



**SEND
GHANA**

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

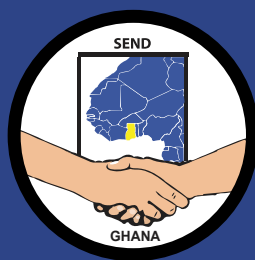
ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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**SEND
GHANA**



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MISSION

We work to promote good governance and equality of women and men in Ghana.



VISION

A Ghana where people's rights and well-being are guaranteed.



CORE VALUES

The Core Values of SEND-GHANA are explained in the acronym 'PEOPLE':

- P** : Participatory Decision Making and Development
- E** : Equality of women and men
- O** : Openness and Accountability
- P** : Partnership for human development
- L** : Learning, Innovation and Sharing Knowledge
- E** : Enabling Action Based on Information

■ Board of Directors



JANET MOHAMMED
CHAIRPERSON



SIAPHA KAMARA
CEO



REV. MOSES BAKAR
MEMBER



AL-HASSAN Y. SEINI
MEMBER



JUSTINA ANGLAARE
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MEMBER



CEO 2023 MESSAGE

AMPLIFY ADVOCACY FOR THE POOR

“ The imperative for SEND to mobilize its allies to increase advocacy for the poor has never been more urgent than in 2023. The Government of Ghana (GOG) signed in May 2023 the country’s 17th International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) Economic Bailout Program (EBP) primarily to restore macroeconomic stability. African countries’ development experience is replete with abundant and irrefutable evidence that IMF-WB-designed macroeconomic stability Programs are based on austerity economic policies that disrupt the livelihoods of workers, farmers, petty traders, and micro-entrepreneurs driving them deeper into poverty.

Forty-four percent (44%) of the 34 million Ghanaians are multi-dimensionally poor: i.e. experiencing poor living conditions, health, education, and employment. The extremely poor Ghanaians were estimated to be: 3.1 million in 2021, 3.0 million in 2022, and 2.9 million in 2023. More men (1.55 million) in Ghana were extremely poor in 2023 compared to women (1.44 million). According to the World Bank, the extremely poor segment of the population lives on less than US\$1.90 per day and this means they cannot afford all the essentials of life each day. Rural Ghana, where SEND’s projects are concentrated accounts for most of the poor with small-scale food crop farmers being the majority. In 2023, 214,000 extremely poor people live in rural Ghana compared to 2.8 million in urbanized communities.

The evidence that the living conditions of marginalized groups are getting worse under the present IMF-WB EBP is best illustrated by the rising national rate of inflation. The national inflationary rate rose from 12.9 % in 2021 to 31.71% in 2022 and 54 % by December 2023.

In response, SEND will step up advocacy activities in several ways to amplify the voices, needs, and aspirations of marginalized Ghanaians. First, SEND will intensify networking with like-minded civil society organizations, UN Agencies, and allies in government, media, religious bodies, and the private sector to implement joint advocacy actions demanding policies and programs to safeguard the livelihood security of marginalized Ghanaians. Second, SEND will increase advocacy to strengthen Social Protection programs to deliver on their mandates to improve the access of vulnerable groups to essential services. Third, SEND will prioritise budget advocacy emphasizing the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) to empower the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to respond to local development priorities including those of marginalized groups. I am confident pursuing these three strategies will boost SEND’s pro-poor research and advocacy capabilities to remain a stalwart in the cause of marginalized Ghanaians in the wake of EBP.

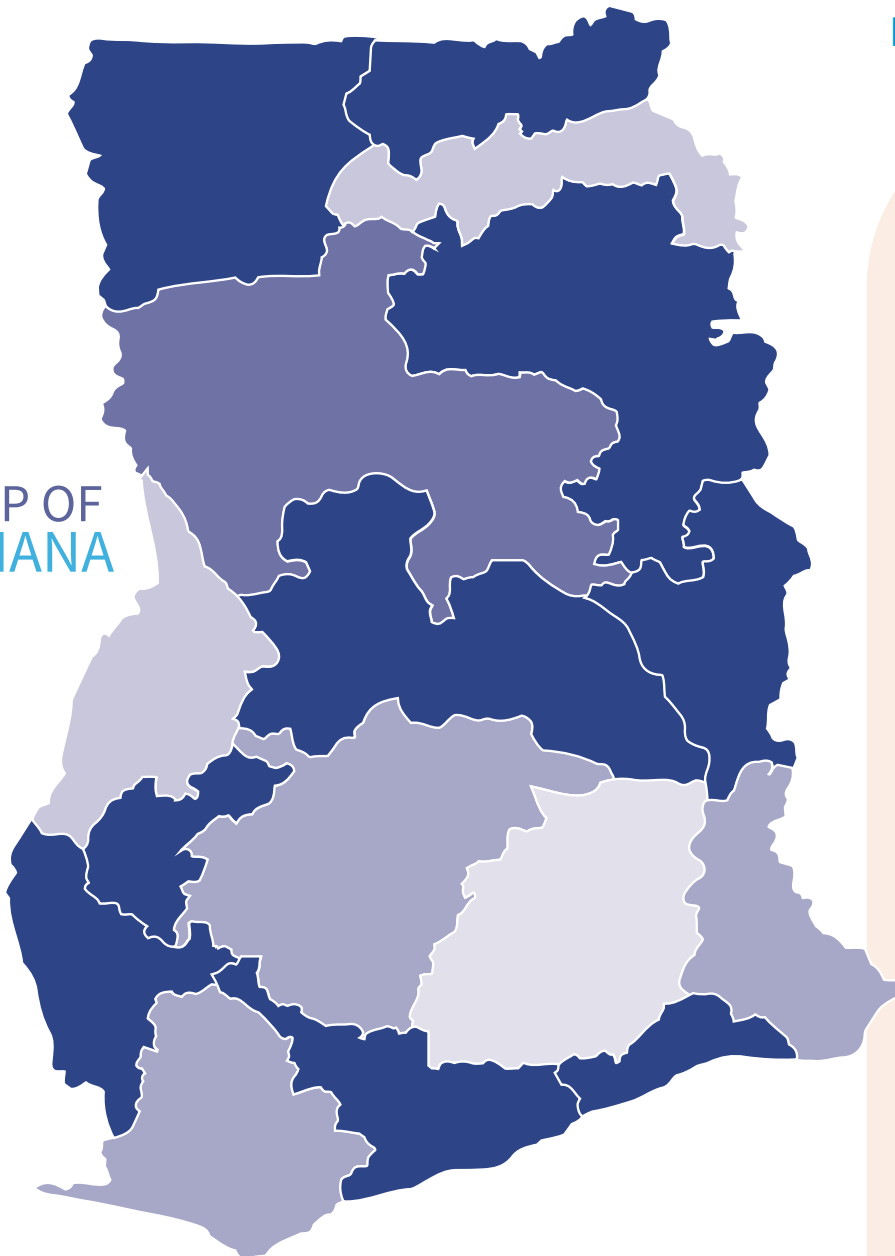
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SEND GHANA'S 2023 PERFORMANCE IN NUMBERS

