (GIWASH) programme worked closely with partners such as District Assemblies, Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) and communities to ensure that children and their families in programme communities have access to improved water sources for household and other uses. During the year, a total of 90 boreholes were constructed and fitted with handpumps for use in communities, while 19 and 13 more boreholes were drilled and equipped with handpumps in schools and healthcare facilities respectively. In addition, 21 Limited Mechanized Systems (LMS) were constructed in areas with high-yielding boreholes in order to serve more people with safe drinking water. Overall, 209 taps were installed from water supply systems completed in communities, schools and healthcare facilities. Apart from new water facilities, 50 non-functional water points were also rehabilitated during the year.

From the water intervention in the year 2020, a total of 82,800 people (20,700 men, 23,432 women, 19,210 boys and 19,458 girls) in communities have gained access to safe drinking water. Furthermore, 7,425 school children (3,579 boys and 3,846 girls) and 9,916 patients, staff and visitors to healthcare facilities (2,479 men, 2,806 women, 2,301 boys and 2,330 girls) have been provided with basic drinking water on the premises of these institutions.



Improved sanitation at household, community and institutional level

Efforts were made to ensure that children have access to improved sanitation facilities at home, in schools and healthcare facilities. World Vision Ghana therefore teamed up with key stakeholders such as communities, District Assemblies and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide improved sanitation facilities, using the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. During the year 2020, a total of 5,378 household latrines were completed and are serving 28,432 people (7,108 men, 8,046 women, 6,596 boys and 6,682 girls). Furthermore, 3,428 pupils (1,652 boys and 1,776 girls) in 13 schools have been provided with improved sanitation facilities in their school premises.

World Vision provided nine (9) improved latrines in healthcare facilities serving 18,463 patients and health staff (4,616 men, 5,225 women, 4,283 boys and 4,339 girls). All sanitation facilities provided in schools and healthcare facilities have gender and disability considerations incorporated in their designs. As a result, the sanitation facilities have sex-separated blocks and easily accessible by people with limited mobility or other forms of disability. The female blocks also have menstrual hygiene management facilities attached including changing rooms.

Within the year, 79 communities have been certified as Open Defecation Free (ODF), making them safe for children and their families to live in without serious risks of diarrhoea outbreak resulting from limited access to and utilization of improved sanitation facilities.

Improved hygiene practices in households, communities and institutions

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the reinforcement of hygiene interventions in communities to encourage households to acquire and use handwashing facilities. The WASH programme also intensified hygiene behaviour change education largely through the media (such as radio and information centres) as part of the COVID-19 response initiatives. In addition, hygiene behaviour change messages were shared through community level sensitisations, commemorative days, games for development and other initiatives instituted to enhance community participation. Throughout the period, 171,356 people (42,838 men, 48,494 women, 39,755 boys and 40,269 girls) participated in hygiene behaviour change programmes. Furthermore, 16,100 households were supported to construct simple and low-cost handwashing facilities to enhance proper handwashing with soap under running water. Through the provision of handwashing facilities for 381 schools, 40,075 school children (19,316 boys and 20,759 girls) have access to handwashing facilities with soap and running water while in school.

To ensure regular handwashing in Health Care Facilities to reduce the spread of hospital acquired infections, 344 healthcare facilities benefited from the provision of an average of 3 handwashing facilities each within the year. As a result, 172,407 patients and visitors (43,102 men, 48,791 women, 39,998 boys and 40,516 girls) gained access to appropriate hand washing facilities in healthcare institutions.



POTABLE WATER AND SANITATION TRANSFORMS LIVES AT AKORADARKO D/A SCHOOL



The Akoradarko D/A school is located in the Fanteakwa North District and till date is the only school available to the Akoradarko community. The school which has a population of 500 students has been neglected for many years due to the lack of safe water, hygiene and sanitation facilities. 33-year old teacher Theresa explained the challenges the school confronted before World Vision intervened to provide these services. Theresa says “The school lacked a toilet facility and this made open defecation a common practice on school property. As a result, diarrhoeal diseases and other related fecal-oral diseases were very predominant among the students.”

Another challenge the school faced was a lack of access to potable water and handwashing facilities.

The scarcity of water not only affected the school, but the community at large; and as a result, students were often late to class in their quest to access water sources. When asked by the teachers why they were late, they would say “that there was a long queue at the borehole”. Only one borehole served the entire community of a population of 754. Water was in such great demand that school officials did not encourage students to practice handwashing habits during the course of their day at school. Teacher Theresa exclaimed humorously “You dare not misuse the little available water which could be used for drinking for handwashing in the name of personal hygiene”. As a result, the community suffered from many of the skin diseases associated with poor sanitation and hygiene.

The situation improved when World Vision intervened in the school and tackled open defecation by providing toilet facilities. The Akoradarko D/A school was granted a six-seater KVIP toilet service with a menstrual hygiene management facility. The permanent handwashing station attached to the toilet enabled pupils to practice safe handwashing. Mr. Nomo Douglas, Assistant Headmaster commented on the improvements to personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation in the school “World Vision put a stop to water scarcity in this school by providing us with a borehole. We were also supplied with veronica buckets to aid students and teachers in handwashing.

I can now boast that handwashing among students and teachers is common practice.”

Kate, a primary school student at Akoradarko D/A school shared how she has benefitted from the World Vision project. She said, “I didn't know the importance of handwashing, neither did I know the appropriate protocol in handwashing. I was introduced to Kids club at school and became a leader of the club. The club enlightened me on handwashing and other health related issues. I am convinced my colleagues have also benefitted from this knowledge.”

World Vision also implemented the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in the Akoradarko community to eradicate Open Defecation. Many households have benefitted from this initiative and are now constructing their own latrines. Teacher Theresa commented on the positive effect this has had at the school and in the community. “I can boldly say that open defecation in this school is now a thing of the past. I can also say that this intervention is responsible for the drastic reduction in the incidence of diarrheal related cases in this school.”

World Vision's intervention in Akoradarko demonstrates the effectiveness of WASH programmes in improving health and hygiene within schools and communities by providing sanitary environments and raising the knowledge-base of communities on sanitation and health.

