



World Vision

ANNUAL REPORT
GHANA
2018



Photo Credit: World Vision / Joseline N. Annan

This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of World Vision International, Ghana, from October 2017 to September 2018

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BOARD MEMBERS



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Chair



Mrs. Efua Gharthey
Vice Chair



Mr. Dickens Thunde
Secretary / National Director



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Member



Rev. Erasmus N. B. Odonkor
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Member



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Member



Mr. Baafour Otu-Boateng
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Mr. David Montague
Member



Dr. (Mrs.) Mary Amoako Coleman
Member

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



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National Director



Mr. Sagane Thiaw
Operations Director



Mr. Richard Nii Okai
Programme Effectiveness Director



Mrs. Frances Noble-Nkrumah
People & Culture Director



Mr. Elvis Van-Dalen
Finance & Support Services Director



Rev. Daniel Salifu
Governance & Landed Properties Associate Director



Ms. Elizabeth Sagoe
Field Operations Co-ordinator

WHO WE ARE

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.

VALUES

We are Christian
We are Committed to the poor
We Value people
We are Stewards
We are Partners
We are Responsive

CELEBRATIONS PAGE



World Vision International, Ghana (WVIG) received an award for the best Partnership quick-win story on "Our Promise 2030" and was recognised at the Global Leadership Summit in London



WVIG's 2017 Child Well-being Report was rated green and adjudged 2nd highest in Africa



WVIG was adjudged the Best NGO in Water Supply for the Decade (2008 - 2017) by CONIWAS



WVIG's Advisory Council transitioned into an Intermediate Board status - the first in the sub region.

4

Promising Conversations aimed at internalising "Our Promise 2030" were successfully held for members of the Board, Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Departments and cascaded to all staff.

86%

Staff participation was achieved



WVIG's relationship with VisionFund has been strengthened as a result of the revision of the 2014 -2016 integration Strategy. The revised strategy spans from 2018 to 2021



Three National level partnerships were established

A road map to ensure WVIG's Strategic Objectives are aligned with that of the Partnership - "Our Promise 2030" has been developed. As a result, WVIG will have three Strategic Objectives, three (3) Technical Programmes (TP) and 11 Core Project Models by 2020. A mapping exercise has been conducted on the Most Vulnerable Children as well.



MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dickens Thunde

My heart is full of joy as I once again share key highlights of World Vision International, Ghana's (WVIG) work in 2018 achievements with you. This report is full of stories of hope for WVIG and more importantly, for the most vulnerable children in our Programme Areas. The most exciting news that has been echoed repeatedly into our ears by various stakeholders during the year, is that **“Ghana is back.”** The Board, Management and Staff are celebrating this news with great caution to avoid drifting back into a complacency mode. This notwithstanding, we thank God for the renewed confidence in WVIG from both donors and the internal stakeholders within the Partnership of World Vision.

With renewed strength and fervor, we have continued to work relentlessly with our stakeholders, including governmental institutions, district assemblies, faith leaders, community leaders and children to bring measurable improvements in the lives of children.

We have pursued this, in-keeping with the World Vision Partnership strategy dubbed **“Our Promise 2030,”** whose strategic imperatives are driven by a commitment to upholding certain mindsets and behaviors by all staff at all levels. Here at WVIG, we have continued to aspire to be like Eagles in our character and behavior as expressed in Isaiah 40:31.

This report succinctly captures major achievements recorded in the year from strategy alignment and execution, governance celebrations, staff motivation and key mindset shifts and indeed project execution successes and challenges. Key among these include:- alignment of WV Strategy with World Vision International strategy of Our Promise 2030 and the international recognition of WVIG in building “trust” between leadership and all staff. On the governance front, we saw the World Vision International Board awarding the World Vision International, Ghana Advisory Council an upgrade into Intermediate Board Status.

This is in recognition of the growing maturity of the Board and the National Office as a whole. Results of an annual survey conducted by World Vision known as “Our Voice Survey,” showed that staff morale, staff confidence and staff understanding of where the organization is going had significantly improved within the year as a result of improved staff engagement processes that allow staff to share their views, raise questions and interact with senior leadership in an open and transparent manner.

In terms of programme execution, we are deeply grateful to all our partners who made it possible for us to do our business with the various communities and positively impact on the lives of children especially the most vulnerable children.

We saw some major donors expressing interest to come back and invest in World Vision International, Ghana programmes again like the Conrad Hilton Foundation.

Internally, we saw World Vision Korea, USA, Australia, Canada, Germany and Spain increasing their efforts to raise Private Non Sponsorship Funding to augment the regular public funding traditionally known as Child Sponsorship within World Vision circles. Thank you all for this confidence in us. Government ministries and directorates, local community organisations, international Non-Governmental Organisations, Churches, Para Church Organisations and indeed all Faith Organisations and Research Institutions, all these contributed to our success story in the year 2018. Again, we say “thank you” for your collaboration and partnership.

The *End Child Marriage Now!* It take us all campaign, has gathered momentum as partners have ably joined forces to spread the news. The capacity of hundreds of children have been built and they are leading the onslaught on ending child marriage in communities across the country.

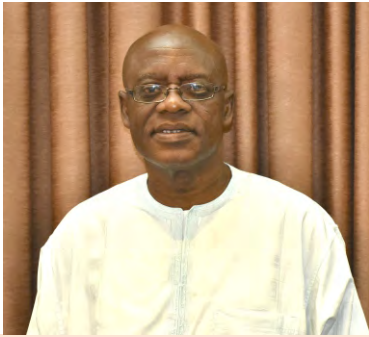
Once again, I welcome you to dive deep into this report which is not only exciting to read, but is also full of good data that demonstrates progress and positive change impacting children and communities in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education, Food Security and Resilience and Health and Nutrition.