OPERATIONAL REGIONS:

We implemented projects in all **16** regions in Ghana

MAP OF
GHANA



WE IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS IN



Health



Social Protection



Agric



Gender



**Public Financial
management**

OUR DONOR AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The year 2023 marked another significant milestone in our record of transforming lives and building an equitable society. With generous support from our donors and unwavering commitment from our implementing partners, we impacted the lives of xxx in our target communities and zones of influence.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to both our donors and implementing partners whose assistance in diverse ways has enabled us to implement impactful projects with tangible and sustainable change in the lives of our beneficiaries. To our beneficiaries, we say thank you! Our gratitude for the trust you put in us is immense. Your resilience, determination, and unwavering spirit inspire us daily, reaffirming our dedication to championing our development agenda for Ghana. To everyone who has supported the SEND team in one way or the other, we say Akpe, Ye da musi, Nagode.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GHANA



**INTEGRITY
ACTION**



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
TRANSPARENCY**

**Global Health
Advocacy Incubator**



OXFAM

**ELEVATING GHANA'S
DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH INNOVATIVE
PROGRAMMING:**
OUR UNWAVERING
COMMITMENT

In 2023, SEND GHANA embarked on a series of projects that resonated with many communities, touching the lives of numerous beneficiaries across Ghana. These programs have collectively spurred significant changes, aligning with Ghana's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agenda, particularly in the critical areas of health, agriculture, education, social protection, and public financial management, with gender inclusivity at the core of their implementation.



Health Project

Our health interventions in 2023 span Adolescent reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS, maternal and child healthcare, public health emergency funding, and more. Through advocacy and research, fuelled by our passion to see changes in reproductive healthcare delivery in Ghana, we provided a safe environment for adolescent youth (especially young women) to champion sexual and reproductive health issues. Furthermore, our HIV/AIDS-based project empowered communities of persons living with HIV to monitor and advocate against stigma and discrimination. We also continued our call for the government of Ghana to establish a Public Health Emergency Fund to support preparedness and response efforts during pandemics.



Agricultural Projects

Under agriculture in the same year, we extended support to smallholder farmers, equipping them with climate-smart information vital for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Using the Gender Model Family as a conduit to change harmful gender stereotypes, these projects also empowered women to venture into traditionally male-dominated economic activities such as animal husbandry. Furthermore, we also created platforms for cocoa farmers to advocate for their interests and engage key stakeholders in the cocoa value chain.



Social Protection

Under Social Protection, our goal is to ensure that the average Ghanaian understands that social protection is a right, not a privilege. Through our interactions with social protection beneficiaries across Ghana, we have found that many perceive social protection as a privilege rather than something they are entitled to as vulnerable citizens. To address this, we aim to increase awareness of social protection as a right using the Rights-Based Approach methodology. We collaborated with journalists to highlight social protection as an inherent right for every individual. Through these partnerships, we strive to ensure that citizens understand their entitlement to social protection interventions such as LEAP, National Health Insurance, and School Feeding.



Accountability in Public Financial Management

Accountability in Public Financial Management in Ghana is fundamental to ensuring good governance. As such, we advocated for transparent and accountable public spending by equipping citizens with the necessary skills to monitor public expenditure through budget analysis. In addition, we raised awareness on the Citizens Generated Data (CGD) and the District Development Agenda (DDA) to empower citizens to demand accountability from duty-bearers.



Education

Education is one of the keys to breaking the cycle of generational poverty. As such, for the recording year, our work in the educational sector sought to reintegrate out-of-school children into schools.

The culmination of these programs signifies a unified effort to empower Ghana's marginalized populations and champion a development agenda that emphasizes the needs of the poor and those in remote areas. By upholding the SDG motto of "leaving no one behind" SEND GHANA maintains its dedication to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring equitable progress across the nation.



SEND GHANA

**maintains its
dedication
to fostering
inclusive growth
and ensuring
equitable
progress across
the nation**

SECTORAL
BREAKDOWN AND
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
OF PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED IN
2023



2
End hunger, achieve
food security and
improved nutrition
and promote
sustainable agriculture

AGRICULTURE

Food insecurity remains a significant threat to many vulnerable Ghanaians due to climate change-related issues, thereby increasing poverty, particularly among those living in rural areas. Therefore, we implemented three agricultural projects in 2023: GROW, Cocoa Advocacy, and Fair4All. These projects aim to provide platforms for smallholder farmers, especially women, to collaborate with key stakeholders in addressing the challenges they face.

While each project focuses on a different outcome, they share similar goals: to bridge the gap between farmers and stakeholders in the value chain, provide technical support to farmers to increase yield and food production, and promote food security and effective agricultural governance.





GROW Project (Together Against Poverty-TAP 2)

In partnership with the Peasant Farmers Association, and with funding support from OXFAM, the GROW project amplified the voices of smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, in the Greater Accra, Bono, Central, Ahafo, Volta, Oti, and Eastern regions. This six-month initiative sought to ensure their active participation in the budget planning and implementation processes, thereby enabling their voices to be heard and their needs to be met. Furthermore, the program fostered inclusive agricultural governance by promoting dialogues among smallholder farmers, Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs), and civil society groups. These dialogues focused on Gender Responsive Budgeting, climate financing, and the implications of IMF austerity measures on Ghana's agriculture. In addition, the project also conducted campaigns to secure the government's commitment to implementing the findings of a climate financing study on the sector.



Successes

The project achieved the following milestones:

- As a result of efforts under the project, 10% of the assembly's agricultural budget was continuously allocated to women. These efforts included capacity-building programs on gender responsive budgeting for Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives, Coordinating Directors, Agricultural Directors, Planning Officers, Budget Officers, and Gender Desk Officers.
- Due to the above intervention, there was a significant increase in women's participation in training programs and the Research Extension Linkage Committee (RELC) meetings of the Agriculture Department. About 40% of the participants in capacity-building programs were women. In addition, more women actively engaged in the agricultural planning sessions of the assembly, demonstrating their increased interest in the Agriculture Department's activities.



