



SEND GHANA

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



A Ghana where people's rights and well-beings are guaranteed!

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MESSAGE FROM

The Chief Executive Officer

01

The 2020 annual report demonstrates SEND GHANA's resiliency and impact on the lives of its principals despite the social and economic disruption caused by COVID-19. Although COVID-19 slowed down activities, as the report shows, we remain operational in implementing ongoing projects. More importantly, we undertook initiatives to cushion our principals and their communities against the pandemic.

SEND GHANA became one of the first national civil society organizations

(CSOs) to launch an online platform to educate and mobilize the population to fight the spread of the virus. As I wrote in the first editorial for the platform, "Our mission for the publication is to advocate increased learning and actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The updates have been aimed at influencing policymakers, researchers, frontline health staff, civil society, and COVID-19 activists interested in and working in Africa, particularly in West Africa." To make the online publication a reality, district focal persons were mentored by

SEND staff as 'citizen journalists,' and they wrote about, photographed, and posted the experiences of their communities in dealing with COVID-19.

Through this online publication, the voices and opinions of SEND and the District Citizens Monitoring Committees (DCMCs) helped promote the prevention of COVID-19 and held the government accountable for protecting vulnerable groups against the pandemic. SEND GHANA also joined other members of the CSO Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to fundraise and provide relief items, including food, masks, soap, buckets, and other sanitary supplies, to vulnerable groups whose livelihoods were disrupted by the spread of the virus.

Even though 2020 was a difficult year, the creative and innovative spirit of the SEND GHANA team helped us remain meaningfully engaged with all our stakeholders at the community and national levels. As the rest of this report

illustrates, we implemented ongoing projects and successfully undertook a peacebuilding initiative that contributed to peaceful elections in the northeastern corridor of Ghana. We present this annual report to our stakeholders with confidence that the activities we carried out in 2020 will serve as solid cornerstones for post-COVID-19 programming by the organization.

Finally, management is grateful to all of our stakeholders, especially our donors and implementing partners. Our staff also deserves special commendation for not allowing COVID-19 to dampen their spirits or their commitment to championing the cause of underprivileged Ghanaians. Team SEND GHANA worked extra hard, remained resolute, and ensured that SEND's strategic direction of "Making Ghana Work for Equity" was not compromised in 2020. I dedicate this annual report to each of you for your strong commitment to work, even in the menacing COVID-19 environment.

Donor Partners

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Our donor partners have been incredible in providing technical and financial support to enable us to impact the lives of thousands of Ghanaians. We remain highly indebted

for their immense support and generosity. Together with our implementing partners, we say a very big thank you for investing in our cause.

 <p>USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE</p>	 <p>unicef</p>	 <p>OXFAM</p>
 <p>STAR-Ghana Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Responsiveness in Ghana</p>	 <p>IBP INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP</p>	 <p>FEED THE FUTURE The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative</p>
 <p>christian aid</p>	 <p>INKOTA netzwerk</p>	 <p>UTZ Certified Better farming Better future</p>  <p>RAINFORREST ALLIANCE</p>
 <p>Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada SINCE 1947</p>		 <p>APHRC African Population and Health Research Center</p>

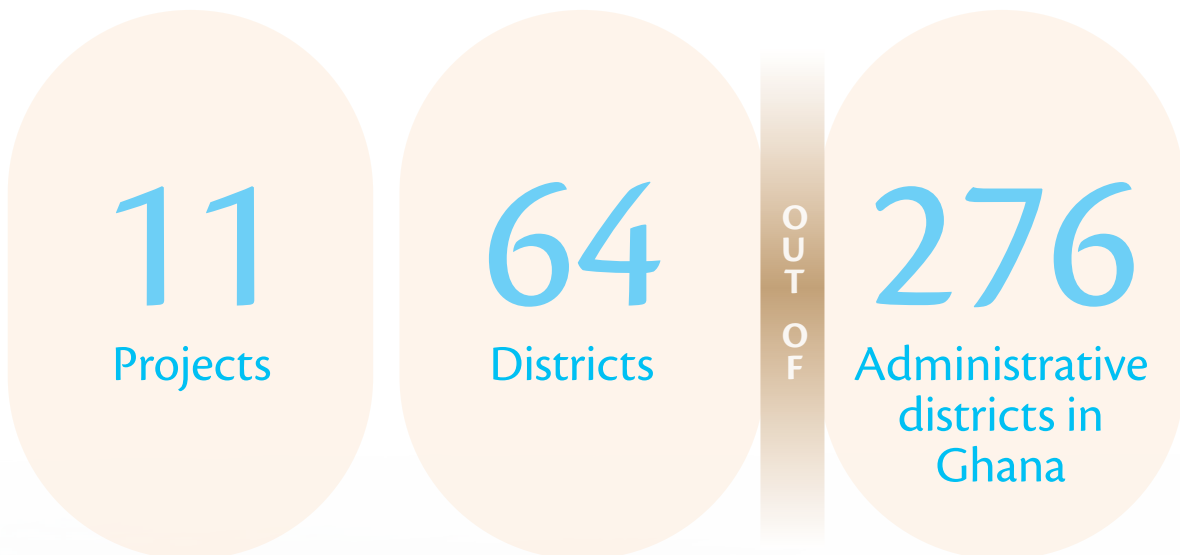
Our Programs

03

The Grassroots Economic Literacy and Policy Advocacy Program and Food Security and Livelihood Promotion Program remained our flagship interventions in 2020.