At this juncture, I would like once again, to express World Vision International, Ghana's sincere gratitude to all our donors both local and international, Support Offices, the Government of Ghana, partner institutions and peer agencies, the Board of World Vision International, Ghana and VisionFund Ghana Board, the World Vision West Africa Regional Leader and staff for their unwavering support and contributions throughout the year. Finally, I salute the staff of World Vision International, Ghana for demonstrating their resilience and agility to successfully embark on a mission to soar like eagles in our efforts to making a difference in the lives of children in Ghana.

Blessings.



Photo Credit: World Vision/Joseline N. Annan



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Emmanuel Baba Mahama

Once again, we are at that time of the year when we reflect on the moments that got us here.

From the perspective of the Board, 2018 counts as one of the watershed years in the history of WorldVision International, Ghana (WVIG). We recall, with deep appreciation to God, how the early part of the year saw the Board of World Vision International approve the governance transition of World Vision International, Ghana from the status of an Advisory Council to an Intermediate Board. We duly recognise that the transition is a culmination of the collective sweat and toil and the prayers of many before us. The current WVIG Board therefore carries the torch of this achievement with great humility, keenly aware that we have been accorded the privilege of standing on the shoulders of our predecessors. By the same token, we have a heightened awareness of the greater responsibility and accountability that this promotion has thrust upon our shoulders.

It was therefore in keeping with this keen sense of our calling that a delegation of the

WVIG Board carried out a study tour of World Vision Kenya (WVK) to draw on the rich experience of the WVK Board which has been operating as an Intermediate Board for some years now. The visit was a mutually-enriching learning encounter.

Our shared experiences facilitated the development of a board manual, among others, to guide our governance as we work to put World Vision International, Ghana's interventions on a higher pedestal for the well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable children.

During the year, the World Vision International, Ghana Board and the Vision Fund Ghana Board members participated in a joint field visit to the Sekyere East Cluster. At the coalface, the significance and impact of WorldVision International, Ghana's work became more concrete and visible as members of the Board interacted admirably with children, their families, and partners, including the District Assembly and the Local Council of Churches in the communities.

It was heartwarming to receive solid assurance of the sustainability of World Vision's interventions during our engagements with Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) committees, Cocoa Farmers, Mother-to-Mother support groups, Vision Fund clients, Children clubs, Savings Groups and some of the children in our programmes.

We are driven by the objective of deepening and expanding our interventions for the well-being of the most vulnerable children in Ghana. In this regard, we have in the course of the year paid significant attention to local resource mobilisation. It is our conviction that with WVIG's track record of remarkable development undergirded by good stewardship, there abounds within the country a critical mass of donors, (including private organisations and individuals) who would like to partner us to do even more. Consequently, we shall be knocking on doors now and in the coming years with a view to forging stronger partnerships for the well-being of vulnerable children in our country.

On behalf of the WVIG Board, I wish to salute all partners, sponsors, collaborators and stakeholders who in the year joined hands with World Vision to ensure the improved well-being of children, their families and communities. Accept our heartfelt gratitude for all you have done to support us throughout the year. It is your commitment to excellence that supports the success and well-being of our children and their communities.

Last but not least, we wish to recognise with much gratefulness, the Senior Leadership Team and the entire staff of World Vision International, Ghana for turning around the performance of the National Office within a very short time. At various World Vision family meetings across the world we have received compliments and accolades for the ongoing excellent work in WVIG. Leadership and Staff deserve special commendation for this blue-chip performance and we urge them to continue on this positive course.

God richly bless you all.



Photo Credit: World Vision/Jason Amoo



124

boreholes fitted with hand pumps were drilled across 21 Area Programmes (105 communities + 12 schools + 7 health facilities)

156

Open Defecation Free (ODF) certified communities as compared to 126 ODF communities in 2017

11,051 household latrines constructed to serve 83,358 people



38 schools provided with improved latrines (with Menstrual Hygiene Management) 3 more in Health facilities

Hand washing facilities installed in

619 schools
90 health facilities



70,200

(17,541 men, 19,866 women, 16,707 boys and 16,078 girls)

gained access to safe water within the fiscal year. Further, a total of 7,929 households living in communities with hydrological challenges were provided with the P&G water purifier while the programme makes plans to provide these communities with safe water.

WASH



268

Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMTs) established and trained

512

faith leaders were engaged in various WASH programmes

World Vision International, Ghana's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme played a vital role to ensure remarkable improvement in access to safe water for consumption and livelihood activities in communities, schools and health facilities in our programme areas.

WorldVision partnered with government institutions such as District Assemblies, Environmental Health and Sanitation Departments and used the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to ensure improved sanitation at households, community and institutional levels. Behavioral change methods were also used to ignite 156 communities to end open defecation and be certified as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

As part of efforts to improve local level advocacy, Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) groups have been empowered to support WASH related advocacy in 138 communities and to ensure that duty bearers provide WASH services and facilities in their communities. The capacity of selected community volunteers have been built to monitor standards of WASH facilities, and citizen score card reading. Communities are at various stages of engagement with duty bearers to address the gaps in WASH services and facilities.



Photo Credit: World Vision/Joseline N. Annan

A community member benefitting from WVIG borehole

Success Story

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Approach Builds a Community into a Resilient One

Gbungbum Community is located in the Savelugu-Nanton district in the northern part of Ghana. Close to the city of Tamale, most of the people who live there are traders and business men and women.



A community member in front of a Household Latrine

There was a time where the children in the community were always getting sick. Mostly of malaria, typhoid and diarrhea which kept them away from school. Mothers had to focus on taking care of their children and slowing down their trading business which made things a bit

difficult for families. Belihatu, a community member, married with 3 boys and 2 girls, recalls in 2013 when a snake bit a child because the child was in the bush practising open defecation. None of the homes had house hold latrines and the community was full of weeds and trash.

That same year, World Vision came to the community and introduced the concept of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) which was welcomed by members of the community. Educational sessions were held to educate members of the community on keeping their environment clean, and putting an end to open defecation. World Vision partnered with the District Environmental Health & Sanitation department to support the community members in building household latrines. Belihatu was the lead in the construction of household latrines for every household and educating people on the importance of using the latrine and the tippy-tap to wash their hands with soap and under flowing water.

