



SEND GHANA



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

INTRODUCTION

The year 2024 was exciting and consequential for Ghanaians. Throughout the year, political parties and politicians crisscrossed the country campaigning for the votes of electorates burdened with economic hardships. For example, food inflation rose to as high as 27%, outstripping the national inflationary rate of 22.2%. Notwithstanding the dared living conditions, 63.9% (11.2 million people) of the registered voters cast their votes and they delivered decisive presidential and parliamentary victories to the National Democratic Congress (NDC): 66.6 % (183 out 276) of the members of parliament (MP) while its Presidential candidate (Mr. John D. Mahama) won 56% of the votes. Even more historic, NDC Professor Jane Naana Opoku Agyemang became the first woman to be elected Vice President, the second most important political position in the Republic of Ghana. SEND joined gender equity advocates across the country to celebrate and congratulate her for this remarkable accomplishment. Indeed, we hope her achievement will inspire young women across Ghana to aspire to elected public and political offices at the national, regional and district levels.

Through 13 projects, SEND remained true to its mission of promoting good governance and the equality of women and men in most parts of Ghana. We partnered with 20 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDA) and 30 Focal NGOS to implement projects in the health, education, social protection, governance, agriculture and cocoa sectors. The common themes running through the different projects included:

1

Promoting gender equality to increase women's social and economic empowerment;

2

Budget advocacy to increase citizen participation, transparency, equity and accountability in the execution of the national budget.

3

Networking of SEND's principals /target beneficiaries to strengthen their collective voice and influence in public policy discourse.

4

Partnership with journalists to amplify and sustain the availability of SEND's advocacy issues, messages and demands in public spaces, and

5

Enhancing civil society participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Lastly, in 2024, we mainstreamed and scaled up our flagship gender transformative programming framework, the Gender Model Family (GMF) to lead advocacy in most projects. GMF actively advocated human rights of children and women's empowerment in the cocoa sector and mobilised women and men to combat climate change in rural communities. Even more importantly, a 50,000 GMF project to combat time poverty among women and adolescent girls was launched. They will become the largest population in Ghana, in which husbands, wives, adolescent boys and girls have equitably shared domestic and unpaid care work. Finally, for the first time, GMF will lead advocacy to promote financial inclusion for the last-mile actors and to create decent employment for themselves along the agriculture value chain.

Even though most of our stakeholders, especially the principals and implementing partners, are anonymous throughout this report, we hope it reflects our collective contributions in 2024 to building a Ghana where the political, economic and social rights of all its citizens, including the most vulnerable communities, are guaranteed.

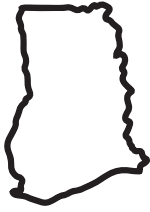


Mr. Siapha Kamara
(CEO, SEND GHANA)



Mrs. Harriet N. Agyemang
SEND GHANA's First Female Country Director

2024 IN NUMBERS



National-level advocacy



13 Projects



15 Regions



84 Districts



12 SDGS Goals Contributed to



24.7m Funding Received



50 Staff Strength

List of Acronyms

- CLM – Community-Led Monitoring
- CSOs – Civil Society Organizations
- F4A – Fair for All
- FBOs – Faith-Based Organizations
- FCC – Focal Country Collaborations
- FPIC – Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- GAC – Ghana AIDS Commission
- GAND – Ghana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- GCCP – Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) – Gender-Based Violence
- GHAI- Global Health Advocacy Incubator Initiative
- IWEED – Innovations for Women’s Economic Empowerment in Ghana
- Joint Programme (JP) – Joint Programme
- JISOP – Journalists in Social Protection
- LBC – Licensed Buying Company
- LEAP- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty program –
- MAP3 – Multi-Actor Partnership
- National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) – National Health Insurance Scheme
- P2C – Power to Choose
- PHEF – Public Health Emergency Fund
- PLHIV – People Living with HIV
- WEACT – Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation

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WHO WE ARE



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

CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SEND GHANA BOARD



JANET MOHAMMED
CHAIRPERSON



SIAPHA KAMARA
CEO



REV. MOSES BAKAR
MEMBER



AL-HASSAN Y. SEINI
MEMBER



JUSTINA ANGLAARE
MEMBER



EMMANUEL DARKO
MEMBER

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Siapha Kamara
CEO



Harriet N. Agyemang
Country Director



Mumuni Mohammed
Dep. Country Director



George Amankwah
Finance Director



Rita Mends
Admin/HR Manager



Bashiru M. Jumah
Project Manager

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

A COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY



At SEND GHANA, we deeply value the people we work with and are committed to creating a safe and respectful environment for all. We uphold the highest standards of safeguarding to protect every individual we interact with, including staff, partners, and principals.

We encourage everyone who works with us or engages in our activities to report any safeguarding concerns or issues they may encounter. Your safety and well-being are our top priority, and we take all reports seri-

ously, handling them with confidentiality and care.

SEND GHANA maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of abuse, exploitation, or harm. We are dedicated to fostering a culture of accountability, respect, and trust, ensuring that everyone feels supported and protected in our space.

Together, let's uphold these principles and build a community where dignity and safety are at the forefront of everything we do.



A YEAR OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT: GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Reflecting on a remarkable year, SEND GHANA is deeply grateful for the unwavering support that has propelled us toward achieving our mission in 2024. This year, we celebrate the progress made and the collective effort of our donors, implementing partners, FNGOs, Principals, and stakeholders across all sectors. To our donors, your generous funding support has driven the positive changes we have witnessed in our operational areas. The results we achieved in 2024 are a testament to your commitment to sustainable development in Ghana.

To our implementing partners, FNGOs, and all stakeholders, your diverse contributions have been the

pillars upon which our success has been built. From Nadowli-Kaleo in the Upper West Region to Twifo Praso in the Central Region and Suhum in the Eastern Region, we have worked together to create lasting change in communities across Ghana.

In 2024, we expanded our portfolio with three new projects, bringing our total to 13 projects across 16 regions, 84 districts, positively impacting over 200,000 beneficiaries. Our programs, driven by change, spanned key sectors: agriculture, health, social protection, education, budget advocacy, and governance, with gender equality inclusion underpinning the core of our interventions.