FOOD SECURITY



2 ZERO HUNGER



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

Summary of Food Security Achievements

189 S4T formed in 2020, made of 4,648 members (3,340 females, 1,308 males)



5,032 savers from 229 S4T groups successfully linked to VisionFund Ghana to receive loans totalling

GHS1,590,120.19

(USD318,024) for various businesses

2,880 individuals in 144 communities provided with

19,613 seedlings

(Mahogany, Cassia, Acacia, Baobab, Kapok, Teak, Cashew) to transplant on homesteads, farm borders and degraded lands

22,505

acres of land under protection with 4,110 farmers practicing FMNR / Evergreen Agriculture on their farm and community lands



5,626

farmers from 82 communities trained in FMNR / Evergreen Agriculture project model



4,250

farmers received agricultural inputs, assets and starter packs (seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, etc)

The Household Food Security and Resilience (HFSR) Technical Programme (TP) worked with VisionFund Ghana, Districts and Municipal Department of Agriculture, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), Business Advisory Centers (BAC), local NGOs, Community Based Organisations and communities to implement interventions aimed at ensuring improved household food security and resilience in six (6) districts. These interventions ensured that vulnerable households within Bawku West, Garu, Gushegu, Jirapa, Karaga, and Saboba Area Programmes (APs) continue to have increased access to credit, empowered to reduce the effects of climate change and disaster on their lives, manage their natural resources effectively, and diversify their livelihoods options.

Improved timely access to appropriate agricultural inputs

Poor households within World Vision Ghana's operational areas continue to gain access to affordable credit facilities through the formation of 189 Savings for Transformation (S4T) Groups in 2020. These groups made up of 4,648 members (3,340 females, 1,308 males) have been trained and supported with toolkits to ensure that they have a safe and convenient place for savings. According to the September MIS, 2020 report, a total of 7,303 children, comprising 2,231 girls and 2,823 boys are being cared for by members of these new S4T groups formed.

Likewise, a total of 5,032 savers from 229 S4T groups were successfully linked to VisionFund Ghana to receive loans to the tune of GHS 1,590,120.19 (USD 318,024) for various businesses. By providing small loans to the economically active poor in programme areas, they are able to build their livelihoods to sustainably improve their families' economic well-being. VisionFund Ghana, 2020 report indicates that a total of 18,201 children are being impacted through this intervention. Not only are poor families gradually becoming resilient to shocks but have hope of providing meaningfully for their children to thrive.

Besides, a total of 4,250 farmers received agricultural inputs, assets, and starter packs (seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals) to support farming activities; and have been trained to adopt improved farming techniques.

Reduced effects of climate change, disasters and economic shocks

Communities in the Household Food Security and Resilience Technical Programme areas continue to adopt strategies aimed at reducing the effect of climate change, disaster, and economic shock on their livelihood. The programme worked with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and the Forestry Service Commission to distribute a total of 19,613 seedlings (including Mahogany, cassia, Acacia, Baobab, Kapok, Teak, cashew) to 2,880 individuals in 144 communities to transplant to homesteads, farm borders, and degraded lands.

Additionally, the programme collaborated with DoA and Forestry Service Commission to train 5,626 farmers from 82 communities in FMNR / Evergreen Agriculture project model. Currently, a total of 22,505 acreages of land is under protection with 4,110 farmers practicing FMNR / Evergreen Agriculture on their farm and community lands. These farmers are involved in regenerating trees to help restore their land and make agricultural activities more productive.

Besides, the Project trained staff of the DoA, Environmental Health, and Sanitation, Forestry, NADMO from Bawku West, Garu, Tempane, Binduri, Pusiga districts on FMNR practices and the use of Regreening Africa App (a mobile-based android application that helps users to collect information on how farmers are managing and protecting trees on their farms). These partners are using the Regreening Africa App to collect data on tree planting, natural resource management, nurseries, and FMNR related project activities.

Furthermore, World Vision Ghana has partnered with the DoA, NADMO, Ghana National Fire Service, and Local Council of Churches (LCC) to train 393 (176 men and 217 women) community members from 43 communities on early warning signs and Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment. Through this intervention, the community members are empowered to identify hazards and vulnerabilities in their communities and determine what to do to both prepare for

and mitigate the impact of shocks and stresses. As a result, these communities have been updating their Community Disaster Plans (CDPP) with functional CDPP Committees in place to oversee the implementation of key coping strategies, and risk management measures contained in their plans.

Sustainable natural resources management and production

World Vision worked with stakeholders to reduce vulnerability of poor households by building the capacity of smallholder farmers to manage their resources sustainably. The objective was to help improve soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and other forms of soil degradation with a view to improving crop yields and livestock production. To this end, WVG partnered with DoA to train a total of 6,939 farmers (men 4,285, women 2,654) from 115 communities on conservation agriculture practices. These farmers are empowered to undertake appropriate soil and water management practices, crop residue management, and other soil conserving agricultural methods to increase crop and livestock productivity.

Life skills and resilience of children and youth improved

To ensure improved life skills and resilience for children and youth, the Household Food Security Resilience Technical Programme

trained 372 youth (201 males and 171 females) from 10 communities to see Agriculture as a business. The youth have formed interest groups in agriculture to seek relevant support from various institutions. Similarly, a total of 25 young girls were trained in the formulation and production of shea butter, hair cream, and shower gel. The youth were linked with hairdressers and beauticians to serve as role models and mentors for the young girls (AP Monthly Reports, 2020). These interventions are expected to contribute to increased diverse income, reduced poverty, and create job opportunities for the youth.

Livelihood options for women and youth diversified

In 2020, the Food Security Programme implemented interventions that ensured that poor households and smallholder farmers, including women and youth in particular, were exposed to a diverse set of activities that produced food or generate income for their households. For instance, the programme collaborated with the DoA to build the capacity of 250 beneficiaries (168 Men, 82 women) farmers to maximize the use of homestead gardens and in entrepreneurship and financial management. Similarly, the programme collaborated with the DoA to train a total of 500 farmers on all year-round cultivation of crops and vegetables in Bawku West, Garu, Saboba, and Gushegu APs. These farmers were supported to fence 90 acres of irrigable land area for all-year-round cultivation of vegetables.

Furthermore, World Vision in partnership with UNDP Adaptation Fund Project trained a total of 72 women in shea butter processing, shea value addition, branding, marketing skills, group dynamics/management, and record-keeping. Similarly, the Project worked with 17 SAT groups in Jirapa AP to establish a Groundnut Processing Centre. This facility is expected to support the people around Sigr community to explore the opportunities available for the groundnut value chain and to derive the benefits to improve their welfare.

To further ensure increased access to credit, technology, and market information for women and youth, the programme worked with VisionFund Ghana to lend monies to project beneficiaries to enhance their businesses. During the year, a total of 6,316 community members accessed an amount of GHS 3,452,209.57 (USD 690,442) as loans for various ventures which is benefiting 20,860 children (VFG, 2020).