Today, the Gbungbum community is now a clean community with latrines and tippy-taps built for every household. Children are now healthy and attending school. Parents can now focus on their business which is improving therefore enhancing living conditions for families. The community has now been confirmed as an Open Defecation Free community with a certificate to prove it.



Belihatu's children using the Tippy-Tap

When Belihatu was asked about the current situation in the community, she said, “The health of our children has improved and they are now able to focus and stay in school. Traders like me are able to focus and build our trading businesses to help improve the lives of our families. Since the introduction of the CLTS concept, none of our children have fallen victims of diseases such as malaria and diarrhea for the past two years as compared to the time where we were in the dark”

Story & Photos by: Gertrude Nkrumah & Francis Gumah
Edited by: Joseline N. Annan

FOOD SECURITY

911 functional Saving for Transformation (S4T) groups established (26,456 members)

\$124,911

WVIG supported microfinance beneficiaries with USD124,911 through VisionFund Ghana

300

farmers provided with inputs to boost their agricultural productivity

700

farmers in

25

communities practicing FMNR/ Evergreen Agriculture



Photo Credit: World Vision/ Jason Amoo



A farmer practicing FMNR / Evergreen Agriculture

The highly successful Household Food Security and Resilience Technical programme was implemented in 6 Area Programmes (AP), and supported by three Grant projects - Cocoa Life, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Phase 3 and Evergreen Agriculture project.

World Vision International, Ghana empowered the Saving for Transformation (S4T) groups through training to mobilise financial resources and lend money to their members for improved social and economic well-being of families. In all, there are 26,456 S4T groups members who are able to pay their wards' school fees, access healthcare, save for disaster and hardship, improve household food consumption and build safer houses.

300 farmers have been supported with agricultural inputs and assets including agro-chemicals to increase agricultural productivity. Additionally, project communities and beneficiaries especially women in rural areas, were supported with loans to improve their businesses. Activities of S4T groups and VisionFund Ghana (VFG) microfinance support have led to enhancement in social cohesion and peaceful co-existence among community members.

There was a scale up of forest restoration initiative through FMNR approach and conservation agriculture practices in the various Area Programmes. In order to minimise the threat of climate change to food security, 700 farmers in 25 communities have adapted and are practising FMNR/Evergreen Agriculture. Additionally, 86 communities also updated and implemented their Disaster Preparedness Plans. The 2018 Annual Monitoring Indicators on Child Well-being (AMIC) results showed that 69% of households who faced a disaster were able to employ an effective disaster-risk reduction or positive coping strategy.

Success Story

Savings for Transformation (S4T) transforms the lives of a mother and her 4 children

Madam Gladys, a married woman with 4 children found her family in the most vulnerable situation when her husband died in a community called Mofow, in the Northern part of Ghana. The children namely, Portia (16 years), Paul (13 years), Pearl (11 years) and Victor (7 years) had to drop out of school immediately because there wasn't enough money to feed the children with, let alone pay their fees. Gladys left the 4 children with her 82 year old mother and moved to the Southern part of Ghana in search of a job that will help her take care of her children. The oldest of them who is Portia, was helping the grandmother to take care of them.

Barely, 7 months after the departure of the mother for greener pastures, the 82 year old grandmother passed away. Portia became the new breadwinner of the family with no help from anywhere.



Madam Gladys and her Children

One day, a Child Welfare Supervisor (CWS) called Priscilla chanced on the children in the house while on her monitoring sessions. Priscilla alerted World Vision workers and some community elders and the matter was brought for discussion. The volunteers and staff of World Vision worked in bringing the mother, Madam Gladys back to take care of her children and also help get them back in school. The Area Programme helped in contributing a onetime payment of fees for all the children to get back into school. At the same time, Gladys was taken through the benefits of Savings for Transformation Groups. Even though she didn't have enough savings, she started to contribute and was able to save Ghc 900.00 (US\$ 199) after a year.

Gladys used the money she got from the savings to buy new school uniforms, exercise books and books to read among other things. 11 year old Pearl in her excitement to receive her new uniform said, "I will tell my friend Emmanuela who used to tease me that I will be her baby sitter when she becomes a nurse that, I am also back in school. I am going to be a doctor and she will be my nurse" When Portia spoke to World Vision, she said "I never thought that my siblings and I will ever go back to school because we could hardly get food to eat even when my grandmother was alive".

Portia and her three siblings are very happy to be back in school. Madam Gladys, their mother now sells flour product and on market days, she fries some of the flour and sells them.



Portia, Victor, Pearl and Paul in their new school uniforms

She normally makes daily sales of about Ghc50. Out of that, she makes profit of not less than Ghc15 (US\$ 3.5) a day and saves Ghc 5 (USD 1). Gladys is looking to grow her flour business while encouraging mothers and friends to join a savings group. Gladys and her children are now very happy and all 4 children are excited to be back in school.

Story by: Francis Mensah
Edited by: Joseline N. Annan

HEALTH



30

facilitators trained to ensure the functionality of community Health Committee System



21

CoH-CP Catalysing Workshops (for 767 Faith leaders) held; 500 empowered Faith Leaders reaching out to **5,336**

77

CHATs reached the Empowering stage of the CoH model with one of them facilitating the construction of a CHPS compound in Asante Akim North Programme Area.

The Primary Health Care (PHC) and Nutrition intervention is being implemented in four programme areas. The Channels of Hope for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (CoH-MNCH) and Community Health Committees (COMM) models are being used to roll out this intervention.

Through the Channels of Hope (CoH) for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and Child Protection (CP) Catalysing workshops, 767 faith leaders were trained with a corresponding 77 Congregational Hope Action Teams (CHATs) formed. Hence, Faith Leaders and Faith communities have been equipped to protect children in their communities and to provide healthy and safe environments for children to thrive. This includes raising awareness and advocating on child marriage and maternal and child health related issues. One remarkable success seen under this health model is the establishment of a Community Health-Based Planning Services (CHPS) compound in the Asante Akim area through the initiative of the CHAT group.