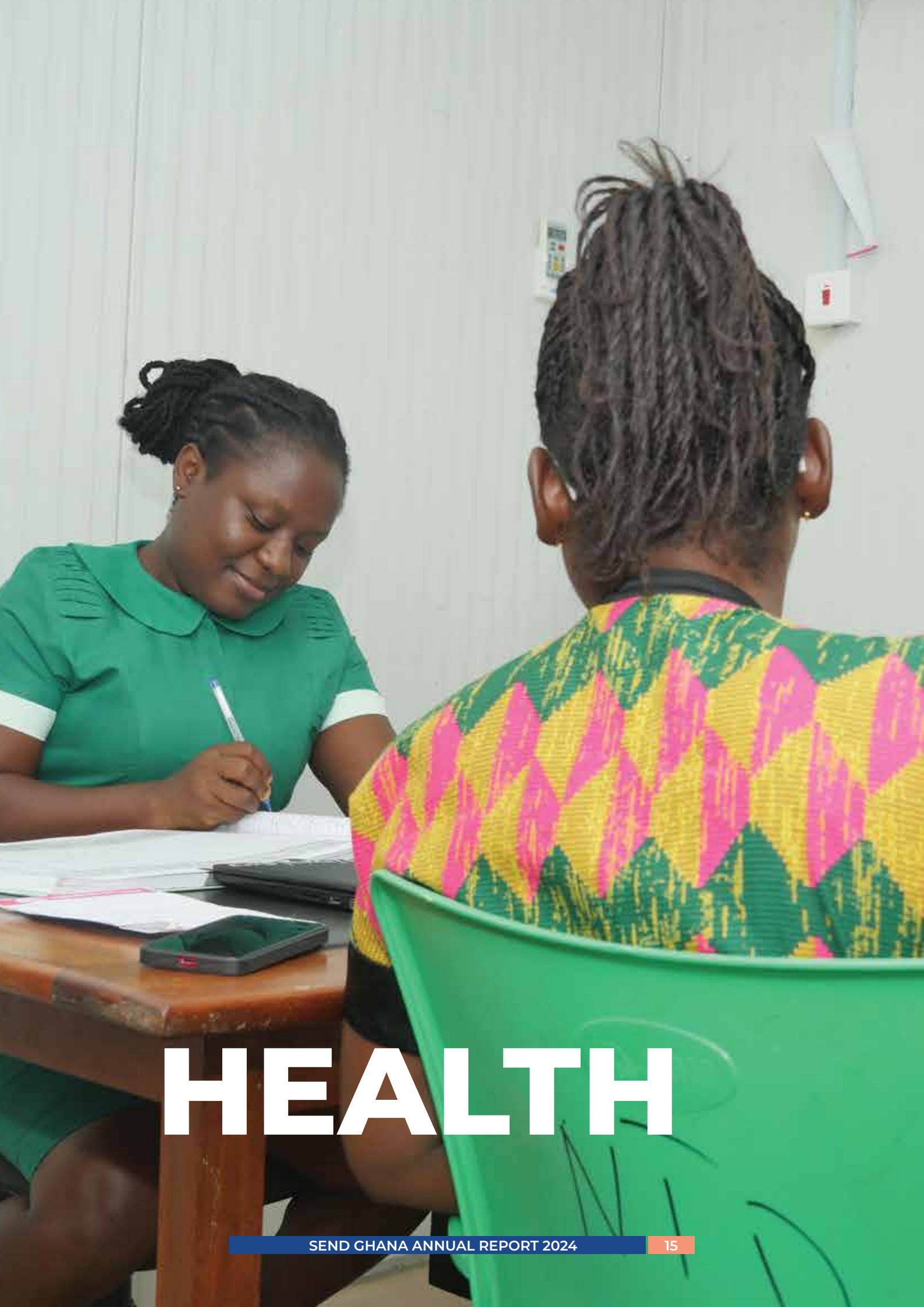


500000
Beneficiaries

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, implementing partners, FNGOS, and all stakeholders who supported SEND GHANA in the implementation of our activities. Your dedication over the year under review has been instrumental in the progress we celebrate today. Your support has been the wind beneath our sails, and without it, the impact

we have achieved would not have been possible. For this, our appreciation knows no bounds.

We look forward to continuing this journey of change and transformation in the years to come, and we remain committed to working together to build a brighter and more equitable future for all.



HEALTH

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE ACCESS, FINANCING, AND RIGHTS: OUR 2024 IMPACT IN HEALTH

SEND GHANA implemented four (4) key health projects during the year, addressing critical challenges within Ghana's public health sector. The USAID Community-Led Monitoring of HIV Services and Focal Country Collaborations Activity focused on ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare to persons living with HIV (PLHIV) while actively working to eliminate stigma and discrimination against them. The Power to Choose project empowered vulnerable adolescent girls to advocate for improved sexual and reproductive health rights while equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to make informed and good choices. Advocacy for Epidemic Preparedness and Financing called for increased public health funding to strengthen Ghana's readiness for future epidemics. Furthermore, Advocacy for Front-of-Package Food Warning Labels (FOPWL) aimed to push the Government of Ghana to enact policies requiring food manufacturers to include warning labels on products high in salt, sugar, and fat. This will help consumers make informed choices and promote a healthier food environment. While each project had its specific objectives, they all shared a common goal: improving healthcare access, enhancing health quality, and promoting the overall well-being of Ghanaians. The strategic interventions listed above have strengthened SEND GHANA's mission to promote equitable healthcare access by addressing systemic gaps in policies and funding. By driving policy reforms and fostering stronger community engagement, they played a vital role in building a more inclusive and resilient healthcare system.

Sustainable Development Goal 3 promotes the enjoyment of good health for all, regardless of income or circumstances. In alignment with this goal, SEND GHANA began implementing the Community Led Monitoring (CLM) project and Focal Country Collaborations (FCC) in 2022. This seven-year project (2022–2027) is funded by USAID through the PEPFAR program and is divided into two components: CLM and FCC.

CLM, on one hand, provides a platform for PLHIVs and other vulnerable groups to monitor the quality of healthcare at the antiretroviral therapy (ART) centres. It is implemented in seven districts across three regions: the Western Region (Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis, Wassa East, Ahanta West, and Ellembelle Districts), the Western North Region (Sefwi Wiawso and Bodi Districts), and the Ahafo Region (Asunafo North District). To effectively monitor the quality of healthcare received by PLHIV, they were mobilised to form District Monitoring Committees (DMCs) and trained in qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques to assess the care provided at Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres. The data gathered was used to address identified gaps in the quality of health received by PLHIVs and to measure access to quality healthcare for PLHIVs. By prioritising feedback

from those using HIV services, particularly vulnerable groups, the project drove meaningful improvements in healthcare delivery.

FCC, on the other hand, aimed at bringing together national-level stakeholders such as the National AIDS Control and STI Program (NACP), the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), and the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to fight institutionalised stigma and discrimination faced by PLHIV. This seeks to eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by PLHIV and other vulnerable groups.

In 2024, the project carried out several key activities at the grassroots (CLM) and national (FCC) levels. At the grassroots level, CLM conducted a community scorecard exercise with PLHIV, TB patients, and healthcare staff to identify gaps in healthcare delivery. In addition, it held district-level policy dialogues and responsiveness tracking sessions to engage stakeholders in addressing these gaps. To promote transparency and foster stakeholder engagement, the project also organised radio discussions to share updates on project expenditures — a demonstration of our unwavering commitment to accountability in all aspects of our work.



COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING OF HIV SERVICES ACTIVITY AND FOCAL COUNTRY COLLABORATIONS.

At the national level, the FCC partners in collaboration with SEND implemented several activities. The GAC developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Human Rights National Strategic Plan and trained journalists on human rights, stigma, and discrimination in relation to PLHIVs. The CHRAJ reviewed and identified gaps in existing laws and policies and advocated for reforms.



Key Achievements Under the Project

The program made a significant impact on beneficiaries in various ways.

- ▶ The project facilitated the installation of three viral load machines in 2024: a PCR machine in the Western Region and GeneXpert machines in the Western North and Ahafo Regions, strengthening regional capacity for HIV monitoring and diagnosis.
- ▶ 23 HIV clients who had stopped treatment due to superstitions were counselled and brought back to care in four health facilities, leading to treatment adherence and health outcomes.



A 40% increase in TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) dispensing was achieved in 39 health facilities in 7 districts, benefiting many of the 13,474 active clients in the project districts

SUCCESS STORY

MULTI-MONTH DISPENSING BENEFITS PLHIV MOTHERS AT GOASO HEALTH CENTRE

Nursing mothers and pregnant women living with HIV in the Asunafo North District are now benefiting from a multi-month dispensing (MMD) system, which is helping to reduce costs and stigma associated with frequent clinic visits. MMD is part of the Ghana Health Service's differentiated service delivery (DSD) model, a client-centred approach where healthcare services are tailored to meet the unique needs of patients.

Under the DSD model, stable clients with suppressed viral loads and no additional health complications can receive a longer supply of antiretroviral therapy (ART) medication. This reduces the frequency of their visits to ART centres and the cost of traveling. Initially, pregnant and nursing mothers were required to visit the facility monthly for their medication alongside their antenatal care visits. However, established clients who adhere to their medication and have achieved suppressed viral loads can now receive medication for up to six months, reducing their monthly visits to the clinic and the cost of treatment.