SEND GHANA collaborated with our partners to implement 11 projects in 64 districts out of the 276 administrative districts in Ghana. These interventions

contributed to improved service delivery in health, education, social protection, and agriculture.



Brief History of Our Projects

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▶ People for Health

People for Health is a five-year (2016–2021) project implemented in 20 districts in seven regions, with funding support from USAID. Implementing partners include: Penplusbytes, 20 Metropolitan, Municipal And District Assemblies (MMDAs), and 20 focal non-governmental organizations. Through an integrated approach, the project is promoting equity and reducing health inequalities by strengthening the capacity of government and CSOs for mutual accountability.

▶ Immunization Advocacy Initiative

The Immunization Advocacy Initiative is a three-year (2019–2021) initiative with funding support from the African Population and Health Research Center that is operational in 10 districts in four regions. Partners involved are SEND GHANA, Hope for Future Generations, and the Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health. The goal is to increase domestic financing of the health budget with prioritization for immunization while ensuring full disbursement for equitable access.

▶ Cocoa Advocacy Project

The Cocoa Advocacy Project (2017–2020) is concentrated in all six cocoa growing regions of Ghana (i.e., the Western, Eastern, Ashanti, Central, Brong Ahafo, and Volta regions), with national-level engagement in Greater Accra. Funded by the Rainforest Alliance and INKOTA Netzwerk, the overall purpose of the Project is to enable cocoa farmer-organizations, CSOs, and the media to influence sustainable policies, programs, and practices in the cocoa sector, and also promote dialogue between farmer groups, CSOs, government, and COCOBOD.

▶ Social Protection and Budget Advocacy

The Social Protection and Budget Advocacy project (2019–2021) is supported by UNICEF-Ghana. The objective is to ensure that evidence-based strategies are in place to strengthen social protection policy and enhance citizens' participation in the budget process. There is a specific focus on developing and implementing a comprehensive advocacy agenda to promote rights-oriented, transparent,

and equitable social protection planning, budgeting, and delivery.

► **Empowering Peace and Inclusive General Elections in Nanumba Land (Phase 2)**

This is a seven-month (August 2019–February 2020) project funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. Carried out in the Nanumba North and Nanumba South districts in the Northern Region, the goal is to promote peace and reconciliation in Nanumba land by strengthening the capacities of District Peace Animation Networks (DPANs) to collaborate with the District Security Council (DISEC) to conduct surveillance and prevent conflicts during the 2020 general elections.

► **Agriculture Governance, Resilience, and Economic Empowerment**

This is a five-year (2016–2020) USAID-funded project with the goal of strengthening the responsiveness of government to improve agriculture development in Ghana. It is being implemented in 30 districts in the Northern, Upper East, and Upper West regions.

► **4R Nutrient Stewardship Program**

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program (4R-NSP) is a five-and-a-half year

(2019–2024) project funded by Global Affairs Canada. The goal is to improve agricultural productivity and farmer income by incorporating gender and climate resilience strategies. It is expected to impact the socio-economic well-being of 30,000 poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers in 130 communities in four districts (East Gonja, Nanumba North, Nanumba South, and Kpandai districts). Implementing partners are the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada and Fertilizer Canada.

► **Advocacy for Progressive Public Spending in Ghana's Education Sector**

This is a six-month partnership (September 2020– March 2021) between SEND GHANA and Oxfam to address inequality in education and raise awareness about the power of education in bridging inequality.

► **GROW**

The GROW campaign seeks to contribute toward food security in Ghana by influencing the Government of Ghana to invest in supporting smallholder farmers and securing their land rights, especially for women. It is six-month project supported by Oxfam in Ghana.

▶ **SPARK**

This is a one-year project being implemented by SEND GHANA and the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, funded by the International Budget Partnership (IBP). It aims to sustain the engagement of civic actors in the development and implementation of pro-poor agricultural policies and programs.

▶ **Audit Accountability Initiative**

The Audit Accountability Initiative is supported by the IBP and aims at improving the communication of audit recommendations, specifically those contained in performance audit reports, as well as engagement between key oversight actors.