A minimum of two food demonstration sessions were held in project communities in all four PHC implementing APs reaching 2,618 mothers and children. Mothers and caregivers were educated on the various food groups, and practical sessions of cooking well-balanced meals based on the locally available foods. They were also taken through forms of food preservation and food hygiene/ handling.

These contributed to the rates of stunting (18.94%) and wasting (8.92%) according to AMIC 2018 as compared to the threshold of 20% and 5% respectively.

Mother to Mother Support Groups (MTMSGs) continue to serve as community structures used to disseminate health and nutritional education. Capacity of 161 MTMSG leaders were built on exclusive breastfeeding, nutritional counseling, and group dynamics. To financially empower these MTMSGs, they were introduced to the Savings for Transformation (S4T) model. Two piloted groups each in Savelugu and Sekyere Clusters after receiving capacity on the S4T concept are economically empowered to expand their businesses. Mothers in these groups can afford more nutritious meals for their children and families.

Success Story

Mother to Mother Support Group saves a family from hardship

My name is Wasila Saaka, I am 35 years of age and a mother of four (4) children in Hangaline Community in the West Gonja district, in the Northern region of Ghana. My husband and I got married six years ago but lately we have been experiencing financial constraints. As a peasant farmer, my husband could not do much because his output was not enough for him to sell and even stock some for consumption at home. Sometimes taking our children to the hospital to access health care was challenging; all because of the same financial constraints. My children and I faced a lot of difficulty in feeding, clothing and even sometime taking care of our health and financial needs. I had to resort to carrying firewood, burning charcoal and even help people sell gari (food product made out of cassava turned into flakes) after processing to be able to get something small to take care of the family.



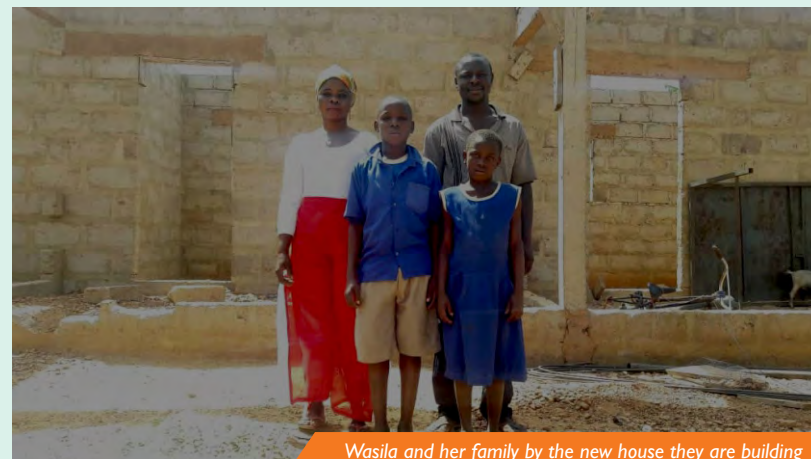
Wasila and her family in front of their old house

Upon all this, my husband still wanted us to have more children because they believe the more children you have, the more you become respected in your community and would be given a fitting burial when you die. I resisted but along the line, a fourth child came. The situation became even more frustrating such that, I had to sell my personal belongings to be able to provide for the family.

All this continued until I met a friend who introduced me to a group called Mother to Mother Support group formed by World Vision. I asked what they do there, her response was “*you just come for a day and see for yourself*”. I became hesitant at a point but later chose to give it a try. The very first day I went there, they were discussing topics on how to prepare food using locally available food sources. They also discussed some bits of family planning and the leader explained to us, various family planning methods and where to access those items. I became very interested in the group's discussions. The following week I registered as a member and began to take part in their sessions. I was also privileged to be introduced into the group's savings and borrowing activities known as 'Savings for Transformation’ also introduced by World Vision to the group. I even became more interested because of the savings and borrowing part considering my situation. After contributing for a while through charcoal selling, I was able to access a loan from the group to start up something.



Wasila displaying her goods



Wasila and her family by the new house they are building

My life had a good turn when I began borrowing money from my Savings for Transformation group to start a trade. I bought food items to sell and make profit for the up keep of the family. I was able to grow from taking a loan of **GH¢100 (US\$ 20.35)** to taking **GH¢1000 (US\$203.51)** because of my loyalty to the group. My contribution now caught my husband's attention and he began to listen to me. I also capitalised on that and discussed family planning with him. As I speak with you now, I am practising one. I have gone in for the three years one. I can now boast of three (3) square meals, good education for my children, quality health care as well as a good interpersonal relationship with my husband whom I almost lost. Due to the good turn of my business, I have been able to partner with my husband to start the construction of a three (3) bedroom house so as to leave our rented house to our own home. I want to express my profound gratitude to World Vision and its entire staff. It is my prayer that more of such initiatives will come up to support the vulnerable ones and the poor. I will want to urge all women to take these opportunities made available by World Vision. Thank you.


Story & Photos by: Gideon Tia & Francis Gumah

EDUCATION


102 

District Teacher Support Teams (DTSTs) trained on Unlock Literacy model and have provided coaching and monitoring visits to 926 teachers in 240 schools.

670 volunteers trained to support the 520 after-school reading programmes in 10 APs.

 650 early childhood teachers trained

520 book banks set up in 10 APs

 1200 Buffalo Bicycles distributed to vulnerable pupils in 2 APs through the World Bicycle Relief's BEEP.

Child protection issues incorporated into the Scripture Union Camps and Girls' Education Camp meetings (benefiting 900 girls and over 200 boys) at Nkwanta and Kadjebi.

The Reading Improvement in Primary Education Technical Programme is implemented in 10 out of 23 Area Programmes and leveraging on the evidence based Unlock Literacy and Learning Roots project models to improve children's core reading skills.