During a community scorecard discussion facilitated by the CLM DMCs, the lack of MMD for pregnant women was identified as a critical gap in service delivery. The DMC noted that while MMD had been

established for non-lactating stable clients, pregnant and nursing mothers were excluded due to concerns they might default on clinic visits for their medication.

The facility responded by piloting an MMD program with a small group of nursing mothers to evaluate its effectiveness. Over the trial period, all participants successfully adhered to their medication schedule, returning to collect new batches as scheduled, while also attending their monthly antenatal care appointments.

The mothers reported several benefits from the MMD system. It reduced the time and financial burden associated with separate visits for antenatal care and ART medication. Healthcare providers also experienced improved turnaround times because the MMD reduced congestion at the facility. It allowed stable clients to collect their medication at longer intervals. Adoption of MMD also addressed stigma and discrimination, as fewer visits to the clinic reduced the likelihood of clients being identified as PLHIV by others.

To qualify for MMD, clients must demonstrate stability with a low viral load and the absence of new infections. Pregnant women who meet these criteria are now eligible for MMD, ensuring they receive the same benefits as other stable clients.



A PLHIV Nursing Mother inquiring about the Multi multi-month dispensing at a health facility in Western North.

A pregnant woman who had demonstrated consistent adherence to her medication was identified at Ahmadiyya Muslim Hospital and subsequently enrolled on the MMD trial in October 2023. She received a six-month supply of ART as part of the trial. The DMCs and the FNGO provided regular follow-up support until March 2024. During this period, she continued her monthly antenatal visits and maintained uninterrupted adherence to her treatment.

Similarly, two pregnant women on ART at Goaso Government Hospital

were enrolled on the program in December 2023. At the end of their six-month dispensing period in June 2024, both returned for their follow-up medication and viral load testing and were found to be doing well. This has demonstrated how community feedback and collaboration with health facilities can strengthen healthcare delivery for PLHIV. By addressing identified gaps, the Health Centres in Asunfo North District are enhancing service delivery, reducing stigma, and improving the overall quality of care for mothers living with HIV.

SUCCESS STORY

GEORGE ADU:

A MODEL OF HOPE BRINGING HIV TREATMENT DEFAULTERS BACK TO CARE

By the CLM project Team

George Adu, a person living with HIV in the Ellebelle district, has dedicated the past year to working to bring treatment defaulters at the St Martin de Porres Hospital in his district back into care. Through persistent education and advocacy for treatment adherence, he has successfully helped over 20 individuals who had defaulted on their HIV treatment return to care.

In 2022, George Adu was diagnosed with HIV but defaulted on his medication twice. Initially, he rejected the diagnosis and sought solace at a prayer camp instead of starting treatment. However, as his health deteriorated, he was compelled to return to a health facility, where he received counselling on the importance of adhering to antiretroviral therapy (ART) to manage his condition.

With support from the Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) project, George Adu now visits St. Martin de Porres Hospital weekly to share his personal journey. Through these sessions, he encourages others living with HIV to stay committed to their treatment and avoid defaulting,

thereby promoting consistent medication adherence.

The CLM project is a five-year project funded by USAID aimed at improving the quality of healthcare for persons living with HIV, and other vulnerable groups. The project seeks to empower these individuals to advocate for better-quality services at ART centers, ensuring their healthcare needs are met with dignity and without discrimination.

Under the project, George received training that boosted his confidence to speak publicly about his experiences. "The CLM project gave me the courage to stand before others and share my story. During the training, we heard stories from others who have lived with the disease and adhered to their medication. That inspired me to do the same for others," George explained.

He now educates clients at health facilities and visits community members who have interrupted their treatment. He advises against harmful behaviours like excessive alcohol consumption and taking unpre-

scribed medications, using his own story as an example of the benefits of adherence.

Linda Eshun, an ART nurse at St. Martin De Porres Hospital in Takoradi, praised George's impact. "Through SEND GHANA's CLM project, George Adu was introduced as a 'Model of Hope.' He regularly educates clients who interrupt their treatment and brings many back to care. His one-on-one sessions with clients, especially those suffering from pill fatigue, have been instrumental in convincing them to stay on their medication," she said.

Linda emphasised that George's efforts have significantly helped the facility recover clients who had defaulted on their treatment. So far, about 23 clients who had defaulted on their medication have returned to care. By sharing his story, George reassures others that they are not alone and demonstrates that a healthy life with HIV is possible through consistent treatment.

George's advocacy continues to inspire and transform lives, proving that peer education and support are vital in the fight against HIV.



POWER TO CHOOSE PROJECT

The Power to Choose (P2C) project, supported by OXFAM and in partnership with four Civil Society Organisations—PPAG, NORSAAC, WILDAF, and PARDA—is empowering young people to make informed decisions about their health. It is operational in eight districts across five regions: Greater Accra (Ashaiman), Northern Region (Sagnarigu, Savelugu, and Walewale), Central Region (Cape

Coast Municipality and Awutu Senya East), Bono East Region (Techiman), and Northeast Region (Sene East). The main goal of P2C is to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of marginalized and vulnerable adolescents—girls, young women, and boys aged 10 to 24—living in underserved communities.



Power to Choose advocates captured in a group photograph



Ms. Latifa Hadid, a sexual and reproductive health rights advocate, pictured moderating the launch of the 'Towards Menstrual Equity in Ghana' report

This year, the project has made significant strides in promoting inclusivity across several communities within its operational areas, empowering young people with the knowledge and confidence to pursue healthier, more fulfilling lives. This includes bringing young adolescent boys and girls engaged in the project together to author a report and policy brief on menstrual poverty and stigma among young Ghanaians in selected communities. The aim was to advocate for policy changes on SRHR in

