



**ANNUAL REPORT
GHANA
2019**

This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of World Vision Ghana, from October 2018 to September 2019.

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Grand Concept (grandcvgh@yahoo.com)

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Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri



Photo Credit: World Vision / Jason Amoo



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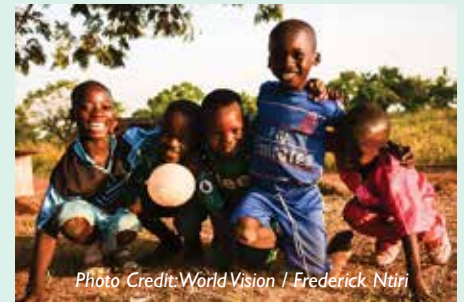


Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

BOARD MEMBERS



Emmanuel Baba Mahama
Chair



Efua Ghartey
Vice Chair



Dickens Thunde
Secretary / National Director



James Kwame Otioku
Member



Dasmon Alex Akpabli
Member



Baafour Otu-Boateng
Member



Eva Okyere
Member



Rev. Erasmus N. B. Odonkor
Member



Carla Denizard
Member



Dr. Nana Kofi Annan
Member



Dr. Mary Amoako Coleman
Member



Dr. Ernest Ofori Asamoah
Member

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dickens Thunde
National Director



Richard Nii Okai Okai
Integrated Programmes Director



Dr. Frances Noble-Nkrumah
People & Culture Director



Mercy Nuleyan
Finance & Support Services Director



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

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

WorldVision 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



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

Photo Credit: World Vision / Jason Amoo



MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dickens Thunde

It is that time of the year again; a time to give account of our stewardship. I am full of praise because WorldVision Ghana, as usual, continued to enjoy the goodness of the Lord throughout 2019.

Consequently, this report is replete with testimonies of perceptible improvement in the lives of children and communities we serve. The remarkable results we have recorded were made possible by the concerted efforts of our stakeholders, including sponsors, governmental institutions, district assemblies, faith leaders, community leaders, dedicated staff and children to bring measurable improvements in the lives of children.

We have, like never before, demonstrated our bias for the well-being of children throughout 2019 in the fields of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Food Security and Resilience, Education, Child Protection and Advocacy. We worked to ensure that all children especially the most vulnerable have improved protection and participation through advocacy, programming and partnership at all levels.

With the support of our sponsors, partners and stakeholders we have provided boreholes for use in schools, clinics and communities. Again, we worked with stakeholders and communities to ensure that children and their families have access to improved sanitation and hygiene facilities in communities, schools and health centres. We are delighted that almost a hundred communities have been certified Open Defecation Free (ODF) hence deemed clean for children to live in. World Vision facilitated the formation of hundreds of Water and Sanitation Management Teams who have been trained to manage and maintain the facilities we have provided to ensure sustainability.

My heart is full of gratitude to the members of WVG Board for funding a borehole fitted with hand pump to facilitate effective teaching and learning in the Mirigu Basic School in the Kassena-Nankana East AP.

The water facility, which has passed water quality and quantity tests, is already providing safe drinking water to about 710 school children.

In the area of education, we have worked with stakeholders and partners to increase reading performance of children in primary schools, increased accountability to education and protection of children and strengthened community participation in education. As regards the health of the children, there is a marked improvement in the nutrition status among Children Under 5, a reduction in infectious and vaccine preventable diseases among children under 5 and an improvement in maternal health in our operational areas.

Additionally, we have worked with stakeholders to train hundreds of women, men and the youth in financial literacy, business and loan management, among others, to improve the viability of their businesses. In collaboration with agents and community based organisations, World Vision Ghana has formed 538 saving groups in five districts using the Savings for Transformation (S4T) project model. As a result, the economic ventures of beneficiaries have become more viable such that they are able to save and take care of their children.

We have intensified our work with the Domestic Violence Secretariat, faith leaders, traditional leaders, child parliamentarians and child advocates to reduce the menace of child marriage and all forms of violence against children to give them hope for bright futures.

We are glad we were able to support the flood victims including children in the Northern parts of Ghana as well as displaced persons affected by the ethnic conflicts in the Soboba and Chereponi districts.

World Vision Ghana takes delight in nurturing an atmosphere of fruitful leadership and staff dialogue with a view to enhancing staff and organizational well-being. In this connection, we have consistently improved upon OurVoice Survey ratings in the areas of Leadership, Organisational Culture, Organisational Effectiveness, and Agility as viewed by staff.

It gladdens our hearts that World Vision Ghana's work has received local and global recognition. During the year 2019, the Human Resource Focus Conference in Ghana adjudged World Vision Ghana as the “Best Human Resource Management in the NGO sector” category at the 2019 Awards night.

We also received an award for being the Best NGO in Safe Water Supply for the Decade (2008-2017) at the 2019 National WASH Stewardship Award event. Again, we were rated high for WASH best practices in the West Africa Region by the WASH Peer review team. Furthermore, World Vision Ghana together with some project beneficiaries won four (4) awards in the area of land restoration in the Sahel region at the 2019 Beating Famine Conference held in Mali.

This report, as I indicated earlier on, bears ample testimony to the progress World Vision Ghana and partners are making to improve the well-being of children. I therefore have the pleasure to encourage you to relax and read the entire report. You would not regret you did.

As I conclude, I would like to thank all our donors, both local and international, 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 steadfast support and cooperation. Last but not the least, I doff my hat for the staff of World Vision Ghana for persistently soaring higher and higher like eagles in every area of our work.



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Emmanuel Baba Mahama

The Financial Year 2019 represents the first full year of World Vision Ghana's existence as an Intermediate Office. For the Board, the year was part of the learning curve of operating as a body charged with full legal responsibility for World Vision, Ghana. Consequently, a significant portion of the Board's annual programme was aimed at fine tuning its governance infrastructure and processes. This was to ensure that the Board maximises its governance potential in the shortest possible time, within the context of the Company Act, 2019 (Act 992) and the Partnership requirements.

To reflect the change in governance status, the Board initiated the process for the official change of name of our entity from 'World Vision International in Ghana' to 'World Vision Ghana'. This decision was taken alongside the Board's review of the legal implications of the new Company Act (Act 992), to make our organisation fully compliant.