Grassroots Economic Literacy & Advocacy Programmes



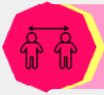
People for Health



Immunization Advocacy Initiative



Cocoa Advocacy Project



Social Protection & Budget Advocacy



Advocacy for Progressive Public Spending in Ghana's Education Sector



Empowering Peace and Inclusive General Elections in Nanumba Land



SPARK



Audit Accountability Initiative

Food Security, Livelihood Promotion & Women Empowerment

4R Nutrient Stewardship Program



GROW



Agriculture Governance, Resilience and Economic Empowerment



With the implementation of the 11 projects described above, we achieved the following broader results:



Strengthened citizen-government interface for improved accountability and service delivery

Promoted food security and livelihoods among rural communities in Northern Ghana



Contributed to peacebuilding and conflict prevention for election 2020 in Nanumba Land

Enhanced capacity of local CSOs and women to participate in agricultural governance



Improved women's access to productive resources

People for Health

Key outputs and achievements are as follows:

- National stakeholder dialogue held to facilitate registration of the poor and vulnerable onto the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The session

was attended by 55 participants from the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), MMDAs, CSOs, and media. The meeting helped improve the access of 670 men and women to healthcare through the registration and renewal of their membership cards.

- Trained 184 partners drawn from the NHIA, Department of Social Welfare, District Health Management Teams, MMDAs, DCMCs, Community Health Management Committees, and Community Health Officers on People for Health dashboard accountability in 17 districts.
- The knowledge of 38 network members (19 focal persons and 19 DCMC members) was enhanced through SEND's Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation framework.
- Held 17 dialogues on dashboard accountability to discuss 32 feedback messages received from citizens on malaria, HIV, maternal and child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and other health challenges.
- The knowledge of 24 men and seven women journalists was enhanced on the project.
- The Patient's Charter was downstreamed to communities, reaching 1,469 men and 1,429 women. In addition, information, education, and communication (IE&C) materials were distributed to enhance community members' knowledge of their health rights. For example, DCMC members in the Yong community in the Northern region applied the knowledge they gained on the Patient's Charter to report cases of abuse, including unapproved charges involving a health staff member. This resulted in the immediate transfer of the staff member involved after

investigations were concluded by management.

- Held 60 community sensitizations on malaria, nutrition, maternal and child health, family planning, water, sanitation and hygiene, the Patient's Charter, the NHIS, and the accountability dashboard, directly reaching 3,690 men and 2,895 women. Also, 35 radio sensitization programs were held at 16 district radio stations to increase reach and maximize impact.



L-R P4H COP Siapha Kamara and Mr. Raymond Avinu, Dep. MRO, NHIA pictured at a national NHIS policy dialogue, Accra

Immunization Advocacy Initiative

The outbreak of COVID-19 presented enormous challenges for Ghana's health delivery system, with immunization activities across the country hugely affected. For example, the Ghana Statistical Service revealed that as of March 16, 2020, some 27% of children scheduled for immunization vaccination missed their appointments due to COVID-19-related

reasons. Nevertheless, the project and implementing partners were resolute in reaching out to communities and health system decision-makers to ensure that immunization activities were sustained.

Some key outputs and achievements during the period are as follows:

- Identified and trained 40 men and 12 women as immunization champions on advocacy and communication. Immunization champions used knowledge from the advocacy training and collaborated with District Health Management Teams to influence behavior change around immunization and child welfare through community and traditional media (radio and television). 793 men and women were reached directly, with more than 800,000 people reached via radio and television.
- The capacities of 12 project partners were enhanced in budget tracking, budget analysis, and community score card application. Staff applied the knowledge to undertake budget analysis on health, immunization, and social protection. A policy brief on the analysis has been published.
- Produced and disseminated 6,000 IE&C materials to partners.
- Influenced the Ga South Municipal Assembly to allocate GH 20,000 for 'malaria and immunization programs' in its 2021 Annual Action Plan.
- Succeeded in pushing two key immunization issues and strategies

into the Health Services Section of the Social Development Dimension (Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework 2022–2025) of the National Development Planning Commission.

Cocoa Advocacy Project

We continued to provide capacity support to CSOs and farmers to influence cocoa sector policies and practices. We achieved this through constructive dialogue/advocacy with relevant stakeholders to ensure the improved and sustained well-being of smallholder cocoa farmers. In 2020, we held a national stakeholders dialogue to discuss the findings of our farmgate and farmers' income monitoring report. Commitments made by stakeholders to address identified issues during the dialogue have been implemented.

As a result of the zonal and national dialogues, we achieved the following:

- The COCOBOD commenced the formation of cooperatives that have already begun accessing inputs and equipment, such as dual-purpose slashers and pruners for farmers. This will address accessibility issues and ensure the equal distribution of inputs and services, such as pesticides, fertilizers, and pruning tools.
- The COCOBOD to a large extent has implemented the Living Income Differential by passing USD \$400 in October 2020 sales on to farmers. This

was one of the key recommendations of our report that generated heated debate during the national dialogue in February 2020.

- Additionally, the COCOBOD introduced and enforced the usage of digital weighing scales by Licensed Buying Companies as a means of eradicating weighing fraud and improve farmers' incomes. Enforcement of the new policy will commence in October 2021.
- In 6 communities in the Central, Eastern, Ashanti, and Western regions, 120 cocoa farmers were sensitized on advocating for improved services.
- Strengthened the capacity of 34 CSOs, farmers, and media groups who are members of the Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform on advocacy and supply chain analysis. With the increased capacity, these groups were able to engage the government, including the ministries of Agriculture and Finance, COCOBOD, Parliament, and Ghana Standards Authority in a national dialogue to press home their demands.

