

WORLD VISION GHANA

FACT SHEET FOOD SECURITY



BACKGROUND

Our strategy for empowering communities to achieve Food Security (FS) is informed by the state of food security in Ghana captured in the World Vision Ghana three-year strategy, the Government of Ghana Medium Term Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (METASIP 2011-2015) as well as the World Vision West Africa Food Security Strategy.

The Government of Ghana Medium Term Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (METASIP) identified the following as the major challenges of food security in Ghana: Reliance on rain-fed agriculture; low level and low-performing irrigated agriculture; low level of mechanization in production and processing; high post harvest losses as a result of poor post harvest management; low level and ineffective agricultural finance; poor extension services as a result of several institutional and structural inefficiencies; inadequate markets and processing facilities. Other challenges are low performing breeds of livestock; poor feeding of livestock; high cost of feed for poultry; poor livestock housing and husbandry management; competition from imports and poor post-production management of livestock products; over-fishing of natural water bodies; undeveloped fish value chain and inadequate skills in aqua-culture.

Our Goal: To improve household food security and resilience for 342,415 children and their families, including the most vulnerable. In order to achieve this goal, the following strategic objectives are being pursued:

Resilience of community livelihoods enhanced: This involves interventions aimed at sustainable environmental management, community capacity for disaster risk reduction and development of community infrastructure for traditional and alternative livelihood activities.

Crop and livestock production improves: Interventions using improved breeds of animals, improved varieties of crops, improved crop and animal husbandry practices, crop livestock integration and sustainable soil and water management practices.

Agriculture-based economic development promoted:

Development and upgrading of local value chains, access to markets, village savings and loans, alternative livelihood opportunities for youth, access to credit and MFI services and access to agricultural inputs.

Household Food Utilization Improved:

Constraints to food utilization include loss of nutrients during food processing, inadequate sanitation, improper care and storage, and cultural practices that negatively impact consumption of nutritious foods for certain family members particularly children.

Food Security Interventions and Projects

Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) Project
This project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has built the capacity of over 132,000 people including farmers, Agricultural Extension Agents and agro inputs dealers in over 2,200 communities in the three Northern regions and parts of Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions in the utilization of hermetic bags to store other commodities like dried pepper and corn.

Mondelez International Cocoa Life Project

This project, funded by Mondelez International provides extension services to cocoa farmers in the Mporhor Wassa East and Fanteakwa Districts. The project ensures sustainable use of agro chemicals to protect the environmental and gender equity in the use of resources and sharing of proceeds. It also uses strategies that ensure citizen empowerment and combats child labor. A total of 66 farmer-based organizations with over 5000 members who have been registered as cooperatives have received fair trade certification payments worth over \$350,000.

Livestock for Income and Nutrition Enhancement (LINE) Project

Targeted households in the Gushiegu and West Mamprusi Districts have accessed 1,340 improved breeds of small ruminants (sheep and goats) and their capacity strengthened in livestock husbandry and marketing. Improved dietary intake has also been achieved through nutrition education in 40 communities using behavior change communication messages and food demonstrations.

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)

Project:

FMNR, originally funded by AusAID and now by WorldVisionAustralia, gives equal opportunities for participation of women. It aims at increasing knowledge in natural resource management; diversifying sources of food and income to curb negative coping mechanisms that harm the environment; restoring marginal and degraded lands; and advocacy and capacity building in environmental management.

FMNR is implemented in the Talensi Nabdam, Bawku West and Kasena Nankana West Districts.

Impact of Pilot Phase

- 236 hectare of land have been set aside by 9 communities for FMNR while contributing over half a million trees.
- 20 farmers sent to Burkina Faso to interact with farmers already practicing FMNR.
- Time saved by women in the collection of firewood.
- Boys who herd cattle now get more time to attend school because of availability of animal food around the country.
- World Vision received UN convention to combat desertification. www.unccd.int

Savings Groups (SG)

The scheme which is operational in 13 ADPS involving over 11,103 community members, is primarily designed to assist them put their savings together and manage it themselves. The scheme makes it possible for members to buy shares so that the total dividends at the end of the year are shared according to the total shares bought. This is the savings for business component. Benefits from the scheme are self managed savings for business, financial support social needs and a platform for education, community owned and operated and a sustainable example to Ghana.

As of June 2014, over \$550,000 has been mobilized by savers.



VisionFund Micro Finance (VFMF)

VisionFund Micro Finance, a subsidiary of WV Ghana, provides micro loans and saving services to the rural poor, primarily women and youth. Services provided by VisionFund (VF) to its clients are in two main categories: financial services like credit, savings facilitation and micro insurance; and non-financial services like business training through capacity building of individual entrepreneurs, skills development and agricultural extension services. As of March 2014 VF had a client size of 18,000 of which 80% are women and portfolio size of \$2.2m clients are engaged in a variety of economic activities, including: commerce (70%); agriculture (21%); production such as basket weaving and food processing (5%); and services (4%).

SATISFY- Systems Approach To Improve and Sustain Food Security in West Africa
A 5-year food security project funded by Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and World Vision Canada. DFATD is providing 75% of the life of project (LoP) budget whiles World Vision Canada is providing the remaining 25%

SATISFY is implemented in 4 countries in West Africa; Ghana, Senegal, Mali and Sierra Leone

SATISFY Ghana has a LoP Budget of USD\$2,492,149.00

The project started in April 2012 and ends in March 2017

The Project Ultimate Outcome: To Improve the food security status of people living in poor rural communities in the project area.

The project reached about 12,047 farmers with trainings in improved animal and crop production, improved crop varieties, business skills and IGA trainings. About 86% crop farmers and 58% of farmers who participated in livestock trainings adopted the practices

The project formed 40 Savings Groups and trained them in Village Savings and loans

skills. These groups have mobilized their own savings to the tune of over USD\$35,000. The groups have provided credit/working capital to about 1,164 members. Families are telling good stories of providing well for their children education, nutrition and building household assets. Families are more hopeful; looking for greater opportunities and aspiring to invest in cottage industries. They are moving away from being “servants” to becoming “masters” of the opportunities around them. About 1,115 members have also received business management skill trainings.

CONTACT US

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