The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program (4R-NSP)

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program (4R-NSP) is a five-and-a-half-year project that commenced in 2019 and ends in 2024. Generously funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), this project is implemented in collaboration with the Cooperative Development Foundation of Canada, Fertilizer Canada, and the African Plant Nutrition Institute.

The core mission of the project is to strengthen agricultural productivity and increase farm income, while exposing farmers to gender and climate resilience strategies. The primary focus is to support 30,000 vulnerable smallholder farmers, particularly women, in increasing their yield by using the 4R principles. These principles involve applying the Right Source of plant nutrients at the Right Rate, at the Right Time, and in the Right Place.

The 4R initiative is operational in the Savannah and Northern regions, encompassing 130 communities across four districts: East Gonja, Nanumba North, Nanumba South, and Kpandai.



Successes

- 256 Community Volunteer Agricultural Extension Agents VAEAs were trained on record keeping and work plans.
- 40 women benefitted from the two orange-fleshed sweet potato farms in Nanumba South and Kpandai districts.
- 36 farmers received support from the project through Heritage Seeds to cultivate soybeans, resulting in a significant aggregate yield across the four districts.
- 48 men and women farmers received technical assistance on vegetable cultivation, enhancing food production and increasing their income levels.



F4A

A strengthened civil society is essential for a resilient democracy, driving accountability, community engagement, and championing citizens' rights. In 2023, the Fair4All project, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs through OXFAM in Ghana, built civil society's capacity to advocate for inclusive and sustainable trade in cocoa production and extractive industries like gold, salt, oil, and gas. With a focus on human rights, environmental protection, and women's economic empowerment, the project engaged with cocoa farmer cooperatives, CHED, Environmental Protection Agencies, and CHRAJ in Eastern and Central Ghana to address issues such as child labor and environmental harm in the cocoa sector. The 5-year project is implemented by TWN-Africa in collaboration with ACEP, SEND-GHANA, WILDAF, Wacam, Friends of the Nation, CEPIL, NCOM, Netright, GMWU, GNASSM, and Women in Mining (Ghana).

The objective of the Fair for All project is to strengthen local civil society in gathering evidence of rights abuses in cocoa, petroleum, and mineral value chains, assisting communities in seeking justice and accountability. It aims to empower civil society to advocate for women's economic empowerment, prevent rights abuses, and ensure fair incomes by engaging with mining companies, agribusinesses, and suppliers, particularly in cocoa and artisanal gold mining. The project promotes fiscal and trade policies to enhance local value capture, supporting locally owned enterprises, and supports civil society organizations in influencing district-level budget allocations for a more equitable distribution of resource benefits across the country.



This project is anchored on four pathways which serve as a guide to achieving set goals.

PATHWAY 1

Collaborating with the private sector to explore and implement alternative business models.

PATHWAY 2

Applying pressure on private sector actors to adopt responsible practices within the private and financial sectors.

PATHWAY 3

Strengthening governmental regulation of the private sector to ensure accountability and sustainability.

PATHWAY 4

Advocating for fiscal and trade reforms to foster fairness and equity in trade practices.



Successes

In 2023 the Fair4All project chalked the following success

- The Birim South District Assembly incorporated input from farmers into their 2023 Annual Action Plan and Budget. The plan includes sensitizing and training 100 farmers in climate-smart agriculture.
- The project advocated for better fiscal and trade reforms, leading the Minister for Food and Agriculture to pledge government support for CSOs fighting for improved conditions for poor cocoa farmers during second-quarter media engagements.
- It also collaborated with the Ghana Civil-Society Cocoa Platform (GCCP) to advocate for and influence an increase in the farmgate price for the 2023/2024 cocoa season. They emphasized the need for higher cocoa prices to ensure a living wage for farmers. This price rise will improve livelihoods and boost productivity by enabling farmers to invest in their farms.



Garden beneficiaries adopt organic pest control by using neem extract to sprinkle on vegetables.

GENDER, WOMEN, AND AGRICULTURE



13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



2 ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Women Centered Agricultural Interventions: Empowering Marginalised Women to Increase Their Economic Gains.

Gender remains a cornerstone of our programs, as evidenced by our three women-driven agricultural projects: the Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT) project, Climate Change, Gender and Agriculture, and the Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS) project, and the Veterinarians without Borders (VWB) project. Anchored in the Gender Model Family (GMF) approach, these programs reduce the time burden on women and inspire them to engage in economically viable activities. GMF is a gender-transformative strategy that addresses unequal power relations by establishing role-model families and engaging all family members as 'change agents.' These projects challenge negative gender stereotypes and promote inclusivity, encouraging households to equally distribute

chores, enabling women to pursue income-generating activities, and fostering sustainable community change.

The **Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions project (VETS)**, co-funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), operates in six districts: Savelugu, Tamale Metro, Yendi, Gushiegu, Zabzugu, and Chereponi. It aims to improve the economic and social well-being of the poorest and most marginalized people, particularly rural women, through the One Health initiative, integrating animal, human, and environmental health. Canadian volunteers with diverse expertise help create integrated animal health systems, improving the lives of small-scale livestock producers. The projects leverage the Gender Model Family (GMF) approach to encourage husbands and children to take on household chores, allowing women and girls to engage in economically beneficial activities.



Successes

- 436 women in 36 project communities were trained in leadership and assertiveness skills, equipping them with essential knowledge and practical tools to enhance their leadership capabilities, and build self-confidence. After the training, the women committed to actively taking up leadership roles in their communities. This signifies a shift in mindset and behaviour, showing their readiness to challenge traditional gender norms and participate in decision-making processes.

The Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT) project on the other hand is a five-year initiative intended to improve the economic independence, well-being, and growth of women in the shea and cocoa value chains. An important component of WEACT is ensuring that women in these value chains can participate in economic activities outside the home. Funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and implemented by SEND GHANA, Friends of the Nation (FON), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), TungTeiya Women's Association, Shea Network Ghana (SNG), NORSAAC, and Viamo, the project operates in nine districts: Savelugu, Mion, West Gonja, Garu, Sissala West, Amenfi West, Aowin, Suaman, and Sefwi-Wiawso.



Successes

- The Project built the capacities of household members to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid work, freeing time for women to actively participate in economic activities.
- It also garnered commitment and support from stakeholders to promote gender equity within families, fostering peaceful coexistence.
- It further improved community members' understanding of the benefits of monetizing unpaid care work.
- In addition, Increased the awareness of women on gender issues and cultural dynamics within their communities, empowering them to navigate harmful practices that hinder their economic well-being.