Madam Rebecca Ayisi was a beneficiary of our advocacy training. She explains that the training was an eye-opener and provided her with necessary information and skills that motivated her to mobilize cocoa farmers in her community and district for action. As a result of her empowerment, she was selected by the COCOBOD as a chief farmer and a leader of the Subinso Women Farmer Cooperative in the Oda District. Currently, the women farmer cooperative has over 60 members, which is facilitating their easy access to inputs and services from the COCOBOD.



Mad. Rebecca Ayisi, pictured in her farm during a staff field visit in Subinso, Eastern Region.



Advocacy and cocoa value chain training for CSOs, farmers, and the media in session



Project staff visiting Madam Rebecca at her cocoa farm in Subinso

Social Protection and Budget Advocacy

Social protection is globally recognized as a critical tool in addressing inequality, poverty, and vulnerability, especially during times of pandemic. In 2020, project actions focused more on strengthening the capacity of non-state actors to ensure their effective involvement in social protection planning, delivery, monitoring, and review processes. The project also promoted information exchange, evidence gathering, lessons, and experiences from the perspective of citizens on social protection delivery to inform government mitigation strategies.

The following key interventions and results were achieved:

- 35 CSOs, media practitioners, and local government officials participated in a learning event on social protection delivery and practices. The event provided a platform for participants to share their experiences on best approaches for social protection delivery, monitoring, and reporting, and how to best influence policy through strategic engagements with duty bearers.
- The capacity of 25 men and 10 women drawn from CSOs, government officials, and academia was improved on how to engage media and key stakeholders using the TRANSFORM training modules on social protection systems.

- Mobilized 182 vulnerable groups in the Greater Accra, Ashanti, and Northern regions to share their perspectives and experiences on life with COVID-19 during town hall meetings. Evidence from these engagements was

highlighted through media discussions to inform government response strategies in mitigating the future impact of the pandemic on vulnerable citizens.



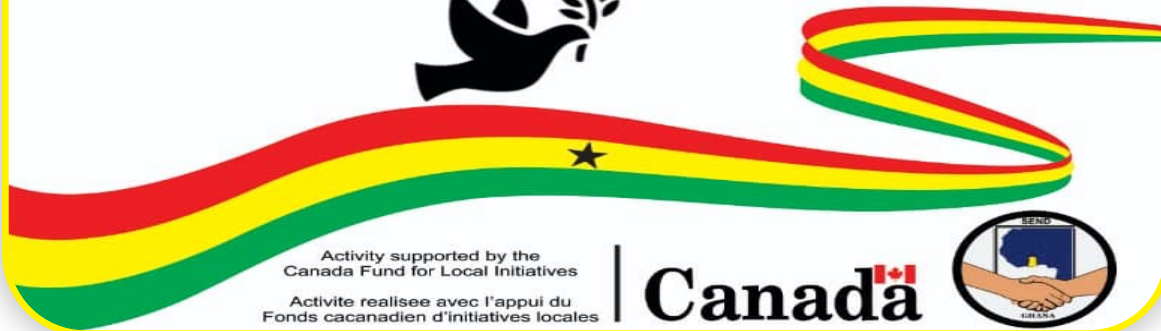
Participants at the town hall meeting in Kumasi



Participants sharing knowledge during the TRANSFORM training

Empowering Peace And Inclusive General Election In Nanumba Land.

- Peace is a precious commodity.
- There has never been a good or a bad peace.
- The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war.
- Conflict destroys while peace build.
- Give peace a chance.



Empowering Peace and Inclusive General Elections in Nanumba Land (Phase 2)

To ensure peaceful 2020 elections in Nanumba land, we expanded our District Peace Animators Networks (DPANs), built and strengthened their capacity to collaborate with the District Security Council (DISEC) and National Commission for Civic Education to promote peace education

and dialogue through community and radio sensitization programs. In addition to the expansion of the DPANs to include three women and two girls in each district as community peace animators, we identified and supported eight sub-chiefs and 10 'magazzias' as community peace ambassadors. Their sensitization activities were targeted at about 60 polling stations that were identified as hotspots for electoral violence in the Nanumba North and Nanumba South districts.

Key outputs and results:

- The representation of women on the DPANs was increased from 33% to 50%.
- 35 community peace animators and community peace ambassadors were sensitized on peace building and conflict management.
- IE&C materials on peace were printed, including 100 T-shirts and caps, 6 banners, and 400 posters, and distributed to DPAN members and community animators to aid peace campaigns. Additionally, peace-related jingles in English and two local languages were produced from the voices of influential people, such as traditional leaders, parliamentary candidates of the two major political parties (the New Patriotic Party and the National Democratic Congress), and chairpersons of DISEC in Nanumba North and Nanumba South. The peace jingles were aired 60 times before, during, and after the 2020 elections.
- 33 conflict-prone communities were sensitized on peace before, during, and after the 2020 elections with nine radio sensitizations against election violence aired in local languages via Radio Bimbilla 91.9FM.
- 8 potential conflict triggers were identified from monitoring and reported to DISEC for rapid response.
- A post-election peacebuilding plan was developed in the two districts and two radio sensitization programs were held to disseminate the plan and promote peace among political supporters and communities.