Early Grade Reading

The 2018 Annual Monitoring Indicators on Child Well-being (AMIC) shows that, within the programme areas, 3.02% of Primary 2 children can read and comprehend English language text as compared to 2% according to the National Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) report (Ghana Education Service, 2015). The Fanteakwa Area Programme recorded the highest of 8.08% for English language. This is due to the implementation of the Unlock Literacy project funded by the Korea International Corporation Agency (KOICA). World Vision has built the capacity of 102 District Teacher Support Teams (DTST) in Literacy Instruction. Subsequently, these trainers have replicated the training and coached 926 lower primary (grade 1-3) teachers and their head teachers in 240 schools.

Early Childhood Development

The Learning Roots project model is implemented in 180 kindergarten schools to prepare children age 3-5 for Grade 1. The 2018 AMIC report indicated that, 36.72% of kindergarten children are able to recognise concepts in prints. This is a great improvement as 20.79% was recorded last year (Baseline Report, 2017). A total of 22 master trainers have been trained in early childhood development methodologies and

subsequently these master trainers have trained 650 kindergarten teachers.

Strengthened community participation in education

The School Management Committee remains a strategic partner in the education delivery value chain. Fanteakwa, Nkwanta, Krachi East and Afram Plains have organised training in Celebrating Families Curriculum, development of School Performance Improvement Plans (SPIP) for a total of 36 members of SMC/PTAs in their respective districts. The training has equipped the SMC/PTA members with the requisite skills they need to improve child care practices. World Vision trained 520 Reading Camp volunteers across the 10 education projects who are providing after school reading support for 520 functional reading camps and book banks.

Improving Mobility to school and learning

World Vision in partnership with the World Bicycle Relief, supported two APs: Kasena Nankana, and Nkwanta districts with bicycles. Some of the children commute averagely 10km daily to and from school. These children arrive in school tired and worn out to participate in academic activities. 1,200 Buffalo Bicycles were distributed to children especially the girls. Reports from target schools reveal that school attendance for these girls has improved just as their academic work. Indeed, from the attendance of 27% in 2017, 85% (Bicycle Education Empowerment Project (BEEP) Kasena Baseline 2018) of children attended school on time in 2018.



Trained Teacher teaching the children phonetics

Success Story

Unlock Literacy

A Fun Approach to Teaching Children

Theresa Acheampomaa, a pupil teacher at Diaso Anglican Basic School in the Central Region of Ghana has been a pupil teacher for 8 years. She currently teaches the class one (Grade three) pupils and has been teaching them for the past four years. Inspired by her love for teaching, Theresa realised that her class pupils could not pronounce two letter and three letter words.

Theresa tried different ways in teaching the children how to pronounce two and three letter words. However, in a class of about 62 children, only 6 of the children could identify letter sounds and thus read simple sentences. This discouraged her as a teacher. *“Honestly, I was always tempted to punish them because of this. I was discouraged and wished I could leave the teaching profession”* she said.

According to Theresa, the situation changed when WorldVision came to her community and organised a training they called Unlock Literacy for all lower primary school teachers. The training concentrated on the different approaches of teaching and helping pupils to grasp what is being taught easily. Some of the approaches taught were fun activities like; Hopscotch games, Literacy game draw (where you draw an alphabet in the air and then someone will have to guess the sounds that it goes with), others were to have a Print Rich class room allowing pupils to see an alphabet and the sounds it goes with and even a picture of an image of the sound.

Theresa said the training taught her that, children needed to know the sound of the alphabets to be able to form words with it. *“I realised that it was not the fault of the children that they could not read, but rather my approach”* She stated.

Theresa started teaching the pupils letter sounds and used activities like hopscotch games to help children match letter names with sounds. Her class had become a lively class because of the fun activities she had incorporated in the curriculum.

Theresa now has over 25 children who can identify letters with their sounds and they can read. Matilda, a pupil said *“I couldn't read because I didn't know*



Theresa teaching the pupils letter sounds



A print rich class room

the sound each alphabet makes but now I can read. I wish Madam Theresa will always be my teacher.”

Rev. Fr. Philip Bogyagu, the Headmaster for Diaso Anglican, revealed that Theresa had earlier on requested to be transferred from the school because of the low reading abilities of the pupils in her class. According to Rev. Fr. Philip Bogyagu, there is a remarkable improvement in the lives of Theresa and the children in her class.

Theresa in her excitement said *“I'm very happy about it and I'm not discouraged anymore because they are improving. This is only the first term. I am sure by the end of the second term, I will have, if not all, 50% children who can read.”* She then pleaded with WorldVision to continue to support teachers so as to improve the lives of children through education.



Matilda playing a hopscotch game

Story by: Enoch Kwame Amu
Edited by: Joseline N. Annan



CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

3,000,000

Over 3 million people reached via media platforms with campaign messages

3 girls rescued from child marriage through child parliament interventions (one (1) returned to school)



284

functional kids clubs in all APs promoting child-led advocacy

The Amendment of Child Related Legislations

To ensure the promotion and protection of rights of children in Ghana, WVIG contributed to the review of the Children's Act, Criminal Offences Act, Births and Deaths Registration Act and the Domestic Violence Act. The national dialogue for the review of these Acts was organised by the Department of Children under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection.

Through the 'End Child Marriage Now' campaign launch, Civil Society Organisations and development partners such as UNICEF came together to pursue a common objective for the review and amendment of some child protection legislation to make the child and family welfare policy work.

WVIG is part of the on-going dialogue to ensure that the legal age of consent is adjusted to 18 to be at par with the legal age of marriage.

WVIG supported birth registration for children in its programme areas. By the end of 2018, 56.36% of children had their births registered. WVIG is also partnering with faith leaders and communities to ensure that every child born in their communities is registered before their first birthday.

Kids Clubs / Child Parliament

The 284 active kids clubs and child parliaments have effectively engaged in various activities meant to nurture them spiritually, build their life skills and resilience.

Kids Club members have developed social competencies and values such as public speaking, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, group dynamics and team building. They have been instrumental in leading advocacy on ending violence against children.