Review Meeting with Gender Mentors in Sefwi Wiawso, 29th November 2023 Photo Credit: Emmanuel Nana, FON Nov 2023



Men's cooking competition in Kwaso

Climate Change, Gender and Agriculture

In the reporting year, SEND also implemented a seven (7) month project funded by JICA in the Greater Accra and Northern regions. With the GMF as a core part of the implementation, activities under this project targeted three communities—Shai Osudoku, Savelugu, and Mion districts—to raise awareness about the impact of climate change on families, particularly emphasizing the disproportionate burden on women. This burden often stems from increased domestic responsibilities and unpaid care work, which hinder their engagement in economic activities.

Using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools, the project facilitated community engagement in understanding the intersection of gender and climate change. It further highlighted the importance of redistributing household chores to alleviate women's time constraints, thus

enabling their active participation in activities that benefit them. In addition, the project examined how climate change affects men and women differently, stressing the essential role of women and girls in addressing climate challenges beyond being mere sufferers.

Some activities implemented under the project include organizing a workshop to introduce the communities to the gender module. In addition, recruited and registered Gender Model Families to identify, select, and officially register other families (polygamous or monogamous families) within a community. These families voluntarily committed to adopting and practicing the principles of gender equity within their households. In total, 120 couples were recruited, with 20 couples in each community. etc



Successes

- The project achieved significant success in empowering women to play active roles in decision-making within both their families and communities, a notable shift from the past when such responsibilities were largely shouldered by men. In addition, it provided farmers with crucial knowledge on climate change mitigation techniques to combat adverse climatic conditions. Another noteworthy accomplishment was the fair redistribution of unpaid domestic labour between men and women within households, aimed at reducing the time burden on women to participate in business ventures.



Health



SEND GHANA implemented three impactful health projects, each designed to address critical needs and empower individuals and communities to advocate for better healthcare provision. First, the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (Power to Choose) project is building the capacity of adolescents and young women in research and advocacy to demand accountability for improved SRHR services. The Community Led Monitoring of HIV services improved the capacity of Persons Living With HIV with requisite skills to monitor the quality of services received to effectively fight stigma. Lastly, the Epidemic Preparedness project is dedicated to urging the government of Ghana to establish a Public Health Emergency Fund, ensuring proactive measures and resources are in place to address future pandemics promptly and effectively.



**Reduce
inequality
within and
among countries**



**Ensure healthy
lives and promote
well-being for
all at all ages**

Community-Led Monitoring of HIV Services (CLM)

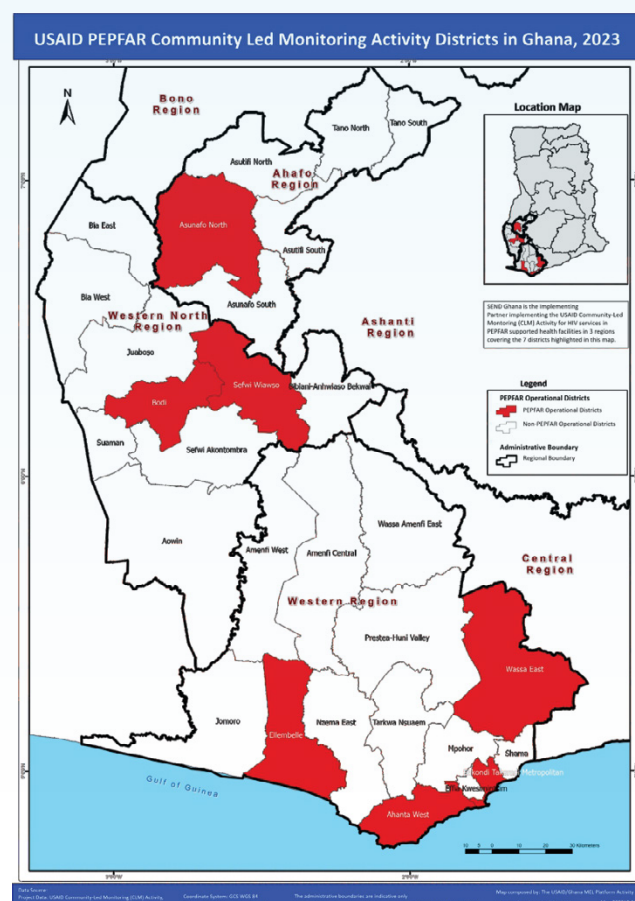
The Community-Led Monitoring Project of HIV services epitomizes our commitment to developing the capacity of persons living with HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) patients, and Key Populations to take ownership of their healthcare journey and to self-advocate for better healthcare delivery at Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Centers. This five-year project, funded by PEPFAR through USAID, aims to strengthen health systems at all levels to deliver quality HIV services, institutionalize equity, and enhance responsiveness to the needs of PLHIV. It also promotes transparency and accountability, especially in service delivery. Beneficiaries are trained in data-gathering skills to actively monitor HIV services across 41 ART centers in seven districts.

The data is then used to engage the government and other relevant stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of issues affecting PLHIVs such as human rights violations, stigma, discrimination, the availability of commodities, and the quality of services.

This process is geared towards helping stakeholders identify pertinent issues that affect PLHIV community members seeking healthcare in these centres.

Furthermore, the knowledge and insights obtained through this monitoring process are utilized to enhance health service delivery for

PLHIV, key populations (KPs), and Tuberculosis (TB) patients within the operational communities. By engaging community members in monitoring and feedback mechanisms, the project not only promotes accountability but also ensures that services are tailored to meet the specific needs of those affected by HIV and tuberculosis.



Beneficiaries are trained in data-gathering skills to actively monitor HIV services across 41 ART centers in seven districts.

To achieve this goal, the project aims to provide regular and systematic information on community needs to guide HIV planning and improvement processes at facility and community levels. This will be accomplished through the implementation of four main objectives:



Educating and mobilizing PLHIV, key populations (KPs), and TB patients to demand health rights.



Supporting PLHIV, KPs, and TB patients to monitor the quality of healthcare and services being delivered to them.



Enable PLHIV, KPs, and TB patients to engage with service providers to improve the quality of healthcare services.



Empower PLHIV, KPs, and TB patients to hold service providers accountable for their commitments to improve the quality of care and services.



CLM project interacting with District Monitoring Committee members at a facility



Successes

- 246 PLHIV, key populations (KPs), and TB patients were mobilized and sensitized on their health rights.
- The project outdoored and inaugurated District Monitoring Committees (DMC) in 7 MMDA.