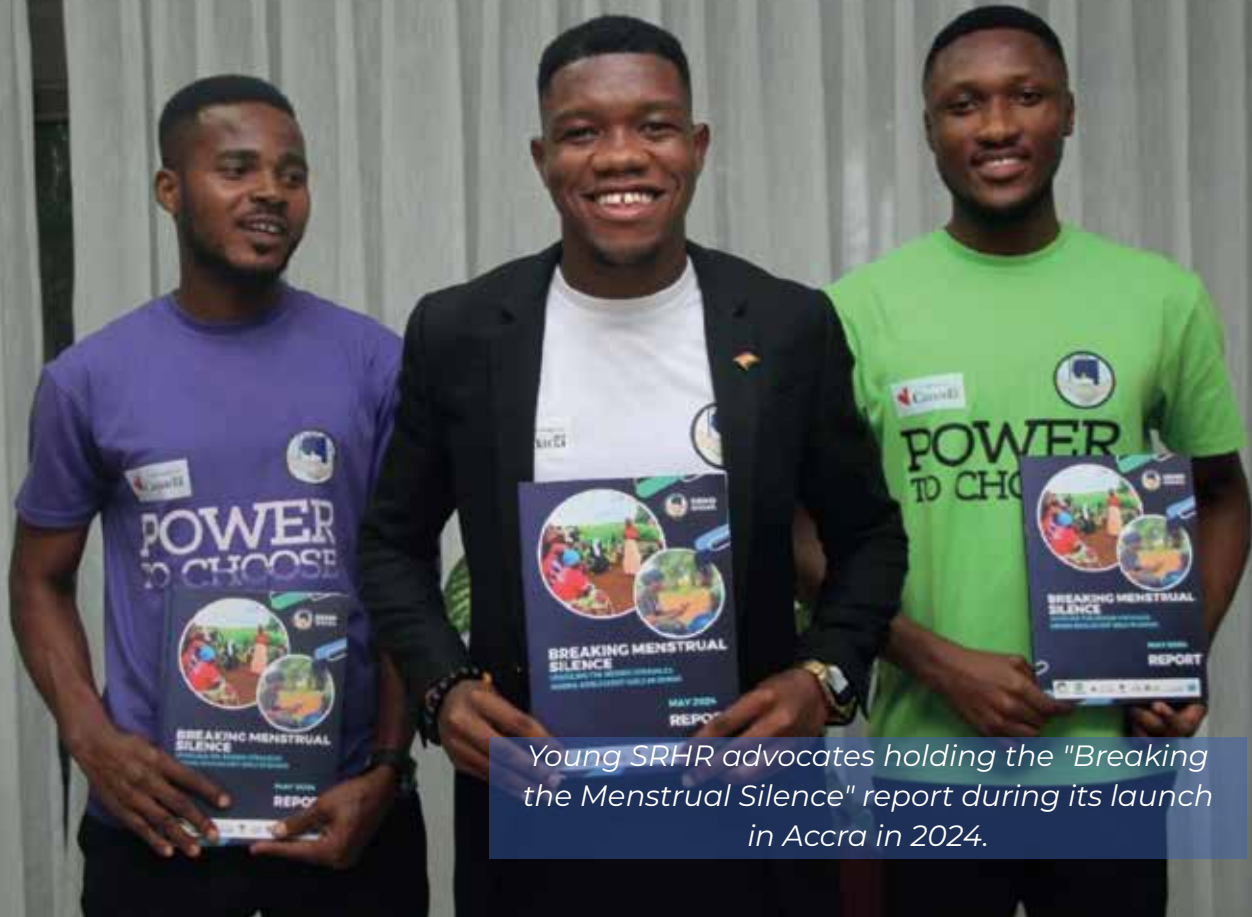
Ghana.

District-level engagements in six areas—Cape Coast, Awutu Senya East, Ashaiman, Sagnarigu, Savelugu, and West Mamprusi— also created platforms for girls and young women to share their experiences and advocate for the removal of taxes on menstrual hygiene products. The project also gathered input from young people to influence SRHR spending in the 2025 national budget.



Key Achievements Under the Project

- ▶ Provided support for adolescent groups to develop and launch a report and a policy brief addressing menstrual poverty and stigma. The policy brief is now a reference document for stakeholders advocating for improved menstrual health and hygiene in Ghana.
- ▶ The brief also reignited national discussions on the challenges adolescent girls face in accessing safe and affordable menstrual products.
- ▶ It increased the visibility of women and youth organizations, positioning them as key in SRHR advocate at all levels.
- ▶ Through advocacy under the project, taxes on imported materials for making pads, as well as on locally manufactured pads, were removed
- ▶ As a result of the district dialogues, 36 commitments were secured from decision-makers, with several already being implemented. In Sagnarigu District, for example, the dialogue led to immediate action to address water supply issues at NOBISCO, including plans to collaborate with the Ghana Water Company for broader solutions.



Young SRHR advocates holding the "Breaking the Menstrual Silence" report during its launch in Accra in 2024.



Young Adolescent Girls Proudly Posing with the 'Towards Menstrual Equity in Ghana' Report at its 2024 launch.

ADVOCACY

FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS, FINANCING AND RESPONSE

In 2022, when Ghana recorded its first COVID-19 case, one of the dominant conversations for months was funding—specifically, where Ghana would secure the resources to fight the disease, which was wreaking havoc in countries with robust funding mechanisms. A sustainable source of funding is essential to combat outbreaks effectively. Funds are required to carry out surveillance, manufacture vaccines, build isolation centres, train health workers, and implement crisis communication strategies during emergencies.

While Ghana managed to secure funds to address COVID-19 in 2020, the issue of public health funding remains unresolved. This persistent challenge has underscored the need for advocacy on epidemic preparedness, financing, and response to address the critical gaps in public health funding in Ghana. To this end, SEND GHANA, with funding support from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator Initiative (GHAII), has been advocating for the Government of Ghana to establish a Public Health Emergency Fund (PHEF). Such a fund, if established, would serve as a dedicated revenue source for

addressing public health emergencies, which have become a frequent occurrence in Ghana, with one outbreak following another. The primary goal of this project is to ensure Ghana has a secure financial resource to adequately prepare for and respond to public health crises.

Throughout the year, the project partnered with the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, the Vaccine Institute of Ghana, Members of Parliament (MPs), project champions, and focal organizations to amplify advocacy efforts. In 2024, the project submitted inputs on public health emergency financing to various political parties to influence public health financing in Ghana. It also engaged Members of Parliament and the Ministry of Finance to garner support for the National Health Security Bill and documented best practices on how district authorities are incorporating epidemic preparedness financing into their plans. Additionally, the project supported the Vaccine Institute in updating the National Health Security Bill to enhance national health security efforts.



*1st row, center: Ms. Harriet Nuamah Agyemang (Country Director, SEND GHANA).
2nd row, right: Emmanuel Ayifah (Former Deputy Country Director, SEND GHANA)
pictured with representatives from various political parties, including CPP, NDC,
and PPP.*



Key Achievements Under the Project

In 2024, the project made significant progress in enhancing Ghana's public health financing, Preparedness, and response efforts, including the following:



Supported the National Vaccine Institute in revising the Health Security Bill to strengthen public health financing.



The project supported two districts in integrating Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) into their budgets for the first time in 2023, with continued inclusion in 2024



6 districts increased funding for emergency preparedness and response in their budgets and planning.



4 districts made progress in establishing Public Health Emergency Funds.



3rd from left, 2nd row: Harriet Agyemang, Country Director of SEND Ghana, pictured with Members of Parliament during a Public Health Emergency Fund engagement in Accra.

ADVOCACY

FOR MANDATORY FRONT-OF-PACK FOOD WARNING LABELLING (FOPWL)

In 2024, we continued our commitment to promoting improved public health and good nutrition by advocating for mandatory, easily understandable front-of-package food warning labels on processed and ultra-processed packaged foods in Ghana. This effort is part of a broader plan to improve the nation's food environment and empower consumers to make healthier dietary choices. The project is focused on advancing policy implementation on clear front-of-package food warning labels, guided by an evidence-based Nutrition Profile Model (NPM). Implemented in partnership with the Ghana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND), the FOPWL project advocates for the implementation of clear and easy-to-understand mandatory front-of-package warning labels on foods by September 2025. These labels will provide clear, concise information on the nutritional quality of packaged foods, helping consumers easily identify high levels of harmful ingredients such as sugar, salt, and fat. This policy is crucial in combating the rise of diet-related non-communicable diseases in Ghana, including diabetes and hypertension, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. The goal is to ensure that packaged foods high in sugar, fat, or salt carry clear front-of-package warnings, helping consumers make informed choices and encouraging them to avoid or limit these products. This will empower consumers to make informed choices and, ultimately, improve their health outcomes.



So far, the following activities have been undertaken to advance the adoption of mandatory Front-of-Package Warning Labels (FOPWL) and strengthen advocacy efforts in public health nutrition:

- ▶ Reviewed the draft Front-of-Package Warning Label Policy to ensure alignment with international best practices and the Nutrition Profile Model.
- ▶ Participated in stakeholder consultations organized by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) to advocate for the inclusion of mandatory warning labels in Ghana's Food Systems Strategy.
- ▶ Engaged key stakeholders, including government agencies, industry representatives, and civil society organizations, to advance discussions on food labeling policies.
- ▶ Conducted capacity-building sessions for project staff on countering industry interference in public health policies, with support from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi).
- ▶ Trained staff on global best practices in food labeling and the principles of Nutrient Profiling to enhance advocacy efforts and policy engagement.
- ▶ Partnered with the GAND to organize a side event during the 9th African Nutrition Conference held in 2024 in Cape Coast.