Global Mobilisation to End Violence against Children

WVIG participated in commemorating global mobilisation days to advocate on violence against children. The events provided a platform to educate over 20,000 adults, children, faith leaders and the journalists on positive child upbringing and more importantly the need to value children as a gifts from God.

Success Story

Kids Club conducts research on Child Marriage in Akotoshie

On June 29th, 2018, World Vision International, Ghana joined its key stakeholders from government, INGOs, Donors, Traditional leaders, faith leaders and children to launch a child led research report on violence against children.

This was towards celebrating the achievements made after a year of running "It Takes a World" campaign to end child marriage.

The research which was conducted from November, 2016 to March 2017 by children of WorldVision's Kids Club in Akotoshie within the



Photo Credit: World Vision / Joseline N. Annan

Abigail and her colleagues presenting the Child Led research findings



Rev. Dr. Aryee & Mr. Mahama launching the report

Ga West municipality focused on the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy, a major driver of child marriage.

According to the research findings, the child researchers recommended the need for more collaborative efforts to be done by all stakeholders to realise the goal of ending child marriage in Ghana.

Abigail, 14 and a member of the Kids club who presented the research findings highlighted the following as some of the responses from girls who had suffered from teenage pregnancy.

“I needed money to register for my basic school certificate examination when I was in my final year and could only do so by sleeping with boys to get money and this led to pregnancy”.

“For me, it was lack of sex education. Since I was not enrolled in school. I engaged in sexual activity and that is how I got pregnant”

Reverend Dr. Joyce Aryee, Executive Director of Salt and Light Ministries who chaired the occasion, said, child marriage deprives girls of education and economic empowerment. She lauded members of the Kids club for conducting such a research and coming out with thought provoking findings which needed to be addressed by all and sundry.

In addition, Mr. Emmanuel Baba Mahama, WVIG-Board Chair who launched the child led report, said in view of the pervasive nature of violence against children, it was critical for everyone to advocate against child marriage to make it a thing of the past. He said, *“The campaign to end violence against children is such that no one person, organisation or entity can fight this battle alone irrespective of the resources available. It will take us all to end this social canker.”*

Continuing, Sarafina, 15, a young advocate of the Child Parliament in Savelugu, reminded guests that, when parents give their young children out for marriage and deprive them of education, their future becomes bleak. She said, *“The cost of dowry or bride price cannot in anyway reduce the poverty of families who give out their children especially girls in marriages; but rather entrenches them in a cycle of poverty.”*



Dignitaries pledging their support to end child marriage



A queen mother signing up to end child marriage

Stories of child marriage survivors aroused emotions among guests who further pledged and signed to support the campaign to end child marriage.

Story by: Irene Dede Sawerth
 Edited by: Marian Roberts

VisionFund Ghana, a wholly owned subsidiary of World Vision International seeks to promote social and economic empowerment and improved livelihoods for children by providing micro loans, micro insurance and financial literacy services to clients who are mostly women living in rural and peri-urban areas of Ghana.

VisionFund Ghana in the past 18 years adopts group and individual methodologies to provide working capital and fixed asset loans to clients working in the Agriculture, Commerce, Services and Production sectors.



Margaret at the shop

Success Story

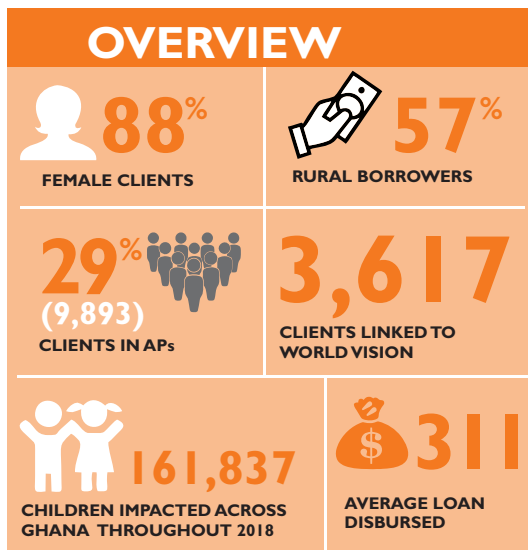
Breaking the Chain of Poverty in Ghana! A Pledge by VisionFund Ghana....

“Many are called but few are chosen” the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:14 kept resounding on her mind as she stood in front of her broken mirror, which could not also help her see her face well due to the poor ventilation in the room.

Occasionally, thoughts of her husband, Nana Atto Kontor, flashes in and out her mind, as if to remind her of where she was, where she is now and where she is going. It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years already when he passed on to glory; he died because the medicine to sustain his health was too expensive and the family could not afford it anymore.

Margaret Kontor, a widow and a mother of six (6) children was left with nothing but her will to be financially able. During her challenging days, lack of financial support and proper business advice increasingly made her fragile and was near quitting her small Chop Bar (restaurant) business, the only source of livelihood for her and the children.

In 2017, VisionFund Ghana extended its operations to Tepa in the Ahafo Ano North municipality, within the north-western part of Ashanti Region of Ghana where Margaret lives. Margaret decided to be a part of a loan group that received financial training in preparation for a loan to grow their businesses.



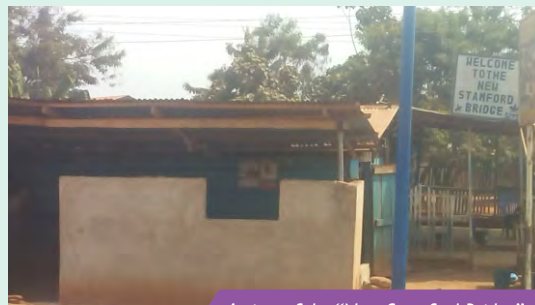
After the third training session with the VisionFund team, Margaret became very much aware of the limitless potentials in her Chop Bar business. It was during these training sessions that she affirmed to herself, *“I can't stand aloof and watch poverty abuse me and my 6 children; I need to make a change once and for all”*. Recollecting the words of the Client Service Officer 'poverty is in the mind' made Margaret to resolve unwaveringly to make this change once and for all, Margaret revealed.