The Power to Choose Project: Advocating for Sexual Reproductive Health for Adolescent Youth

Sexual reproductive health is a major concern for many young people in Ghana, who face challenges in accessing comprehensive reproductive health services and information. In response, a seven-year project, dubbed Power to Choose (P2C) Project was launched. This program is funded by OXFAM and implemented with Oxfam and five local CSOs: SEND GHANA, PPAG, NORSAAC, WILDAF, and PARDA. P2C targets marginalized adolescent girls, young women, and boys aged 10 to 24, empowering them to demand better sexual reproductive health services. Through the creation of safe and inclusive spaces and capacity-building initiatives in research and advocacy, the project equips these individuals with the tools and knowledge needed to champion efficient and effective Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) delivery in Ghana. This holistic approach underscores the project's commitment to fostering a future where every young person has the agency to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive well-being, thereby paving the way for healthier and more empowered communities.

The project aims to improve Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) among



Young Women (YW) and Adolescent Girls (AG) in Ghana. Specifically, it aims to:

- Raise national awareness about the challenges that young people face in exercising the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents and young women.
- Enhance the capacity of adolescent girls, young women groups, and community members to promote interest in sexual and reproductive health.
- Advocate for policy changes by urging both local and national authorities to recognize and prioritize the SRHR of adolescent girls and young women.



Successes

The Power to Choose Project made significant progress in empowering young women and youth across Ghana. The project provided training in participatory action research, advocacy, and influencing techniques to youth groups from Cape Coast, Kasoa, Ashaiman, Sagnarigu, Savelugu, and West Mamprusi districts. In addition, participants developed essential research tools, such as questionnaires and interview guides, and improved their skills in data collection

methods, especially with using the Open Data Kit (ODK) app. They applied these skills in data collection activities involving 1,183 adolescents and young people through interviews and focus group discussions, driving actionable research.

These achievements underscore the project's commitment to arming young people with the tools and knowledge necessary to advocate effectively for enhanced sexual reproductive health rights delivery in Ghana. By fostering hands-on training, practical application, and skill development, the Power to Choose Project is nurturing a cohort of empowered youth capable of catalyzing positive change within their communities.

Here are a few things the young people had to say about the impact of the project

“I have never participated in data collection exercise and prior to this programme I did not have any experience in research. The opportunity to be part of this programme has given me more insight about SRHR issues. Having interacted with the adolescents and other research participants during the data collection, I have come to appreciate the issues better and that is useful for our advocacy efforts. I have really learned a lot”
—a female member of the youth groups.

“Through my involvement in the advocacy trainings, I have been able to conquer and overcome one of my biggest challenges —the anxieties and fears that are often triggered by public speaking. Participating in group discussions and presentations have now made it more comfortable for me to articulate my ideas and engage freely with diverse audience during relevant public discussions.”
—A Young Woman with the P2C groups in Savelugu.

“Being on the P2C project has been one of the greatest things that happened in my life. Though I have participated in a number of advocacy campaigns, I didn't know the link between research and advocacy and how government policies and decisions can be shaped using hard-core evidence. It's been an eye opener for me and I'm happy to be part of change agents that are leading efforts to influence government policies in favor of SRHR” — A youth leader, and a member of the Cape Coast P2C advocacy groups.



Successes

- 59 Young Women and Youth Groups were mobilized across six districts to contribute to the Citizen Budget Forums to improve Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services. Their inputs were submitted to the Ministry of Health and Finance for consideration and are now under review. This collaborative effort emphasizes the project's commitment to enhancing SRHR services through effective governance practices and sufficient financial support.
- During the 2023 Menstrual Hygiene Day celebration, themed “Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030,” adolescent youth groups advocated via traditional and social media for the removal of high taxes on sanitary products. Their efforts resulted in a petition submitted to key government bodies, showcasing their ability to drive meaningful change.



Youth groups photographed during a 2023 training on budget analysis.

Epidemic Preparedness Financing

We remained focused on urging the government of Ghana to establish a Public Health Emergency Fund, essential for providing financial resources during future disease outbreaks in 2023 with funding support from the Global Advocacy Initiative, the Advocacy for Epidemics Preparedness Financing Project worked to raise awareness and advocate for increased domestic investments in Epidemic Preparedness (EP) in Ghana. Our call for action is not made in isolation but is firmly supported by Ghana's Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (2022 to 2025), which not only acknowledges this necessity but also emphasizes the establishment of the Health Emergency Fund (HEF) as a crucial strategy for addressing health emergencies. Therefore, in 2023, the project concentrated on garnering both public and political support for epidemic preparedness funding through the establishment of the Health Emergency Fund (HEF). The project is being executed by 6 FGNOs and is active in 15 districts, including the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Tema Metropolitan Assembly, Okai Kwei North Municipal, Shai Osudoku District, Lower Manya Krobo Municipal, Birim Central Municipal, Akuapem North Municipal, Adaklu District, Ketu South Municipal, Ho Municipal, Afigye Sekyere, Tatale/Sanguli District, Yendi District, Bawku Municipal, and Nandom District.

The project's main aim is to boost domestic investments in Epidemic Preparedness and Response (EPR) at national and district levels in Ghana. It also seeks to engage executive branch leaders and parliament to establish a Public Health Emergency Fund (PHEF) by January 2024. Additionally, the project aims to identify and promote best practices at the district level for informing national policymakers. Furthermore, it aims to forge partnerships with key national entities to advocate for the PHEF beyond the project's duration. Engaging manifesto development committees of leading political parties and enhancing media coverage are also key objectives.

Key activities implemented under this project include collaborating with the National Centre for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NCCRM) to review the health security policy. Prior to the review, the NCCRM shared the draft policy with us for input, particularly on the sections addressing epidemic preparedness and response. We recommended utilizing the COVID-19 levy as the primary funding source for public health emergencies. The project convened a national-level engagement with stakeholders to draft a proposal for establishing a public health emergency fund, prompted by SEND GHANA's petition urging the Ghanaian government to create such a fund. Again, we



partnered with the School of Public Health at the University of Health and Allied Sciences to organize a symposium aimed at advocating for the establishment of the Public Health Emergency Fund. The event brought together representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, WHO, members of

academia from three other public universities, students, and civil society. Keynote speakers, including the Vice Chancellor of the university and WHO representatives, expressed their support for the fund's creation.