A group photo of journalists taken during a training session on mandatory front-of-package warning food labels



Prof. Kingsly Preko (Member, GAND) making a submission at the 2024 9th African Nutrition Conference in Cape Coast.

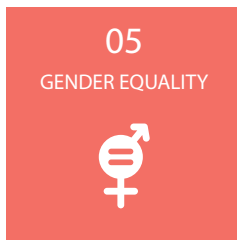
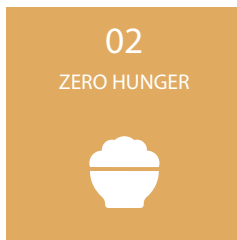


A cross-section of participants at the 2024 African Nutrition Conference in Cape Coast..

AGRIC



CULTIVATING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: ADVANCING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES.



Agriculture continues to be a cornerstone of our work. We are dedicated to enhancing farmers' livelihoods, promoting sustainable growth, and empowering women to pursue alternative income-generating opportunities.. Through its programs, SEND has worked to create opportunities for women and men in agriculture, ensuring they have the resources, knowledge, and support to thrive and contribute to broader economic development. The amalgamation of various projects implemented over the years has contributed to substantial progress in this sector. Through our interventions, we have provided extensive support to farmers and the Department of Agriculture across many districts, offer-

ing capacity building and technical assistance aimed at improving yields and addressing critical challenges such as child labour, low productivity, and the impacts of climate change.

In 2024, we implemented seven (7) projects, each designed to drive improvements and ensure the sector's continued growth and resilience.

The seven (7) projects include Evidence of Informed Advocacy for Child Labour Free Sector in Ghana, Cocoa Advocacy, Fair for All, GROW, Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT), 4R Nutrient Stewardship, and Sustainable Cocoa.

COCOA ADVOCACY

MULTI-ACTOR PARTNERSHIP-PHASE 3 (MAP 3)



A group photo of farmers and project staff

Cocoa is one of Ghana's biggest exports, contributing an estimated 6–7% to the country's annual GDP in 2024. Despite this contribution, the hardworking farmers responsible for Ghana's position as a global cocoa leader do not receive equitable benefits. Recognizing these disparities, SEND GHANA launched the Cocoa Advocacy Project in 2017 to foster sustainable growth and equity in the cocoa sector through a Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) to strengthen collaboration between civil society actors in Ghana and Germany.

The first phase of the project (MAP 1) ran from 2017 to 2019, followed by the second phase from 2021 to 2023. The

project has now entered its third phase—MAP 3 (2024–2028). Throughout its implementation, the core objective has remained consistent: to bridge the gap between cocoa sector stakeholders in Ghana and Germany. Implemented through the Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform (GCCP), the project serves as a unified voice for diverse stakeholders, including cocoa farmers, civil society organisations, the media, and policymakers from both countries. It provides a platform for addressing key challenges in the cocoa sector through evidence-based advocacy. Focus areas include child labour, fair cocoa pricing, climate change, living income, and the reduction of pesti-

cide use—all geared toward building a sustainable and equitable cocoa value chain.

The project is operational in 20 cocoa districts across the Eastern and Central regions, including Asamankese, Suhum, Oda, and Bawdua in the Eastern Region and Twifo Praso and Jukwa in the Central Region.

Through stakeholder engagements, targeted advocacy, and community-based interventions, the project has made significant progress towards achieving its goals.

In 2024, MAP 3 brought together farmer working groups and the GCCP steering committee to engage in dialogue, advocate, and make strategic decisions within the cocoa sector. Farmer-Based Organisations (FBOs) outside the GCCP were also engaged to broaden partnerships and advocacy networks. These net-

working meetings with FBOs further strengthened advocacy efforts, while international events such as the GISCO ISM meeting, World Cocoa Foundation Partnership Meeting, and World Cocoa Conference provided platforms to share insights and reinforce partnerships.

In addition, the project held bi-monthly virtual meetings to sustain attention on issues in the cocoa sector and organized a press conference to advocate for an increase in the farmgate price of cocoa. Through two radio discussions in the Central Region, public awareness on cocoa policies and programs was enhanced. Training sessions were held in Koforidua to build the capacity of FBOs, while 20 community sensitization activities on child labor were conducted in cocoa-growing areas in the Eastern and Central regions.



Project staff pictured with farmers in the cocoa community in the Eastern Region during a monitoring



Key Achievements Under the Project



A knowledge exchange platform was established to strengthen joint advocacy among farmer groups across Ghana's seven cocoa-growing regions, resulting in the development of a draft roadmap to guide future collaboration.



Increased public engagement and projections contributed to the growing influence of discussions on cocoa farmgate pricing.



Over 500 cocoa farmers across 20 communities in the Eastern and Central regions gained knowledge on cocoa policies and programs, enhancing their capacity to engage in sector-related advocacy.



A group photo of farmers and F4A project staff.

FAIR 4 ALL (F4A)

The F4A project is a five-year program addressing social and environmental challenges in Ghana's cocoa, gold, salt, and petroleum industries. Implemented in five districts across the Eastern and Central Regions, it empowers communities to document human rights abuses, seek redress, and engage stakeholders for accountability. The project also strengthens CSOs to advocate for women's economic empowerment and fair trade while supporting sustainable livelihoods for cocoa farmers and artisanal miners. In addition, F4A promotes fiscal and trade reforms to boost domestic value capture and ensure equitable revenue distribution.

Under the Fair for All project in 2024, media engagements with the GCCP influenced public discourse on tax regulations, advocating for the removal of redundant tax exemptions and addressing trade and fiscal issues in the cocoa, gold, and petroleum sectors. A one-day forum convened women in the cocoa sector, CSOs, LBCs, and young entrepreneurs to explore sustainable business practices. In addition, a policy dialogue on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)—a principle that upholds the right of communities to give or withhold consent to projects affecting their land, resources, or rights—and human rights was held to promote inclusivity and accountability in resource governance.





Key Achievements Under the Project

- ▶ Illegal mining activities in Nyame Y3 Adom were halted following a policy dialogue on FPIC and human rights, protecting water sources and cocoa farms.
- ▶ The project improved COCOBOD's understanding of human rights issues in cocoa communities, resulting in a directive for LBCs to incorporate human rights considerations into their operations. 3 LBCs—Federated Commodities, OMNI Cocoa, and Nyonkopa—have committed to integrating human rights into their corporate responsibility strategies, thereby promoting ethical business practices.



A 45% increase in cocoa farm gate prices was achieved for the 2024/2025 season through sustained advocacy in collaboration with GCCP, improving farmer incomes.



200,000 cocoa farmers had their concerns amplified through targeted media engagements, strengthening advocacy efforts.



Through the project, over 1,500 women gained financial inclusion by partnering with Twifo Rural Bank, which expanded their access to credit and strengthened their economic resilience.

SUCCESS STORY

Fair 4 All Community Co-Creation Delivers Results: Nyankomase Gets a New School.

By Joana Ankomaa Adley



F4A project staff pictured with community members inspecting the new school in Nyankomase built as a result of advocacy efforts under the project.

Access to education remains a challenge in many cocoa-growing communities, where children often travel long distances or study in deplorable conditions. Nyankomase, a small community in the Eastern Region, was one such community where overcrowded and dilapidated classrooms were the norm until a significant change occurred after they participated in a Fair4All co-creation forum between farmer cooperatives and licensed cocoa buying companies. In 2023, SEND GHANA, under the F4A Project, convened key stakeholders in the cocoa value chain,

including LBCs, community leaders, and farmer cooperatives, to participate in the co-creation forum. The forum aimed to establish a platform for Cocoa Producing Communities and LBCs to collaboratively develop Community Development Agreements, to address the pressing challenges faced by these communities. Following the co-creation forum, the assemblyman for Nyankomase said they were inspired to collaborate with Nyonkopa Cocoa, an LBC, to construct a school for their community.