One of the Board's earliest assignment was the review and approval of the National Director's Performance Agreement.

The National Director's key performance goals were: ensuring WV Ghana's full alignment with Our Promise strategy, ensuring sustained improvement in programme effectiveness within WV, Ghana, supporting the Board to fully function as a Board after the transition to an Intermediate status, ensuring effective budget management systems, diversifying and growing funding, and ensuring the recruitment, development, motivation and retention of staff for continuous improvement.

(I am glad to say that an end of period performance review in early FY2020 revealed that most of these goals have been well achieved.)

As a build-up to our first Annual General Meeting, the Board approved two years' (FY16 and FY17) audited Annual Reports presented by the stop-gap External Auditors, Owusu Tsala and Associates, the firm of Chartered Accountants the Board had earlier commissioned to audit the books. Further to these approvals, the same Auditors were assigned the task of carrying out the FY18 Audit.

Meanwhile the Board also gave the greenlight to the Risk and Audit Committee to work through Management to procure a new audit firm in compliance with the Partnership policy on engagement of External Auditors.

In the course of the year, the Board approved a number of policies, namely, Conflict of Interest policy, Corporate Code of Conduct policy, and Diversity Management policy. The Risk Appetite Statement which indicates the level of risk the Office would tolerate was also reviewed and approved. Also approved during the year, was the Board Policy Manual which was put together under the supervision of the Governance, Nominations, People and Culture Committee.

The two routine joint meetings of the Board of WV Ghana and the Board of VisionFund Ghana were held in accordance with the mutually agreed forward agenda. One of the joint meetings came on during the joint field trip at the Bawku West Area Programme, while the other was held at the Head Office of World Vision Ghana. We have observed that there has been enhanced integration in

the activities of the two entities at the field level. One evidence of this development is the increased linkage in many Area Programmes (APs) of WVG Saving Groups to Vision Fund programmes.

Two new board members were recruited to fill up board vacancies. The Board and Management teamed up to provide these two (alongside two others who had assumed office in September 2018) with the requisite raft of orientation exposures to ensure their seamless integration into the Board. The Board also approved the recruitment of three new board members to replace members due to exit in the early part of FY2020. In preparation for the current Board Chair's exit in December 2019, two new board officers, a Chair and a Vice Chair were elected during the Board Development Session held in September. The Board Chair-Elect and Vice Chair-Elect are Mrs. Efua Ghartey and Mr. Baafour Otu-Boateng, respectively.

The Annual Board Development Offsite session took place in September. It was informed by the gaps identified in the annual evaluation of the Boards performance and WV Partnership Governance Guidelines. Key topics that were handled were: Mission Immersion, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Enterprise Risk Management, Virtual meeting skills (with emphasis on Zoom), World Vision Governance Framework and Structure, and the Duties and Liabilities of Directors. The facilitators were the Senior Regional Governance Adviser and some subject-matter experts drawn from the Senior Leadership Team.

Board members demonstrated their commitment to the Local Fund Development initiative by contributing some ten thousand US dollars (US\$10,000) from their personal resources towards the initiative. The amount went to provide a borehole fitted with a hand pump to facilitate teaching and learning in the Mirigu Basic School in the Kassena-Nankana East Area Programme. The water facility which has passed water quality & quantity tests has been commissioned. It is providing safe drinking water for over 700 school children.

It is worth observing that the constructive working relationship between the Advisory Council/Board and Management over the years has contributed strongly to the steady progress the Board has chalked so far.

We particularly applaud Management for doing World Vision Ghana proud by successfully hosting the World Vision International (WVI) Executive Committee (ExCom) during the year. This important event enjoyed elevated significance because it witnessed the changing of the baton between the former CEO of WVI, Kevin Jenkins and the current CEO, Andrew Morley. In the course of the WVI ExCom's historic visit, the former CEO delivered his farewell message from Fanteakwa in the Eastern Region and the new CEO gave his maiden message to the Partnership from Kintampo in the Bono Region.

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 the goodness, kindness and unfailing love of the Lord to thank for this progress. We recognise 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 to the incoming leadership so that WV Ghana would continue to relentlessly pursue our vision, for every child, life in all its fullness; our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

 **148**

boreholes constructed and commissioned (109 communities + 29 schools + 10 health facilities)

 **86,982** people

9,702 pupils

gained access to safe water .
Likewise, a total of 26,304 people who patronise health services at the 10 health facilities have access to safe water on the premises of these health centres.

99

Open Defecation Free (ODF) certified communities

6,493

household latrines constructed



348

Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMTs) established and trained

608

faith leaders were engaged in various WASH programmes

87

Citizen Voice and Action Group trained

Hand washing facilities installed in

649 schools

66 health facilities

The Ghana Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene (GIWASH) programme together with District Assemblies, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and other partners made progress towards ensuring all children and their families have access to safe water for drinking and other uses. As such, a total of 148 boreholes have been constructed and commissioned for use. Out of the total boreholes, 109 have been provided at the community level while 29 and 10 have been drilled and equipped for schools and health care facilities respectively. In addition, 171 water access taps have been installed from 27 Limited Mechanized Systems (LMS) provided in communities, schools and Health Care Facilities (HCF). Forty-nine (49) faulty water facilities were also rehabilitated within the year. In all, 86,982 people and 9,702 pupils have access to safe water. Likewise, a total of 26,304 people who patronise health services at the 10 health facilities have access to safe water on the premises of these health centres.

Throughout the year 2019, efforts were also made to ensure that children and their families have access to improved sanitation and hygiene facilities in communities, schools and health centres. As a result, the programme facilitated the construction of 6,493 latrines in homes and 21 in institutions within the year. This has provided access to improved sanitation to about 41,585 people (10,396 men, 11,769 women, 9,648 boys and 9,772 girls) at the community level and 6,841 pupils in schools. As a result of the sanitation interventions, 99 communities have been certified Open Defecation Free (ODF) hence deemed clean for children to live in. In order to promote inclusive WASH service in schools, the facilities have been designed to address the needs of people with limited mobility to minimize structural barriers in accessing WASH facilities. This comes in a form of disability walkways, visual aid guide and squat support frame to address all forms of mobility challenges. These facilities are designed with menstrual hygiene considerations as well, where changing rooms, disposal and hygiene facilities are integrated for privacy and to ensure proper menstrual hygiene management in schools.