COVID-19 CHALLENGES A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER OF VISIONFUND GHANA TO DIVERSIFY AND REINVEST

Paulina has a heavy load, at 57 years old this widow is responsible for five dependents. However, in 2018 Paulina joined the VisionFund Ghana loan programme as a member of Asenemaso Abotre group at the Atwima Nwabiagya district in the Ashanti region. For several years Paulina has been running a school feeding business. Paulina explains that “parents pay a feeding fee on a daily or weekly basis in return for feeding their wards. In addition to supplying food, I also run another business selling stationery in an early childhood school located at Abuakwa-Manhyia”.

Just before the lockdown was announced, Paulina was disbursed with her 3rd cycle loan and she immediately took the funds to restock her canteen with food items. By the 9th of March, 2020, President Akufo-Addo announced that all schools, both the Public and Private, would be closed down in an attempt to contain the spread of Covid-19 across the country.

This left Paulina with a dilemma, because it meant that her capital was locked up. She immediately contacted VisionFund Ghana office to inform the staff of the situation and to appeal for a new agreement on her loan terms and instalment payments.

Unfortunately, VisionFund was unable to reschedule Paulina's loan to fit her future income, but luckily she was able to source a new business. A scout in the business community, identified the production of khebab sticks as an immediate business to sustain her family whilst the schools were on lockdown.



Income from the production of kebab sticks helped Paulina and her family and she was able to meet her loan agreement. However, although business was good for a while, the partial lockdown affected trade and she was forced to bring her kebab business to a halt.

Again, Paulina approached the VisionFund Ghana team to see how she could continue repayment of her loan in a more convenient way. VisionFund suggested that chest freezers – selling cold drinks and drinking water would be a viable option. The initiative was successful and Paulina was able to make her loan payments and to provide for her family as well. By November, 2020, Paulina had another business selling frozen meat and fish from her second chest freezer.

Paulina is grateful to VisionFund Ghana for the patience and guidance they gave her throughout this difficult period. “It has been a challenging year by all standards but in the midst of it all, I have been so blessed to have been able to overcome these challenges and have also given birth to new businesses.”

An announcement has already been made that Ghana Public schools will reopen in the new year. Paulina plans to return to her canteen and stationery shop once schools are opened.



HEALTH

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Summary of Health Achievements



32,234

community members currently able to demonstrate knowledge on preventable diseases of malaria and diarrhoea

58

Community Health Committee (COMM) groups' capacities enhanced to support and encourage community members and caregivers to access health services



6,247 (4,055 boys & 2,192 girls)

children receive age-appropriate immunization through health facility outreach programmes

7,588 & 11,000

(3,495 boys & 3,443 girls) (5,148 boys & 5,852 girls)

children benefitted from Vitamin A supplementation and Deworming respectively



147

Mother-to-Mother Support Groups (MtMSGs) and

30

Daddy's Club facilitators in 50 communities trained on appropriate feeding practices

42

MtMSGs integrated into S4T, and 752 caregivers were given livelihood trainings



KIA Green Light Health Center constructed at Saaman community; and Mobile Clinic Van procured to provide community-to-community primary health care in the Osino Sub-district of Fanteakwa South District.

World Vision Ghana's (WVG) Primary Health programme in 2020 brought together critical services and interventions to create healthy environments, promote practices known to protect children from disease and ensure that every child has access to appropriate preventive and treatment health services. WVG continues to play an active role in existing partnerships and coordination mechanisms with World Vision US, KIA Motors, USAID, FHi-360, Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service (GHS) among many others, for greater impacts.

Increase in children protected from infection and disease

Stopping the loss of millions of young lives due to malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea is a goal within grasp. World Vision Ghana's health programme trained 45 faith leaders in 15 communities to embark on maternal and child health promotion practices. Support was provided to Ghana Health Service (GHS) to intensify community and health facility level sensitization. Approximately, 34,234 community members are currently able to demonstrate knowledge on preventable diseases and management of malaria and diarrhoea. Furthermore, WVG improved 58 Community Health Committee (COMM) groups' capacities to support and encourage community members and caregivers to access health services. The programme supported health facility outreach programmes through which 6,247 (4,055 boys and 2,192 girls) children received age-appropriate immunization.

WVG through its Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) |West Programme has revamped and revitalized Ghana's Intra-Country Coordinating Committee (ICCC) for NTDs. The ICCC consists of experts drawn from different Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the areas of WASH, Health Promotion, Agriculture, Nutrition, Education and Finance, including the private sector.

The ICCC is mandated to advise the programme on all technical issues pertaining to the elimination of NTDs, provide overall oversight to ensure cross sectorial coordination and collaboration for NTD Programmes in Ghana. The ICCC is also providing an advisory role on integrating the NTD programming, resource mobilization and advocacy into the national health system for sustainability. Additionally, the ICCC serves as a pivotal mechanism to strengthen advocacy, communication, and local resource mobilization efforts towards attaining targets in the WHO 2030 NTD Roadmap.

Improving Malnutrition among Children Under 5

The greatest burden of all forms of malnutrition is shouldered by children and young people from the poorest and most marginalized communities, perpetuating poverty across generations. To this end, WVG's Health programme focused on increasing the capacity of local health stakeholders to support appropriate feeding practices. WVG provided technical and financial support to GHS, Environment Health Department, and other Community-Based Organizations such as NAID and BIDO and CCLD to improve 230 food vendors in 15 schools and 31,313 caregivers in 80 communities

on awareness of micronutrient (MN) rich diets and supplements and proper feeding methods. Additionally, 7,588 children (3,495 boys and 3,443 girls) and 11,000 children (5,148 boys and 5,852 girls) benefitted from Vitamin A supplementation and Deworming respectively. Furthermore, 147 Mother-to-mother Support Groups (MtMSGs) and 30 Daddy's Clubs facilitators in 50 communities were trained on appropriate feeding practices, and food-based approaches who are cascading the knowledge and supporting caregivers to cultivate appropriate feeding practices in their respective communities. Forty-two (42) MtMSGs were integrated into Saving for Transformation (S4T) groups while 752 caregivers were given livelihood training, creating an alternative income source, contributing to caregivers' increased capacity to support appropriate feeding practices.

Reduced Impact of HIV/AIDS in mothers and children

WVG through its health programme increased comprehensive knowledge on Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) & HIV/AIDS by sensitizing 2,163 community members (887 men, 635 women, 293 boys and 353 girls) on prevention of HIV/AIDS and against the stigmatization of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the Sekyere East and Asante Akim North Area Programmes to commemorate World AIDS Day. The capacity of 75 peer educators from 30 schools were built in the Asante Akim

North and West Gonja Area Programmes on Adolescent Reproductive Health, including HIV/AIDS prevention, the peer educators were supported to further cascade the knowledge to 1,639 (711 boys and 928 girls) of their peers in the communities. WVG worked with 24 Congregational Hope for Action Teams (CHATs) to promote the utilization of maternal and child health services, including receiving counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS during antenatal visits. As a result, 362 (122 men and 240 women) community members in the Asante Akim North District have reported increased knowledge on HIV/AIDS especially the prevention of mother to child transmission.