DPAN sensitizing citizens and Peace Animators on peaceful elections



In collaboration with the traditional authority, the Nanumba South DPAN staged a concert in Nakpayili Township on the theme of peaceful elections for 2020

Agriculture Governance, Resilience, and Economic Empowerment

In 2020, with the support of CSOs, we provided technical and financial support to the District Department of Agriculture and National Commission for Civic Education to sensitize 258 communities on the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) program, fall armyworm, and COVID-19 safety protocols. The enhanced awareness among communities, including smallholder farmers, contributed to the uptake in PFJ beneficiaries during this period. Additionally, we successfully advocated for MMDAs to deliberately target and support 354 persons with disabilities and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Program beneficiaries with fertilizer and seed as part of the PFJ program. Our advocacy led to the release

of about 100 acres of farmlands to women in the Savelugu Municipal by the Chief of Nyeko to improve the women's access to productive resources.

Notably, the project instituted a grant scheme for CSOs/Private Sector Actors (PSAs) to enhance their capacity to hold duty bearers accountable and promote social accountability in the agriculture sector. A Terms of Reference for a call for proposals was issued to CSOs/PSAs. Thirty CSOs/PSAs applied for the grant, while 17 CSOs/PSAs were selected through a competitive process. The beneficiary CSOs used their grants to implement various activities, influencing agricultural policy implementation at the district level. Below are some examples of how the CSOs utilized the grants in improving agriculture policies and practices.

Key outputs and achievements:

- Action for Sustainable Development engaged 15 men and 15 women farmers in three communities in Sissala East to assess the effectiveness of the 2019/2020 fertilizer subsidy program using a community score card tool. Some of the issues raised included: a lack of monitoring of fertilizer sales resulting in higher prices by some input dealers; inadequate education on pest and disease control; and the high cost of transporting fertilizer to communities from the center. A joint action plan was developed to address the identified issues and improve local implementation of subsidized fertilizer distribution.
- Rural Initiatives for Self-Empowerment-Ghana collaborated with the Talensi District Department of Agriculture and organized a district-level stakeholder engagement meeting at Tongo. Stakeholders at the forum identified marketing challenges in the agriculture value chain and proposed solutions to ensure the sustainable marketing of their produce. 14 men and 11 women participated, made up of CSOs, farmer groups, aggregators and suppliers of the school feeding program, National Buffer Stock Company suppliers, and Ministry of Food and Agriculture staff within the district. A WhatsApp platform was created to facilitate networking and information sharing to help them market their farm produce.
- PRIDE collaborated with the Bongo Directorate of Agriculture and embarked on community sensitization in two border communities—Boko and Namoo—on preventing/curbing fertilizer smuggling. Two watchdog committees were formed in these communities to monitor the smuggling of PFJ fertilizer and report to appropriate security agencies.
- SAVE-Ghana embarked on community sensitization and formed 10 citizens watchdog committees (CWDCs) in the district to curb fertilizer smuggling. The CWDCs were trained together with two other communities (Kasana and Jiton) along the borders of Ghana and Burkina Faso, where the smuggling has been rampant. The evidence gathered by the CWDCs was used to engage relevant authorities, including the municipal assembly, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders. The CWDCs and SAVE-Ghana have committed to seeing an end to this menace in order to improve quality service under the PFJ program.
- The Community Development Alliance organized a regional forum on sustainable agriculture and natural resource governance for improved development outcomes in the Upper West Region. The forum was attended by 26 men and 22 women to discuss, build consensus, and agree on a sustainable path to reducing the levels of deforestation while ensuring sustainable and

climate-smart agricultural practices. A communiqué was issued demanding immediate action by the government to implement the proposed solutions.

4R Nutrient Stewardship Program

Promoting community resource mobilization and providing opportunities for rural men and women to engage in productive activities remains a sure way to achieving inclusive economic growth and development. Under the 4R-NSP, we strengthened the capacity of farmer cooperatives and created an enabling environment for rural men and women to engage in improved agricultural practices, leading to an increase in farm yields and financial independence.

Key outputs and achievements:

- Established 254 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in 80 communities.
- After three months of establishment, the VSLA cooperatives mobilized an amount of GHC 13,771.
- 80 family-based farmer cooperatives were successfully formed in 80 communities to enhance implementation of 4R-NSP activities.
- Enhanced the capacity of 36 Agriculture Extension Agents (AEAs) and Management Information Systems officers (34 men and 2 women) to establish and manage 36

Nutrient Omission Trials (NOTs) and 24 learning sites.