He mentioned that the community was not happy with the state of their current school and was determined to expand access and reduce classroom overcrowding. "The student population in the community school kept growing, leading to overcrowded classrooms. Consequently, our community leaders approached Nyonkopa Cocoa Buying Limited to

seek support in expanding the classroom infrastructure to accommodate more students," he explained. Nyonkopa Cocoa responded positively to their request, swiftly completing a fully equipped six-classroom block in less than three months. The new structure includes a canteen, toilet facilities, an astroturf, and a computer lab equipped with 22 computers.



The new Canteen

The construction is nearing completion and will soon be handed over to the community. The community members are eagerly anticipating the commissioning of the new edifice in the coming months, hoping it will enhance learning outcomes for the numerous children attending school in the community.

"We are grateful to the F4A project for providing the platform for this remarkable transformation. This structure will significantly reduce the number of students cramped up in small classrooms and enhance learning with the added amenities such as the computer lab," he concluded.

EVIDENCE

OF INFORMED ADVOCACY FOR CHILD LABOUR-FREE SECTOR IN GHANA

With support from DKA Austria, SEND is implementing the “Evidence of Informed Advocacy for a Child Labour-Free Sector” project. This program, which began in 2024 and is scheduled to continue into 2026, seeks to address the root causes of child labour by collecting and analyzing data while fostering awareness and advocacy in cocoa-growing communities.

The project focuses on understanding the perspectives of cocoa farmers, youth, and children on child labour. This is critical to addressing the issue, as there is currently limited research on the views, knowledge, and practices of those directly involved. Through participatory

assessments at the community level, the project aims to bridge this knowledge gap and provide evidence-based insights into the underlying causes and perceptions of child labour.

In this phase of the project, we are collecting both quantitative and qualitative data to gather detailed insights from cocoa farmers, youth, and children in targeted communities about child labour-related issues in cocoa-growing areas. The data will be analyzed to produce a report aimed at raising awareness and sensitizing the public about the risks and negative impacts of child labour in Ghana’s cocoa sector.





GROW PROJECT:

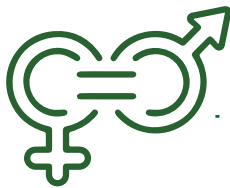
STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN GHANA

The GROW project strengthens economic justice, food security, and agricultural governance by advocating for increased budgetary support and climate adaptation financing for smallholder farmers. Through budget tracking and stakeholder engagement, the project ensures that agricultural policies and funding priorities align with farmers' needs, particularly in the face of climate change.

By creating a platform for smallholder farmers to participate in national agricultural budget formulation, GROW amplifies their voices in policy decisions. Additionally, the project engaged key national and local stakeholders to advocate for sustained investments in climate adaptation, deepening long-term agro-resilience in Ghana's agricultural sector.



Key Achievements Under the Project



62 Gender Desk Officers were trained on Gender - Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Kumasi-Ahodwo and Cape Coast-Aburu.



120 smallholder farmers were sensitized on climate change and climate insurance in Ada East (Asigbekope).



43 smallholder farmers were sensitised on climate change and climate insurance in Ada East (Shai-Osudoku).

SUSTAINABILITY

AND VALUE-ADDED IN AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS

In 2023, SEND GHANA launched a project to further a sustainable cocoa sector by promoting human rights, environmental protection, and improved farmer livelihoods. Ending in 2026, the project tackles key challenges such as farmer poverty, deforestation, and human rights risks in cocoa production and trade.

While global policies such as the EU Deforestation Law, the Living Income Differential (LID), and Ghana's cocoa farmer pension scheme aim to promote sustainability, their implementation often excludes farmers—especially women.

Through this project, SEND GHANA seeks to bridge the above gap by em-

powering smallholder farmers and CSOs to engage in cocoa sector governance.

The project leverages platforms such as the Ghana Civil-Society Cocoa Platform (GCCP) to amplify farmers' voices, ensuring inclusive, transparent, and accountable sustainability reforms. In 2024, the project undertook key initiatives to drive its objectives forward. An introductory meeting was held with COCOBOD to establish collaboration and facilitate dialogue on sustainability reforms in the cocoa sector. In addition, the project raised awareness and sensitized farming communities about child labour, highlighting the urgent need to end this menace in cocoa farmers.



Key Achievements Under the Project

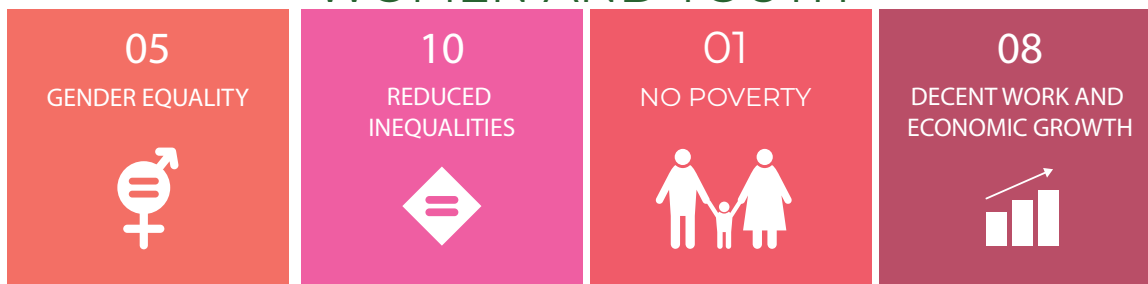
- ▶ Supported GCCP in strengthening its partnership with its Ivorian counterpart, Plateforme Ivoirienne pour le Cacao Durable (PICD). Together, they participated in a strategic workshop to discuss key issues affecting both organizations, including living income, deforestation and environmental sustainability, child labor, good governance, accountability, and transparency.



60 members of the GCCP were trained on sustainability frameworks, including the EU Deforestation Regulation and the Ghana Cocoa Management System.

REMOVING BARRIERS

TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH



Women and young people, especially young women, continue to face systemic barriers that limit their access to economically viable opportunities. Unequal household responsibilities, unpaid care work, and limited access to employment opportunities disproportionately affect their ability to participate fully in economic

activities. As an organisation, we are committed to dismantling these barriers through a gender centred approach, such as the Care-Sensitive and the Gender Model Family (GMF) approach, which promotes shared responsibilities within households to ease the burden on women and addresses unpaid care work, particu-

larly the roles and contributions of women and girls in providing care within households and communities. We do this by advocating for policies that recognize, redistribute, and reduce unpaid care work. Through these strategic interventions, we are ensuring that the burden of unpaid care work does not hinder women and adolescent girls from accessing economic and leadership opportuni-

ties. By integrating labor-saving technologies, promoting shared household responsibilities, and strengthening policies that value care work, we are fostering an environment where women and young people can thrive. For the year under review, we embarked on several projects that used these approaches to advance economic opportunities for women.



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT FOR COLLECTIVE TRANSFORMATION (WEACT) PROJECT

During the year under review, we continued implementing the Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT) Project—a five-year initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and supported by OXFAM under the Innovations for Women's Economic Empowerment in Ghana (IWEEG) program. Currently in its last leg, the project aims to improve women's economic empowerment, well-being, and growth in the shea and cocoa value chains by addressing systemic barriers that limit their participation in commercial activities outside the home.