Improved Health System and Structures

WVG has worked with stakeholders to strengthen health care delivery and improve the health system and structures with a view to boosting universal health coverage. Measures supported included ensuring access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. WVG partnered with KIA Motors to construct the KIA Green Light Health Center at Saaman community. The project also procured a Mobile Clinic Van to provide community-to-community primary health care in the Osino sub-district of the Fanteakwa South District. These health facilities are currently providing healthcare to over 14,910 people in 5 communities.

WVG continued to increase community capacity to advocate for improved health services and demand accountability from duty bearers by training 18 CVA Working Groups on standards for health. The complementary activities of CVA and COMM led to the posting of 3 additional health staff, the construction of a nurse's quarters (currently on-going) and mechanization of water into the facility to facilitate easy access to water to the Awherewa CHPS compound. WVG also provided WASH facilities including mechanized boreholes, toilet facility, and incinerator to the Saint Luke's Health Centre, and waste bins to four (4) health facilities. These efforts are contributing to improved health services delivery and utilisation.



Mother-Mother-Support Group Promotes Nutrition Awareness in Ghana



“Though, as a farmer I produce vegetables and keep livestock, there was no way I would slaughter a fowl or a goat for my family unless it is on occasion like Christmas, because of the financial burden.” This was the attitude that 48 year-old Agatha, a farmer from Asukorkor held regarding food and nutrition. For many of the farmers in this community, the production of food was simply for financial gain and not a means to provide nutritious and wholesome meals for the family. This was until Agatha joined the Mother-Mother-Support Group (MtMSG) training and activities. The group acts as a platform to share key knowledge on nutrition, health and unites mothers to improve on the nutritional status of its members and their families. Agatha explains how the lack of nutrition and a healthy lifestyle affected their health to the point of frequent hospitalization. *“People in this village know that I was not healthy, and I frequently visited the hospital. On several occasions, whilst I was admitted, one of my children would also be rushed in to hospital. This was all due to poor eating habits.”*

Through the MtMSG group, Agatha was able to learn and understand some essential healthy living tips and the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding.

Training sessions organized for these women have proven impactful, particularly in the case of Agatha. She no longer falls ill and neither do her children who are now actively involved in school activities. She adds, *“Now because we hardly fall sick, we are able to participate more in the community activities and we rarely use our health insurance. I thank the group for teaching me the essentials of nutrition.”* Agatha attributes this new improvement in her health to simply using some of the livestock she produces to provide a balanced diet in her home. Instead of only selling to make money, Agatha now sees the necessity of feeding her household with the eggs and meat. These protein-and micronutrient-rich foods provide what is required to boost their immune system.

An integral part of the Mother-to-Mother programme is to offer support for breastfeeding. Experienced breastfeeding mothers offer optimal guidance on practices, information and experiences in an atmosphere of trust and dignity. Agatha benefitted from the programme when she gave birth to her last born George and she used the information to share it with other community members. *“Joining the MtMSG group was very beneficial. What they taught me really helped me to bond with my child. Now, whenever I meet community members and the group, I share what I've learnt so they can also benefit from the programme.”*

Agatha is now considered an advocate for healthy living because of her dedication to the programme, its activities and training. She advises her colleagues to set goals and make the conscious effort to apply the knowledge from the training in achieving these goals. She adds, *“you don't have to be rich to eat well. Make an effort in any little way you can and trust God. When I go to the farm, I bring fruits for my children and when I travel, I don't buy bread anymore but instead I buy fruits.”* The MtMSG programme has had a positive influence on Agatha's life and that of her family in terms of applying a healthy approach to food and nutrition. Agatha concludes by explaining that the program is simple and yet when you apply what has been taught you can achieve great results.

COVID-19 Emergency Response (COVER) by World Vision Ghana

Scaling up preventive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in rural communities



2,392,622

rural people (children, parents/caregivers) especially the most vulnerable in 24 deprived districts were reached with COVID-19 messaging on prevention and stigmatization and access to services.



222,323

COVID-19 IE&C materials were distributed to Ghana Health Services and health facilities in 24 districts.



22,115

community individuals including caregivers were provided with COVID-19 preventive materials including hand sanitizer, soap and masks.

11,201

11,201 hand-washing materials including soap, detergent,

buckets were supplied to intensify appropriate handwashing behaviour among the people.



WVG provided, constructed, and rehabilitated

1,831



WASH facilities including school toilets with handwashing facilities, household latrines, drinking water system, community drainage system).



Supporting children affected by COVID-19 with child protection, education, food, and livelihoods

748

faith leaders empowered to disseminate preventive measures and support community-based mechanisms to protect children

3,085

children were supported with child protection programming

1,384

households provided with physical assets such as livestock and agricultural tools

26,353

educational materials provided to enable or support remote learning

15,848

people (children, parents/caregivers) were provided with home learning materials/activity pack

21,333

children were reached with targeted age-specific health education

555

teachers were provided with training to support children

5,000

individuals benefitted from Cash and Voucher Programming

5,499

individuals were supported with livelihoods training

Strengthen health systems and workers



11,248

health workers were supported with personal protective equipment (PPE).



159,588 face mask



72,002

of glove sets and



1,714

disinfectant kits distributed to health facilities, health workers, and caregivers.)



443

of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in deprived communities were trained and supported to provide community-based services such as home support and contact tracing

Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected

WVG signed on 13 statements and actions advocating the rights of children affected by COVID-19 at the national level

WVG participated in 16 external engagements to advocate for ending violence against children in the context of COVID-19

EDUCATION



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

Summary of Education Achievements



93

(73 males and 20 females) DTST members trained; and 1,171 teachers and head teachers (654 males, 517 females) trained in literacy teaching skills 10 programme districts.

34 (26 females and 8 male) core Early Childhood Development (ECD) coordinators from the 10-district education offices trained in the Learning Roots model and instructional coaching. The ECD coordinators cascaded the training to 894 teachers (314 males and 480 females) from 278 ECD centers within the programming districts.



50

new titles of storybooks in Akuapem Twi, Asante Twi, Ewe and Guruni developed and printed, bringing the national total to 150 titles in the last three years.

56,133

copies of storybooks in local languages printed and distributed to 266 book banks (library in box).



16

Community Radio Centres and Community Information Centres (CICs) used as learning channels where lessons were broadcast to children in the wake of COVID-19. A total of 8,720 children were reached using the remote learning.