Successes

- Submitted a proposal to the Government of Ghana, via the Ministry of Finance, to establish the Public Health Emergency Fund (PHEF). Developed in collaboration with stakeholders in the health sector, the proposal outlined the fund's purpose, funding sources, utilization, and management. The Ministry of Finance valued our advocacy efforts, particularly in supporting the retention of the COVID-19 levy amid calls for its removal. The heads of its budget and tax divisions have been tasked with reviewing the proposal for further consideration.
- Provided funding support to the NCCRM to organize a stakeholders' forum with various state institutions, including the Narcotics Control Board, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ghana Armed Forces, Police Service, Food and Drugs Board, and Prisons Services. This allowed us to emphasize the importance of the PHEF, particularly in situations where the issues they handle may have health implications.
- Successfully organized the 2nd edition of the Epidemic Preparedness Awards to recognize outstanding Ghanaian journalists and local-level champions who have written articles and produced stories as well as influenced decisions on epidemic preparedness financing and response at the local level. Through the awards, epidemic preparedness financing information was popularized in the public space.
- The media awards sought to reward deserving journalists for stories asking the government of Ghana to establish the Public Health Emergency Fund (PHEF) in readiness for future disease outbreaks. On the part of champions, it was to reward them for increasing awareness through community.



A group of award recipients proudly showcasing their citations.

Education



At SEND GHANA, we recognize the transformative power of education in uplifting individuals and communities, and we are dedicated to ensuring that every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to quality education opportunities. Through our advocacy efforts and initiatives, we strive to promote inclusive and equitable education systems that empower individuals to reach their full potential and contribute to sustainable development.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Ghana Education Outcomes Project (GEOP)

In 2022, we began the implementation of the Ghana Education Outcomes Project (GEOP), a three-year program operating under the Ghana Accountability in Learning Outcomes Project (GALOP). The project's core objectives are to train, reintegrate, and retain out-of-school children, while also improving learning outcomes in schools through service providers. GEOP aims to enhance learning outcomes across 600 schools, ultimately reaching 80,000 out-of-school children and influencing public education policy in Ghana.

The project comprises two primary components: the Accelerated Learning Programme designed for out-of-school children, and the Mainstream School Improvement Programme tailored for formal schools. This project is partly funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (85%) and the World Bank (15%) and it is Implemented in partnership with Chance for Childhood and Montrose, with Street Child leading the consortium under

the Ghana TransformEd (GED) Partnership. GEOP operates in the Gushegu, Karaga, and Mion districts, as well as the Nanumba North, Nanumba South, and Kpandai Districts in the Northern region.

During the year under review, the project accomplished the following milestones:

- Conducted mapping and registration of out-of-school children (OOSC).
- Conducted community needs analysis.
- Carried out advocacy campaigns to promote the value of education.
- Established Community Education Councils (CECs).
- Provided training to CECs on accountability and administration of Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs).
- Facilitated the creation of Centre Improvement Plans (CIPs) by CECs.
- Integrated CEC members into existing structures.





Successes

In turn the project achieved the following successes

90%

90% of students under the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) successfully transitioned to mainstream schools.

After two years, there was an 83% retention rate of ALP students in mainstream schools, indicating the sustained effectiveness of the program.

83%



Students under the Mainstream School Improvement Programme (MSIP) arm of the project experienced significant increases in learning gains, with many students improving their literacy and numeracy skills.

ALP students demonstrated remarkable progress in literacy and numeracy, with a 40% improvement in scores during the year.

40%



Additionally, there was a consistent increase in learning gains among students, with improvements in year one and from years 2 to 5, highlighting the long-term impact of the project.

Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPII),

SEND GHANA continued implementing The Strategic Partnership Initiative for Ghana and West Africa. This project is funded by OXFAM and led by The Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs. SPII seeks to create a more equitable, just, accountable, peaceful, and sustainable environment for women, young people, and communities in Ghana. It focuses on building resilient futures by promoting gender equality, climate justice, and just societies.

During the reporting period, the project conducted a workshop to enhance the research, analysis, and advocacy skills of 25 CSOs and youth organizations, focusing on impactful messaging and strategies related to tax and accountability. Furthermore, it established an annual platform for 30 CSOs and youth organizations to exchange knowledge and monitor government actions on education financing commitments, and also trained them in budget analysis and advocacy, emphasizing pro-poor spending for transformative education.



Successes

- Under the Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPII), the Civil Society Platform on SDGs influenced policy reforms and implementation to address gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), making schools and communities safer for adolescent boys, girls, and young women.
- The project collaborated with the Affirmative Action Bill Coalition and Norsaac, CDD, WiLDAF, Renel Ghana Foundation, Alliance for Reproductive Health and Rights, Marie-Stopes International, PPAG, SEND GHANA, and CONIWAS to discuss policies promoting safe spaces for adolescents in Ghana.
- The Platform also organized a national virtual dialogue on tax justice, highlighting its benefits, strategies, and mechanisms for accountability to promote peace, and democracy, and address socio-economic inequalities in Ghana.