WEACT is implemented in collaboration with seven key partners—including Friends of the Nation, WiLDAF, Tungteiya Women's Association, Shea Network, NORSAAC, and Viam—and operates across nine districts: Savelugu, Mion, West Gonja, Garu, Sissala West, Amenfi

West, Aowin, and Sefwi-Wiawso.

Under Pillar 2 of the project, SEND GHANA implemented various activities to promote gender equity and address unpaid care work. These included raising awareness to address the negative impacts of women's time poverty and the unfair distribution of unpaid care work. To this end, locally driven technical solutions were introduced to reduce the time, labor, and energy women expend on domestic work and economic activities. Dialogue spaces were created and facilitated for women's groups, traditional and religious leaders to develop by-laws that sanction negative practices. A national campaign involving young women and private sector actors was also implemented, challenging harmful social norms and promoting the benefits of women having free time.



Key Achievements Under the Project

- ▶ 88.7% of women in the shea and cocoa farming zones now have access to resources, a remarkable increase from 36.9%, while control over resources rose from 20.8% to 74.4%. This progress reflects significant strides in economic empowerment and gender equity.
- ▶ 77.4% of women now participate in household decision-making, up from 29.8%, marking a shift from male-dominated decision-making to shared governance within households.
- ▶ 75% of women in the cocoa zone and 77.7% in the shea zone are actively engaged in economic activities, benefiting from time, labor, and energy-saving technologies introduced through the project.
- ▶ 83.9% of men in the shea zone now acknowledge the burden of unpaid care work on women, up from 35.7%, while in the cocoa zone, women's awareness of their care workload increased from 53.6% to 94.6%. This highlights a growing recognition of gendered labor disparities.
- ▶ 96.4% -100 % of GMF households now embrace the equitable sharing of household responsibilities among women, men, boys, and girls, reinforcing long-term behavioral and social change.

UNITED FOR CARE-

SENSITIVE APPROACHES TO RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT (U-CARE) PROJECT



Participants at a district inception meeting.

The U-CARE Project, a five-year program funded by Global Affairs Canada, launched in 2024 to address the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and adolescent girls in northern Ghana. The project seeks to promote gender-responsive policies to recognise, redistribute, and reduce unpaid care work while strengthening the agency of women and girls in decision-making.

Spanning 10 districts—Savelugu, Mion, Kumbungu, Zabzugu, East Mamprusi, West Mamprusi, Mamprugu Moagduri, Central Gonja, East Gonja, and West Gonja—across the Northern, Northeast, and Savannah Regions, U-CARE aims to reach 50,000 families in both urban and rural communities. In 2024, key activities included national and regional inception meetings with government ministries, agencies, and local authorities, alongside district-level engagements to introduce the project and identify target communities.



A session with participants deliberating on the criteria for selecting communities.



FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR LAST MILE ACTORS (FILMA): EMPOWERING LAST MILE ACTORS

The Financial Inclusion for Last Mile Actors (FILMA) aims to reduce youth unemployment in rural Ghana by developing the ecosystem, building capacity, and providing access to affordable credit, inclusive financial services, and markets for young people working in the agricultural and adjacent sectors.

The program aims to stimulate entrepreneurship, increase productivity, and create sustainable economic opportunities by empowering financially excluded young women and persons with disabilities (Last Mile Actors - LMAs)

The goal is to reach 100,000 young people aged 15 to 35 across 18 districts in the Volta, Oti, Bono East, and Northern Regions, supporting them to attain dignified and fulfilling work. The focus is to create 80,000 jobs for the people reached, with 70%

of the beneficiaries being young women and 5% being persons with disabilities.

The FILMA project is being implemented with funding support from Temple Investments Limited in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, through a consortium of three partners: SEND GHANA, AV Ventures, and Catholic Relief Services. Together, we aim to empower persons with disabilities and young women by addressing structural barriers, including limited access to finance, markets, resources, skills, technology, and opportunities for decision-making. Key activities under FILMA include the recruitment and orientation of project staff, stakeholder engagements in 15 MMDAs to establish District Working Groups, and the development of district multipurpose cooperatives to enhance economic collaboration among LMAs.





Key Achievements Under the Project

- ▶ 5 key project staff members—a Project Manager, a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and three Regional Officers—were recruited and oriented on the project.
- ▶ A 1-year operational plan for ecosystem development was successfully finalised, providing a strategic roadmap for implementation.
- ▶ Multipurpose cooperatives were initiated and strengthened, reinforcing the project's capacity to deliver sustainable and scalable solutions.





#SPisaRight

SOCIAL PROTECTION

ADVANCING

SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE GHANA

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



In 2024, SEND GHANA deepened its commitment to strengthening social protection interventions, recognising their critical role in reducing poverty and ensuring equity for vulnerable populations. Through policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and media sensitisation, SEND GHANA contributed to the improvement of key social protection programs, including the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program, the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the Capitation Grant, and the School Feeding Program. These interventions remain essential in providing financial relief, health-care access, and educational support to millions of Ghanaians.

Despite these efforts, many beneficiaries continue to perceive social

protection as a privilege rather than a fundamental right. To shift this narrative and drive national discourse, SEND in 2024 organised specialised training for selected journalists on the Rights-Based Approach as a concept to improve social protection services for the average Ghanaian. The training equipped media professionals with the requisite knowledge to raise awareness and educate citizens on social protection as an entitlement backed by policy and law.

Following the training, participants formed the Journalists in Social Protection (JISOP) network, a coalition dedicated to generating high-impact stories on social protection. These journalists have since been instrumental in highlighting gaps in

implementation, amplifying the voices of beneficiaries, and fostering public accountability. Their work has contributed to a growing national conversation on the urgent need for improved social protection policies and funding.

Throughout the year, the project actively engaged key stakeholders to strengthen social protection efforts in Ghana. We facilitated and coordinated meetings with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, UNICEF, and the Partnership for Social Accountability for the Social Protection platform to align efforts and enhance collaboration on key policies. In addition, facilitated a change in the leadership for the SDG

Goal 10 platform, supporting the election of new conveners and co-conveners to drive advocacy on reducing inequalities.

As part of our efforts to promote inclusive governance and responsive policymaking, we collected inputs from citizens on the policies they wished to see reflected in the manifestos of political parties ahead of the 2024 elections. These inputs were gathered through participatory processes that amplified the voices of ordinary Ghanaians, particularly at the grassroots level.

Building on this, we engaged various political parties to discuss the citizens' inputs, with the objective of



Mrs. Harriet N. Agyemang (2nd from right), Country Director, and Tajudeen Mohammed (1st from right), Program Officer of SEND GHANA, presenting the 2024 Citizens' Manifesto to Dr. Peter Boamah Otukonor, Director of Inter-Party and Civil Society Relations of the National Democratic Congress (NDC),

influencing the development of their social sector manifestos. These engagements served as platforms for dialogue, allowing political actors to better understand and integrate the priorities of the people into their policy agendas.

Furthermore, we printed and distributed 100 booklets containing key recommendations and demands from communities across the country among political parties to influence their policy commitments in areas such as health, education, social protection, and gender equality

In addition, in collaboration with JoyNews, we convened a high-level National Dialogue on political party manifestos. This event brought together representatives from

Ghana's two major political parties—the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP). The dialogue provided a unique opportunity for both parties to outline their commitments to the social sector and reaffirm the importance of prioritising social protection in the national development agenda.

We also continued to support the Journalists in Social Protection (JISOP) network by providing technical and financial assistance to facilitate the production and publication of high-impact stories. These journalistic efforts have been instrumental in educating Ghanaians on social protection as a right, rather than a privilege, while also holding duty bearers accountable for policy implementation.



A member of the Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations making a submission during the 2024 Citizens' Manifesto Town Hall meeting in Accra.