- 60 demonstration sites (24 maize NOTs and 12 rice NOTs, 12 groundnuts learning sites and 12 maize learning sites) were established for research, training and outreach activities for women and men smallholder farmers in the East Gonja, Nanumba North, Nanumba South, and Kpandai districts.
- Increased the capacity of 96 Community Volunteer Agriculture Extension Agents (CVAEAs) (48 men and 48 women) to act as lead farmers, including the management of NOTs and learning sites.
- Smallholder farmers (227 men and 201 women) have improved knowledge and skills on timely land preparation, planting in rows, weed control, fertilizer application, and the importance of certified seed as a measure to control pest and diseases, especially rosette disease.



Savannah Agricultural Research Institute briefing AEAs on the protocols for field day in East Gonja Municipal

- The understanding of 205 men and 234 women farmers was enhanced on the 4R principles, the purpose of establishing the 4R maize learning sites, characteristics of “Sanzalsima” (drought tolerant, early maturing, and high yielding), certified Open Pollinated Varieties maize variety planting distance, and the proper application of pre-emergence agrochemicals to control weeds.
- The knowledge and skills of 32 AEAs and 239 smallholder farmers (96 men and 143 women) was improved during groundnut green field days focused on the response of groundnuts to fertilizer treatment, the use of improved varieties, such as SARI NUT 2, pest and disease control, and breaking the cycle of rosette disease through crop rotation, weed control, and good farm hygiene.
- The knowledge of 280 men and 418 women on maize response to different rates of fertilizer application and its effects on plant growth, cob and grain formation, stem and root development, resistance to pests and diseases, and yield was improved.
- The knowledge of 32 AEAs, 96 CVAEAs, and 838 smallholder farmers in 12 learning site communities was enhanced on key constraints to groundnut production (access to improved seed, cultivation on inappropriate soils, incidence of pests and diseases, poor agronomic practices, etc.) and the yield difference between fertilized and non-fertilized groundnut plots.
- The knowledge of 475 women and 410 men farmers on the types and different rates of fertilizer application and its effects on cob formation, cob size, grain size, grain quality, and quantity of yield per unit area was increased.
- In the project districts, 400 copies of the Crop Scout Pocket Guide and 1,500 copies of 4R nutrient posters were produced and distributed to AEAs and CVAEAs to enhance their capacities on 4R principles. Copies were also made available to the Savannah Regional Agriculture Directorate for distribution. The Crop Scout Pocket Guide and the nutrient posters have also been translated into three local languages (Likpakpaaln, Gonja, and Dagbani) to ensure wider dissemination of 4R principles.

GHC 13,771



Established 254 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in 80 communities.

After three months of established, the VSLA cooperative mobilized an amount of **GHC 13,771.**

► 4R Promotes Community Resource Mobilization

Kujar is one of the new communities enrolled onto the 4R-NSP project in the Kpandai District, with “Tikpaan” (“Let’s get together”) as the name of its farmer cooperative. The Tikpaan cooperative has a membership of 32 gender model families. The VSLA model is being used as a key strategy to enhance cooperatives’ functionality and increase their access to financial and non-financial services for their members.

Until the 4R-NSP intervention, the Kujar community had been yearning for local-friendly savings opportunities for community members. Although community members tried to save portions of their earnings, this was not always possible due to the lack of savings schemes in the community. The Tikpaan VSLA cooperative was set up on July 17, 2020, and the first share purchase meeting was held on July 23, 2020. In less than three months of establishment, the cooperative was able to mobilize an amount of GHC 13,771 (CAD \$3,117) for a loan and social fund. The cooperative chair, Mabadak Sinyin, said “We hope that after the share out of the first cycle, we would have mobilized enough savings to help us purchase agricultural inputs at the right time.”



4R Project Manager handing over some logistics to AEA's



CVAEA's pose with their logistics



A display of samples grains and stover from 4 treatment plots of a learning site at Kinklin



Farmers during a maize brown field day at Katiejeli in the Kpandai District



A CVAEA sharing experience during field day at Manchoni in the Nanumba North Municipal

Advocacy for Progressive Public Spending in Ghana's Education Sector

To address inequality and improve the quality of basic education, SEND GHANA held regional stakeholder engagements in the Greater Accra, Upper East, and Northern regions, and a national dialogue in Accra. These sessions were attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ghana School Feeding Program, Regional and District Education Directorates, planning officers, heads of schools, CSOs, and the media. The engagement sessions provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss Oxfam's 2019 report on the *'Power of Education to Fight Inequality.'* The report provided useful insights and inspired debate among stakeholders to explore possible ways to address gaps, including strengthening monitoring and supervision, providing teacher accommodation and other infrastructure, and improving access to teaching and learning materials.

Audit Accountability Initiative

In 2020, SEND GHANA developed research tools to assess the tendering process and contracting of caterers under the Ghana School Feeding Program. The study will provide evidence for multi-stakeholder dialogues and engender actions that will lead to enhanced accountability and improved management of the program.