Over the period, hygiene promotion reached 141,252 people (35,313 men, 39,974 women, 32,770 boys and 33,195 girls) within the year representing 97% of the target achieved. A total of 13,315 households have installed handwashing stations in their homes (with soap and water present) to stimulate handwashing especially at the 5 critical times.

The 2019 AMIC results revealed that, the proportion of households with handwashing facilities with soap and water is 21.85%, representing a 4.28 percentage increase of last year's results of 17.57%. While this will have significant contribution to address the gaps in personal hygiene behaviour as identified by the UNC evaluation, the prevalence of preventable disease is expected to be reducing. From the 2019 AMIC results, diarrhoea prevalence has reduced from 15.60% in 2018 to 14.86% as at the reporting period. There is ongoing engagement with partners and communities to sustain these gains.

To add up, the 45,534 school children, made up of 21,943 boys and 23,586 girls, have been given access to 649 hand washing facilities provided by World Vision within the year. WVG together with the School Management Committees (SMC), teachers, Parent Teacher Associations and the Ghana Education Service are working closely to maintain these facilities and also ensure soap and water are available to complement the handwashing facilities. The response to the WASH deficits in these schools will not only improve teaching and learning but are enablers for hygiene and behaviour change promotion through the School Health Education Program (SHEP). Also, 254 school WASH programmes have been established within the period to provide comprehensive WASH education and promote hygiene behavioural change in schools.

Within the period, a total of 66 health centres were supported with handwashing facilities to facilitate proper handwashing practice in HCFs. This is expected to facilitate quality health care delivery in health centres and reduce the risk of infection among staff, patient and visitors to the health facilities. These WASH interventions in HCFs were pursued in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the District Health Directorates. These institutions and the District Assembly are collectively committed to sustain the investments.

Local and national level activities were also pursued within the year to ensure advocacy for the provision, management and sustainability of WASH facilities. To this effect, 348 Water and Sanitation Management Teams, 87 Citizen Voice and Action Groups as well as 608 Faith (487 men and 121 women) leaders have been trained to help ensure sustainability. World Vision also presented position papers to parliament and issued press statements in conjunction with CONIWAS (Coalition Of NGOs In Water And Sanitation), Media Coalition against Open Defecation (MCODE) and WASHAlliance at the national level.

Success Story

World Vision's reusable pads send Bernice back to school

According to a 2008/9 study conducted by University of Oxford, Department of Social Policy and Intervention, in Ghana's capital city Accra, Western, Central and Ashanti regions, it was discovered that 95% of girls in the rural villages and 20.2% of girls in the peri-urban villages missed school due to menstruation.

Bernice is a 13-year-old girl in primary six. She comes from a large family of five siblings. Her parents, like other members of the community, are predominantly farmers. Bernice's parents only have a small parcel of land they used to grow crops like cassava, plantains, and vegetables. Due to the small size of the land, the family is only able to produce enough food for household consumption. They are only able to save a little to take to the market. The market is very far from their home and the cost of transportation means they make little profit from selling the harvest. This situation put an economic strain on Bernice's family. They could not even afford necessities. This included disposable sanitary pads for Bernice.

For a girl like Bernice and her family, five Cedis (less than \$1) was too much money to spend on sanitary pads. Bernice had to improvise by using toilet paper and sometimes-unclean cloth.



Bernice holding one of the reusable pads

Every month, Bernice risked her health because she had no other option. Moreover, the options that were available to her were not effective and would cause bloodstain in her clothes.

“When this happened at school, I would leave school and lessons, to avoid the humiliation. There were times when I would have to miss school altogether because I felt embarrassed to go”.

A friend invited Bernice to join World Vision's School Health Education Project (SHEP) club. It was at this point that Bernice learned about menstrual hygiene and other topics under health education. Later, Bernice and other members of the club were introduced to the production of reusable sanitary pads. The SHEP club facilitators taught the girls, how they can use clean clothes to make these reusable pads.

“I am so grateful for the SHEP club and to World Vision. Thanks to them, I have been able to make five reusable pads for myself. I am even making more because it has helped me a lot. I no longer stain myself when I am in my menstrual period. The teasing in school is now a thing of the past and I feel more confident to attend classes and learn without any distractions,” Bernice said.

Bernice no longer misses school when she is menstruating. She is now confident and very active in school. Her friends and teachers all attest to this change.



Bernice holding the pads she made and standing next to her mother

Story by: Wilson Anku
Edited by: Abena Agyei-Boateng

FOOD SECURITY



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

539 functional Saving for Transformation (S4T) groups established

699 women trained in financial literacy

16,863
hectares provided for tree planting

805 (463 males, 342 females) farmers equipped and trained in FMNR project models

62,500 tree species
Cashew (115,500) | Moringa (3,500)
Mahogany (9,000) | Casia (19,500)
Mango (1,500) | Rosewood (1,000)
Kapok (12,500)

Food insecurity, poverty and effects of climate change continue to be one of the critical issues affecting Child Well-Being (CWB). According to World Food Programme (WFP), in Ghana one (1) in ten (10) children live in extreme poverty and 1.2 million children live in households that are unable to provide adequate food due to insufficient income. In 2019, World Vision Ghana continued to strengthen interventions in 5 districts (Bawku West, Garu, Gushegu, Karaga and Saboba) to promote improved and sustained farming practices, empowered and resilient communities, skill development for livelihood diversification and local value chain development. In collaborating for broader impact, World Vision Ghana partnered with organizations such as Ministry for Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Department of Agriculture, VisionFund Ghana, the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), Forestry Service Division, Business Advisory Council (BAC) of National Board for Small Scale Industries and the District Assemblies to implement models aimed at addressing food insecurity.

Improved household access to credit and food availability

World Vision Ghana worked with village agents and Community Based Organizations to form 539 savings groups in 5 districts using the Savings for Transformation (S4T) project model. The model focuses on building a savings culture for households to ensure funds are available for members to access credit. This has contributed to an increase in the proportion of households with access to sufficient credit (from 2 sources) from 11.81% in 2018 to 16.74% in 2019. As at September 2019, 1,223 out of 3,300 people gained access to micro credit to start various forms of income generating activities. In a recent survey conducted by World Vision Ghana on the contribution of S4T on child well-being, findings revealed an increase in the income of parents translates into caring for children. 11,545 children belonging to 8,107 parents currently accessing loans from S4T groups have been catered for leading to improved well-being.

To improve the management of the financial resources, a total of 699 women and youth have been trained in financial literacy, business management skills, loan management skills, and entrepreneurial skills to improve business viability and loan repayment.

Access to credit is proving to be an important factor to ensuring food security as substantiated by testimonies from beneficiaries. As such, the 2019AMIC results indicate that the proportion of adolescents with sufficient access to food increased from 84.47% in 2018 to 87.37% in 2019.

Reduced effects of climate change, disasters and economic shocks

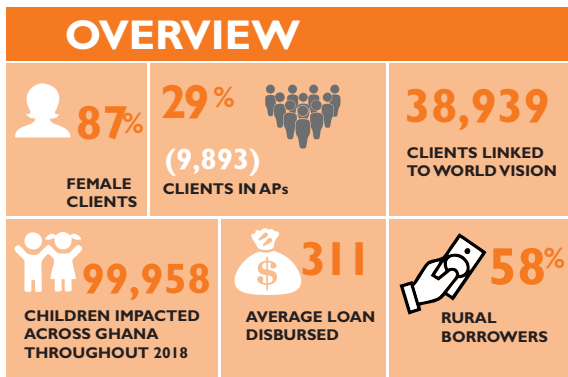
World Vision Ghana (WVG) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and the Forest Services Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission trained and equipped 805 farmers (463 males and 342 females) in the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project model to help reduce the effect of climate change on poor households. In addition, the capacity of 2,856 farmers in rural communities was built in soil and water conservation practices. Furthermore, 62,500 tree species including Cashew (15,500), Moringa (3,500), Mahogany (9,000), Casia (19,500), Mango (1,500), Rosewood (1,000) and Kapok (12,500) have been distributed to 7,495 households to plant on 16,863 hectares of individual farmlands, homesteads, school compounds and on communal land as woodlots or border trees. Disaster reduction, prevention and management strategies were also implemented across programming areas with the aim of building resilient communities.



With lessons learnt from the FMNR and Community Disaster Preparedness Plans, households in the Food Security programming area are adapting to improved environmental management practices.

Livelihood options for women and youth diversified and increased income

In 2019, World Vision Ghana collaborated with the Department of Agriculture, the Business Advisory Council (BAC) and communities to implement interventions aimed at increasing and diversifying economic opportunities of women and the youth. Consequently, World Vision introduced alternative livelihoods such as shea butter production, bee keeping and animal rearing to communities. Monitoring reports indicated that beneficiaries are beginning to diversify their sources of livelihood. The 2019 AMIC results indicate that 12% of women and 10% of youth are engaged in Local Value Chain Development activities. Also, the proportion of households with secondary source of income stands at 66.11% in 2019 as against 29.9% in 2018.



Success Story

A life transformed through the Livelihood Enhancement Programme

World Vision Ghana's Livelihood Enhancement Project in partnership with VisionFund Ghana (VFG) delivers microfinance interventions and promotes small business initiatives. The project has transformed the lives of many women, since its inception in 2014.

Nuhu Raadia is a mother of six, who sells porridge and fried bean cakes (koose) for a living. She has been in this business for over six years but has struggled to make a profit.

Before she joined VisionFund Ghana's loan group in her community, Raadia had a challenge raising capital for her business. She could hardly buy enough ingredients to make her porridge and sell. In instances where she got ingredients, she had to buy them on credit and this often came with high-interest payments. Raadia together with other women formed the Kigban Mato Group. After a series of orientation sessions, they were certified to enroll into the VisionFund Ghana loan project.

In October 2015, the Kigban Mato group had their first loan disbursed and Nuhu was a proud beneficiary. Four years after, Nuhu's life has changed. She now has enough capital to run a profitable business.



Raadia selling porridge

“It's been a journey without regrets; I had dreams and hope that this programme will help me realize it. Now, I see every one of the dreams fulfilled”. Raadia no longer buys her ingredients on credit. She now employs six female workers who are on monthly wages. The loan again has helped Raadia to acquire a deep freezer for the storage of the spices she uses in the porridge preparation. She has also acquired a piece of land, which she is hoping to develop into a home for her family. Raadia is confident that her children will have a better future because she is now making enough money to take care of them.

Story by: VisionFund/ Ambrose Haruna
Edited by: Abena Agyei-Boateng

HEALTH



- 56,617 children were reached with Vitamin A capsules
- 226 Mother to Mother Support Groups and Daddy Clubs were formed and strengthened
- 108 functional groups trained on nutrition
- 348 people were trained as Community Health Volunteers
- 8,857 children received immunization

Photo Credit: WorldVision / Jason Amoo

In view of our goal to contribute to the improvement of issues such as morbidities and mortalities, which are major public health concerns in Ghana, the Health Technical Programme of World Vision Ghana has implemented core project models namely Community Health Committee (COMM) and Channels of Hope (COH), KIA Green Light Project and USAID ACT to END Neglected Tropical Diseases|WEST project to help address these issues and contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 2 and 3.

The Health Technical Programme within 2019 continued to focus on its quest to ensure an increase in children protected from infections and diseases and also ensure an increase in children who are well nourished in four (4) programme areas (Sekyere East, Asante Akim North, Savelugu and West Gonja).

Improving Malnutrition among Children Under 5

The WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicated that the prevalence of Stunting, Underweight and Wasting among children under 5 years stood at 31%, 22% and 11% respectively in four (4) Area Programmes (Sekyere East, Asante Akim, North West Gonja and Savelugu). However, these indicators have slightly improved over the years. At the beginning of 2019, World Vision's data from our Annual Monitoring of Indicators on Child Well-being (AMIC) indicate that Stunting, Underweight and Wasting have decreased to 18.9%, 13.7% and 8.9% respectively.

Within 2019, WVG and its partners such as Ghana Health Service and Community Based Organizations reached 56,617 children with Vitamin A capsules. Together with partners, WVG formed and strengthened 226 Mother to Mother Support groups and Daddy's clubs in 77 communities on micronutrient rich foods and appropriate feeding practices.

So far, 108 functional community groups have been trained on nutrition. 13,891 pregnant mothers and mothers/caregivers with children aged between 0-23 months also received nutrition counselling while 9,289 caregivers of children aged 6-24 months received complimentary feeding education.

19,481 children have also been monitored for growth and 1,797 mothers benefitted from food demonstrations conducted in the communities.

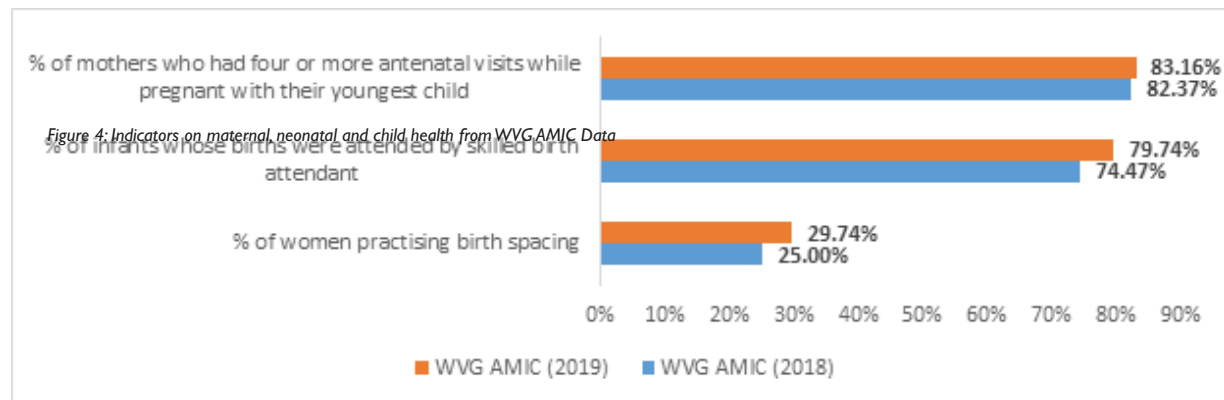
These interventions have resulted in an increase in the proportion of children exclusively breastfed until 6 months of age from 69.56% in the WVG Baseline Report (2017) to 83.68% in AMIC 2019 compared to the 52% at the country level. Superstitious beliefs and myths among programme communities continue to affect the drive to reduce stunting and wasting.

Reduce Infectious diseases and vaccine preventable diseases among children under 5

The World Health Organization report shows that acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and malaria are the leading causes of death among children aged 1-59 months in Sub-Saharan Africa (WHO Statistics 2018). The impact of infectious diseases among children under 5 is enormous. Although preventable and curable, these diseases remain a public health problem in Ghana. To address the incidence of these diseases in the communities, WVG's Health Technical Programme trained 348 people as Community Health Volunteers, and members of Community Health Committees and Mother-to-mother Support Groups to ensure improved service delivery in 45 communities. The communities were sensitized on malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia and other related infectious diseases and their preventive and curative measures. The (Channel of Hope- Maternal Newborn and Child Health model was used as a platform to train faith communities to advocate for malaria prevention. 8,857 children aged up to 12 months received aged appropriate immunization according to national standards in four (4) of our programme areas. Through the Bicycle Education Enhancing Project, the Sekyere and Asante Akim area programmes provided 55 community health workers (CHW) with bicycles to engage in community outreach services to conduct disease surveillance in the hard to reach communities.

Improving Maternal Health

The WVG's Health Technical Programme has made efforts to improve maternal health in Sekyere East, Asante Akim North, Savelugu and West Gonja districts. In 2019, the programme embarked on intensive community health education. Consequently, 14,137 individuals were educated on the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and pregnant mothers were encouraged to go for voluntary counselling and testing services during pregnancy.



Source: WVG AMIC Results (2018-2019)

A total of 31 Faith Based Organisations Congregational Hope for Action Teams (CHATs) on the Channel of Hope-Maternal New-born and Child Health (COH-MNCH) Module and 20 Community Health Committee (COMM) groups were trained to advocate for quality maternal and child health care. 2,789 were sensitized on the importance of Antenatal and Postnatal care. Anchored on the interventions, the proportion of mothers who had four or more antenatal visits while pregnant with their youngest child increased from 82.16% in 2018 to 83.37% in 2019. The proportion of infants whose births were attended to by skilled birth attendants have improved from 74.47% in 2018 to 79.74% in 2019. The proportion of women practising birth spacing increased from 25% in 2018 to 29.74% in 2019.



Success Story

Healthy Children in a Thriving Community: The story of the Mother to Mother Support Group

The people of Seniagya in the Ashanti Region are predominantly Akan. Per their tradition, a baby must be given water to prevent the baby's head from growing bigger than the body. This however contradicts globally accepted standards for newborn care as this could lead to malnutrition and stunting.

World Vision has mother-to-mother support groups in rural communities such as Seniagya as part of our efforts to promote child wellbeing and maternal health.

Akosua is a mother of five who lives in Seniagya. She joined the mother-to-mother support group in her community when she was pregnant with her fourth child. Like every good mother, she cares about the well-being of her children. However, she relied on cultural beliefs and customary parenting practices to raise her first three children because that is all she ever knew.

Akosua however joined the World Vision's Mother-to-Mother Support Group after a community nurse spoke to her about the benefits of joining the group.

“During group meetings, they taught us a lot about pregnancy and child care, especially, exclusive breastfeeding. When I had my first three children, I did not exclusively breastfeed them. I remember they frequently fell sick with diarrhea. After I joined the group, I understood why my children frequently fell sick. I made up my mind to breastfeed my next baby,” Akosua said.

When Akosua gave birth to her fourth child, she had to deal with the challenge of the traditional demands. Older family members pressured her to give the baby water before the prescribed 6-month waiting period.

Akosua spoke to a nurse at one of the Mother-to-Mother Support Group meetings, who assured her that the baby was healthy. This gave Akosua the confidence to resist giving the baby water so early.

“I must confess the group members were very supportive and continued to encourage me. I was able to resist the temptation to give my baby water until he was six months old. We were also taught by the nurses, to boil the water and keep in clean containers”.

World Vision Ghana's Health and Nutrition programme works to ensure that all children under the age of five, especially the most vulnerable, are properly nourished.



Akosua and her five children

Story by: Patrick Adams
Edited by: Abena Agyei-Boateng

EDUCATION

1,945 
teachers trained to teach reading

667 volunteers trained and supporting after-school reading clubs.

266 library-in-a-box set up

56,133 copies of supplementary readers distributed

1,151 (Male : 644 | Female: 507)

teachers and head teachers benefitted from the training while 591 of them representing 51.33% (AMIC, 2019) are utilising the skills acquired through the training to teach reading. Also, the annual monitoring reports indicated that 98% of schools within the programme areas received school-based coaching support visits averaging 5.2 visits per school within academic year. While 66% of the classrooms visited were fully print rich.

Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

World Vision implemented the Reading Improvement in Primary Education in ten(10) Area Programmes; Krachi East, Krachi West, Kadjebi, Nkwanta, Upper Denkyira West, Kasena Nankana West, Fanteakwa South, Afram Plains South, Kintampo and Ayima Mansie. The project targeted 30, 121 participants. The programme was implemented using two main project models; Unlock Literacy (early grade reading) and Learning Roots (early childhood development) and two enabling models Citizen Voice Action (CVA), Child Protection and Advocacy (CPA) and Celebrating Families (CF).

The programme works in partnership with the various District Assemblies, Ghana Education Service (GES), Ghana Library Board, Ghana Reads Project, Vodafone Ghana, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA), Pencils of Promise, KOICA, among others, to promote quality education.

Increased reading performance of children in primary school

During the year, 32 core Early Childhood and Development (ECD) coordinators and District Teacher Support Teams were trained across the 10 Education implementing area programmes in improved instructional methods to support classroom teachers and children in Kindergarten and early grade primary respectively. World Vision also supported the 10 collaborating district education offices to intensify school based coaching and mentoring support visits in schools to ensure uptake of the methodologies. Additionally, World Vision supported the introduction of Teacher Reflection Meetings with the head teachers to strengthen accountability and learning.

These interventions undertaken during the year resulted in an increase in the percentage of young children in early childhood/ kindergartens who are ready for school from 36.7% (AMIC, 2018) to 62.2% (AMIC, 2019).

The 2019 Annual Monitoring of Indicators of Child well-being revealed that, the proportion of grade 2 children able to read and comprehend in English language increased from 3.02% (AMIC, 2018) to 17.25% (AMIC, 2019) while the percentage of children who are able to read and comprehend in local language of instruction rose from 1.60% (AMIC, 2018) to 19.45% (AMIC, 2019).

Strengthened Community Participation in Education

World Vision collaborated with community leaders to set up additional 63 after-school reading camps bringing the total number of reading camps to 266 which is being supported by 667 (Male 400: Female 267) trained community volunteers. The programme during the year developed 50 new titles of storybooks which were translated into 4 local languages; Akuapem Twi, Asante Twi, Ewe and Guruni and distributed 56133 copies to the 266 book banks (library in box).

The Annual Monitoring reports revealed an increase in the proportion of children currently attending after-school literacy activities from 23.18% (AMIC, 2018) to 32.0% (AMIC, 2019) among kindergarten children and from 24.44% (AMIC, 2018) to 35.75% (AMIC, 2019).

Within the year, World Vision collaborated with strategic partners to drum home the need to improve early grade reading. Our partnership with the Ghana Library Authority to launch the 'Ghana year of Reading' campaign under the chairmanship of Her Excellency Rebecca Akufo Addo was a major step to mobilize popular support for early grade reading. Also World Vision collaborated with Pencils of Promise to celebrate the International Mother Language Day to reiterate the need to build readership in mother languages.

World Vision partnered with Ghana Education Service to build the capacity of Parent Teacher Associations and School Management Committees to improve school management. This effort led to increase in proportion of functional SMC/PTAs to 68% (AMIC, 2019).

Increased accountability to education and protection

In order to ensure increased accountability to education and child safeguarding, the project worked to strengthen community voice towards quality education delivery through the Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) model. Sixty (60) CVA working group's capacities were built to hold scorecard sessions and community interface meetings. All 60 groups made strides; having drawn action plans with which they would engage the local education offices to improve the standards of education in the district.

Challenges and Mitigating Plans

The Education Technical Programme continues to face the issue of frequent transfer of teachers from intervention schools. During the year, World Vision engaged the various stakeholders especially Ghana Education Service to address the issue. It was agreed that teachers would be made to stay for a longer period of time before transfers are made. World Vision is reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding for the District Education offices to tighten the clauses that will have teachers remain in target schools for at least two years after training.

World Vision will continue to engage donors and sponsors to help address the large class sizes through Private Non-Sponsorship and Grants. The CitizensVoice and Action groups would also continue to engage duty bearers to provide schools with additional classroom blocks. Community initiatives would also be encouraged to construct additional classrooms to decongest the overpopulated classrooms for effective teaching and learning in the schools.

Success Story

A bicycle goes a long way to build a little boy's confidence in school

Unlike some of his classmates, 10-year-old Samuel lives far away from his school. For him to get to class, he used to walk a total of six kilometres from his village – over three hours of walking! Samuel felt isolated from the other children at school and ashamed that he always came to school with dusty feet from the long walk.

“I used to feel sad any time I came to school because my feet would always be dirty and hurting. Compared to those in town, I have to walk a long distance to school,” said Samuel who is in year three of primary school in Nkwanta District of the Oti region of Ghana.

Samuel would get to school feeling tired and found it difficult to concentrate on what his teacher was saying. Sometimes he also missed early morning classes as he struggled to leave the house early enough to get to school on time.

World Vision Ghana's staff in the community realised Samuel needed a better means of going to school and so they donated a bicycle to him as part of the Bicycle Empowerment Project (BEEP).

Samuel was pleased to receive the bicycle and excited about the difference having a bicycle will make on his life and education. ***“Now, I do everything with my friends and I see myself as one of them! I am now happy.”***

Samuel's mother explained, “He goes to school early and comes home early unlike previously when he would come home at night and complain he'd gotten to school late.”

“I thank World Vision and all those who sponsored this project. May God richly bless you.”