Children's inability to read made it necessary for World Vision Ghana to introduce the Reading Improvement in Primary Education (RIPE) programme. The programme's aim is to support children towards the achievement of the SDG 4 – Quality education. WVG has two project models which are implemented in 10 Area Programmes (APs). These APs are Krachi East, Krachi West, Nkwanta, Kadjebi, Fanteakwa, Afram Plains, Diaso, Kintampo, Anyima Mansie and Kassena Nankana. The programme is reaching out to about 30,121 children (15,121 boys and 15,000 girls) in Kindergarten and Primary schools. To ensure that the programme achieves its aims, it has partnered with the various District Assemblies, Ghana Education Service (GES), Ghana Library Board, Ghana Reads Project, Vodafone Ghana, and National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA), Pencils of Promise, KOICA among others.

Increased reading performance of children in primary school

The RIPE programme has been contributing towards increased knowledge of teachers in literacy instructional methodology. To this end, the programme collaborated with Ghana Education Service (GES) and District Teacher Support Teams (DTST) to train 1,171 teachers and head teachers (654 males, 517 females). The training afforded the teachers with the requisite skills to assess children's learning levels using the balance score card, creating a print rich classroom where children are seated in groups, and using a range of engaging teaching and learning activities.

The programme also supported the DTST to monitor and provide an onsite coaching and mentoring support to teachers. It has also been building evidence for review and learning through the Measuring Evidence and Quality Assured (MEQA) platform. It was revealed from the monitoring report that, 600 out of the 1,171 teachers trained representing 51.24 percent are utilizing the skills acquired through the training to teach reading, while all (100%) schools within the

programme areas received school-based coaching support visits averaging 5.2 visits per school within the academic year. It was also realized that, 66 percent of the lower primary (primary 1 – 3) classrooms visited were fully print rich while the other 34 percent were partially print rich (MEQA Report, February 2020).

Furthermore, the programme trained 34 (26 females and 8 male) core Early Childhood Development (ECD) coordinators from the 10-district education offices in the Learning Roots model and instructional coaching. The ECD coordinators also cascaded the training to 894 teachers (314 males and 480 females) from 278 ECD centers within the programming districts. As a result, these teachers have also acquired the requisite skills to create teaching and learning resources, design print rich classroom, group sitting arrangement and integration of literacy in new school curriculum.

During the year, there was an outbreak of novel CoronaVirus (COVID-19) in Ghana with its associated restrictions including the closure of schools for about 9 months. This affected teaching and learning throughout the country. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19, teachers were provided with coaching and mentoring support visits. Averagely three (3) coaching visits were provided to schools across all Area Programmes.

Strengthened Community Participation in Education

World Vision Ghana affirms the belief that when schools, parents, families, and communities work together to support learning, students attend school regularly, stay in school longer, tend to earn higher grades and they enroll in higher level programmes. The programme during the year developed and printed additional 50 new titles of storybooks in Akuapem Twi, Asante Twi, Ewe and Guruni bringing the national total to 150 titles in the last three years. In all, a total of 56,133 copies of storybooks written in local languages were printed and distributed to 266 book banks (library in box).

In addition, all the existing 266 out-of-school reading clubs in 256 communities were opened even during COVID-19. To ensure that children are safe from contracting the COVID-19 and continue learning, the programme adopted and promoted remote learning options such as community radio centres in 16 communities in six area programmes. Additionally, Community Information Centres (CICs) were used as learning channels where lessons were broadcast to children in these communities. In all, a total of 8,720 children were reached using the remote learning options. The CICs were also used to extend the coverage of government online teaching and to educate communities including children on COVID-19 prevention protocols. The programme identified and trained 667 (Male 400: Female 267) community volunteers on Corona Virus prevention and safety protocols. This was accomplished by collaborating with WVG's Health Technical Programme to develop COVID-19 training manual which was used to train volunteers to engage parents to ensure their own safety and that of their children.

Increased Accountability to Education and Child Protection

As part of our COVID-19 Emergency Response (COVER), World Vision developed a strategy to deepen engagements with both print and electronic media at the national and district levels to highlight the precarious situation of the rural poor during COVID-19. The media engagements also demonstrated how World Vision's education interventions are impacting marginalized children during COVID-19.

World Vision Ghana's (WVG) leadership, on championing language policy advocacy, took a great stride with the celebration of the International Mother Language day and the International Literacy Day. The International Mother Language Day celebration, which drew participation from Universities, Colleges of Education, teachers and school children, was aimed at asking government to take a look at the language policy in schools. The programme also used local level advocacy model Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) to generate awareness and support from the grassroot through participation at the community level. In 2020, sixty (60) CVA working groups who were trained, completed their action plans to engage local duty bearers. The members also joined the COVID-19 training to be able to explain COVID-19 preventive measures to parents while holding local leaders accountable to ensure that everyone benefited from government's social impact mitigation packages.

A Ghanaian Teacher's Personal Journey through the COVID-19 Lockdown

“Keep quiet! Sit down! Bring your exercise books! These were the words I used in my daily routine as a class teacher. I never thought that a day would pass without me speaking these words. But Covid-19 has emptied the schools and silenced the classrooms”.

These are the reflections of Irene a government school teacher in Ghana. By mid-March of 2019, the scourge of the coronavirus had risen in Ghana leaving the Government with no option other than to close schools across the country. Almost 9 million children were sent home to control the spread of the novel coronavirus. To address the psycho-social needs of children, World Vision's response was to collaborate with educational institutions to equip school teachers with psycho-social support for school-going children. Irene commented on the process.

“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, World Vision provided training for selected teachers on coronavirus and safety protocols and how to provide psycho-social support for children and families. I must confess, the training opened my eyes to the virus and on how to provide psycho social support to children.”

Irene who is a single mother of two, teaches at a school which is quite a distance from her own community. She is a dedicated teacher and she says she has spent most of her working life as an educator focusing on the needs of her students. Irene has a limited amount of time to spend on other community activities due to her commitment at the school. As a result, she had no time to make friends in her hometown. The lockdown closed her off to the school environment and affected her sense of community causing her to feel lonely at times. She says,

“It was then that I realized, I had taken for granted the warmth and company these children give me at school. Being alone at home, felt like I was locked up on a remote island with no one to talk to, or smile at”

It was only into the second week of school closure that Irene began to miss her students and her life as an educator. Absence from the classroom was so unbearable that Irene decided to visit the children personally in their homes and check on them.



“I noticed my visits brought smiles to both the children and parents. I could feel the deep joy and appreciation from the children because of my presence. But very often the children would ask me; when we are we returning to school? I had no answers”.