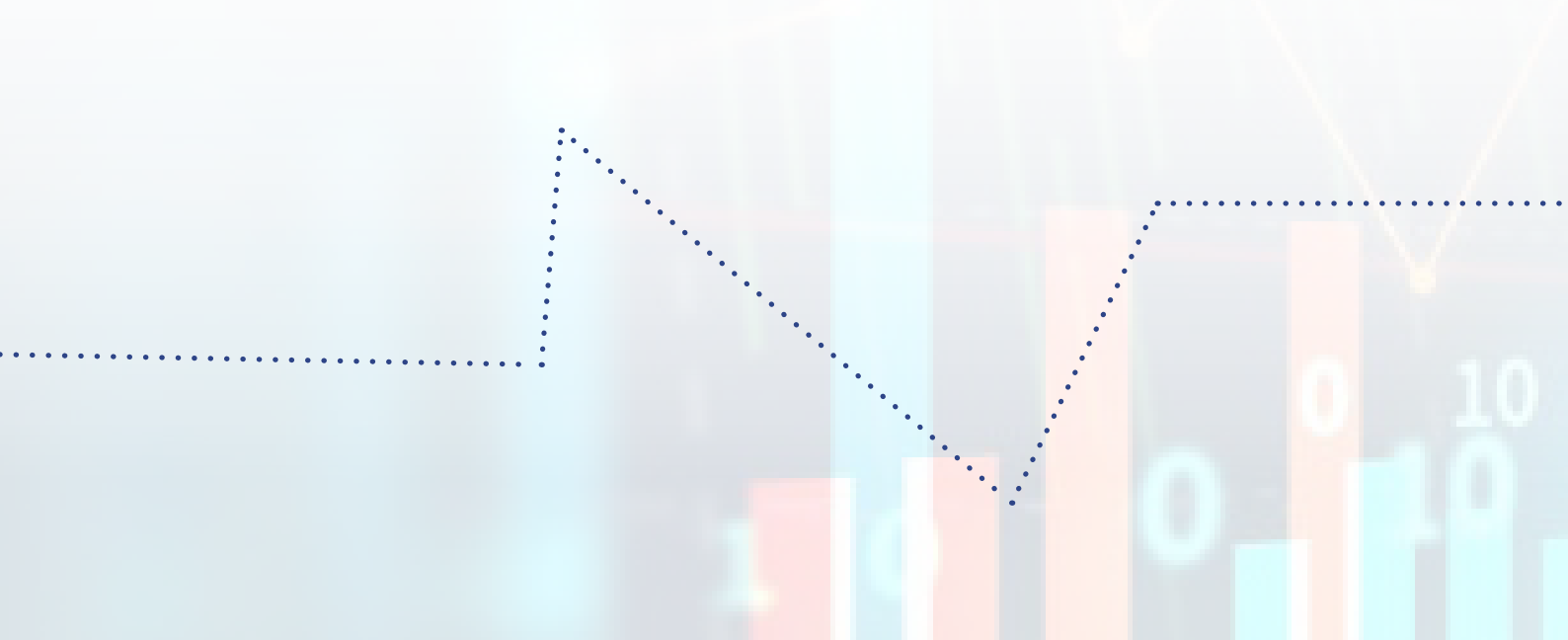


Public Financial Management

In 2023, we conclude our Public Financial Management accountability project, aimed at promoting effective public spending at the district level. Effective public spending remains a conduit for responsive governance, ensuring that citizens' needs and aspirations are actively addressed. Our project "Promoting Accountability in Public Financial Management in Ghana" which began in 2021 and is funded by GIZ, aimed to provide citizens with a platform to engage duty bearers and enhance the performance of the Assemblies, particularly regarding the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP). Furthermore, it also aims to raise citizens' awareness of Citizens Generated Data (CGD) and the District Development Data Plan (DDDP), enabling them to demand accountability from duty bearers and ensure development aligns with the needs of vulnerable groups in the selected districts. By shoring up accountability in budget implementation and development planning across 30 selected Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies, we seek to empower vulnerable communities and foster inclusive growth.

The project focuses on two main areas: Public Financial Management (PFM) and Accountability and Resource Governance (ARG).

- Under the PFM component, implemented in 21 districts, capacity building was provided to 21 Focal NGOs, all members of the Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs operating in beneficiary districts, with a focus on budget tracking. The aim was for CSOs to track budgets and expenditures, particularly on social intervention programs in selected Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies. The findings from budget tracking were used to engage duty bearers and stakeholders, including citizen groups, to improve Assembly performance in line with the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP).
- The ARG component aimed to increase citizens' awareness of Citizens Generated Data (CGD) and the District Development Data Plan (DDDP), empowering them to demand accountability from duty bearers and ensure development aligns with the needs of vulnerable groups in selected districts.



Successes includes:



- 27 participants from Focal NGOs and 27 Media personnel were trained to aid Ghana Statistical Service District Technical Teams in a 15-day CGD Apps campaign, sensitizing 21,351 individuals.
- Under the Project, the Ghana CSOs Platform also organized budget input sessions in 16 Districts, involving vulnerable populations. Conversations centered on community concerns, empowering target groups to suggest budget inclusions.
- Budgets and expenditures of 20 MMDAs were monitored to align resources with vulnerable needs. Focal NGOs shared findings with Assemblies, fostering discussions for enhanced service delivery.
- Throughout the project implementation phase, it was found that the Annual Action Plan effectively covered diverse social services and activities across all Assemblies. Expenditure monitoring revealed proper resource allocation to these services. However, delays in fund disbursement, mainly from governmental sources, occasionally hindered timely execution. Additionally, citizen engagement initiatives were initiated to involve communities in District Assemblies' decision-making processes, empowering them to contribute to the 2023 budget and oversee activity implementation.



**End Poverty
in All its
Forms
Everywhere**



Social Protection

In 2023, we continued our efforts to champion better social protection programming for individuals who rely on such assistance for their daily welfare, with a particular focus on our core constituents residing in economically disadvantaged and remote areas. The goal remains to ensure continuous access to improved essential services, including healthcare, clean water, quality education, livelihood empowerment programs, and school feeding aimed at alleviating poverty.

In pursuit of this, we received significant support from UNICEF in highlighting deficiencies within social protection-focused programs such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), Ghana School Feeding Program, and Capitation Grants. We also compiled evidence to advocate for policy changes for the betterment of beneficiaries.





Here are the successes:

- An analysis of the 2024 budget shows key citizens' demands were considered. LEAP benefits will double and be indexed to inflation, while the School Feeding grant will increase by 11% over the 2023 target. Capitation grants will also be boosted to ease the financial burden on families and support public basic schools. (See paragraphs 292-297 of the budget statement).
- Some selected journalists received training on social protection rights and the political economy of social protection, enhancing their advocacy skills.
- In addition, the project also launched the Journalist In Social Protection (JISOP) coalition to raise awareness of social protection issues. The event attracted key stakeholders from state and non-state sectors, including development partners and government officials.