Key Achievements Under the Project

- ▶ Political parties commended our efforts in mobilising citizens' voices to influence government policies, highlighting the critical role of participatory governance in strengthening social protection.
- ▶ We were recognised by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and its agencies for our contributions in the civil society space, particularly for our role in shaping national social protection policies.
- ▶ Our advocacy for the Government of Ghana to increase school feeding grants from GHS 1.00 yielded positive results. In the 2024 budget, the grants were increased from GHS 1.00 to GHS 1.50. Additionally, LEAP grants for beneficiary households were doubled, significantly improving the quality of life for many Ghanaians benefiting from these interventions.



GOVERNANCE



BUDGET ADVOCACY

MAKING THE NATIONAL BUDGET
WORK FOR EVERY GHANAIAN

Each year, SEND GHANA has championed a people-centred budget process, ensuring that national budget allocations reflect the real needs of citizens. By convening diverse groups—including youth, women, market traders, professionals, persons with disabilities, and civil society organisations— influence key sectors such as agriculture, health, social protection, education, and

WASH. These inputs are then submitted to the Ministry of Finance to influence national budget priorities.

The goal is to make the national budget citizen-driven, ensuring that financial planning and resource allocation are responsive to the lived realities of all Ghanaians, regardless of social or economic standing.



A group photo of participants during the collection of citizens' input for the 2024 political party manifesto

As part of our budget advocacy efforts in 2024, SEND GHANA undertook a series of strategic engagements aimed at strengthening citizen participation in the national budget input gathering process. We organised zonal consultations with citizens across the Southern, Middle, and Northern belts of the country to

gather grassroots perspectives on budget priorities. These sessions provided valuable insights into the real needs of communities and underscored the importance of inclusive policy planning. These inputs were submitted to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for inclusion in the 2025 budget.



Key Achievements Under the Project

SEND Ghana successfully mobilised and submitted citizens' inputs to the MoF and relevant sector ministries, directly contributing to significant pro-poor budgetary allocations in the 2024 National Budget. As a result:

- ▶ The LEAP grant is set to double in 2024.
- ▶ The school feeding grant increased by 11%.
- ▶ The capitation grant was expanded.
- ▶ The District Assembly Common Fund for Persons with Disabilities (DVF) allocation rose from GHC 1 million in 2023 to GHC 2.7 million in 2024. (Ref: Paragraphs 292–293, 2024 Budget Statement)



GHANA CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM ON SDGS

The Ghana Civil Society Platform on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a coalition of over 564 CSOs committed to supporting Ghana's efforts in achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Established in 2015, the platform serves as a collective voice for CSOs working across the 17 SDGs, ensuring coordinated advocacy, monitoring, and implementation efforts that align with Ghana's national development priorities.

In 2024, the Ghana CSOs platform on SDGs held its

Annual General Meeting (AGM), bringing together member organizations to reflect on achievements, challenges, and opportunities in advancing the SDGs. The AGM fostered collaboration among CSOs, government agencies, development partners, and the private sector, promoting evidence-based and inclusive approaches to sustainable development.

Furthermore, the Platform organised elections across the 18 sub-platforms and elected new co-chairs and members of the steering committee



Key Achievements Under the Project

- ▶ Advancing SDG goals in poverty reduction, quality education, climate action, and gender equality.
- ▶ Strengthening advocacy for increased domestic resource mobilization to fund SDG implementation.
- ▶ Influencing national policies by ensuring civil society perspectives shape decision-making.
- ▶ Mobilised members of the platform to advocate for the removal of taxes on sanitary pads in Ghana. In response to the advocacy, the Government of Ghana removed import taxes on raw materials used to produce sanitary pads, as well as on locally manufactured sanitary pads
- ▶ Conducted stakeholder dialogues on the implementation of tax waivers on sanitary pads to promote accessibility, availability, and affordability



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (SPII) FOR GHANA AND WEST AFRICA



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



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Reduce inequality within and among countries

The Strategic Partnership project, led by the CSOs Platform on SDGs, promotes gender justice, climate resilience, and inclusivity in societies across Ghana and West Africa. Funded by DANIDA through Oxfam in Ghana (2022–2025), the project focuses on:

- Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through policy reforms and strengthened response mechanisms.
- Advocating for increased public investment in education, particularly TVET, to enhance opportunities for youth.
- Promoting peace and inclusion across communities.



Key Achievements Under the Project

In the year under review, the Strategic Partnership project recorded significant milestones in advancing equity and justice. These achievements include:

- ▶ Organized a citizen forum to solicit inputs into the 2024 political party manifestos, ensuring that education and gender equality priorities are reflected in governance agendas.
- ▶ Mobilized CSOs to review the Safe Space curriculum for Colleges of Education, laying the groundwork for policy advocacy to integrate the curriculum into teacher training programs.
- ▶ Convened steering committee meetings to assess progress on School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV) interventions, integrating GBV response strategies into the broader advocacy agenda.

ACCELERATION OF SDGS LOCALISATION IN GHANA

As part of efforts to advance sustainable development in Ghana, SEND GHANA collaborated with UNICEF and UNDP to implement the Joint Programme (JP) on the Acceleration of SDGs Localisation. This program focuses on improving education, social protection, and digitalisation while strengthening SDG coordination mechanisms. The goal is to empower local communities to take ownership of and monitor the SDGs to promote inclusive development at the grassroots level. By adopting a 'whole-of-society' approach, it engages traditional leaders, civil society, the private sector, and government to craft solutions that address barriers to progress and foster inclusivity.

The program targets Ghana's five northern regions—Savannah, Upper

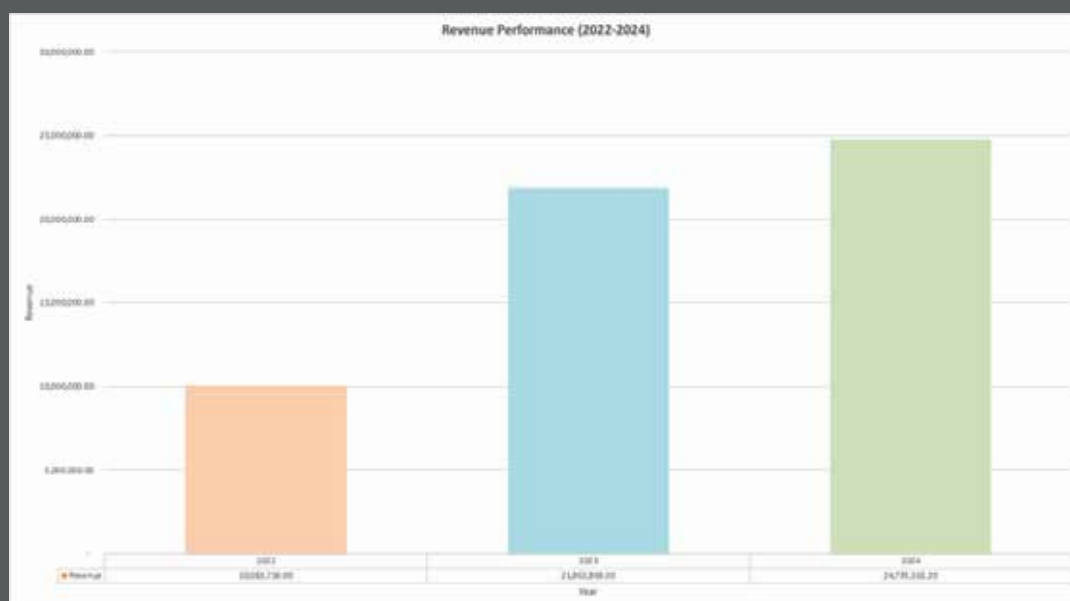
West, Upper East, