





The leadership and staff of World Vision Ghana are applauded for their resilience during the leadership transition period alongside a prolonged restructuring process which started in FY16 and continued into the first part of FY17.

3



Children play a critical role in promoting good hygiene behaviour in their communities.

4



Children groups provided suggestions to curb the slow institutional response to addressing child protection issues.

25

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With improved household incomes it is expected that adolescents will have sufficient access to food as they are able to access food at all times.

10



With the Learning Roots project model, children within the years are able to develop the necessary learning and reading skills to transition them to higher grades for improved learning outcomes.

20



Active involvement of women in Income Generating Activities (IGAs) boost their ability to supplement household income. Therefore, are able to provide nutritious meals for their children and the family to promote good health.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AHBS	Adolescent Health and Behaviour Survey	GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
AP	Area Programme	HDD	Household Diet Diversity
BEEP	Bicycle Education Empowerment Project	HTSP	Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy
BSL	Building Secured Livelihoods	IGA	Income Generating Activities
CFC	Celebrating Families Curriculum	IMNCI	Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illness
CESP	Community Engagement and Sponsorship Plan	ITAW	It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children
CHAT	Congregation Hope Action Team	IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
CHPS	Community Health-based and Planning Services	KG	Kindergarten
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice	LB	Literacy Boost
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation	LCC	Local Council of Churches
CoH	Channels of Hope	LLIN	Long-Lasting Insecticide Net
COMM	Community Health Committee	LVCD	Local Value Chain Development
CONIWAS	Coalition of NGOs in the WASH Sector	MAHFP	Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning
COVACA	Community-Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment	MFI	Micro Finance Institutions
CP	Child Protection	MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
CPA	Child Protection and Advocacy	MNCH	Maternal, New-born and Child Health
CPC	Child Protection Committees	MoE	Ministry of Education
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action	MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
CWB	Child Well-Being	MTMSG	Mother to Mother Support Groups
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency	MVC	Most Vulnerable Children
DA	District Assembly	NADMO	National Disaster Management Organization
DAP	Development Asset Profile	NO	National Office
DEHU	District Environmental Health Unit	OD	Open Defecation
DPA	Development Programme Approach	ODF	Open Defecation Free
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	ODK	Open Data Kit
EGRA	Early Grade Reading Assessment	PNS	Private Non Sponsorship
FBO	Faith Based Organization	PRC	Peace Road Curriculum
FCS	Food Consumption Score	RC	Registered Children
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	RICCS	Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FMP	Facility Management Plans	SG	Savings Groups
FORIG	Forest Research Institute of Ghana	SHEP	School Health Education Programme
FY	Fiscal Year	SNC	Spiritual Nurturing of Children
GC	Global Centre	VFG	Vision Fund Ghana
GDHS	Ghana Demographic and Health Survey	WARO	West Africa Regional Office
GES	Ghana Education Service	WSMT	Water and Sanitation Management Teams
GHS	Ghana Health Service	WVG	World Vision Ghana
GLSS	Ghana Living Standard Survey	YCC	Yes Children Can
GNFS	Ghana National Fire Service		



NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

“I was able to set my leadership priorities based on the EAGLES (Efficiency, Agility, Grace, Love, Execution, and Speed) framework for collective staff buy-in and thus far, we thank God for the positive changes that look promising.”

The year 2017 has been characterized by changes at every level of the organization and at the governmental level too. The first half of the financial year saw a series of leadership changes in the National Director's Office. Mr. David Purnell ended his interim assignment and passed it on to Mrs. Gifty Appiah who left the organization after being interim National Director for three months. Then came the Senior Director of Operations for WARO, Mr. Esperance Klugan who acted for a month before finally I was appointed as a substantive National Director on March 1, 2017.

The country also experienced a change of government with the election of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) who replaced former President John Mahama of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) at the beginning of the year. All these changes have had some impact on Child Well-Being. World Vision has had to re-engage with government and start afresh in some cases even when some partnership Memorandum of Understanding with government departments were already advanced with the previous government. We are grateful to the new government for the creation of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to elevate the importance of sanitation.

In the area of governance, we also saw some changes in the members of the Advisory Council (AC). The AC Chair, Dr. Adelaide Kastner retired and was succeeded by Mr. Emanuel Baba Mahama as the new AC Chair. A major achievement by the AC was the submission of the application dossier to transition from Advisory Council to Intermediate Board status during the year.

The leadership and staff of World Vision Ghana are applauded for their resilience during the leadership transition period alongside a prolonged restructuring process which started in FY16 and continued into the first part of FY17. The decision to move forward with LEAP 3 alignment was bold and the actual implementation has so far been commendable. This report is an excellent example of benchmarking the state of our Technical Programmes whose baseline was conducted during the year. This provides a good foundation to build monitoring systems for the actual implementation of the Technical Programmes across the country that transcend Area Programmes. In the next few years, the Strategy will further be refined to ensure full alignment with Our Promise 2030 that will reduce the number of Strategic Objectives from five to three.

Thanks to the Advisory Council, WARO leadership, all staff and senior leadership team members for accepting me as the long awaited substantive National Director. During the second half of FY17, I was able to set my leadership priorities based on the EAGLES (**E**fficiency, **A**gility, **G**race, **L**ove, **E**xecution, and **S**peed) framework for collective staff buy-in and thus far, we thank God for the positive changes that look promising.

Dickens Thunde
National Director, WV Ghana

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR'S FOREWORD

“Preparatory work was done by the Advisory Council to ensure that the Office submitted a high quality application to transition into the Intermediate Board status.”



This year is historic as it served as the transition year from our status as an Advisory Council to an Intermediate Board even though the actual approval by the WVI Board was not granted in FY17. The bulk of the preparatory work was done by the Advisory Council and staff in 2017 to ensure that the Office submitted a high quality application to transition into the Intermediate Board status.

One of the highlights of 2017 was the launch of the 'It Takes a World to End Violence against Children' campaign. In Ghana, the campaign is christened 'End Child Marriage Now! It Takes Us All'. A number of events took place climaxing in the national launch in Tamale attended by over 2000 people involving all sections of the society. The Regional Leader, Esther Lehmann-Sow, and the former AC Chair, Dr. Mrs. Adelaide Kastner participated in this important event and delivered statements. Another important feature was the influence of two young World Vision Ghana leaders (Abigail, 13; and Justice, 17) who stunned and showcased their work on child marriage and child labour in Brussels and made demands (together with children from Mongolia and Guatemala) on key international stakeholders including the UN and WHO to support and commit to ending violence against children.

In line with Our Promise 2030, one of the key issues that have concerned the AC is alignment with the Partnership Strategy. This has taken the form of engaging in the Promising Conversations as well as providing guidance to the leadership team to ensure WVG's Strategy is aligned within the established timeframe given by the Partnership. These conversations are still on-going and it is expected that the AC, SLT and all staff will take these conversations seriously and continue to ask pertinent questions including: mindset and behaviour change which is crucial for Our Promise 2030.

Among numerous achievements, the year saw remarkable growth of Savings Groups and the contributions they are making in the economic empowerment of beneficiaries and rural communities. The linkage between Savings Groups and Vision Fund operations has also been strengthened, which demonstrates to a large extent the growth of integration between World Vision and Vision Fund.

On behalf of the World Vision Ghana AC, I extend my heartfelt and profound gratitude to the World Vision West Africa Regional Leader, Mrs. Esther Lehmann-Sow, the National Director and the Senior Leadership Team of World Vision Ghana for the great work done to put smiles on the faces of the most vulnerable children in Ghana.

The AC recognizes that the ministry's achievements in this FY17 CWB report would not have been possible without the commitment of our staff, donors, Support Offices, and our partners including the Government of the Republic of Ghana.

Thank you and God bless you.

Mr. Emmanuel Baba Mahama –AC Chair, WV Ghana

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Child Well-Being Report (CWB) seeks to describe the contribution of World Vision Ghana (WVG) to Child Well-Being outcomes for the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17). The report is structured around the NO Strategic Objectives (SOs) for FY16-21. It highlights results of Baseline Survey conducted in FY17 for all the Technical Programmes (TPs) and Community Engagement and Sponsorship Plan (CESP) in WVG programming areas as well as outputs achieved. WVG moved into full rollout of LEAP 3, with the implementation of Technical Programmes, and a renewed focus on the Most Vulnerable Children (MVC).

World Vision's Development Programme Approach (DPA) was the main approach used to engage partners and stakeholders in planning and implementation of actions on Child Well-Being priorities at the community, district, regional and national levels.

Key Child Well-Being Issues

Limited access to improved sanitation is one of the critical CWB issues being tackled by WVG through its programming. Access to basic sanitation remains a challenge with only 16% of the population using improved sanitation facilities (NDPC/UNDP, 2015). The WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicated 45.3% of households had access to improved sanitation facilities in WVG Area Programmes (APs). The report further revealed the practice of Open Defecation (OD) among 47.5% of households across the Area Programmes (APs); coupled with inappropriate hand washing practices among children (29%) and caregivers (72%). The combination of these issues is the major cause of illnesses among children, despite improved access to clean water. According to the Global WASH Fast Facts, "an estimated 801,000 children under-five (U5) perish from diarrhea each year, mostly in developing countries".

Food insecurity is another critical issue that affects the well-being of children. Lack of sufficient income and credit facilities to support agricultural activities in the APs contribute to food insecurity. The proportion of caregivers who have access to sufficient credit from at least one source stood at 26.29% (WVG

Baseline Report, 2017). The baseline recorded the percentage of adolescents aged 12-18 years who go to sleep at night hungry to be 27.1%. The proportion of adolescents who rank themselves as thriving on the ladder of life stood at only 33.94%. Household food unavailability and weak coping mechanisms directly affect child well-being as children living in such households are susceptible to negative household coping mechanisms such as child labour, and child marriage.

Malnutrition among children U5 continues to be a major risk factor undermining the growth and development of children. The WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicated that the prevalence of stunting and wasting among children less than 5 years remains high. On average, stunting and wasting stood at 31% and 11% respectively in four APs. Stunting was considerably higher compared to the global rate of 23% (Global Nutrition Report 2016). Factors such as large family size, food unavailability and poor feeding practices contribute to the high malnutrition among children.

Literacy rates at the basic level continue to be a challenge in Ghana.

Results from the WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicate that only 1.47% of Grade 2 children could read with comprehension at a fluency of 45 words per minute in English language; and an average of 1.6% in local Ghanaian language (2.79% for Asante Twi, 1.12% for Ewe, and 0.88% for AkuapemTwi). This agrees completely with results of the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) 2015, which indicated that 98% of grade 2 children in Ghana could not read with comprehension.

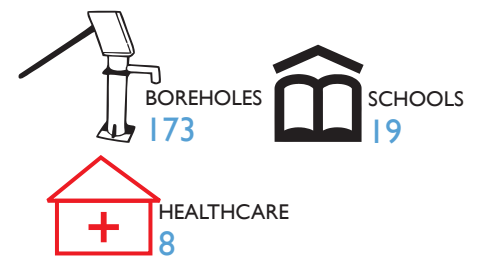
Child marriage, child labour, low birth registration, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and children without parental care among others still remain critical child well-being issues in Ghana. The WVG Baseline Report (2017) showed that 34% of parents believe that child marriage is acceptable; and the proportion of adolescents who have strong connection with their parent or caregiver stood at 12.60%. In the same report, only 44.59% of children had birth certificates across WVG's APs. GLSS6 (2014) reports that 28.8% of children between ages 7 and 14 are involved in various forms of child labour while the UNFPA Child Marriage Profile (2010) recorded 25% of children given into marriages.



Summary of Progress in FY17

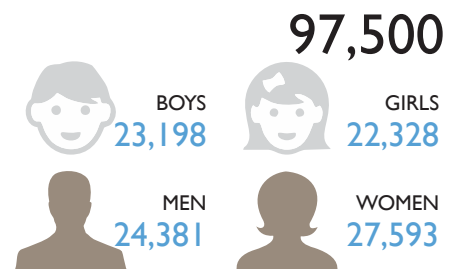
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In FY17, a total of 173 new boreholes were constructed and fitted with hand-pumps while 91 non-functioning water points were rehabilitated. In addition, 19 schools and 8 healthcare facilities were provided with improved water sources during the reporting period. Effective collaboration with partners such as District Assemblies ensured that about 97,500 beneficiaries gained access to improved drinking water sources (GI-WASH Programme Management Report, 2017). This included 23,198 boys, 22,328 girls, 24,381 men and 27,593 women. Increased investments in low operating cost and environmentally friendly large scale water supply systems accounted for 26.46% of safe water beneficiaries. WVG 2017 Baseline shows that currently all-year-round access to sufficient drinking water from an improved source¹ ranges from 19% in Zabzugu AP to 81% in Ga West AP.



WVG prioritizes Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach as its main sanitation intervention. This aligns with the National Environmental Sanitation Policy of Ghana. From 14 Open Defecation Free (ODF) communities in FY16, the NO has recorded an impressive increase of 126 communities (900%) in FY17, an indication of the effectiveness and popularity of the CLTS approach in rural communities. Cross-cutting issues such as gender and disability integration were taken into account during the provision of 25 improved institutional latrines in FY17². This included 11 new disability-friendly latrines with changing rooms attached to girls' blocks for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).

Total Beneficiaries

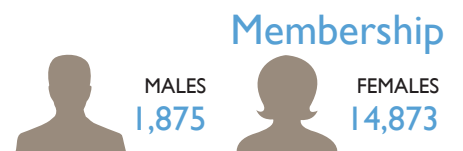


Household Food Security and Resilience

Integration and linkages between Savings Groups (SGs) and Vision Fund Ghana (VFG) have been improved and will be intensified in upcoming years. Within the year, **808** new SGs with membership of 16,748 (1,875 males/14,873 females) were formed and about 96 linked to VFG for further micro finance support to beneficiaries. Additionally, about **1083** people were trained in market-led Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

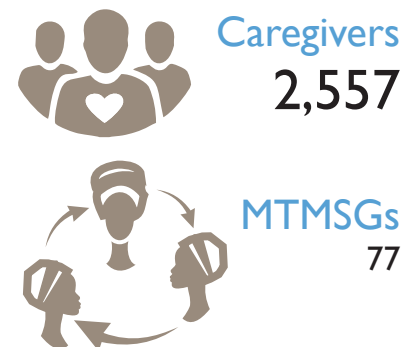


Over 95% of programmes' communities and households are engaged in agricultural activities. More than 600 farmers have been trained on recommended best farming practices such as planting in rows, use of certified seeds, stone bonding, Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), timely crop harvesting, among others. These practices are essential for boosting yields per acreage and household food availability.



Primary Health Care and Nutrition

As part of efforts to improve nutrition among children, 40 Faith leaders were trained on Channel of Hope (CoH) Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) project model with 55 Congregation Hope Action Teams (CHATs) formed in 52 communities to support communities in educating and promoting MNCH. Also, 2557 caregivers and 77 Mother to Mother Support Groups (MTMSGs) were trained to promote exclusive breastfeeding, appropriate feeding, and food demonstration sessions using locally available foods to improve nutritional status of children.



¹Within a maximum of 30minutes round trip
²GI-WASH Programme Management Report, 2017

Reading Improvement in Primary Education

To improve reading performance, WVG implemented all components of the Unlock Literacy project model (community engagement, after-school literacy activities, teacher capacity building, instructional coaching, and material creation) in 317 schools across AP communities through collaboration with 11 District Education Directorates. Across the 200 beneficiary communities, 227 after school reading camps were established and manned by 550 (221 males and 329 females) trained community volunteers. A total of 12,872 children benefited from the 227 reading camps including 6,557 boys and 6,315 girls. In addition, 1,268 grade 1-3 teachers were trained in improved literacy instructional skills. Furthermore, instructional coaching and management skills were promoted among 144 officers of the District Education Directorates to enhance their instructional capacity.

Beneficiaries

12,632 children



BOYS
6,557



GIRLS
6,315

Trained teachers
1,268

Child Protection and Advocacy

WVG trained 18,935 caregivers in positive parenting practices aimed at promoting parenting that is strong, consistent, and progressive. Monitoring records indicate that 13,318 caregivers trained are practicing positive parenting. Adolescents exploring their understanding of God stood at 54.85%. A total of 128 Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) integrated CP in their activities to educate communities on child marriage. Various advocacy and community engagement programmes were also facilitated within the year leading to birth registration of over 25,000 children across all 26 APs. The launch of the ITAW campaign which focused on ending Child Marriage in Ghana brought together like minded organisations which are aligned to this cause.

Caregivers equipped with positive parenting

18,935



Practicing families
13,318

Areas for Further Improvement

SANITATION:

World Vision needs to scale up the CLTS approach and leverage on government initiatives such as the creation of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to make further gains in sanitation.

SAVINGS GROUPS:

There is need to promote the linkage between SGs and other Micro Finance Institutions to improve their credit worthiness, and also intensify the promotion of SGs among the youth and children to develop an early-saving culture.

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS:

There is need for livelihoods diversification (especially among women and youth) to make communities and households more resilient to climatic and environmental shocks. This will help to improve incomes and also ensure food availability for children within families.

LITERACY:

There is need to work more closely with the Ghana Education Service (GES) to have at least one teacher in every school who understands the local language of the area to serve as the Language and Literacy Instructor; and also integrate reading awareness training of parents in SGs to promote literacy.

CHILD PROTECTION:

Intensify the “End Child Marriage Now! It takes Us All” campaign with a collaborative monitoring and reporting system at the community level to identifying and addressing occurrence of child marriage. Intensification of birth registration will also provide the right foundation for winning the fight against child marriage.

Learnings from the Reporting Process

- The WVG baseline process was enhanced by the use of smartphone applications such as Open Data Kit (ODK) and Tangerine, which ensured improved data quality, reduced cost and added more flexibility in managing data. The NO is therefore committed to conducting all surveys using these tools.
- Community review sessions were instrumental to enriching this report. These engagements also enhanced the APs' accountability to the communities while aligning project priorities to the local context.



INTRODUCTION

This report details the contribution of World Vision Ghana to Child Well-Being outcomes for FY17, structured around the NO Strategic Objectives (SOs) for FY16-21. It highlights results of WVG Baseline Survey conducted in FY17 for all the Technical Programmes (TPs) and Community Engagement and Sponsorship Plan (CESP) in WVG Area Programmes (APs).

The FY16-21 Strategy seeks to contribute to the sustained well-being of 4,555,809 people including children within families and communities, especially the most vulnerable. The project models and approaches for implementation of interventions that contributed to these SOs include: Integrated Community Based WASH, Savings Groups; Building Secure Livelihoods for the Rural Poor; Learning Roots; Unlock Literacy (Literacy Boost); Channels of Hope (CoH); Celebrating Families; Citizen Voice and Action (CVA); Child Protection and Advocacy; Community Health Committee (COMM); and Microfinance. Other approaches used include Kids Clubs, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

Four (4) TPs and CESP were implemented with a total fiscal year expenditure of US\$ 17,101,127.28 which comprises Sponsorship, Grants and Private Non Sponsorship (PNS) impacting over 453,732 children especially the most vulnerable and their families in 26 APs.

Key learnings from the FY16 CWB report reviews were incorporated. Notable among them is the use of smartphone applications (ODK and Tangerine) for data collection to improve data quality and cost efficiency.

Of the three key FY16 recommendations, one has seen notable progress: the Literacy Boost project which is a mother-language literacy approach, made giant strides in Kintampo South District where it was piloted in FY16. Subsequently, it was scaled up in all 12 APs implementing the Education Programme within FY17.

FY16-21 Strategic Objectives

SO 1: All children especially the most vulnerable and their families have improved sanitation, hygiene and safe water for consumption, production and processing.

SO 2: All children especially the most vulnerable and their families have improved household food security and resilience.

SO 3: All children especially the most vulnerable within families and communities have improved health and nutritional status.

SO 4: All children especially the most vulnerable have improved quality of primary education leading to improved learning outcomes.

SO 5: All children especially the most vulnerable have improved protection and participation through advocacy, programming and partnership.

Context

Some contextual factors within the year include: the change in the Government of Ghana, creation of Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, introduction of Free Senior High School Education, and the declaration of zero tolerance against Child Marriage by the Gender Ministry. These influenced WVG's existing partnerships and led to the establishment of new relationships with other strategic partners. There was also an outbreak of fall armyworm, which affected over 7,000 hectares of farms, mainly maize and other cereals in the northern part of Ghana, including some WVG APs. In collaboration with partners, farmers were sensitized on how to manage and prevent further infestation. APs within the northern part of Ghana also experienced prolonged dry season and unreliable rainfall pattern which adversely affected farming; the predominant occupation of people in these areas.

At the NO level, FY 17 was characterized by changes in the leadership and other levels of the organization. The first half of the financial year saw a series of leadership changes in the National Director's Office. Two interim National Directors served briefly in the space of the first two quarters of the FY, which was followed by the Senior Director of Operations for WARO before finally a substantive National Director was appointed on March 01 2017. These changes in leadership were closely preceded by the final phase of a prolonged restructuring process, which affected WVG's structure and staffing at all levels as part of LEAP 3 transitioning processes. In the area of governance, the year equally saw some changes in the members of the Advisory Council (AC) as the Chair proceeded on retirement, and was succeeded by the new Chair and Vice Chair.

Data Collection and Reporting Approach

As part of capacity enhancement for the NO in LEAP 3 Baseline design and sampling methodology, a planning and face-to-face training workshop was organized for WVG staff with technical support from GC and Regional experts. The workshop, which was held in Accra, was preceded by series of virtual training sessions organized by the GC for WVG and other NOs that were on the journey to conducting baseline for their LEAP 3 Technical Programmes.

The baseline survey conducted was a population level survey within the various APs. A mixed approach was used involving both quantitative and qualitative methods. Systematic random cluster sampling with probability proportional to size was used. A two-stage cluster sampling was adopted with sample sizes differing according to the Global Centre (GC) guidance on the tools used. The quantitative survey employed the use of mobile technology based devices such as ODK and Tangerine. Table I shows sample sizes for the baseline survey.



Table 1: Tools and Sample Sizes used for WVG TPs Baseline Survey

Technical Programme	Baseline Survey Tools	Number of APs	Total Sample Size
WASH	Caregiver Survey Tool on ODK	26	11,700
Household Food Security and Resilience	Caregiver Survey Tool on ODK	8	3,600
Primary Health Care and Nutrition	Caregiver Survey Tool on ODK	4	2,700
	Anthropometric Measurement Survey (AMS)	4	2,700
Education (RIPE)	EGRA on Tangerine Platform	12 (120 Schools)	2,521
	Concept on Print (CoP) on Tangerine	12 (120 Schools)	2,521
	School Management Committee (SMC) Survey Tool on Tangerine	12 (120 Schools)	2,521
Child Protection and Advocacy (CESP)	Caregiver Survey Tool on ODK	26	11,700
	AHBS Tool on ODK	26	11,700
	DAP Tool on ODK	26	7,800

In determining the sample size of each tool for an AP, the Sampling Size and Indicator Prioritization Tool, which is recommended for LEAP 3 baseline was adopted. This tool takes into consideration the confidence interval of 95%, statistical power, design effect, and estimated 10% for non-response among others.

The baseline values were generated for strategic and TP/CESP indicators at both NO (TP level) and AP level, with the use of STATA software for analysis. Qualitative data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), observations, and Key Informant Interviews (KII), while data interpretation and analysis were validated with project partners and community beneficiaries. A limitation with the use of baseline data for FY17 CWB report is that, change data was absent from FY16 for comparison. The baseline therefore provides reference data for future change

assessments of the NO Strategy and Technical Programmes. Key stakeholders that worked collaboratively to compile the CWB report included; AP and Cluster staff, Regional Office Staff, Technical Programme Managers, Communications Team, staff of Operations, Programme Effectiveness, Finance and Support Services, and People and Culture Departments, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), WVG AC members, decentralized government departments at various levels and community members.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE I: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

“Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.” (Genesis 21:19)



Summary of Logic Chain

The focus of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Six is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The Joint Monitoring Platform estimated that 88.50% households in Ghana had access to improved water sources in 2015 (WHO/UNICEF, 2017). Coverage for rural and urban areas in Ghana was also estimated at 79.20% and 96.20% respectively.

Access to basic sanitation remains a critical challenge in Ghana with only 14% of the population using improved sanitation facilities in 2010. This grew marginally to 16% in 2013 with a wide gap between rural and urban coverage of 10.5% and 28.6% respectively (NDPC/UNDP, 2015). The 6th Ghana Living Standard Survey Report (GLSS6, 2014) revealed that 32.9% of the rural population practice Open Defecation (OD). The poor coverage of access to improved sanitation facilities has been attributed to factors including rapid urbanization, low investment in the sanitation sector, weak monitoring and enforcement systems as well as unavailability of real-time data on sanitation. To tackle the above challenges more effectively, the government has created a separate Ministry named Sanitation and Water Resources. World Vision collaborates with the new Ministry and other relevant stakeholders including Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) to contribute to improved child well-being. Key approaches being used include: Integrated Community Based WASH, CLTS and WASH in Schools.

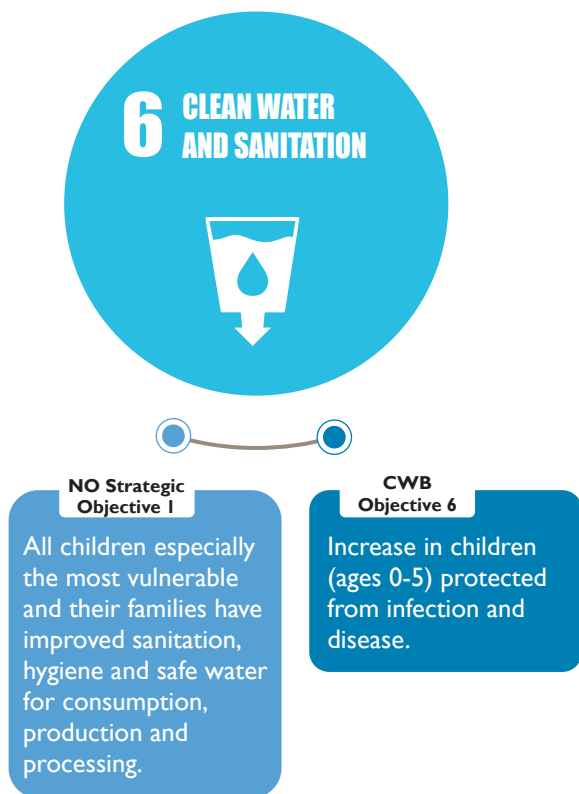


Table 2: Key Resources used for WASH Programming in FY17

Key Standard Outcome Indicators	1. Proportion of households with sufficient drinking water from an improved source 2. Proportion of households using improved sanitation facilities (for defecation) 3. Proportion of children who regularly wash their hands at critical times
Projects Contributing	Sponsorship - 26 Area Programmes Grants – GI-WASH Project; WASH in DPC; Sesame WASH-UP and P&G Water Purifier; PNS – Ferrovia WASH; Kassena WASH Project
Funds spent (USD)	5, 630,749 (Including Sponsorship, PNS and Grants)
Technical Experts	18 Staff (including 16 field staff)
Key partners working with to achieve this objective	CWSA, Safe Water Network, Ghana Coalition of NGOs in the WASH Sector (CONIWAS), District Assemblies, Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMT)
Projects Participants	Children: Boys- 100,914 Girls – 97,149 Adults: Men - 106,103 Women - 120,059 Total: 424,225
Project Models/Approaches	Integrated Community Based WASH, CLTS, WASH in Schools, Hygiene Promotion and Behaviour Change, and Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)

Achievement and Analysis

Improved access to safe water for multiple uses

Access to safe drinking water is essential to ensuring good health, economic development and contributes to improved child well-being. In FY17, a total of 173 new boreholes were constructed and fitted with hand-pumps while 91 non-functioning water points were rehabilitated. At the institutional level, 19 schools and eight (8) healthcare facilities also gained access to improved water sources during the reporting period.

Effective collaboration with key partners ensured increased investments for improved drinking water sources reaching 97,500 beneficiaries (GI-WASH Programme Management Report, 2017). This included 23,198 boys, 22,328 girls, 24,381 men and 27,593 women. Increased investments in low operating cost and environmentally friendly large scale water supply systems including 10 solar-powered water systems accounted for 26.46% of safe water beneficiaries.

Community members were also sensitized on safe water handling and proper storage practices. Some areas with limited prospects for successful borehole drilling were empowered to use P&G water purifiers to treat their contaminated surface water. A total of 7,955 households with about 55,685 members in 25 communities benefited from this intervention. Permanent solutions being considered for those areas include mechanization of high-yielding boreholes to serve a cluster of communities.

Figure 1 shows baseline coverage for access to improved water sources in 26 APs .

Achievements

- 173 boreholes with hand-pumps
- 90 taps from water supply systems
- 91 rehabilitated water points
- 97,500 safe water sources beneficiaries

Figure 1: Proportion of households with sufficient drinking water from an improved source



Source: WVG Baseline Survey, 2017

From Figure 1, access to sufficient drinking water from an improved source ranges from 19% in Zabzugu AP to 81% in Ga West AP. Six (6) APs recorded baseline figures higher than the NO baseline average coverage of 57% (WVG Baseline Report 2017). However, the NO baseline average is relatively higher than the acceptable threshold of 54% but lower than the country's average coverage of 88.50% in 2015 (WHO/UNICEF, 2017).

Generally, the performance of APs in the northern part of the country is relatively lower than those in the south. In addition, there is need to improve investments in districts where access to improved water sources is below 54%. Particularly, distance (travel time to draw water and return) is a major concern with only 47.50% of households in WVG programming areas being able to access safe drinking water source within 30 minutes round trip from home. It is recommended that APs pay attention to identifying and mechanizing high yielding boreholes with taps carefully provided to reduce time spent in accessing such facilities. In the same sense, it is recommended that water points must be closer to households. In addition, safe water sources should be strategically provided to boost food security and economic resilience through supporting dry season farming, livestock rearing and processing of local raw materials such as shea butter.

Some interventions focused on strengthening community level structures in order to ensure sustainable use and management of WASH facilities. A total of 311 Water Sanitation Management Teams (WSMT) became functional as a result of capacity building training for new and revamped WSMTs in their roles and responsibilities including financial management, records keeping, and meeting procedures. In addition, 77 pump caretakers received training to undertake routine checks and maintenance of water facilities in order to reduce water points' downtime in communities. In partnership with UN-Habitat and Skyfox, a mobile phone monitoring platform was rolled out in 81 communities that benefited from provision of flood-resistant water facilities. This platform links up communities with spare-parts shops and area mechanics to facilitate swift repair of damaged water facilities.

Improved sanitation at household, community and institutional levels

Diarrhoea is among the leading killer diseases of children. It accounts for 8% of all deaths among children under age 5 worldwide (UNICEF, 2017). UNICEF Ghana Report (2013) pointed out that improved sanitation can reduce diarrhoea rate by 36%. However, only 15% of Ghanaians have access to improved sanitation (WHO/UNICEF, 2017).

The Joint Monitoring Platform noted that about 2.3 billion people still lack access to basic sanitation services while about 600 million people use improved but shared facilities with other households (WHO/UNICEF, 2017). The GLSS revealed that only 26% of Ghanaian households have improved sanitation facility; with rural and urban coverage of 10.5% and 28.6% respectively (GLSS, 2014).

WVG prioritizes Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach as its main sanitation intervention. This aligns with the National Environmental Sanitation Policy of Ghana. From only 14 ODF communities in FY16, the NO has reported an impressive increase to 126 communities (which represents 900% increase) in FY17, an indication of popularity and adoption of the CLTS approach in rural communities (GI-WASH Programme Management Report, 2017). Gender and disability needs were integrated into the design of 25 improved institutional latrines. This included 11 new disability-friendly latrines with changing rooms attached to girls' blocks for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).

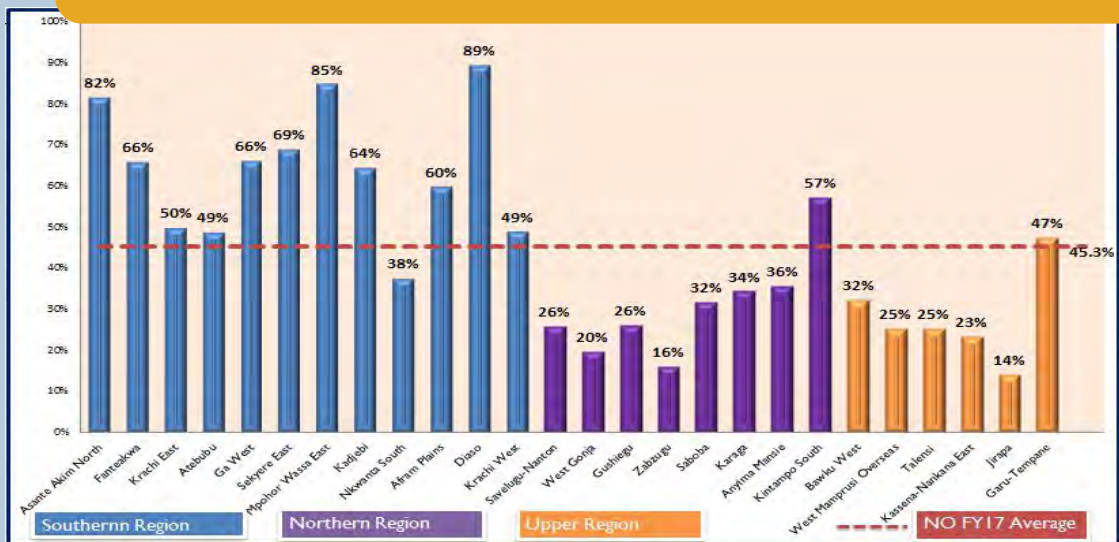
Figure 2 illustrates baseline coverage for improved sanitation in 26 APs (WVG Baseline Report 2017).

Achievements

- 126 communities certified ODF
- 75,849 improved household sanitation facilities beneficiaries
- 11,236 improved household latrines in 633 communities
- 25 schools with improved sanitation facilities for 4,455 school children.



Figure 2: Proportion of Households using Improved Sanitation Facilities (for defecation)



WVG Baseline Survey, 2017

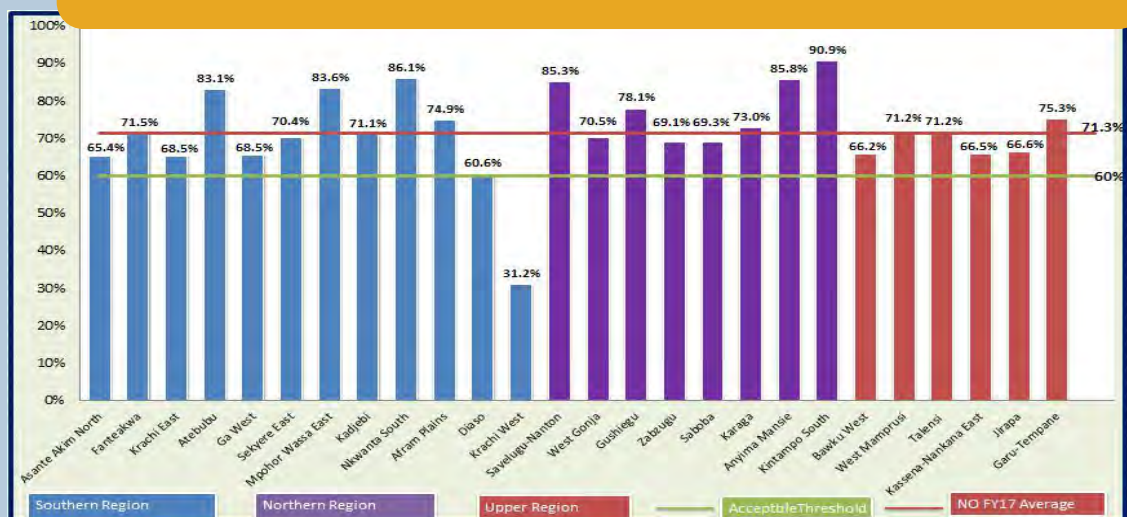
As shown in Figure 2, Diaso and Mpohor Wassa East APs obtained the highest baseline figures of 89% and 85% respectively while Jirapa AP recorded the lowest baseline value of 14% for access to improved household latrines. It is also evident that, seven (7) APs out of 26 APs recorded baseline coverage above the NO average of 45.3%. The regional level disparities of Southern (64%), Northern (31%) and Upper (28%) Regional Operations is attributable to factors such as relatively less poverty situation in southern Ghana than in the northern part (UNICEF, 2016; GSS, 2014), as well as the relative differences in availability of suitable soil types for safe latrine construction.

To ensure increased access to improved household sanitation facilities in WVG Programme Areas, it is recommended that the CLTS and other behavioural change approaches should be scaled-up to help reduce the impact of diseases such as diarrhoea among children in Ghana.

Improved Hygiene Practices

Appropriate hand-washing behaviour and practices among Ghanaians especially adults is generally low. UNICEF (2017) noted that although handwashing is proven to reduce diarrhoea by up to 50%, most household members do not wash their hands properly at critical times as less than 15% of households in Ghana have handwashing facilities installed. Figure 3 illustrates baseline coverage for appropriate handwashing behaviour among children in 26 APs.

Figure 3: Percentage of Children who regularly wash their hands at critical times



WVGTP Baseline Survey, 2017

Figure 3 shows that the NO average for percentage of children who regularly wash their hands at critical times stands at 71.3%. Ten (10) APs recorded above the NO average, yet almost all APs are above the acceptable threshold of 60% with Savelugu-Nanton recording the highest (85.3%). The WVG Baseline Report (2017) further revealed inappropriate handwashing practices among caregivers/parents averaging 71.59% in 26 APs, which indicates hygiene practice among children is more improved than among their caregivers.

Interventions carried out included sensitization of **266,599** people in 26 APs on appropriate hygiene behaviour at community and institutional levels. This resulted in **9,837** households with appropriate handwashing facilities installed. In addition, **292** schools and **36** health facilities were supported with handwashing facilities.

Factors accounting for low handwashing practice among caregivers include limited knowledge in faecal-oral route disease transmission and lack of handwashing facilities installed on household premises. Households which have appropriate handwashing facilities installed are more likely to practice proper handwashing at critical times than those without. However, only 20.7% of households in programme areas had designated places for handwashing with running water and soap or ash available.

Children play a critical role in promoting good hygiene behaviour in their communities. Thus, the WASH in School approach targeted schools as effective entry points for WASH programming, especially for awareness creation and behaviour change among children. The School Health Education Programme (SHEP) and the Sesame WASH-Up project being implemented in the Savelugu-Nanton AP have contributed to the high baseline values recorded for handwashing practices in the AP.

Achievements

- 9,837 households with appropriate handwashing facilities through WVG sensitization.
- 292 schools and 36 health facilities with handwashing facilities through the support of WVG
- 266,599 people participated in hygiene behaviour change programmes.

CLTS Approach makes strides in Saboba AP: The story of Takicha

Takicha is a member of Kpegu West community in the Saboba District. She is married to Johnson with 4 children (2 girls and 2 boys). Her household embraced the CLTS concept to help mobilize communities towards ending Open Defecation (OD). Takicha led the construction of a latrine for her household. Within a short period, every household was able to construct its own improved latrine with technical assistance from WVG and partners including the District Environmental Health Unit (DEHU). It was all joy when her community was confirmed Open Defecation Free (ODF) in April, 2017 by the Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (RICCS). In recounting the sanitation situation in the past, Takicha confessed, "We used to defecate in the open, and leave our water containers and food uncovered. Stagnant water occupied our backyard. My children were always sick. There was a time that, two of my children fell sick at the same time. Diarrhea and typhoid were names that could not be forgotten in the neighborhood".



Takicha washing her hands after visiting the latrine

During the CLTS facilitation process, community members were trained in the construction of tippy-taps using simple local materials. Takicha and her household also installed one tippy-tap near their household latrine. This allows them to wash their hands under running water with soap after using the latrine. Takicha and her other community members have learned about handwashing with soap/ash at critical times, proper food handling to avoid contamination and keeping safe and hygienic surroundings.

Takicha acknowledged; "none of my children have had diarrhea since the time our community members ceased open defecation. We no longer battle with stench from feces like in the past. We feel free to walk around our houses now without the fear of stepping on feces."

Table 3: Sustainability of WASH Outcomes

<p>Local Ownership</p>	<p>In the Diaso AP, stakeholders including the District Assembly, District Directorate of Education and School Management Committees (SMCs) were instrumental in the development of Facility Management Plans (FMP) for improved sanitation facilities provided in four (4) schools. In order to end OD in some communities in the Savelugu AP, bye-laws were enacted to impose heavy fines on households that practice OD or fail to construct improved household latrines.</p>
<p>Partnering</p>	<p>Strong collaborations and partnerships at local and national levels ensured successful implementation of the CLTS approach, which contributed to 126 communities being ODF in FY17. For instance, the Ghana Education Service and District Assemblies supported the commemoration of the 2016 Global Handwashing Day in most APs.</p>
<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>A total of 178 CVA groups had Action Plans focused on WASH to hold local government accountable. In addition, 627 faith leaders participated in behaviour change programmes including training on the WASH Sermon Guide.</p>
<p>Transformed Relationships</p>	<p>The Savings Group model provides households with a reliable means to maintain and sustain WASH facilities. For instance, in the Anyima Mansie AP, 89 Savings Groups with 2,547 members (715 males and 1,832 females) mobilized 591,542 Ghana Cedis (USD 128,596) as their total share and social funds. From their savings, a lot of critical child well-being needs were met including the ability to own improved household latrines and afford water-user fees.</p>

Table 4: Key Learnings and Recommendations in WASH

Key Learnings	Recommendations
<p>The Savings Group model provides an effective avenue for empowering households economically for ownership of improved household latrines and supporting maintenance of water facilities.</p>	<p>The Savings Groups should be scaled-up in communities where the CLTS approach and water provision is being implemented.</p>
<p>Increasing investment into mechanization of high yielding boreholes brings more economic and environmental safety advantages.</p>	<p>Solar-powered water supply systems should be scaled up; and water points should be made closer to houses.</p>
<p>Households which have installed appropriate handwashing facilities in their homes are more likely to wash their hands properly at critical times.</p>	<p>WVG should continue to promote tippy-taps construction in schools, health facilities and households as a way of encouraging handwashing behaviour. Local artisans could be trained to construct simple and durable tippy-taps using local materials.</p>
<p>Programming around multiple uses of safe water sources can contribute significantly to improved child well-being through sectors such as household food security and resilience.</p>	<p>Provision of safe water sources should also contribute to improvement in other sectors such as increased food productivity and livelihood activities such as dry season gardening and livestock production.</p>



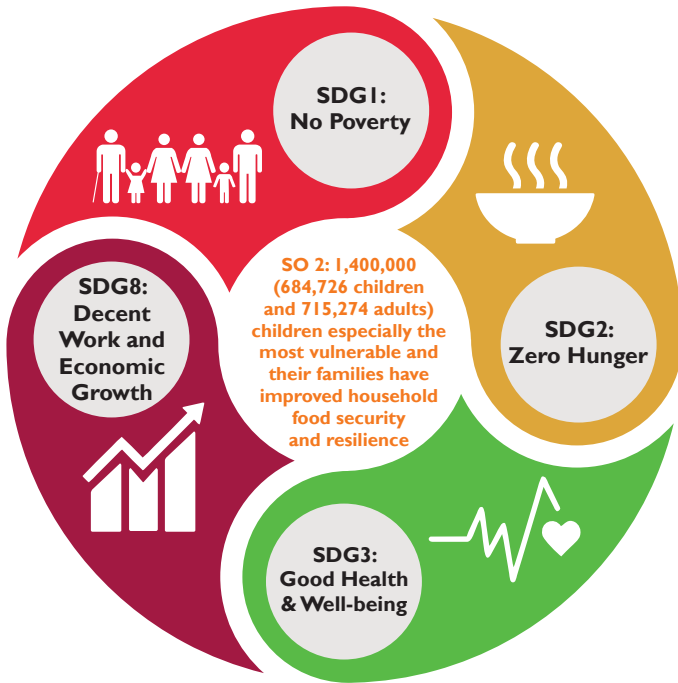
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

“The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 28:8)



Summary of Logic Chain

According to the UN, FAO, WFP and World Bank, 805 million people in the world do not have enough food to eat and 791 million (98%) of this figure reside in developing countries. The number of people who die from hunger in a year is more than that of AIDS, malaria and TB combined. Each night, 1 in 9 people go to bed hungry (The Economic Times, 2015). UNICEF (2016) reports that 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. WVG, Vision Fund Ghana (VFG) and local implementing partners, in collaboration with Government agencies such as Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) worked jointly to address food insecurity within the operational areas. The Core Project Models adopted to improve food security and resilience include Savings Groups, Building Secure Livelihoods for the Rural Poor, and Microfinance. Other approaches used include; Local Value Chain Development (LVCD), and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR).



BUDGET USD 789,319	 New SGs 808 Membership MALES 1,875 FEMALES 14,873	CORE MODELS 1) BSL (FMNR & LVCD) 2) SG & MFIs 3) CWB Objectives 4 and 5
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Table 5: Resources used in FY17 for Food Security Programming

Key Standard Outcome Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of households who report having access to sufficient credit 2. Proportion of households with one or more 'hungry months' in the previous 12 months (MIHFP) 3. Proportion of households with sufficient diet diversity 4. Proportion of youth who rank themselves as "thriving on the ladder of life". 				
Projects contributing	Food Security and Resilience Project, Women Economic Empowerment Project, Cocoa Life Project, Talensi FMNR, Garu Shea Butter Project, and Livelihood for Health and Nutrition Project.				
Funds spent (USD)	USD 1,843,258 (Including Sponsorship, PNS and Grants)				
Technical Experts	18 staff (including 16 field staff).				
Key partners	MoFA, District Assembly (DA), NADMO, Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS), Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), Mondelez International.				
Projects Participants	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Men: 17,574</td> <td>Women: 18,584</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys: 16,422</td> <td>Girls: 17,392</td> </tr> </table>	Men: 17,574	Women: 18,584	Boys: 16,422	Girls: 17,392
Men: 17,574	Women: 18,584				
Boys: 16,422	Girls: 17,392				
Project Models/ Approaches	FMNR, SG, LVCD, CocoaLife, MFI				

Children Cared for by SG + VFG



SGs=89,721
VFG=20,377

110,098

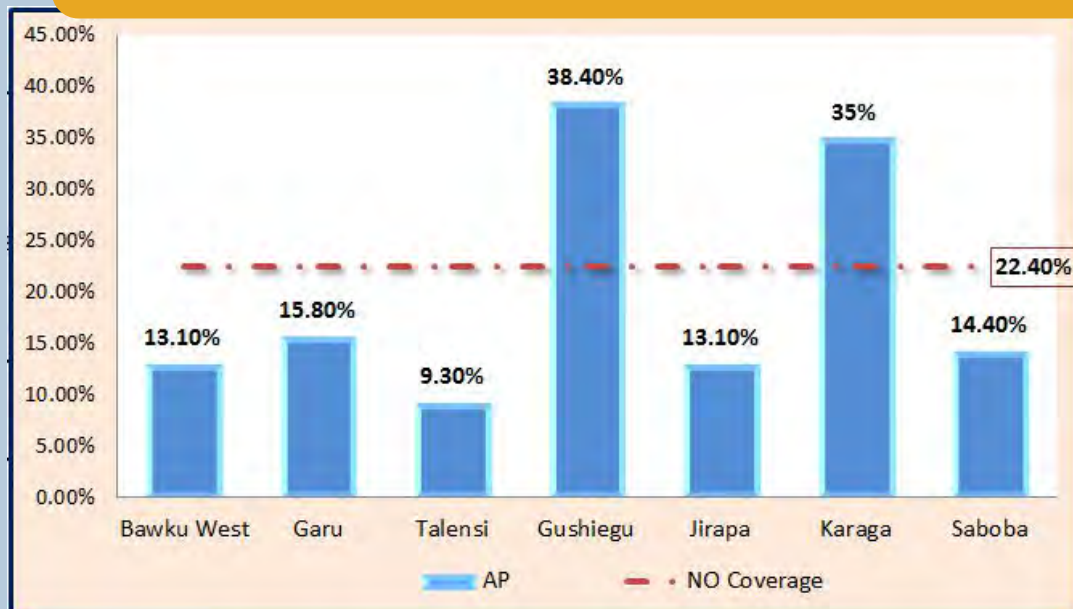
Education support
Health Insurance
Improved Nutrition

Achievement and Analysis

Improved Household Food Availability and Income

From the WVG Baseline Report, the Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP) is 9.0 as recorded in APs implementing Food Security Projects, which are all in the northern part of Ghana. This implies that within the 12 months, the Months of Inadequate Household Food Provisioning (MIHFP) stood at 3.0. The baseline further shows the proportion of households with one or more 'hungry months'³ in the previous 12 months is 77.6%; implying that 22.4% of households have not had any 'hungry months' in the previous 12 months, with Gushiegu AP recording the highest (38.4%) as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Proportion of households with no 'hungry months' in the previous 12 months



WVGTP Baseline Survey, 2017

Through Focus Group Discussions (FGD), it was realized that the months of March through to July experienced the worst food shortage since most households may have exhausted the stored food during the dry season. Similarly, the 2017 Baseline Report showed that the percent of adolescents who "never" went to sleep at night hungry (with sufficient access to food) in all APs was above 50% (except Jirapa AP – 48.67%) with NO average of 72.90%. These measurements indicate that there is still food insecurity in the APs, especially in the northern part of the country and among vulnerable households. According to the Ghana Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEP II, 2009-2015) the situation is cyclical and severe for three to five months each year.

The WVG Baseline Report also showed that 51.87% households reported having access to sufficient diet diversity (consuming at least 6 food groups), while the household Food Consumption Score (FCS) stood at 43.53 (greater than the acceptable standard of 42), which indicates an acceptable or high food consumption. To improve household food availability, consumption and Household Dietary Diversity (HDD) in most rural communities in Ghana there is the need to boost the agricultural sector as well as diversifying income generating activities with particular focus on women and youth.

³Months in which there is inadequate/insufficient food to feed the household

As part of boosting agricultural activities, 36 Farmer Based Organisations were formed and trained on improved farming practices as well as agro-based value chain activities. A total of 2005 farmers were trained on improved farming techniques with 746 farmers (producer group members) observed to have started using new skills acquired. A total of 206 women and 143 youth were also trained and supported to undertake dry season gardening. Under the FMNR project in Talensi AP, 100 (50 males and 50 females) beneficiaries from 10 communities were trained and supported to undertake soybean production with a starter pack of 2.7kg of seeds to cultivate half an acre of land. In addition, 90 farmers (45 males and 45 females) were trained and supported with hybrid Pannar Maize seeds. Each farmer was provided with 7.5kg of seed and NPK fertilizer. The cultivation of orange flesh sweet potato, a bio-fortified crop rich in Vitamin A and iron, which has high potential of generating incomes for households is also being promoted in the Talensi AP under the FMNR project.

With improved households' incomes, it is expected that household food availability and consumption would improve. Therefore, efforts are being made for households, especially women and youth to diversify their income sources by undertaking viable income generating activities as they access affordable credit facilities. The proportion of caregivers who have access to sufficient credit from at least one source stood at 26.29% (WVG Baseline Report 2017). The formation of Savings Groups and building access to credit through Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) was intensified within the year. A total of 808 new SGs were formed with membership of 16,748 with 88.9% being women (1,875 males and 14,873 females). A total amount of USD 88,412 was committed by WVG as microfinance support to beneficiaries through VFG, which have contributed to 96 SGs being linked to VFG and supported. As a result, 110,098 children (89,721 and 20,377 children for SGs and VFG respectively) have been impacted through provision of care and support by beneficiary caregivers. Thus, children have been supported with nutritious food, national health insurance cards, birth certificates, educational materials, among others.

SAVINGS GROUP MY REDEEMER

Madam Philomena is 55 years old and a mother of 5 children, she resides in the Krachi West District. Prior to joining this group madam Philomena could only afford to buy 5 to 7 bags of groundnut and resell depending on the prices at the time. The GH¢100 to GH¢200 maximum profit she made from her sales every month was too meager to cater for her family. Her husband, also a peasant farmer could hardly take care of the family, "I and my husband could not provide three square meals a day for our children. Sometimes the younger ones went to school on an empty stomach" Madam Philomena sadly said. Her involvement in the Savings Group about a year ago with a weekly savings of 5 shares equivalent to GH¢10 upon the advice of a friend granted her access to a loan of GH¢700 shortly afterwards. The loan was enough to purchase 10 to 15 bags of groundnuts for sale. Now Madam Philomena earns profit between GH¢400 to GH¢700 depending on the market price at the time. "During our share-out I was given GH¢1,500 as my savings plus interest that have been accrued during the period. I was overjoyed when I received this amount. I quickly pumped the money back into my business, right now my business is booming more than before" Madam Philomena said happily.

Now the profits she makes from her business is enough to provide the needs of her family. She has also been able to pay the school fees of her daughter at the nursing school (tertiary level). The family also now enjoys three square meals a day. "The future of my children is secured thanks to the Savings Group" she said, and appealed to other community members who are not yet part of the SG to join.



Madam Philomena displays her bags of groundnuts

A cross section of members during a savings meeting

"I am a lead beneficiary of the SG interventions in my community, Gyankrom. Savings Group has immensely transformed my life and that of my family. I can now boast of a vibrant business in buying and selling farm produce (groundnuts) in large quantities", Madam Philomena said confidently.

Increased Economic Opportunities for Households

Agriculture is predominantly practiced on smallholder, family-operated farms using rudimentary technology to produce about 80% of Ghana's total agricultural output. It is estimated that about 2.74 million households operate a farm or keep livestock. About 90% of farm holdings are less than two hectares in size (Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy II: 2009 – 2015). The baseline indicated that the proportion of households engaged in viable agricultural value chain is only 9.49%; whereas the proportion of households with a secondary source of income stood at 37.06% (WVG Baseline Report 2017). To have a greater impact in reducing poverty and improving child well-being, there is the need for WVG to intensify the promotion of Local Value Chain Development (LVCD). This approach is in line with Ghana's agricultural development policies and programmes.

Within FY17, interventions were carried out to increase economic opportunities for households. For instance, in Saboba AP alone, 200 women and youth capacities were built in soap and beads making as alternative livelihoods. Beneficiaries were also linked to VisionFund and other input agents to support them in startups and expanding their business activities.

WVG through the Garu Shea Butter Project facilitated the selection and recruitment of 600 women from economically deprived communities and households who were organized into SGs and given training in shea butter processing to form Shea Butter Processing Women Groups.

These women were also supported to form three (3) co-operatives with membership of 200 per each cooperative and duly registered with the Department of Co-operatives and National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI). These co-operatives include Kpikpira, Gagbire and Woriyanga Co-operatives. The women have been equipped with entrepreneurial skills and Viable Value Chain Trades (VVCT). They have been given skills to engage in soap making, body lotion production, shampoo making and batik tie and dye making. Data available from the project monitoring reports shows that the 600 women care for a total number of 2,685 children comprising 1,312 boys and 1,373 girls.

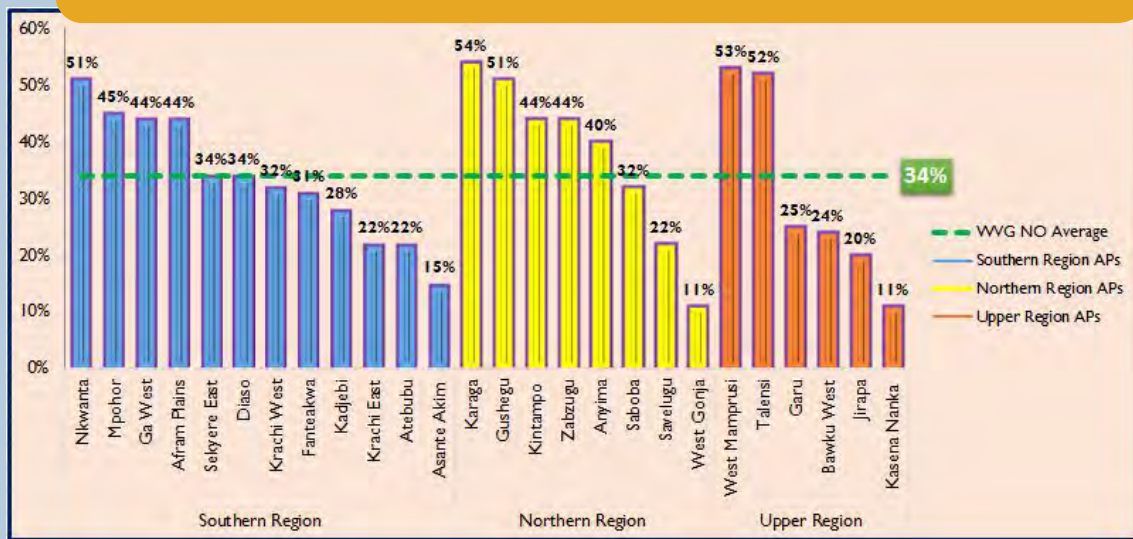
Efforts to directly integrate the youth in livelihood activities resulted in 1,083 youth being trained in market-led IGAs with 900 of them practicing at least one of the livelihood skills in which they have been trained. In his account, Isaac (20 years old) in the Saboba AP stated: "As a beneficiary of the dry season vegetable farming training, I went into pepper cultivation afterwards. Within the production season, I was able to raise over GH¢2,500 from the sale of pepper from my farm which I used to pay for my admission into the university. Without the interventions of WVG in my community, I would have been a school drop-out with no hope for the future".

Figure 5 shows the proportion of youth who rank themselves as "thriving on the ladder of life".



Garu Shea Butter Processing Women showcasing their goods

Figure 5: Proportion of Youth (12-18 years) who rank themselves as “Thriving on the Ladder of Life”



WVGTP Baseline Survey, 2017

As shown in Figure 5, the 2017 WVG baseline revealed that 33.94% of the youth ranked themselves as 'thriving' on the 'Ladder of Life' with a relatively better well-being that is strong, consistent and progressing. More than half of the youth in five APs⁴ reported an improved well-being while the lowest categories of 11% of youth were in two APs namely West Gonja and Kassena Nankana. The figure illustrates that many APs located in the Upper Regional Operations have the lowest proportion of youth who ranked themselves as “thriving on the ladder of life”.

Environmental Management Practices Improved

Soil management is very critical in sustaining the environment and increasing yields. From the baseline survey, less than half (38.88%) of households practiced soil quality management practices. In their quest to increase yields, some farmers have adopted the intensive use of chemical fertilizers other than more sustainable management practices, which further deteriorates the soil fertility resulting in low crop yields (WVG Baseline Report, 2017). An assessment of the Ghana Climate Change Policy (2013) indicated that food insecurity in Ghana is partly due to degrading soil quality and decreased productivity.

WVG in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), and Business Advisory Center trained 923 (461 females and 462 males) farmers in improved agronomic practices. In Bawku West and Garu APs, 200 lead farmers were trained on FMNR and equipped to upscale the approach while 24 new FMNR communities were identified and supported in Talensi AP. The capacity of 1,480 farmers in rural communities was built around sound environmental practices and management. Furthermore, in the Saboba AP where issues of bush fires have been very rampant, the AP collaborated with NADMO to train 60 farmers on bushfire prevention and management. Ten (10) functional disaster preparedness plans were developed and are being implemented for the same selected communities to curb the occurrence and effects of bushfires and other disasters.

Table 6: Sustainability Actions in Food Security

Sustainable Driver(s)	Critical Action Taken
Local Ownership	Training and capacity building activities were carried out to strengthen community structures and systems to increase community participation, transparency, accountability and accountability. Local stakeholders and community members were engaged as lead facilitators to support training activities.
Partnering	Local partners' capacities in project models, community engagements and monitoring are constantly being built to effectively implement project activities. The use of government agencies and other implementing partners will ensure institutional sustainability.

⁴Gushiegu, Karaga, Nkwanta, Talensi and West Mamprusi APs

Table 7: Key Learnings and Recommendations in Food Security

Key Learnings	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constant engagement with households in integrating savings and LVCD diversifies income for more sustainable livelihoods. 	<p>Integrate financial literacy and savings mobilization with LVCD to address root causes of vulnerability and food insecurity.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGs empower households to be resilient and self-reliant in the long term. 	<p>SGs should be fully integrated into other livelihood and development initiatives.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMNR increases food availability for both consumption and for sale and hence building household resilience for child well-being. 	<p>FMNR should be extended to cover all APs in Northern Ghana where there are poor environmental management practices.</p>



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” (3 John 2)

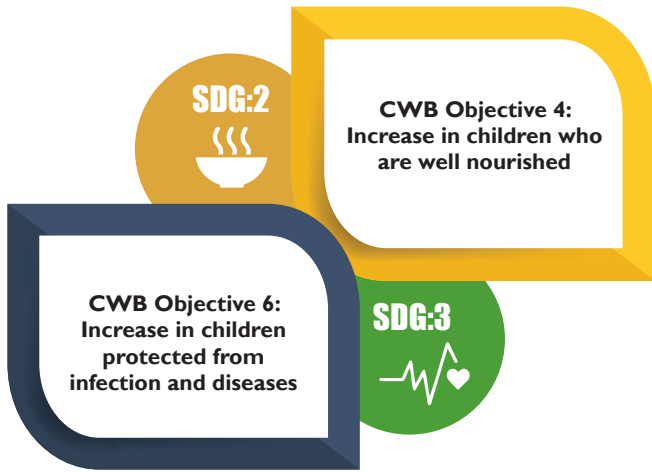


Table 8: Key Resources used for Health and Nutrition Programming in FY17

Key Standard Outcome Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevalence of underweight in children under five years of age 2. Proportion of children 6-23 months who received minimum dietary diversity 3. Proportion of children exclusively breastfed until 6 months of age 4. Coverage of essential vaccines.
Projects Contributing	4 APs ⁵ , 2 Grants: Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy (HTSP), and Nutrition Links
Funds spent (USD)	USD 704, 255 (Including Sponsorship, PNS and Grants)
Technical Experts	12 Staff
Key partners working with to achieve this objective	Ghana Health Service (GHS), Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), Hope for Future Generations (HFFG), Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR)
Projects Participants	Children- Boys: 77365 Girls: 91403. Adults- Male: 90521 Female: 95416
Project Models/Approaches	Integrated Community Case Studies (ICC), Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), Channel of Hope (COH), Community Health Committee (COMM)

Summary of Logic Chain

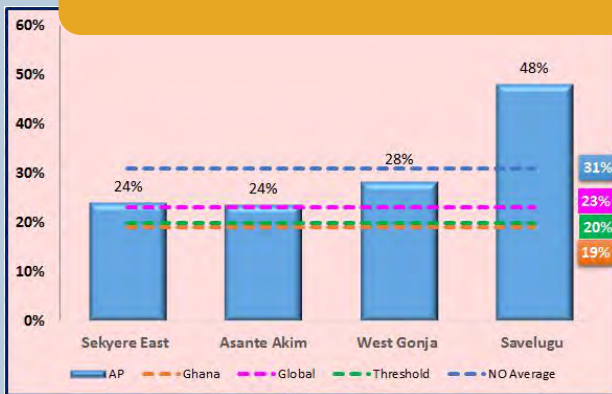
Although there have been some improvements in child and maternal health in the last two decades in Ghana, mothers and children still die from preventable causes. As high as 68% of U5 deaths occur before their first birthday, and 48% before their first month (GLSS, 2011). According to GLSS (2014), infant mortality rate stands at 41 per 1000. These were mainly attributed to lack of community knowledge on food nutrients, poor breast feeding and weaning practices, lack of knowledge by mothers on nutritional diets, and low availability of diversified food sources for consumption at household level. Unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene also impact negatively on maternal and child nutrition causing food contamination and infections. The U5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births dropped from 111 for the five years preceding the 2003 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) to 60 in 2014 (GDHS). Maternal mortality rate dropped slightly from 410 in 2010 to 380 in 2013 per 100,000 live births, but it is still lagging behind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of less than 70 per 100,000 live births. The Core Project Models used to address these issues are Community Health Committee (COMM), Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM), Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), and Channels of Hope (COH).

⁵The Sekyere East, Asante Akim North, Savelugu and West Gonja APs

Improving Nutrition among Children under 5 years

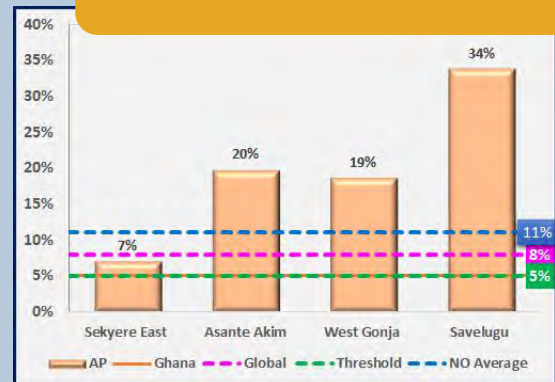
Malnutrition among children under 5 continues to be a major risk factor undermining the growth and development of children globally. The WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicated that the prevalence of stunting (Figure 6) and wasting (Figure 7) among children under 5 years stood at 31% and 11% respectively in four (4) Area Programmes⁶. Stunting and wasting was considerably higher relative to the global rate of 23% and 8% respectively (Global Nutrition Report, 2016). Factors such as large family size, unavailability of food and poor feeding practices contribute to the high malnutrition among children in these APs. However, it has been observed that active involvement of women in Income Generating Activities (IGAs) boosted their ability to supplement household income, hence their ability to provide nutritious meals for their children. The Savings Group model was intensified to provide affordable credit for women as part of efforts to promote IGAs.

Figure 6: Prevalence of stunting in children U5 years



WVGTP Baseline Survey, 2017

Figure 7: Wasting in children U5 years

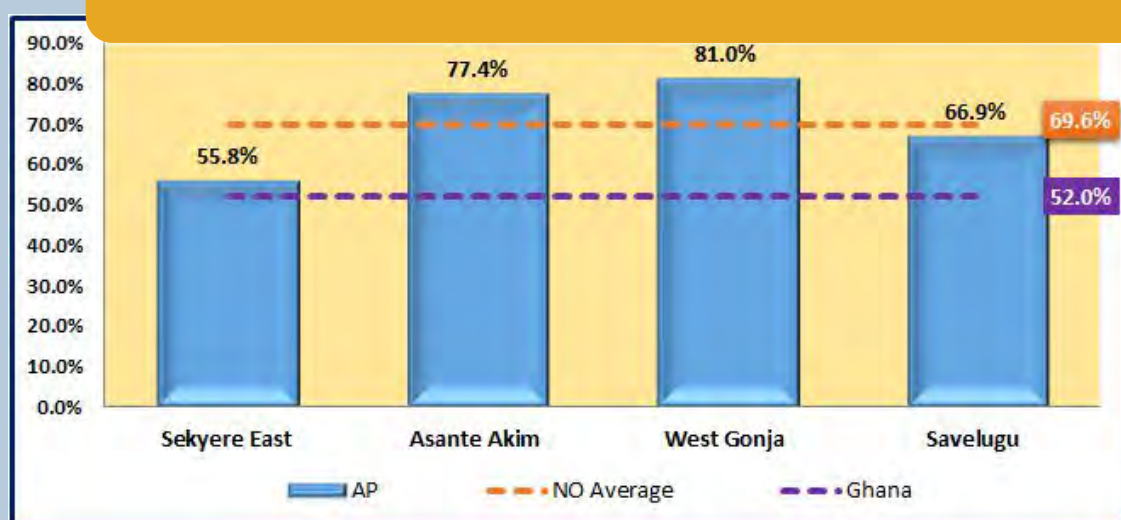


WVGTP Baseline Survey, 2017

A total of 120 health staff were trained on IYCF while 2,557 mothers participated in food demonstration activities. Moreover, 80 Community Health Management Committees in Asante Akim North and Sekyere East APs were trained on tracking and reporting of nutritional status of children in their communities for management of malnutrition. Additionally, 84 health staff were trained on anthropometric measurements.

Interventions to improve nutrition among children 0-2 years have mainly been to maximize the benefits of early initiation of breastfeeding (at birth) and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. The WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicated that the average proportion of children who had early initiation to breastfeeding (within one hour of birth) was 7.96% while those exclusively breastfed was 69.56%. All four (4) APs implementing the health programme as shown in Figure 8 reported higher results for exclusive breastfeeding compared to the country's figure of 52%. WVG in partnership with GHS trained 77 Mother to Mother Support Groups (MTMSG) for promoting and supporting mothers and other caregivers on best feeding practices and exclusive breastfeeding.

Figure 8: Children Exclusively Breastfed until 6 Months of Age

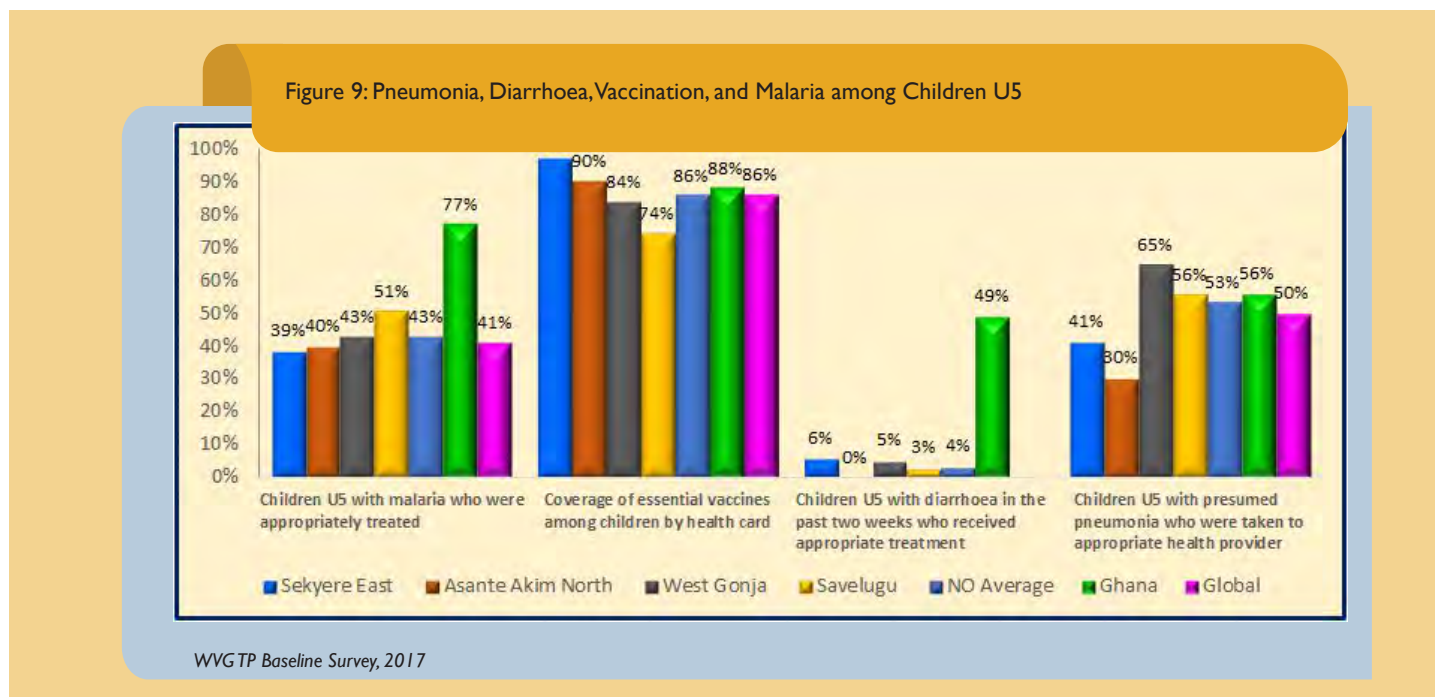


WVGTP Baseline Survey, 2017

⁶Savelugu, West Gonja, Sekyere East, and Asante Akim North

Reducing Diseases and Infections among Children U5 years

According to WHO (2016), children under 5 in Sub-Saharan Africa are 15 times more likely to die from diseases and infections than children in high income countries. Figure 9 shows that on average, 43%, 53%, and 4% of children U5 received appropriate treatment for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea respectively (WVG Baseline Report, 2017). Thus, appropriate malaria and pneumonia treatments for children in APs implementing Health Projects is lower than Ghana's average of 77% (GLSS, 2014) but higher than the global level of 41% for such preventable diseases (WHO, 2016). Children U5 who slept under Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs) the previous night an average was 70.71% (WVG Baseline Report, 2017) as compared to national and global levels of 68% (GLSS, 2014) and 53% (WHO, 2016) respectively.

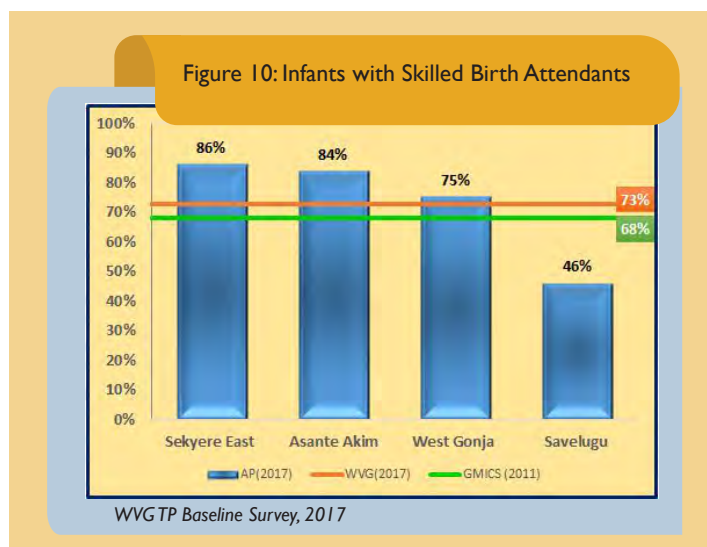


Some caregivers indicated that inadequate access to malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea treatment were mainly due to lack of health facilities in the communities and the appropriate drugs for treatment. Some health facilities had inadequate Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) for appropriate diagnosis to facilitate treatment of malaria. A total of 21 communities were sensitised on malaria prevention.

Though coverage of essential vaccines has seen improvement for the past decade in Ghana, comparison between Ghana's coverage of 88% to WVG APs indicates that Savelugu (74%) and West Gonja (84%) APs require the most attention as shown in Figure 9. To address this, WVG in partnership with GHS trained 60 health staff in Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI). GHS was also supported to expand its immunization coverage by serving 16 hard-to-reach communities where 1,231 vulnerable children were immunized.

Improving Maternal Health

Ghana's maternal mortality ratio declined from 380 (2013) to 319 (2015) per 100,000 live births (UN Inter-Agency Group 2017). Despite this progress, the maternal mortality is high among teenagers according to UNICEF (2016) with unattended skilled birth as a major cause. WVG Baseline Report indicates that 27% of births were not attended to by skilled personnel with Savelugu AP (46%) performing lower than the average of 68% as shown in Figure 10. Health Systems Strengthening is one of the interventions that contribute to the improvement of maternal health. WVG collaborated with GHS to sensitize 1,340 mothers on antenatal and post-natal care. Furthermore, the capacity of 42 Faith Leaders (32 Christians and 10 Muslims) was enhanced through the COH-MNCH in Asante Akim North, Sekyere East and West Gonja APs.



Fifty-five (55) CHATs in 52 communities were formed to support in the education and promotion of MNCH and family planning issues. Additionally, 480 adolescent peer educators were trained. These interventions are expected to also contribute to SDG target of reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

Most Vulnerable Children

Through the IYCF model, the caregivers of 65 MVC who exhibited signs and symptoms of malnutrition were given appropriate counselling on IYCF practices. In addition, in partnership with the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), 300 children from extremely deprived homes were supported to acquire health insurance cards to improve access to health services.



Table 9: Sustainability Actions on Health

Sustainability Driver	Action Taken
Ownership	MTMSGs will continue to be intensified as it is a local structure headed and managed by community members. For example, Sekyere AP MTMSGs provided all the resources for food demonstration sessions without the interference ofWVG.
Partnering	Integration of MNCH education into their sermons by Local Council of Churches (LCCs) through the COH-MNCH model.

Table 10: Key Learnings and Recommendations in Health

Key Learnings	Recommendations
Sensitizing on exclusive breastfeeding ensures early initiation of breastmilk among caregivers.	Increase exclusive breastfeeding sensitization among pregnant women to ensure early initiation of breastmilk for its maximum benefits.
Income Generating Activities (IGAs) supplements household income provided food all year round for families.	Women should be encouraged and trained on income generating ventures that can supplement their household income to enable them provide food all year round for their families.
CHATs formed as a result of COH MNCH model have increased access MNCH education for women.	Intensify and extend the COH MNCH and CHATs formation to other APs.



“300 children from extremely deprived homes were supported to acquire health insurance cards to improve access to health services.”

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: EDUCATION

“Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them.” (Proverbs 4:5)



Strategic Objective 4: All Children especially the most vulnerable have improved quality of Primary education leading to improved learning outcomes.

Increase in primary school children who can read

CWB Objective 7:

SDG 4: Quality Education



Table 11: Key Resources used for Education Programming in FY17

Key Standard Outcome Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of children able to read to learn in language of school instruction by end of grade 2 2. Proportion of children able to recognize concepts in print 3. Proportion of children currently attending after-school literacy activities. 4. Proportion of functional SMC/PTA
Projects Contributing	12 AP projects, 1 Grant – KOICA Literacy Boost (LB) and 3 PNS: Bicycle Education Empowerment Programme (BEEP), Bosuso School Project, and Kalegu Educational Infrastructure Improvement Project)
Funds spent (USD)	Total : 2,176,340 (Including Sponsorship, PNS and Grants)
Technical Experts	7 (including 6 field staff)
Key partners working with to achieve this objective	Ministry of Education (MoE), Ghana Education Service (GES), Parent-Teachers' Associations (PTAs), District Assemblies (Das), Ghana Reads Project, UNESCO, Bureau of Ghana Languages.
Projects Participants	Number of children: 381,312 (Boys-152,524, Girls 228,787)
Project Models/Approaches	Unlock Literacy (Literacy Boost), Learning Roots and Child Protection and Advocacy (CPA), and CVA.

Summary of Logic Chain

According to UNESCO (2017), 250 million children worldwide are basically illiterate and innumerate. Despite the recent global education agenda for learning outcomes, literacy rates in Sub-Saharan Africa (70% in 2011) remain lower than other sub-regions. Most children in Ghana's public schools, especially hard-to-reach areas, are unable to read and comprehend simple text even after four (4) years in school. This is substantiated by the results of the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) where only 2% of Grade 2 children could read with comprehension (GSS, 2015).



The poor learning outcomes are attributed to in and out of school factors. EGRA (2015) revealed that the absence of libraries and the poor patronage of few existing ones account for children's inability to read. Only 10.19% of schools have libraries out of which 7.41% allow students to borrow books for reading at home. Furthermore, GSS (2014) stated that 56% of the children have no member of their household read to them and 22% of Ghanaian children had no reading materials at home, the worst cases found in the rural areas.

WVG seeks to improve literacy skills of children during the early childhood years. Project models adopted include Unlock Literacy, Learning Roots and CPA with other enabling core models such as CVA. The Bicycle Education Empowerment Project (BEEP), which is a special project initiated in Kassena Nankana East AP in collaboration with World Bicycle Relief and WV Italy also contributed enormously to improving access to education.

Achievements and Analysis

Increased reading performance of children in primary school by Grade 2 completion

Ghana in the last decade has seen significant increase in Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) across primary schools from 30.74% in 2004 to 112.2% in 2016 (ESPR, 2016). However, the high enrolment has not translated into learning, as WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicates that 1.47% of Grade 2 children could read with comprehension at a fluency of 45 words per minute in English language and an average of 1.6% in local Ghanaian languages (2.79% for Asante Twi, 1.12% for Ewe, and 0.88% for Akuapem Twi).

To address this challenge, the Unlock Literacy model was implemented in 317 schools across AP communities through collaboration with 11 District Education Directorates (DED).

Across 200 beneficiary communities, 227 after school reading camps were established and manned by 550 (221 males and 329 females) trained community volunteers. A total of 12,872 children (6,557 boys and 6,315 girls) benefited from the reading camps.

Furthermore, 1,268 Grade 1-3 teachers were trained in improved literacy instructional skills; and 144 District Teacher Support Team members were trained in instructional coaching and management while 6,311 caregivers were trained to increase the awareness of parents on literacy. Additionally, the 227 reading camps and 100 community book banks were monitored by parents and community volunteers. In sustaining these gains, 160,000 locally relevant and grade appropriate supplementary readers were printed and distributed to schools and community book banks making reading materials easily available to children.

An SMS platform was developed to provide tit-bits to teachers on ways they can improve and remember new concepts. The Ghana Reads Project also provided 400 android tablets to programme schools with an estimated reach of 2,240 pupils from KG to Grade 6.

Monitoring data indicated that 85% of classrooms adopted group seating arrangements; 75% of the classrooms are print rich; and 45% of lesson plans include the key literacy components. The WVG Baseline Report (2017) also revealed that 77.34% of schools have functional SMC/PTAs with the trained community literacy volunteers regularly and actively supporting activities that enhance learning outcomes. WVG APs therefore have more schools with functional SMC/PTAs (77%) than what pertains generally in Ghana (71%). The relatively higher level of reading with fluency and comprehension recorded by Fantekwa AP (6.15%) is largely attributable to the Grant funded KOICA Literacy Boost Project.

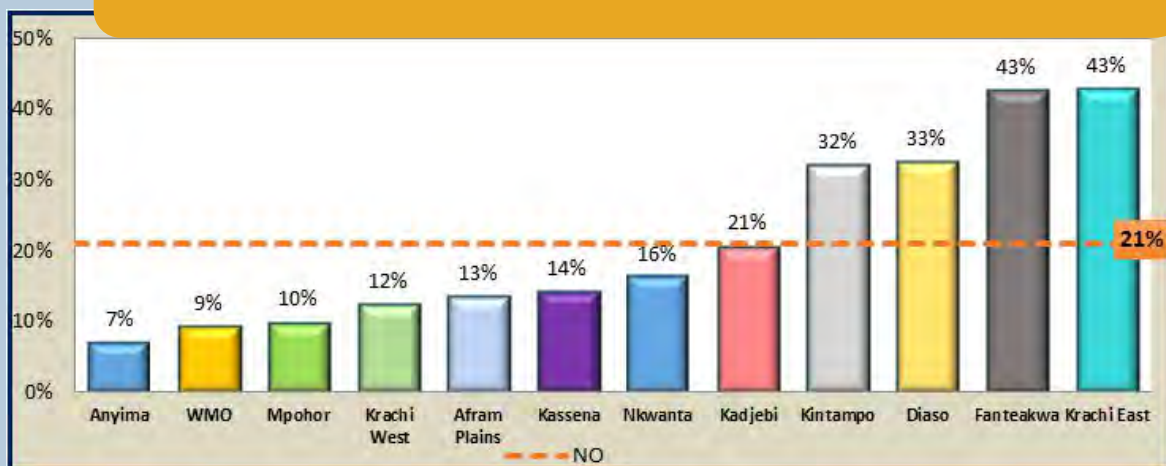
Increased Early Childhood Care and Education

Children aged between 3 and 5 need to develop the necessary learning and reading skills to transition them to Grade 1. In partnership with District Education Offices and schools, the Learning Roots project model was implemented across 11 APs to benefit Kindergarten (KG) 1 and 2 children. As a result, KG classrooms achieved minimum standards in supportive learning environment; 24 Early Childhood Coordinators were trained in the Learning Roots project model to cascade learning to 638 KG teachers.

Results from the 2017 WVG Baseline using the Concepts of Print tool as shown in Figure 10 indicate that 21% of KG 2 children are able to recognize concepts in print; 57.59% of parents and caregivers are engaged in learning and reading activities at home with their children as compared to the national average of 33% (GSS, 2014).

Figure 11 presents the proportion of children able to recognize concepts in print as recorded in the various APs.

Figure 11: Proportion of Children Able to Recognize Concepts in Print

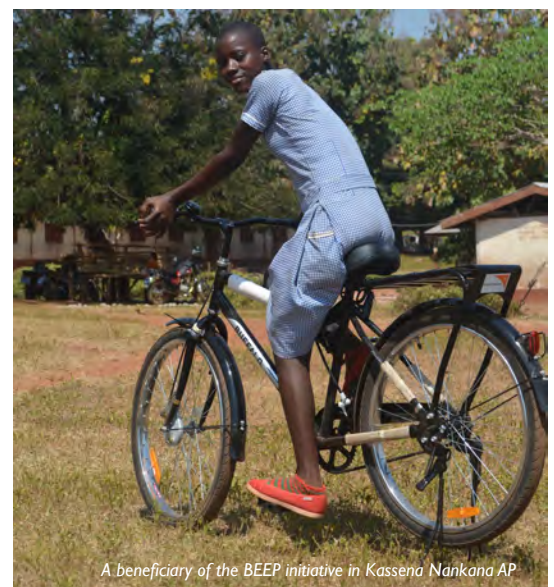


WVGTP Baseline Survey, 2017

AP level analysis (Figure 11) indicates that Krachi East, Fantekwa and Diaso APs performed well above the national average of 21%. However Anyima Mansie, West Mamprusi and Mpohor APs scored relatively low below the national average. This is attributable to the fact that Literacy Boost and Learning Roots project models are still at an introductory stage in the latter APs.

KASSENA BEEP INITIATIVE: WVG in collaboration with World Bicycle Relief and WV Italy, began full implementation of BEEP; where over 3,000 Buffalo Bicycles have so far been distributed to primary school children in the Kassena Nankana East AP to facilitate school going for children who travel long distances, especially girls, with the aim of improving student attendance, retention and performance.

Link video on the Project Launch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Her-Z2yTtNg&t=326s>



Breaking the frontiers of reading

In a small village in Krachi East District, a 43 year old woman, Gyaggri sits in the shade of a mango tree in the compound with her three month old son on her lap. She watches her 12 year old daughter, Yadah read a small book printed in their language (Twi) titled, “*Dua Tenten Bi*” (‘A Tall Tree’). A smile comes across Gyaggri's face as Yadah slowly sounds out the words in Twi. Mother listens quietly. Yadah learned to read in Twi for the first time not too long ago, and it has changed her life. Her class performance on all four subjects has improved and she reads the Twi Bible at church. The Deeper Life Church Pastor cannot hide his admiration: “*It is really a revelation, I hope other children will read like her*”. Okyeame Kwadwo, an elder in the King's court, affirms, “*If someone holds a book written in his own language but doesn't know how to read the words, it's like a starving person holding a tuber of yam without knowing what to do with it.*” Yadah is one of the many children in Wankayaw who are learning to read at the reading camp in the community.

The Unlock Literacy model started in the Krachi East District in January, 2017 with sponsorship from WV Germany. Part of the project outputs include setting up after school reading camps where trained volunteers facilitate literacy learning among children. Attached to these reading camps are book banks which are mini libraries stocked with level appropriate mother language books.

“My favourite book is ‘*The Fat Man*’; the pictures are funny and the story is interesting” Yadah said. She and her friends borrow books from the book bank regularly. In a response to a question on how many books she has read, Yadah responds; ‘*I have read 10 books so far and I will read more. Sometimes my friends come home to listen to me read*’.

The reading camp has helped keep children engaged after school. This assertion is corroborated by the Community Health Nurse, Anagboni, “*Until the reading camp started in this community, at least I received two children here with injuries each day. By the time children returned from school, their parents are in the farm and they engaged in dangerous play. Now, that is a thing of the past.*”

The project is in its second year of implementation and already there are improvements in the classroom environment. Most classrooms are print rich with appropriate learning materials. This has improved school attendance and teacher pedagogy.



Reading Camp Session

Most Vulnerable Children

WVG addressed MVC needs and risk factors by distributing 3,000 Buffalo Bicycles in Kassena Nankana East AP to primary school children, especially girls who hitherto walked long distances (2-6km or more) to access education. In Nkwanta and Kadjebi APs, Child Protection Committees (CPCs) have been formed in schools to build pupils personal security awareness in communities.

Table 12: Sustainability Actions on Education

Sustainability Driver	Action Taken
Ownership	A total of 275 SMC/PTAs were trained to monitor education of children as well as training of 550 (221 males; 329 females) community literacy volunteers to facilitate after-school literacy activities in AP communities. Reading camps are monitored by SMC/PTAs, as well as parents to ensure community involvement and local ownership. Quarterly review meetings with schools, monthly engagement with community literacy volunteers and parental reading awareness workshops are also carried out to ensure ownership.
Partnering	Through qualitative assessment as part of the baseline survey, it was noted that functional CVA groups have supported communities that are making gains in education as they now have the capacity to engage service providers for improved education services.

Table 13: Key Learnings and Recommendations on Education

Key Learnings	Recommendations
<p>Pupils struggle to identify and read letter sounds be it in Ghanaian Language or English with limited decoding skills to pronounce words.</p>	<p>Teachers should continuously focus on teaching letter sounds to help in blending and decoding words and ultimately, reading comprehension.</p> <p>Learning Roots project model should be intensified.</p>
<p>Pupils struggle with comprehension of grade-appropriate passages in English and Ghanaian Languages.</p>	<p>Encourage teachers, caregivers, and Reading Camp volunteers to fully engage students in the reading process and promote independent or small group reading and instruction is key.</p> <p>Literacy Boost project model should be intensified.</p>



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

“God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” (Genesis 21:17-18)

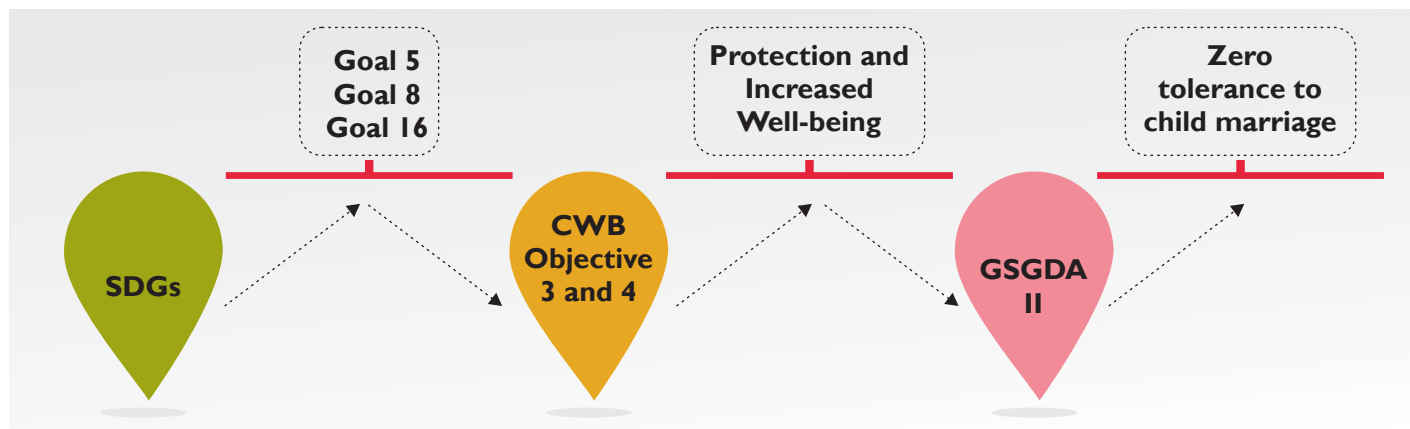


Table 14: Key Resources used for Child Protection Programming in FY17

Key Standard Outcome Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of adolescents who have a strong connection with their caregiver. 2. Proportion of children with a birth certificate. 3. Proportion of parents or caregivers who believe that child marriage is acceptable.
Projects Contributing	26 Projects in the various Area Programmes; 1 PNS on Birth Registration (Every Child's Right Gift Catalogue)
Funds spent (USD)	Total= USD 2,246,058 (Including Sponsorship, PNS and Grants)
Technical Experts	6 (3 field staff)
Key partners	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Departments of Social Welfare and Community Development; UNICEF; Plan International; International Justice Mission, JInitiative; CHRAJ; DOVVSU; NCCE
Projects Participants	Boys: 298,983 Girls: 294, 749 Male: 176,936 Female: 204,902
Project Models/Approaches	CPA,CVA COH, Celebrating Families Curriculum (CFC) and Peace Road Curriculum (PRC)

Summary of Logic Chain

Globally, between 500million and 1.5billion children experience various forms of violence each year (IFRC, 2016). In Ghana, the prevalence of child marriage stands at 27% of the total female population with 39% recorded in the northern part of the country (GSS, 2014). The WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicated that 33.59% of caregivers believe that child marriage is acceptable. Similarly, the GDHS survey revealed that 94% of children aged 2 to 14 years had experienced some violent discipline (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment) in the one month prior to the survey (GSS, 2014). The WVG Baseline Report (2017) indicates that 36.7% adolescents reporting that they do not know of the presence of services and mechanisms to receive and respond to reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence.

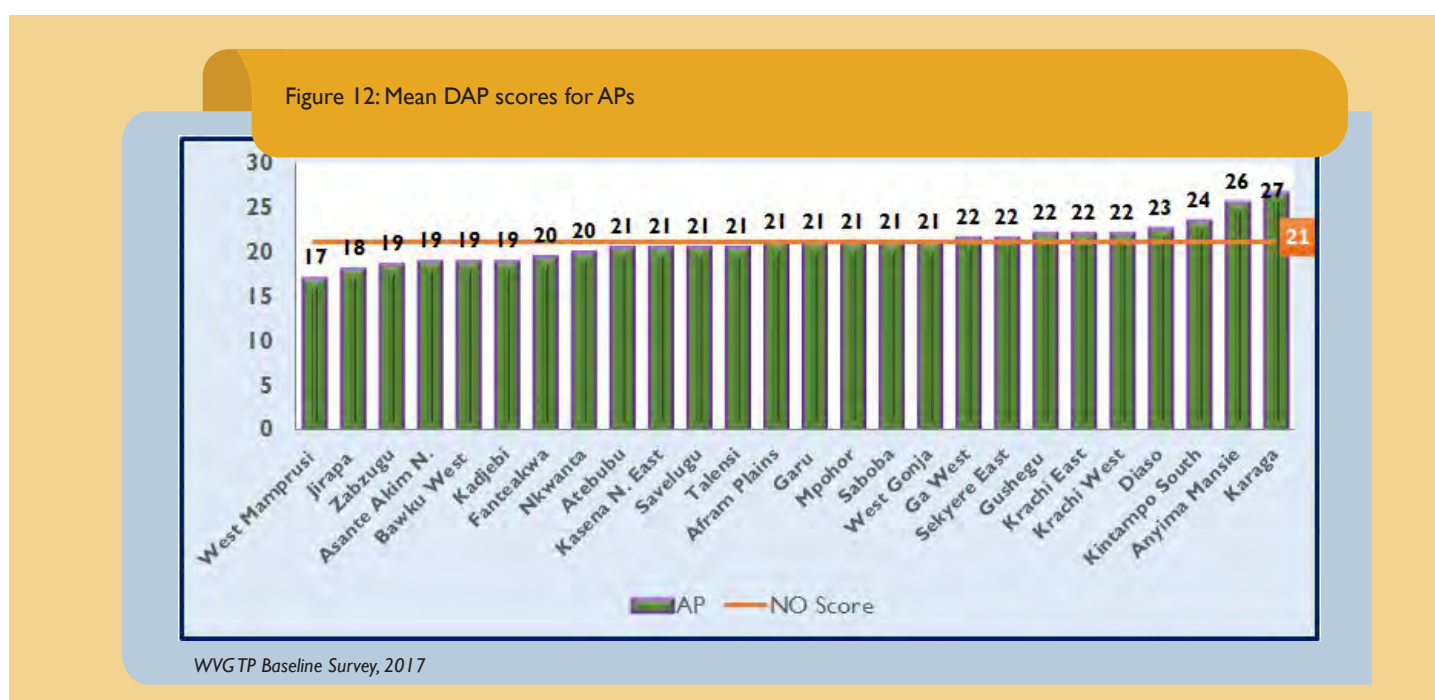
Root causes attributable to the issue include: deeply rooted harmful cultural beliefs, values and practices on child development; poor enforcement of laws and policies on child protection, existing disconnect between the law and the enforcement agencies on issues of child protection, and limited interfaith and faith community approaches to addressing socio-economic issues. WVG Child Protection and Advocacy programme aims to improve child protection and participation through strengthening community based child protection systems. The Core Project Models (CPMs) to address these issues include CPA and CVA. Other enabling CPMs are COH, Celebrating Families Curriculum (CFC) and Peace Road Curriculum (PRC).

Achievements and Analysis

Improved Environment for Children to Thrive

The 2017 WVG baseline survey sought to understand the environment in which children live, learn and work. The report revealed that the mean Development Assets Profile (DAP) score for the NO was 21 which is below the excellent threshold of 26.

Figure 12 show mean DAP scores for all 26 APs and the NO average DAP score.



From Figure 12, Karaga and Anyima Mansie APs recorded the highest mean DAP scores of 27 and 26 respectively. Eight (8) APs recorded scores below the NO average (21), with West Mamprusi AP recording the lowest score (17). In general, the internal and external assets categories had their minimum and maximum value at 20 and 21 respectively. This suggests that the well-being of children is not fully optimized with a mix of strong and weak internal and external assets. Additionally, WVG 2017 baseline survey indicated that 43.95% of adolescents felt that their community is a safe place. This is coupled with a relatively low 12.60% of adolescents who have a strong connection with their caregivers. WVG interventions aimed at ensuring the provision of essential life skills to build resilience and assertiveness in children. In lieu of this, the Peace Road Curriculum (PRC), Spiritual Nurturing of Children (SNC), Yes Children Can (YCC) approaches were implemented. Thirteen (13) District Child Protection Committees were formed and empowered and 95 existing Community Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were trained. In Nkwanta and Kadjebi APs, the CPCs have been formed in schools to build pupils' resilience. A total of 1,360 staff, volunteers and stakeholders were trained to manage child protection issues. WVG has further equipped 18,935 caregivers with knowledge on positive parenting.



⁷Excellent – 26 to 30; Good – 21 to 25; Fair – 15 to 20 and Low – 0-14

Strengthened Existing Community Structures and Systems Ensured

Birth registration is extremely important to legally establish a child's existence, citizenship and access to their rights and benefits including health and education. Critical to the fight against child marriage is birth registration as it helps to establish the ages of children. WVG 2017 baseline revealed that 44.59% of children had birth certificates in WVG APs. This is largely attributable to parents' limited knowledge on the need for birth registration and financial limitations.

WVG supported the birth registration of over 25,000 children across all APs with 50% waiver of registration fees through advocacy. In addition, WVG supported the completion of Regional Births and Deaths Registry Office complex for the Upper East Region. The complex was also supported with motorbike to aid access to hard-to-reach areas to strengthen the birth registration system.



Completed and well-furnished Births and Deaths Registry complex

Other interventions to address weak community systems included training of 1,015 Faith and community leaders on meeting critical family life issues and providing a safe environment for children. The trained leaders further engaged 2,742 people in their communities with the new skills. Moreover, 70,330 community members and 35,139 adolescents were trained in CP and children's rights. Consequently, 128 Faith leaders now integrate CP in their activities and CPCs now refer to birth certificates as means of verification in dealing with child marriage issues

The Baseline results showed that 5.45% of adolescents had been sexually abused⁸. The data further revealed that 36.7% of adolescents do not know of the presence of services and mechanisms to receive and respond to reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Baseline qualitative results attributed this to traditional belief systems of families wanting to settle such cases out of court. As a result, sexual abuse does not come to the attention of law enforcement agencies because of fear, stigma, and lack of trust in authorities. In addressing these abuses, the Kadjebi and Nkwanta APs initiated and formed school based child-led Child Protection Committees that work with pupils to identify CP issues, prevent and respond to child protection incidents and child rights violations. Over 265 Kids Clubs' members were educated on their rights and participation using the 'Yes Children Can' approach and Article 15 Tool Kits.

The WVG Baseline Report (2017) also showed that the proportion of children 12-18 years who report abuse online stood at 3.91%. WVG contextualized the 'keeping of children safe online' tool kit for the empowerment of children and adults in Ghana. A mapping of ICT policies was completed and 'safe internet day' celebrations were organized in six regions in Ghana to create awareness on child sexual exploitation and cyber bullying.

Children Experience Love of God and their Neighbours'

WVG mobilises Faith communities to value and protect children by training and equipping Faith leaders to create a safe environment for boys and girls. The Baseline results show that 54.85% adolescents explored their understanding of God. WVG built the capacity of 50 Local Council of Churches (LCCs) members in Spiritual Nurturing of Children (SNC), WV programming and CC project models to encourage partner-driven activities. Furthermore, 413 Kids Club Monitors, Pastors, and other church leaders received training on SNC and counselling; while 34 Pastors were sponsored to receive training in improved Holistic ministry; and 17 Pastors/Church leaders received leadership training. The CFC model, West Africa Regional Office (WARO) SNC Curriculum and Empowered Worldview approaches were integrated in the curriculum of Scripture Union (SU) Camp meetings and the WVG Education Programme. Consequently, 2,240 children received life enhancement lessons. Through the Youth Leadership Development and Resilience approach, 180 children received deeper insight into the knowledge and love of God, self and others, and their resiliency skills built for career development and effective transformational leadership.

⁸This include rape, touching of private parts, use of inappropriate language, dirty jokes, watching pornography, molestation, among others

A participant from Saboba AP summarized:

“The Forum has equipped me with and instilled in me knowledge and love of God, self and others, civil rights and responsibilities and built my resiliency skills for career, leadership, family life and sex education. This will prepare me for effective transformational leadership.”



National and Local Level Advocacy

WVG works with partners to influence new policies and implementation of existing policies surrounding child protection. Consequently, nine (9) child-related policies,⁹ guidelines and strategies that focus on improved WASH, education, health and child protection services were developed and are being implemented. WVG continues to be a voice for the reformation of the disparity between minimum age for sexual consent in Ghana (16 years) and the minimum age for marriage (18 years).

The Baseline indicates that 33.59% of parents or caregivers believe that child marriage is acceptable. In light of this perception and cultural mindset, WVG in collaboration with partners launched a 5-Year Campaign; “End Child Marriage Now! It Takes Us All”. This is contextualized from the Partnership’s “It Takes a World to End Violence against Children”. It is worthy to note that there has been quick wins from the Campaign. For instance, a Muslim leader in Garu-Tempone AP champions “End Child Marriage Now” campaign. He now campaigns in Muslim communities in the Garu-Tempone District after participating in the Campaign launch in Tamale.

WVG advanced its local level advocacy through the establishment of 118 CVA Working Groups in 21 APs. CVA has helped to engage local traditional authorities to advance the Campaign against child marriage and teenage pregnancy through the development and enforcement of community bye-laws. For instance, Datoku community CVA in the Talensi AP focuses on reducing teenage pregnancy and school dropout among girls. Other key successes of CVA intervention are Tanga community receiving 70 dual desks through dialogue with the Bawku West District Assembly while Garu-Tempone District Assembly prioritized and increased WASH budget through dialogue with district CVA working groups.



WARO Leader at WVG Child Marriage Campaign Launch

⁹These include: Five Year Strategy for the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Operational Plan for the Justice for Children Policy, Gender in Education Policy, Guidelines for Girls affected by Early and Unplanned Pregnancy to Return to School, Relevant Child Protection Policies and Laws, the Ghana Inclusive Education Policy, Teacher Standard Policy, Guidance and Counseling Policy, Primary Health Care policy



Young Ambassadors for Child Rights and Protection

Child participation is critical to the development of children's ability to advocate for their own wellbeing. Two WVG young leaders; Abigail (13 years) and Justice (17 years) showcased their work on child marriage and child labour respectively at the European Development Days in Brussels. In the company of other children from Mongolia and Guatemala, they made declarations signed by key international stakeholders such as the UN and WHO to support and commit to end violence against children. They have become world young ambassadors on the issue of ending violence against children.



Abigail (left) and Dickens(right) at the "It Takes A World" to end violence against Children Campaign in Tamale

Abigail at the launch of the End Child Marriage Campaign posited:

“Sometimes, girls themselves choose to be in a union because they perceive it to be what is expected of them, maybe to gain some status and recognition in the community, to escape from poverty or non-supportive family environment, or only because they have dropped out of school and do not have any other viable alternative”.

She charged Faith leaders, traditional leaders, Civil Society Organisations, NGOs and the media to build community awareness on existing child marriage laws, formal prevention mechanisms and the impact of child marriage. Abigail speaks highly of the transformation and exposure that WVG has provided and how her future looks brighter now.

Table 15: Sustainability Actions on Child Protection

Sustainability Driver	Action Taken
Partnering	WVG developed and signed MoU with Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to address the child protection issues identified. WVG, JInitiative (a local NGO) and the Government of Ghana reviewed the national ICT strategy to include child on-line safety. WVG also has good working relationships with partners like the UNICEF, Plan International, International Justice Mission (IJM), JInitiative, CHRAJ, and Domestic Violence Secretariat, CBOs, NCCE and the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development. These have enabled a cohesive approach for communities to be aware and informed on child protection issues.

Table 16: Key Learnings and Recommendations on Child Protection

Key Learnings	Recommendations
WVG engagements with the Birth and Death Registry at the National level led to a 50% waiver on the cost of birth certificates leading to improved access to birth registration in APs.	WVG advocacy drive should be properly targeted at the right state/parastatal and non-state actors to achieve the desired results. Efforts should be made to support the Birth and Death Registry to conduct mobile birth registration to improve access to birth registration in APs.
Child Protection incidents are not reported due to inadequate knowledge of reporting and referral mechanisms.	The collaborative efforts between WVG, DOVVSU and CHRAJ should be adequately strengthened to improve reporting and referral mechanisms.
Focusing on mind set and behavioral change of faith leaders, caregivers/parents, adults and community leaders brings high yielding results in child protection as demonstrated in the child marriage campaign.	Training and equipping faith communities to value and protect children through CoH is paramount. This will create a safe environment for boys and girls to play a lead role in challenging and transforming beliefs, social norms and behaviours that cause harm to children.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Management forms an integral part of the WVG FY16-21 Strategy. The Food Security and Resilience Strategic Objective fosters the approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Area Programmes to contribute to the outcome 'Reduced effects of climate change, disasters and economic shocks'. DRR activities were implemented in collaboration with NADMO. Across the country, natural disasters ranging from floods, droughts, storms, bushfires and outbreak of diseases such as the fall armyworm infestation were common. This phenomenon did not only affect crops and livestock production and productivity, but also individuals including beneficiaries in WVG communities.

DRR activities were integrated into programmes activities in selected APs. For instance, 13 Disaster Preparedness Plans were updated in Saboba AP. Eight (8) disaster preparedness groups were functional in their communities. Capacity building training was organized for 352 community members from five communities in Saboba AP on Community-Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA) which has helped beneficiary communities to identify and mitigate existing and potential hazards. A total of 110 children (65 boys and 55 girls) in Jirapa AP benefited from disaster prevention and management in selected schools.

During the year, there was an outbreak of fall armyworm which affected over 7,000 hectares of farms, mainly maize and other cereals. WVG in collaboration with its partners sensitized farmers on how to manage and prevent further infestation. Dry season gardening support, Savings Groups as well as the intensification of the FMNR have all promoted communities' resilience to natural and economic disasters.

The WVG Baseline Report (2017) revealed that out of 1,886 households, 775 (41.09%) households who faced a disaster in the past 12 months were able to employ an effective disaster risk reduction or positive coping strategy. The report further indicated that the proportion of children and youth (12-18 years) with resilient life skills was 27.02%. The lesson learned from the baseline survey is to improve children's knowledge and skills on DRR, which will better equip them to participate in the identification and discussions of disaster related issues that contribute to building their resilience. As part of advocacy activities, a more integrated DRR approach will be required in schools' curriculum, and at community level

WVG DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME APPROACH

The Development Programme Approach (DPA) was used to engage partners and stakeholders in planning for actions on CWB priorities at the community, district, regional and national levels. Community engagement was carried out throughout implementation and monitoring of CWB interventions. Quarterly partner review meetings were held for all technical projects at the district level to enhance and deepen stakeholder commitment to CWB priorities and capture their contributions for each Area Programme. At the national level, annual strategic partner meetings were carried out to discuss emerging trends, review CWB progress, learn and make recommendations for future planning.

At the AP level, Annual Community Review and Planning Process saw community stakeholders playing the lead role while World Vision facilitated the logistics and provided technical backstopping. Community stakeholders largely included chiefs, opinion leaders, identifiable groups, Faith-based organizations, women, men and children from the programme focus areas. Communities came out with their own priorities and activities to improve child well-being and ensure adaptation of technical programmes to local context. It has also enhanced the Area Programme's accountability to the communities while aligning project priorities with changing community needs and aspirations.

Children groups provided suggestions to curb the slow institutional response to addressing child protection issues. They suggested periodic monitoring and organisation of child-only sessions to enable open discussions on child abuse, parental care and other child protection issues.



Children participating in community review and reflection meeting in Gushegu AP

CWB REPORTING PROCESS

Table 17: Learnings and Recommendations on the CWB Reporting Process

Key Learnings	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of ICT and smartphone applications (ODK and Tangerine) improved data quality during data collection process and enhanced cost efficiency. 	<p>Increase knowledge, skills and use of mobile platform for data collection for staff and partners. Horizon mobile devices should also be used for activity and output monitoring.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific standardized World Vision International outcome level indicators that are not measured by other development partners limit their comparison and triangulation. 	<p>There is need to align and/or harmonize such indicators in terms of their tools, definition and methodologies with those of major development partners.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection tools were not adequately disaggregated to collect data specific to gender, marginalized and disadvantaged groups. 	<p>There is need to develop tools to be able to collect disaggregated data specific to gender, marginalized and disadvantaged groups.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic planning, coordination and engagement ensure active participation of all concerned and generate adequate data with quality for reporting. 	<p>Integrate review and reflection on CWB report recommendations into the regular programme monitoring and review process.</p>

CONCLUSION

In-depth planning, coordination and involvement of stakeholders including children and partners resulted in the successful completion of the WVG baseline survey, which has largely informed this CWB report. On a whole, WVG during this baseline year has made enormous investments for improving the well-being of children and towards the achievement of her strategic goals. The lessons and recommendations in this report would be used to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and tailored interventions for sustained child well-being in Ghana.

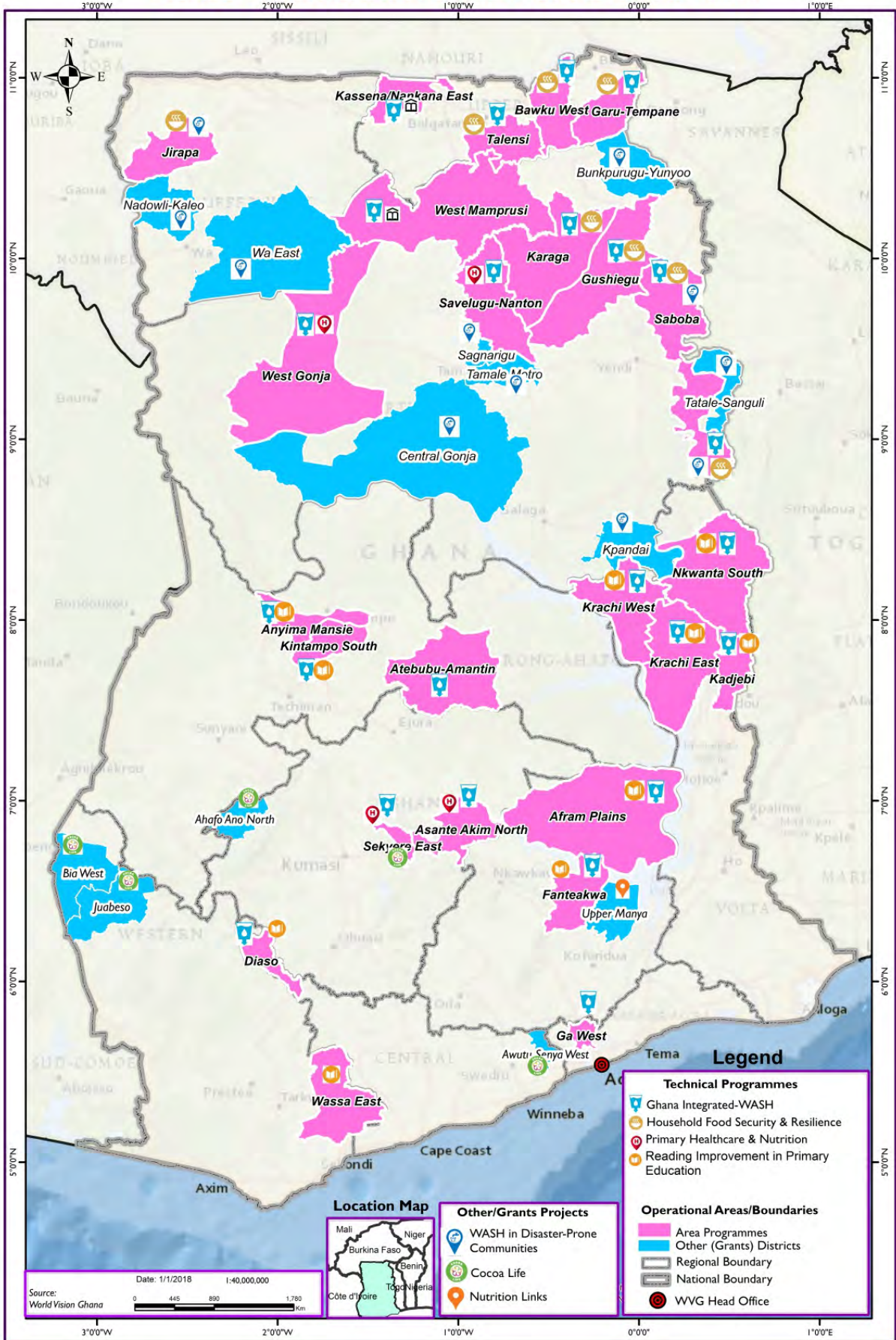
ANNEXES

List of Data Sources

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24. World Vision Ghana (2015). FY16-FY21 National Office Strategy Document.
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Map of Project/Programme Locations across the Country

WORLD VISION GHANA OPERATIONAL AREAS - FY17







No. 3 Kotei Robertson Street.
North Industrial Area, North Kaneshie,
Accra - Ghana
Private Mail Bag

Tel: +233-302-232603

Website: www.wvi.org/ghana

 Facebook: World Vision Ghana  Twitter: @WorldVisionGH