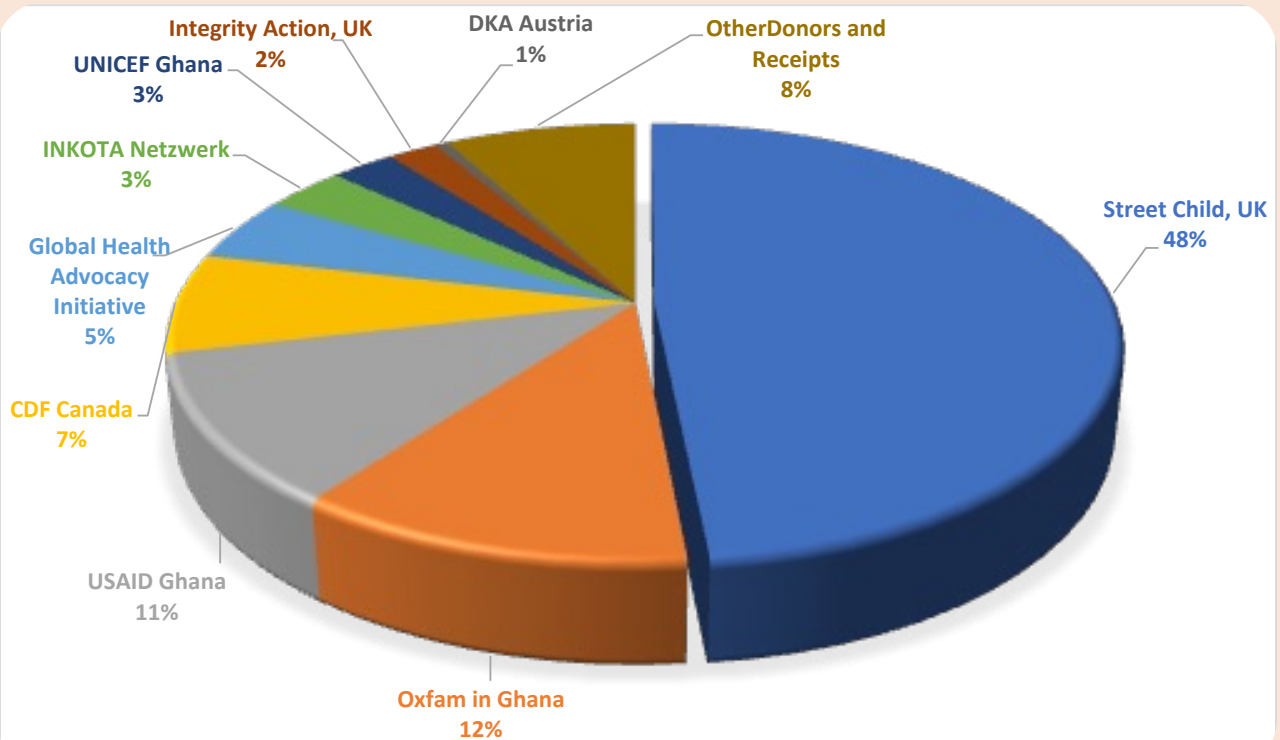


Financial Report for 2023

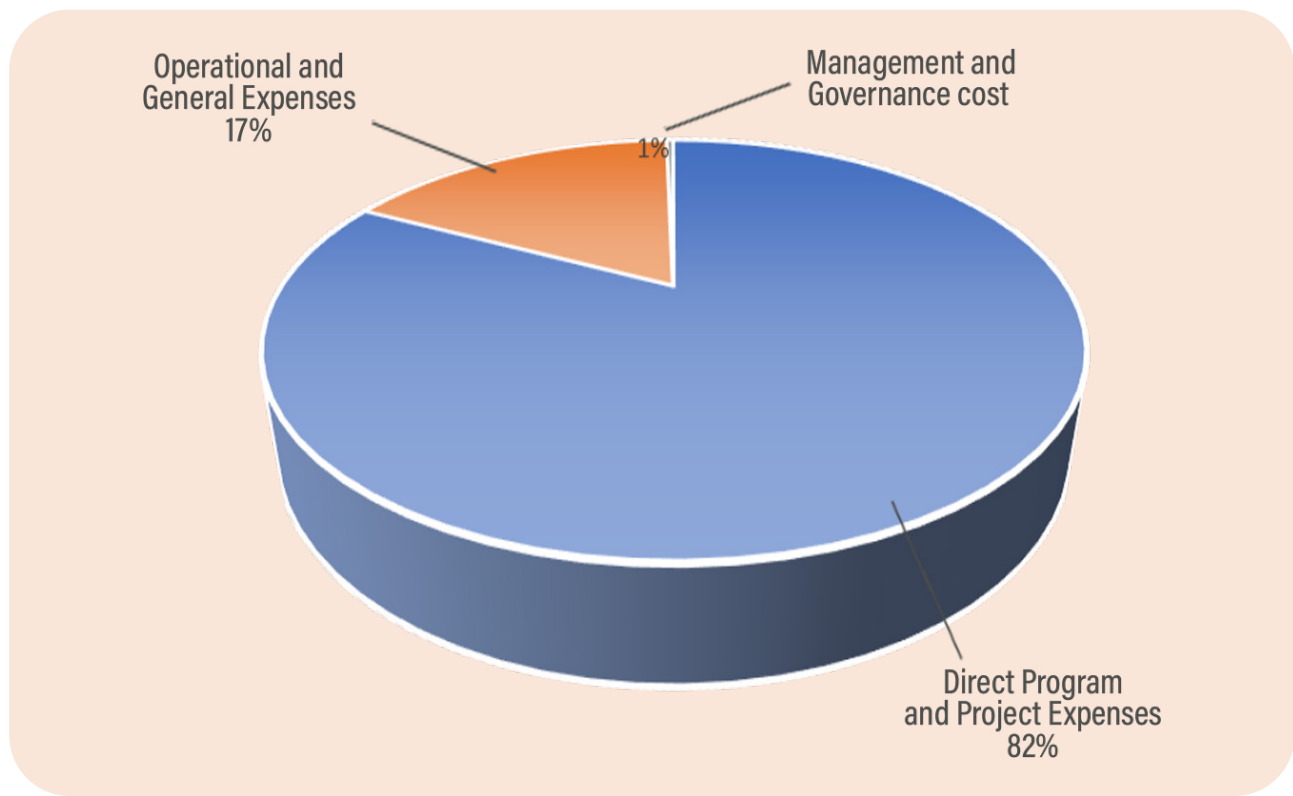
As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary as an organization, we are happy to report that our financial performance in 2023 has been impressive, despite several hurdles that threaten to impede our operations. Key challenges included the impact of high inflation rates averaging about 40.2% for the year 2023. This had negative impact on running projects budget within budgetary limits. Through the support of our partners, we were able to re-negotiate some budgets ceilings to support increased implementation and operational costs. Our business development team continued to work hard to grow and diversify funding portfolio with new partnerships and collaborations to ensure sustainability.

For the year, we are excited to note that our grant portfolio recorded substantial growth, increasing by an impressive 57% from GHS 10,083,736 in 2022 to GHS 23,313,196 in 2023. This expansion is attested to the hard work and dedication of the entire team and especially the business development team that have been unwavering in their efforts to secure resources to enable the organization to continue to deliver its mandate.

Our successes for the year as outlined in this report was made possible with funding support from our donors and partners; Street Child – UK, Oxfam in Ghana, USAID Ghana, Co-operative Development Foundation-Canada, Global Health Advocacy Initiative, INKOTA Netzwerk, UNICEF Ghana, Integrity Action (UK), and other partners. Below is the snapshots of our financial information.



Revenue raised for the year was used to support field activity implementation, operational and management and governance costs as shown below.



List of Grants and Donations

No.	Donor	Income (GHS)
1	Street Child, UK	11,309,984.00
2	Oxfam in Ghana	2,737,196.17
3	USAID Ghana	2,585,050.36
4	CDF Canada	1,718,520.88
5	Global Health Advocacy Initiative	1,119,620.00
6	INKOTA Netzwerk	783,432.68
7	UNICEF Ghana	621,761.97
8	Integrity Action, UK	477,638.57
9	DKA Austria	123,662.63
10	Other Donors and Receipts	1,836,329.16
		23,313,196.42



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