This resolution got Margaret to make a conscious effort to steadily increase her wealth and influence the lives of her children and others. She set a four-year wealth-increasing target for herself, thus, establishing Chop Bar branches across the municipality and also a culinary school.

With her first loan she bought a deep freezer and cooking utensils. This began well but not without challenges. Margaret had used part of the loan to acquire fixed assets, so she had to do all the work by herself, since she could not afford to employ additional hand at the time.

She repaid her loan with ease, took the second loan, and expanded her kiosk to create a sitting area for customers. At this stage, she employed four women in her community to assist her.

Upon taking out her second loan, Margaret expanded her eatery and this was also very critical for her since the same place served as her accommodation.



A view of the “New Stamford Bridge”

Following this expansion, she employed four women to support the business.

Keeping her four-year wealth-increasing target in mind, upon receipt of her third loan, she created another business. Margaret established a salon to be managed by his eldest son.

“I can break free of poverty if the number of dependents on me also had an income source and could plough back profit from my chop bar business that was the reason I set this salon business up for my son.” She again used part of the loan to buy a land in the municipal capital (Tepa) to start another chop bar branch. One of her sons has since named Margaret's business 'Stamford Bridge' and is already referring to the latest business venture “New Stamford” while referring to the first business as the “Stamford Bridge Headquarters”.

In doing all these, Margaret has also supported her children's education alongside, enrolling two of them in the college of education and in addition, supported her nephew to enroll at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.



Margaret getting ready to serve customers

Margaret said her current situation baffles the mind of the people who knew her previous demeaning situation. However, Margaret believed all she needed was the financial literacy and that's what VisionFund Ghana gave her to start off this change.

She narrates, *“even if VisionFund does not give me loan again, my knowledge about money and business growth is enough for me to stand on my own, I can confidently say that the chain of poverty is broken”*.

Margaret is grateful to the team of staff from VisionFund in the Tepa Branch for showing her the way to economic emancipation. She has become an ambassador for change in her community, giving financial and business presentations at church meetings in and outside her catchment area, encouraging other women.

CROSSCUTTING PROJECTS

End Child Marriage Now Campaign

WVIG commemorated the first anniversary of the launch of the Campaign with over 200 participants from key government functionaries and development partners. Survivors of child marriage, faith leaders and young leaders demonstrated evidence of the reality and effect of child marriage and the need for collective action to end child marriage. A child marriage survivor, Lariba recount her experiences and called on all to halt the harmful practice from destroying the future and dreams of girls.



Empowering communities to support girls's education and end child marriage

Photo Credit: World Vision/Joseline N. Annan

Faith and Development

In achieving its goal: 'to contribute to transformed behaviour and empowering people especially faith leaders to advocate for spiritual nurture and development of children in WVIG's operation communities, the programme focused mainly on Staff Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Nurture of Children (SNC), Church Partnership and Interfaith Engagement.

Over 9,495 children received spiritual nurturing mainly through kids clubs. The Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) and Scripture Union were supported to equip 143 pastors, church leaders and kids clubs monitors in the Krachi East & West, Nkwanta and Kadjebi

Area Programmes on SNC and witnessed the love of Christ to 814 children.

WASH Sermon campaigns and education, including the use of the WASH Sermon Guide by the Local Council of Churches (LCCs) contributed to the Open Defecation Free certification of 10 communities in the Nkwanta Area Programme. Sponsored by WV Canada, faith leaders and communities were empowered to raise awareness and drive action towards ending child marriage in the Nkwanta, Asante Akyem and Zabzugu Area Programmes.

The Campaign has resulted in 10 key Volunteer Campaign Ambassadors moving

from community to community with the message and 200 girls using sports to campaign to bring an end to child marriage and violence. The Nkwanta Municipal Islamic Council has enacted a bye-law to arrest any man who marries or gives out a child for marriage.

"Children in the Ashiabre community do not attend school due to parental neglect and irresponsibility. I have been educating my church members and supporting children with school uniforms. Out of these interventions, 30 children in my church have started going to school. On child marriage, I have been using two nurses in the Church as role models to challenge parents that if these nurses had been

married off earlier, they would not have been where they are now. This has inspired many parents to take care of their children’s education and well-being” said Pastor Moses Amenyo, the Ashiabre Community Hope Action Team (CHAT) Leader.



Faith leaders pledging to End Child Marriage

Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA)

The National Office worked closely with NADMO and the Inter Agency Working Group on Emergencies (IAGWE) to carry out a joint assessment to determine areas of support in response to victims of the floods that affected some parts of the three Northern Regions. The IAGWE supported NADMO to put in place an Emergency Response Plan and in conducting a capacity assessment on their response to emergencies.



HEA Manager handing over items to flood victims

Impact Evaluation of the KOICA Literacy Boost Programme in Fanteakwa District

World Vision International, Ghana, in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), implemented the Literacy Boost 1 programme in Ghana’s Fanteakwa District from March 2016 through December 2018. Literacy Boost interventions included teacher training, community reading activities, and provision of age-appropriate locally relevant reading materials, to support emergent and foundational literacy skills among early-grade children. The programme was implemented in 108 schools with a focus on children in grades 1 through 3 in three cohorts according to need and availability of resources at baseline. Students were assessed in Grade 1 at baseline and again two and a half years later, as Grade 3 students for the endline assessment using an adaptable assessment tool. The skills assessed included: letter knowledge, single word reading of most used words, fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. Each student was assessed in both Twi (Mother Tongue) and English, and where applicable, in Dangbe (Mother Tongue).

Data gathered during the endline assessment were analysed and presented against baseline data for children in all cohorts.

At endline, Cohort 1 students outperformed their peers in other cohorts on many reading outcomes, and multivariate regression analyses confirmed the positive impact on traditionally disadvantaged students related to

some reading skills. Nonreaders in all cohorts, however, struggled with comprehension of texts in both languages.