GROW

With support from Oxfam in Ghana, we sensitized 27 men and 11 women on gender-responsive budgeting in Kumasi and Tamale. We also held 28 district-level stakeholder engagements on our monitoring findings on gender-responsive budgeting, and built the capacity of the project team to support climate change research.

SPARK

The implementation of the government's Fertilizer Subsidy Program under PFB is fraught with challenges, including alleged smuggling along the country's main borders. This is reportedly affecting farmers' access to subsidized inputs under PFJ. With funding support from the IBP, we partnered with the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana to monitor the program and ensure that the targeted farmers get improved services. The monitoring culminated in a written report on fertilizer smuggling, which was shared with the Crop Services Directorate under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for immediate redress.

The Sustainable Development Goals

Our commitment to the implementation of the SDGs is unwavering. To attain the SDGs, strong leadership coupled with

effective institutional collaboration and coordination is required between civil society and government. SEND GHANA continues to provide this leadership support by leveraging our proven expertise and professionalism in managing a CSO coalition to promote government-civil society engagement on the SDGs. The outbreak of COVID-19 is projected to throw more people into extreme poverty and worsen the widening inequality gap globally. Therefore, activity implementation for the project focused on response strategies targeted at poor and vulnerable groups most affected by the impacts of the pandemic. Through the CSO Platform on the SDGs, SEND GHANA coordinated local resource mobilization to support national and local response plans.

Key outputs and results:

- A CSO COVID-19 Response Fund was established to locally raise funds among CSOs and other actors. An amount of GHC 119,712.62 in cash donations was received by August 2020 from 78 institutions and individuals.
- From the Fund, 1,437 poor and vulnerable groups within Greater Kumasi and Accra were supported with food items, including rice, oil, water, and vitamin C.
- Distributed 5000 face masks and 9000 copies of IE&C materials to poor and vulnerable groups through all 13 SDG

district platforms and the 17 SDG national sub-platforms.

- With the support of STAR-Ghana, two rounds of surveys were conducted to solicit feedback from the citizenry. Virtual dialogues were held with stakeholders, including government functionaries, to discuss citizens' feedback on various government policy interventions related to COVID-19 and the impact on the citizenry.
- The capacity of 36 radio journalists was built on ethically reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic. This included identifying fake news, fact-checking, and how to appropriately interpret the terminologies associated with COVID-19.
- 15 documentaries were produced, aired on national television, and shared across various social media platforms. The documentaries highlighted inequality issues and sought to influence the policy measures of political parties on inequality reduction. Three in-studio discussions were organized including the main political parties, the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party, on how their manifestos address the manifestation of inequality in the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Program, inclusive education, poor road infrastructure, and sexual reproductive health rights.



R-L SEND GHANA Country Director presenting food and non-food items to aged groups in Kasoa from the CSOs COVID-19 Response Fund



Beneficiary displays a mini bag of rice received from the COVID-19 Response Fund

COVID-19

In addition to our modest contribution to the CSO COVID-19 Relief Fund, we designed and launched an online publication that helped increase access to accurate and timely information on COVID-19. We mentored our district focal persons and DCMCs into becoming “citizen journalists.” They collaborated with 20 District Health Management Teams, 157 health facilities (Community Health Planning and Services compounds, clinics, health centers, polyclinics, and district and regional hospitals), 22 schools, and agriculture departments to monitor and report on how COVID-19 was impacting the lives of people and how citizens were responding to the government’s mitigation strategies. Our publications were structured into four themes described below.

- **State and public responses:** Articles in this category highlighted government policies, strategies, and programs to mitigate COVID-19 as well as the reactions of different groups. It relied solely on Ghanaian newspapers and online publications as sources of information.
- **Community responses:** These were prepared by district focal NGOs of SEND. These articles showcased community compliance and experiences in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the northern, middle, and southern belts of the country.
- **Opinion pieces** were written by SEND staff about COVID-19 and its implications for society and vulnerable groups, especially regarding the state of service delivery in the areas of education, agriculture, health, social protection, and governance.

- Editorials were also written by the SEND West Africa CEO assessing government policies, programs, and management strategies as well as best practices in combating COVID-19 in Ghana.

At the end of the year, a total of 52 articles were published. Furthermore, we conducted and published two monitoring reports. The first report, titled *'Where is social distancing popular and where is it least practiced,'* assessed

the implementation and challenges related to COVID-19 and social distancing measures. The second monitoring report, titled *"Implementing COVID-19 protocols in junior and senior high schools: The issues and the way forward,"* sought to ascertain the level of implementation and compliance with recommendations of COVID-19 prevention guidelines. These reports identified some gaps and proposed recommendations to relevant stakeholders for action.