During these visits, teacher Irene emphasized the need for hygiene and safety protocols in order to teach the children how to avoid contracting COVID-19. She continued to assure them that they would return soon to the classroom. Sometimes the children voluntarily bring their exercise books for homework.”

“One lesson I will take with me is that having children in the classroom gives a lot of joy and peace. I understand children and their needs better now than before.”



July 30
WORLD DAY AGAINST
**TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS**
#EndHumanTrafficking

World Vision

CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY



End Child Trafficking Now!

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



In the area of Child Protection and Advocacy, World Vision Ghana (WVG) was instrumental in National and Local Level Advocacy, End Child Marriage Campaign and Child Protection and Participation. WVG in collaboration with the Department of Children and other partners commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The day was used to inaugurate Ghana's first ever National Child Parliament (NCP) in Accra, Ghana. The NCP was inaugurated and ushered into its first session by Ghana's Speaker of Parliament; Right Honourable Professor Aaron Mike Oquaye. The NCP is to create space for children to have their views and voices heard at the national and international levels on issues affecting them. Key personalities at the inauguration included the Second Lady of Ghana, Ministers for Local Government and Rural Development; Gender and Children and Social Protection, Members of Parliament, WVG's National Director as well as other Country Directors and representatives from sister Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). There was a total attendance of 1,500 people made up of children, invited guests and the media. Over half; 51.46% (53 out of 103) of the Child Parliamentarians were presented by WVG.

WVG conducted Triennial Council Children Accountability Mechanism in the Gushegu, Sekyer East, Bawku West, Kintampo South, Afram Plains and Saboba Area Programmes (APs). The over 300 participating children

were provided the opportunity to reflect and provide feedback on the performance of the APs and their staff and by extension WVG. The children commended WVG for its child focused programming and greater involvement of children in communities through child-led interventions such as child parliaments and Kids clubs. WVG had two (2) stories published by World Vision International (WVI) to showcase the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods, teenage pregnancy and the role of Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) Groups in sensitizing communities to prevent the spread of the virus. Also, during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York, WVG'S social accountability work was profiled as evidence of generating citizens' data for advocacy and influencing effective services delivery.

Birth certification provides identity for every citizen and a necessary requirement for every child in the fight against child abuses. WVG therefore advocates for waivers of administrative fees and partners with the Births and Deaths Registry to scale up birth registration in deprived communities while supporting the most vulnerable to register and certify their births.

Within the year 2020, 4,320 Most Vulnerable Children (MVCs) in the Kintampo South, Anyima Mansie, Krachi West, Krachi East, Nkwanta and Kadjebi APs had their births registered and certified thus giving them identity and a sense of belonging.

WVG collaborated with TV3 network as part of WVG's 40th Anniversary Celebrations to host a 2-hour live child protection forum. The show, which was at the prime time, attracted over 1,000,000 viewers across the country. The Member of Parliament for Pusiga Constituency; Hon. Laadi Ayii Ayamba who is a former child bride shared her experiences. This gave WVG exposure through adverts and series of documentaries which are contributing to the fight against child marriage and other forms of child abuse.

In the Diaso AP for instance, 3,764 girls were empowered with knowledge on the presence of services and mechanisms to receive and respond to reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence against children. Consequently, 15 teenage mothers were supported to re-enroll in schools. The Kintampo South and Anyima Mansie APs identified and enrolled 32 and 30 teenage mothers respectively into the APs' initiative to equip child brides and out-of-school teenage mothers with employable skills towards economic resilience. The APs additionally selected 34 vulnerable male youth from the APs' Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) database and enrolled them in apprenticeship training such as carpentry, masonry, welding, electrical works and glass fabrication. Additionally, five (5) district dialogues were organized with traditional leaders in Kassena Nankana East, Saboba, Nkwanta, Diaso and Krachi West APs. These dialogues led to the enactment and enforcement of bye-laws and also elicited a public declaration by the traditional leaders to prohibit harmful practices and accompanying sanctions for perpetrators.

Over 500 community leaders and 137,221 community members were reached. Again, 150 Community Child Protection Committees were strengthened to ensure the prevention and response to violence against children. Eight (8) District Child Protection Committees were formed in the Kintampo South, Afram Plains North, Afram Plains South, Nkwanta, Builsa South, Wa West, Gushegu and Kadjebi districts to ensure safe and violent free communities.

Hidden Hero; a public mobilization banner to bring together WVG's communications, marketing and advocacy efforts in the COVID-19 Response and It Takes a World Campaign was launched. It promoted 'Hidden Heroes' to protect children and also raise public awareness of threats and risks to children during COVID-19. Children played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the need to protect them and their families from the spread of the virus and abuse with the closure of schools. These children were celebrated as hidden heroes and their stories shared. Twenty (20) stories and videos were produced and shared on WVG social media sites reaching over 22,896 people. These Hidden heroes have impacted the lives of children and their families.

Child-Parliament: Improving the lives of Children

Vincentia is a registered child in the World Vision sponsorship programme in the Krachi East Area Programme. She is also a member of the Child Parliament formed in her community (Banka). The Child parliament concept was formed by WVG to empower children to spearhead child-led advocacy issues pertaining to Child Well-Being (CWB). Vincentia has been involved in Child Parliament activities for the past two (2) years, but during her involvement in the programme she saw the demise of her father and this led to her being forced into a child marriage arrangement. *"I was 14 years old when my father died. At that time, I was given out for marriage to a 48-year-old man. This was an arrangement between the two families."* She explained. It was the Child Parliament that saved her because the programme had built her verbal capacity and advocacy skills on CWB and other Child Rights issues. Vincentia explains that the journey has been invaluable. *"Now, I am able to educate my colleagues and community members including the community care group about the dangers of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child labor and other forms of violence against children"*. Vincentia's mother is pleased with how the programme has positively affected the life of her daughter. *"Vincentia is now able to articulate herself very well and she regularly advises her colleagues to desist from teenage pregnancy and child marriage"*. Vincentia narrated further that the terrifying incidence of child marriage almost damaged her life. *"I refused to consent because I was trained at Child Parliament sessions about the dangers of child marriage. I was also scared my education will be affected. Through my assertiveness, I was able to convince my family to cancel the marriage arrangement. I am proud to say that I have successfully completed my Junior High School and awaiting my results to continue to Senior High School."*



Vincentia, 16 years (standing in middle) educating kids clubs on child marriage issues

FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Nini

Within the year 2020, 1,499 boys and 2,133 girls, including 60 Muslims, and 669 partners (448 males and 221 females), including 33 Muslims were reached through various Spiritual Nurturing of Children (SNC) activities such as prayer, personal devotion, Bible stories telling, God and the environment, among others. They were also reached with compassionate activities to deepen their understanding of God, the love of God and of neighbour and equipped them with value-based life skills such as care for the needy and aged, care of the environment and non-discrimination, among others. In partnership with TheoVision International and Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ghana (CEF), devotional and COVID-19 related SNC materials were translated from English to Twi, Dagbani, Likpakpaal/Konkomba, and Kassim. Subsequently, 1,000 pieces of solar powered, easy to use voice equipment were produced containing the translated materials and the New Testament Bible in the local and English languages to engage children in the APs, virtually, within the limits of COVID-19 restrictions.

Towards building a pool of trainers for the sustainable programming of Celebrating Families Curriculum (CFC), a CFC Training of Facilitators (ToF) was organized for 35 pastors and church leaders (23 males and 12 females). The training equipped staff and partners to support parents and caregivers in the journey towards children's spiritual well-being, and for life in all its fullness. Also, 65 faith leaders (45 males and 20 females) made up of 40 Christians (25 males and 15 females), 25 Muslims (20 males and 5

females) were trained in promoting sustained loving and safe environment for children and their families. The 65 faith leaders have cascaded the training to their constituents, reaching 2,375 community members (1,005 Males, and 1,370 Females) and 250 youth (100 boys and 150 girls). Children/adolescents testified to parents/caregivers now exhibiting high sense of responsibility towards their spiritual and physical well-being. Also, 76 Staff (51 males and 25 females) were engaged with the Mission Immersion Programme (MIP) to deepen their competencies and character resulting in transformational witness and spiritual development.

A total of 15 Community Hope Action Teams (CHATs) in the Talensi and Kassena Nankana West Districts made up of 95 faith leaders (35 Muslims and 60 Christians; 55 males and 40 females) were trained in Channels of Hope (CoH) Child Protection (CP) to equip them to incorporate child protection in their sermons and for community level child protection education and monitoring. Myths and religious beliefs inhibiting child protection were addressed. In the Savelugu AP, 85 faith leaders (55 males and 30 females; 60 Christians (40 males and 20 females) and 25 Muslims (20 males and 5 females) were also equipped in CoH CP. The faith leaders, eventually, sensitized 475 families/households made up of 1,502 females and 1,073 males on harmful cultural practices, health and spiritual growth/development, conflict resolution and children's education.

Also, to catalyse Christian engagement in redressing community Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) challenges, 206 participants (200 students and 6 lecturers; 155 males; 51 females) of Trinity Theological Seminary received capacity building in WVGs' WASH Sermon Guide. WVG supported and coordinated six (6) Faith leaders (3 Christians and 3 Muslims; 4 males and 2 females) to participate in mobilizing faith action for Gender Justice and Child Protection through the COVID-19 Response in West and Central Africa project. This was a collaboration of World Vision – West Africa Region, All Africa Council of Churches (AACC), and the Side-by-Side Movement. It strengthened strategic partnerships with faith leaders and faith communities to challenge social norms that perpetuate gender injustice and violence against children, by mobilizing their tremendous influence and reaching across West Africa toward effective COVID-19 response. A 3-day Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/ Psychosocial First Aid (MHPSS/PFA) Training of Facilitators (ToF) was organized for 28 participants (23 males and 5 females) made up of 25 pastors/church leaders and three (3) health professionals. They were equipped to support children, families and communities to minimize the mental, psychological and social impact of COVID-19, enhance recovery from the crisis and a resumption of adaptive functions.

The Lights of Hope Shine on Krabonso as Ginger-Powder Saves the Community

How does one account for so little when there is so much potential? Is it possible that one has what it takes to live a full and meaningful life, but live a beggarly life? This was the situation at Krabonso until the EmpoweredWorldView programme turned their lights on, giving them hope and optimism in their fight against poverty. The low-selling raw ginger fruit (which is a common commodity) has now become a financially strong powdered ginger brand on the market.

Situated in the middle belt of Ghana, Krabonso is naturally endowed with good rainfall and vast arable land. A green landscape greets the new entrant of the town to a scenery of freshness. Krabonso has the potential for agriculture, but that was not to be in previous years. Things were soon going to change after the Empowered World View curriculum was delivered, and life was going to become hope-filled.

Rev. Emmanuel Kofi Sam, the local priest of the Methodist Church, Ghana, sat quietly in the workshop and decided that he was going to bring a revolution in the farming life of his people. About 98% of the indigenes were experts at ginger farming, but had little to show for their expertise and hard work. The turning point came when Rev. Sam led his congregation to lease a 2-acre land facility and began a church farm, in earnest.

The priest led in the labour, and so everyone joined. Individual members also began cultivating their own lands too.

Akua Yeboah, a farmer, church and community leader, lamented, *"We had been sitting on a goldmine and wasted away that potential. Thanks to World Vision for providing the light for our improved living."* The priest held that, *"We used to sell the ginger fruits to the traders without value addition, and that disadvantaged us very much. After the training we received, we decided that we would process and add value to it. After this, our selling prices shot up like a charm, increasing our per capita income!"* As a result of the decision to add value, their income tripled.

Transformed Families

A new children's block of the Church which serves both as a 3-unit classroom for children aged one to five, and a worship center for children, was raised from the proceeds of the repackaged organic ginger powder. This is contributing to about 40% of the total cost of the yet-to-be-furnished facility. Averagely, about 150 children use the facility each week.

Samuel, a casual worker of the Forestry Department and a voluntary worker on the ginger farm, testified that,

“

Until the training, I lived with a lady without having gone through the legal rites of marriage because I could not afford the dowry. I have now been able to legally marry and raise a building within one year after I received the training. The nutritional and educational well-being of my children has also improved with my increased income level.

Peter, also a farm volunteer, shared a similar story, adding that, *"I least expected I could marry and put up a building in this short while, thanks to World Vision."*



According to Rev. Sam, it was not going to be possible to sit in such a life-changing capacity- building workshop and watch his people live off the meagre income that is generated from their hard work. He set out to use the knowledge gained to help his people make a meaningful living from the already common ginger fruit in the community.

Both on the pulpit and in class-like settings, the priest took his parishioners through lessons on farming beginning from land preparation to harvesting and processing. It was not long until the ginger was ready for harvesting.

The children's center has served both the National Identification Authority and the Electoral Commission of Ghana as accommodation facilities and places of security as well to keep those important national property. "As a church, we have seen how the growing, processing, packaging and publicity of ginger has greatly changed the life of the community," Rev. Sam said.

The entire community, after taking this initiative, has been able to lobby for the government in collaboration with another non-governmental agency and has started putting up a factory.



Photo Credit: World Vision / Abena Agyei-Boateng

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

World Vision Ghana prioritized the monitoring of its Registered Children (RC) to ensure their presence, protection and participation in programme activities. World Vision Ghana obtained a green rating with 100% of RC monitored within the standard time of 90 days. As high as 99.75% of RC recorded participation of at least two (2) project activities (SSUI, 2020). Also, 29,364 (100%) sponsorship Operating Indicators such as Annual Progress Report, Gift Notification, RC Management, Christmas Cards, Partnership Holds among others, were responded to within the standard time with green rating. WVG formed 225 Community Care Groups (CCGs) which are operational in all APs. The CCGs are multi-functional and are made up of representatives from local church partners, school management committees, child protection committees as well as health institutions. Members lead RC monitoring and support case management.

Child and Community Contents make child sponsorship more efficient, more engaging for supporters and more effective for children's well-being. They bring about increased and enriched connections between children, communities and supporters and amplify child and community voice. They are relevant to rising supporter expectations, safely leveraging technology and social media, providing life enriching experiences that contribute to the sustained well-being of children. Accordingly, all APs produced and passed the quality reviews of Community and Child Contents such as Community Update Photo (YUP), Community Update Video (YUV), Community Farewell Video (YFV), Child Update Photo (CUP), Child Greeting Video (CGV), Child Update Video (CUV), Community Intro Video (YIV) and Community Intro Photo (YIP).



Every Child deserves a Happy Childhood

Hello I'm Gifty, a 13 year-old and a Registered Child (RC) in Primary Six. I live with my 3 siblings and my 43 years old mother in Jobigen in Ankaase-Matamallam community, in the Krachi West Area Programme. Three years ago, I lost my father who was a farmer and bread winner for the family. Life became very difficult for us. My mother decided to make a small income preparing doughnuts, which she served with porridge at breakfast for community members. I also had to get involved and sell the doughnuts to support my mother. My role was to go around the community to sell doughnuts before going to school in the morning. Every week, I would miss 2 days of school because of the doughnut business. During a routine child monitoring visit by World Vision staff, my mother told them that she was able to cater for some of the needs of her children, but was looking for some support to increase the doughnut business. She was introduced to the Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups in her community and she joined the Asomdwe S4T group. After a year, my mother took a loan to increase the doughnut business. She now sells to other retailers and people from other nearby communities come to buy her doughnuts. Thanks to World Vision we also have an improved latrine and handwashing station and my siblings and I are attending the World Vision After-School-Learning Camp. I have also joined the school Child Parliament Club, an advocacy group that seeks to safeguard children. The situation at home and at school has really improved and I now attend classes regularly and my school work has improved. I used to get embarrassed by my class test results, now I actually assist other children in the community in the after-school-reading-camp to read. I am so happy about the positive changes in our lives. Every child deserves to grow in a safe environment and be happy.



HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY AFFAIRS AND SECURITY



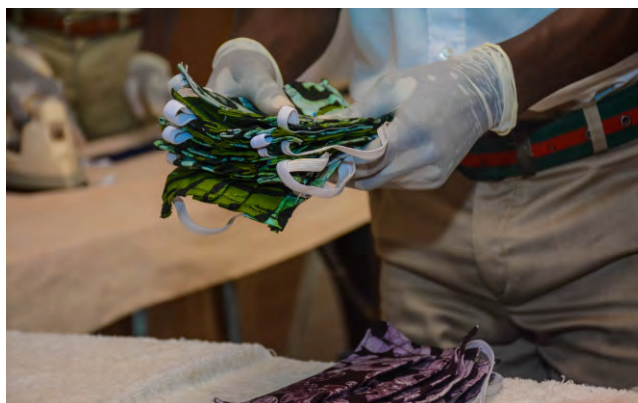
World Vision Ghana (WVG) focused on early warning, disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and response in some extreme cases. WVG served as a co-chair on the Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies (IAGWE). On early warning and preparedness, WVG through IAGWE made available information to the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) on predictions of heavy rains, Accra earthquake zone, food insecurity, and other security issues that could lead to disasters. This supported NADMO to respond to emergencies in areas when the need arose and sensitized communities on their safety from the early warnings. NADMO was again supported to revise its contingency plan and prepositioned to respond appropriately to emergencies in 2020. To preposition and respond rapidly to emergencies in WASH, WVG supported NADMO in the Northern Region with 1,174 Boxes of Procter & Gamble (P&G) water purifier.

This supported NADMO in the region to respond to emergencies during flooding and intense drought in areas where they have water challenges.

To build capacities of communities to prevent and prepare to respond to emergencies, four (4) communities in the Savelugu AP were taken through Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA) training and assisted to develop their own disaster preparedness plans. A total of 26 participants (7 females and 19 males) benefited. Three (3) APs (Wa West, Zabzugu and Gushegu) whose districts were marked as election hotspots were sensitized on peace building prior to the 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Ghana. WVG responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. An estimated 415,948 direct beneficiaries and over 3 million indirect beneficiaries were reached.

Interventions were in areas of WASH, Education, Health, Food Security and Resilience and Advocacy. Communities were supported with Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, handwashing facilities, hygiene kits among others.

In addition, children were supported with reading materials to study at home. WVG also advocated for effective support from Government to communities during the pandemic. Distribution of facilities, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to health facilities, training to health and other paramedical staff that were involved in the response were also done. WVG co-chaired and in most cases chaired the United Nations (UN) coordination meetings during the response. Media engagements at both national and local levels were also carried out to sensitize communities on the COVID-19 pandemic.



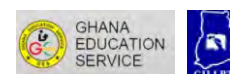
PARTNERS



European Union



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Cooperation Agency



OUR STRATEGY IS A PROMISE TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN:

To relentlessly pursue our vision for every child – life in all its fullness; and our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.



OUR PROMISE

Building Brighter Futures for Vulnerable Children

Fullness of life for the world's most vulnerable children

Unity and trust

Timely truth telling with love

Wise stewardship

Looking Outward

Deepening our commitment to the most vulnerable children.

Shifting where we work, and how we allocate resources, towards the most vulnerable

Focusing our ministry for greater results.

Focusing on a limited range of programme types and sectors, becoming excellent in each

Living out our Christian faith and calling with boldness and humility.

In all we do, in harmony with those of other faiths and none

Delivering high quality, sustainable funding.

Raising the right funds with the right donors for the right programmes in the right places

Collaborating and advocating for broader impact.

Through partnerships, joint ventures and advocacy with those who share our goals

The strategy is rooted in what makes World Vision distinctive: Christian, child focused and community empowering.

We are Christian

We are responsive

We are stewards

We are committed to the poor

We value people



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