Moving forward, Literacy Boost programming in World Vision International, Ghana would:

- Continue its focus on basic and advanced reading skills as the duration of Literacy Boost programming is correlated with greater improvement in student reading scores.
- Continue to emphasise participation and attendance in Community Action activities such as Reading Camps.
- Continue to work with teachers and caregivers to engage students in the reading process, both at school and at home, in order to increase reading comprehension skills.



Community volunteer teaching children letter sounds

Cocoa Life Project

Cocoa Life is a project that aims at creating an empowered, thriving cocoa community to increase sustainable supply of cocoa. Cocoa life continues to provide hope for communities and works diligently to improve the cocoa supply. Interventions are aimed at reducing teenage pregnancy, child labour reduction and improving household resilience during off-peak seasons.

The Cocoa Life Project is funded by Mondelez International in partnership with World Vision International, Ghana (WVIG). WVIG leads the implementation of the initiative in five (5) districts within Central, Western and Ashanti regions in Ghana, under three (3) main pillars; Community, Livelihood, and Youth; while coordinating the Farming and Environment pillars.



Community member displaying her cocoa pods

Community:

- 121 Community Action Plan Committees established, trained and functioning
- 121 Community Action Plans (CAP) reviewed and integrated twice into 5 District Assemblies medium term plans.
- Over 230 development projects on CAPs at various stages of completion.
- 47% women participation (target of 40%) in decision making reported last year.

Livelihood:

- Over 188 S4T (VSLA) established, trained and functioning across 121 communities.
- 47 S4T (VSLAs) with 1,039 members (379 men and 660 women) successfully completed their first cycles and shared out \$144,287.00 (GHS 649,291.80)
- 32 Enterprise groups established, trained in soap, gari processing and functioning across 5 districts.
- 2,127 beneficiaries (1,062 men and 1,065 women) members of S4T, Enterprise Groups, Farmer societies, and youth empowered with financial planning skills across 63 communities in 5 districts.

Youth:

- 121 Community Child Protection Committees (CCPC) established, trained and functioning.
- 645 CCPC members (359 men and 286 women) trained on child protection across 5 districts.
- 2 youth groups (30 in number) supported and are managing a total of 3,500 coconut trees on a 50 acre plantation in Awutu Senya.

PARTNERS



European Union



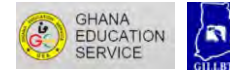
Global Affairs Canada



Birth and Death Registry



MINISTRY OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



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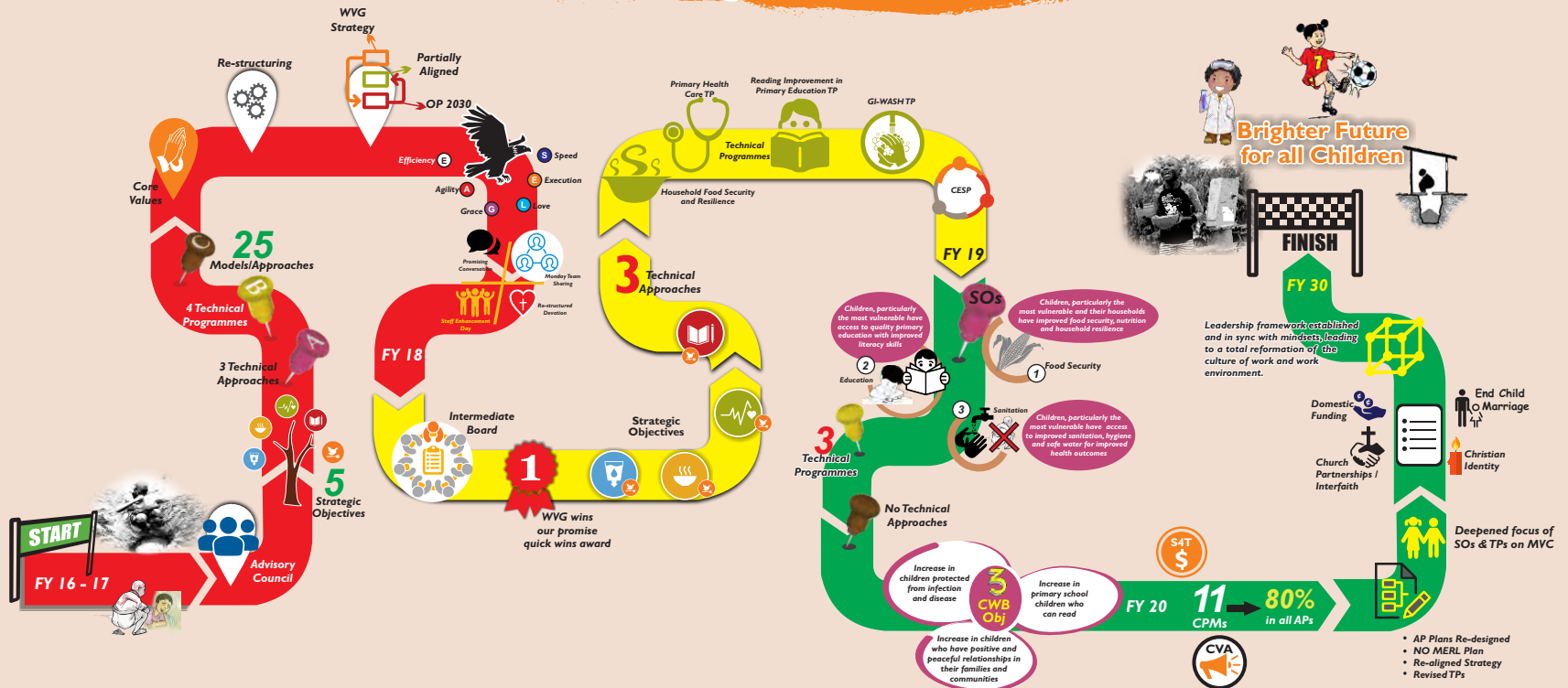
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WVIG journey to OUR PROMISE 2030 Alignment



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