The Bicycle Education Empowerment Project is World Vision's response to eliminating absenteeism and late enrolment by improving access to school. Children who commute 5-10km to school daily are provided with bicycles. Having a bike means they are able to complete household chores and still be able to travel to school, thus reducing rates of children's tardiness and absenteeism.

To learn more please visit

<https://www.wvi.org/ghana/education>

Story by: Kennedy Amponsah
Edited by: Abena Agyei-Boateng



Samuel standing next to his new bicycle

CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY



Photo Credit: World Vision / Abena Agyei-Boateng



WVG contributed to influence a number of government policies which added to the well-being

11,555,000

Vulnerable children in Ghana

85%

budget increment to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP)

800

traditional leaders have been engaged as advocates of child marriage through the 'I Pledge Campaign'



1,000

girls were trained in soap making, bead making and pastry making during Vacation Camps

Throughout 2019, World Vision Ghana (WVG) ensured all children especially the most vulnerable have improved protection and participation through advocacy, programming and partnership at all levels of intervention across all 22 Area Programmes (APs).

- The Domestic Violence Secretariat was supported to organise a two-day review of the End Child Marriage operational plan and budget advocacy. Through the review processes, WVG's End Child Marriage indicator of the proportion of parents or caregivers who believe that child marriage is acceptable have been adopted for national use. Additionally, WVG was influential in Government of Ghana's approval to establish the Central Adoption Authority to ensure the adoption of children is regulated and properly managed in the best interest of the child.
- A total of 800 traditional leaders were engaged through dialogue sessions on the End Child Marriage Campaign. Forty-five (45) paramount and divisional chiefs imposed sanctions on perpetrators of child marriage, teenage pregnancy and other child protection issues. The Paramount Chief of Mirigu traditional area imposed a fine of GH¢1000.00 for perpetrators of child marriage plus 10 sheep and GH¢500.00 for any parent who disrupts the education of their children. Again, WVG supported the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) Awards, the Best Child Protection Reporter Category and also trained over 40 reporters on child protection issues.
- The activities of child advocates such as child parliamentarians led to the rescue of six (6) child marriage victims who were sent back to school.

These intensified campaigns through traditional leaders, faith leaders and child advocates are expected to contribute to a reduction in the proportion of children under 18 years, married which increased slightly from 2.02% in 2018 to 2.46% in 2019 as well as proportion of parents or caregivers who believe that child marriage is unacceptable which also increased slightly from 12.83% in 2018 to 13.06% in 2019 (AMIC, 2019).

WVG used its U-Report innovation to engage the youth to make their issues and concerns visible for government and decision makers to take action. With support from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WVG reached 14,775 children, youth and adults (9,775 males and 5,000 females) to enrol on U-REPORT.

WVG in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and UNICEF inaugurated the first ever National Child Parliament in Ghana to create space for children to voice out their concerns at the national level. The National Child Parliament has a membership of 103 out of which 53 (25 boys and 28 girls) are from WVG operational areas.

WVG influenced the waiver of birth registration fees by 75% leading the signing of MoU to scale up birth registration in all WVG operational areas. This has led to registration of 35,000 Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) in all 22 operational areas with corresponding increase in the proportion of adolescent with a birth certificate from 43.84% to 47.44% between 2018 and 2019 as well as proportion of children with a birth certificate from 56.36% in 2018 to 58.72% in 2019 (AMIC, 2019).



Success Story

Nine-year-old Akosua Adoma is right honorable speaker of Diaso Child Parliament

Akosua is a pupil of Saint Mary RC Primary School in Ntom, and she was overwhelmingly elected the Speaker of Parliament for the Diaso Child Parliament. She had 36 out of 48 votes cast by her colleagues. She is the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Adoma Owusu who are residents of Ntom, a community in the Upper Denkyera West District.

Akosua was identified by her class teacher as an exceptional pupil and therefore took interest in her academic performance and public engagements. The potential of Akosua was not in doubt when her peers from the children's clubs of Diaso, Ntom, and Asuadei were assembled to form the Diaso Child Parliament. Akosua demonstrated an understanding of the political system of Ghana, the role of members of parliament and the District Assemblies. It was evident that she had the urge to learn new ideas for her personal and academic development.

It was sad, however, when the news broke on the second day of the training that Akosua was taken ill and was admitted at the Diaso District Hospital, as everybody looked up to her to either answer a question or ask a question. To the amazement and surprise of all, Akosua surfaced from her sickbed during the election of officers and contested for the position of the Right Honorable Speaker. At the end of the votes, Akosua pulled a total of 36 out of 48 votes constituting 75% to occupy the position of the Right Honorable Speaker.

The Diaso Child Parliament was formed by World Vision Ghana, to empower children to lead advocacy and campaign on issues affecting children in the district. The Parliament, therefore, prioritised teenage pregnancy, Galamsey (illegal mining), insults by adults (verbal abuse) and child marriage as issues they want to focus on for redress.

The first Diaso Child Parliament session was held in the Asuadei community on the 28th of May 2019 to raise awareness on teenage pregnancy, Galamsey and the rights of the child as we celebrate the CRC@30. Akosua took the community by storm with her sterling performance as Speaker of Parliament moderating a parliamentary debate on the need to enact and enforce laws and policies to end teenage pregnancy and violence against children.

Akosua wants to launch a personal campaign against illegal mining (Galamsey) and teenage pregnancy, which are very common practices in her community and seeks to do this with the support of her colleague Members of Child Parliament. During the media visit to Ntom, Akosua called on His Excellency, The President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo to come to the rescue of her school which is dilapidated and in deplorable condition.

Through World Vision Ghana led child parliament, many children have been empowered to advocate key issues that directly have impact on them. They now believe that they can grow to be prominent people in the future.

*Story by: Gregory Dery
Edited by: Abena Agyei-Boateng*



FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT

A total of 11,855 children (5,163 Boys and 6,692 Girls) and 3,657 adult partners (1,676 Males; 1,981 Females) were engaged in various Spiritual Nurturing of Children (SNC) activities. These contributed to increased percentage of adolescents who explore their understanding of God from 70.96% in 2018 to 74.27% in 2019 (AMIC, 2019). SNC involves the fostering of children's spiritual development throughout their life cycle stages, in the context of their whole being.