We increased our visibility in the public domain and strengthened our brand as a leading regional CSO in pro-poor policy advocacy and development in the following ways:



3 newsletters (2 Citizens Watch Newsletters and a newsletter of the People for Health success stories)

6 press statements concerning national development and good governance



102 radio and 5 tv discussions held

Increased our Facebook followership from 18,000 to over 60,000



Incorporated Disability friendly features on the SEND West Africa COVID-19 web pages

Finances

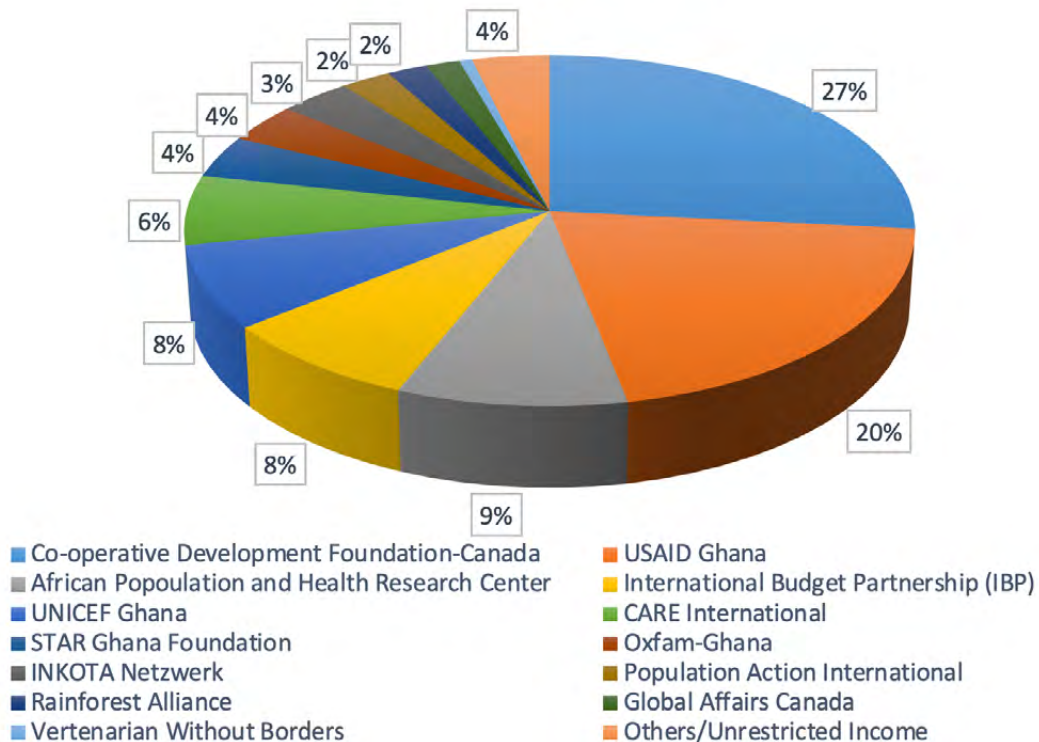
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Our work was made possible with funding support from our generous donors and partners,

including the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada, USAID Ghana, the African Population and Health Research Center, IBP, CARE International, the INKOTA Netzwerk, the STAR Ghana Foundation, the Rainforest Alliance, Oxfam Ghana, and UNICEF Ghana.

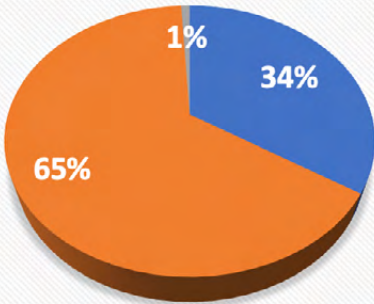
The global COVID-19 pandemic impacted our work for the period, resulting in about a 12% decrease in revenue in 2020 compared with 2019. Revenue totalled approximately USD \$1.53 million, which was contributed by 12 donors and partners as follows:

Funding Sources



Revenue that was raised was also distributed to various operational areas as follows:

Expenditure Distribution



- Administration and Operational Expenses
- Direct Program and Projects Expenses
- Management and Governance Cost

SEND WEST AFRICA HAS THREE AFFILIATES: SEND GHANA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

SEND-WEST AFRICA

Siapha Kamara,

Chief Executive Office

+233 208 112 322

+233 242 038 533 (Ghana)

+231 886 453 326 (Liberia)

+232 785 923 18 (Sierra Leone)

siapha.kamara@sendwestafrica.org

SEND GHANA

George Osei-Bimpeh

Country Director

A28 Regimanuel Estate

Nungua Barrier, Sakumono, Accra, Ghana

+233 302 716 860/716 830

+233 204 509 481

osei-bimpeh@sendwestafrica.org

SEND LIBERIA

Samuel N. Duo Ph.D

Acting Country Director

P. O. Box 1439

Robert Field Highway, Schiefflin
Community

Lower Margibi Country, Liberia

+231 886 230 978

sendliberia@yahoo.com

SEND SIERRA LEONE

Joseph Ayamga

Country Director

Buedu Road Kissi Town

Kalaihun, Sierra Leone

+232 78 20 68 53

ayamga.sensl@gmail.com

www.sendwestafrica.org



sendghanaofficial



@send_ghana