Through Children's Clubs activities, 10,428 children (4,660 boys; 5,768 girls) participated in various forms of Spiritual Nurture of Children (SNC) activities, values and life-skill development to enable them experience and share the love of God and of neighbour. A total of 515 girls from three (3) programme areas received SNC lessons during the Education Project Girls Camp at Fanteakwa, while 181 Children (89 boys, 92 girls) were given training in SNC, Empowered World View (EWV), Celebrating Families Curriculum (CFC) and Child Protection through a children's camp at Kadjebi. About 399 adolescents (241 boys; 158 girls) were engaged in CFC activities, and 332 adolescent children (173 boys; 159 girls) received SNC through Youth Leadership, Skills Development and Resilience Conferences.

The capacity of 216 adults (150 males; 66 females) comprising 206 Faith Leaders, (134 Christians and 72 Muslims; 140 Males and 66

Females), including community volunteers, seven male CBO's and three male members of staff was built in the Celebrating Families Curriculum (CFC) to support families in providing peaceful and safe homes for sustained thriving and well-being of children and their families. The trained Faith leaders, besides preaching to their congregations, subsequently engaged 3,151 community members (2,752 adults: 1,043 men; 1,709 women comprising 1,100 Christians and 1,652 Muslims; and 399 children) from 24 communities with the model. Among various impacts, the Chief of Gogo community committed his people to attach conditions to granting children permission to participate in funeral performance: families performing funerals must ensure that school children and other children below 16 years must not be present at funerals after 8.00 pm. While 478 Faith leaders (363 males; 115 females; including 26 Muslims) received capacity in holistic approach to child well-being, 211 Children's Clubs Facilitators (120 males; 91 females) were equipped in SNC.

A total of 11 Community Hope Action Teams – CHATs (6 Christian and 5 Muslim) comprising 90 Christians, 94 Muslims; 33 males, 22 females) were formed and functioning as sustainable bodies to extend Child Protection and Maternal and Newborn Child Health knowledge to homes, churches and mosques for sustained child well-being. Through various church partnerships and interfaith activities, 392 Faith Leaders (196 Christians and 196 Muslims made up of 246 males and 146 females) were equipped through Channels of Hope (CoH) Child Protection (CP), CoH Maternal and Newborn Child Health (MNCH), and Community Hope Action Teams (CHATs) catalysing and

empowerment training.

After the Empowered World View (EWV) training, aimed at transforming hearts and incomes for improved livelihood, field monitoring results revealed that empowered Transformers from Old Konkome in the Atebubu programme area mobilized community members and S4T groups to purchase a solar panel to power the Community Health-Based Planning Services (CHPS) Compound. The Methodist Church Ghana in the Ampoma community in Kintampo programme area went into processing and packaging of ginger powder to improve church and household incomes.

A total of 523 adults were impacted through interfaith WASH activities with 68 Faith leaders (58 Males 10, Females; made up of 53 Christians and 15 Muslims) trained to adopt appropriate WASH behaviours in using the WASH Sermon Guide. The Faith leaders further educated 455 community members (365 females and 90 males) in Talensi, Kassena, and Damongo programme areas. Also, 67 food vendors (12 Males; 55 Females), including butchers, who prepare and sell food to over 2,500 school children were sensitised by the Faith leaders.



Photo Credit: World Vision / Jason Amoo

HUMANITARIAN & EMERGENCY AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

World Vision Ghana focused on early warning, disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and response in its Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs/security programming. WVG worked closely with partners such as the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies (IAWGE), Ghana Red Cross Society, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and District Assemblies on early warning and disaster preparedness. WVG through IAWGE partnered with NADMO to educate communities on safety and early warnings against possible disasters such as flooding. This increased percentage of households who were able to employ an effective disaster-risk reduction or positive coping strategy during disasters from 69.42% in 2018 to 73.72% in 2019. Households who faced a disaster but were able to recover and now live at the level they did before also increased from 58.27% in 2018 to 72.99% in 2019 (AMIC, 2019).

World Vision Ghana in its quest to mitigate and to prepare communities to adequately respond to disasters and build resilience supported NADMO to finalize a contingency plan for the Accra Earthquake Region to appropriately aid rapid response in the event of any unfortunate occurrence. WVG supported 1,337 households (11,563 people [3,036 Boys, 3,140 Girls, 2,529 Men and 2,858 Women]) in the Northern and Upper East regions with Procter & Gamble (P&G) water purifiers, 20 litre containers for water storage, 10 litre buckets for sieving water, sieving mesh and cake soap. Additionally, 115 boreholes affected by the floods were inspected and 98 functional wells disinfected in Gushegu, Karaga, Savelugu and West Mamprusi Districts. This greatly reduced the risk of children contracting infectious diseases due to poor insanitary conditions and drinking contaminated water. Also, WVG supported IAWGE to carry out a rapid assessment of the Chereponi/ Saboba ethnic conflict which affected over 8,000 people (over 70% children) who were internally displaced. Also, Internally displaced people within the Gushegu programme area, made of 920 people (88 Men, 270 Women, 300 Boys and 262 Girls), were supported with non-food items which included hygiene kits, towels, soap among others to relief victims, especially children from unhygienic conditions. Additionally, WVG trained 12 partners and 140 community members in local capacity for peace, conflict management and disaster risk mitigation to enhance their capacities in disaster and local conflict management to mitigate communal clashes and their associated negative impacts.



Photo Credit: World Vision / Jason Amoo

40th Anniversary Celebrations In Pictures



Photo Credit: World Vision / Jason Amoo



Photo Credit: World Vision / Frederick Ntiri

Commissioning of Shea Butter processing center in Talensi



Photo Credit: World Vision / Jason Amoo

Inauguration of Green Light Health Care Center in Saamang



Photo Credit: World Vision / Abena Agyei-Boateng

30 years of Convention on the Rights of Children marked with National Child Parliament session



Ghana wins big with FMNR at Beating Farming Awards in Mali



PARTNERS



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 partners
We are Christian **We are responsive** **We are stewards**
We are committed to the poor **We value people**

NATIONAL OFFICE

No. 3 Kotei Robertson Street. North Industrial Area,
North Kaneshie, Accra - Ghana
Private Mail Bag | Tel: +233-302-232 603

www.wvi.org/ghana

World Vision Ghana

@WorldVisionGH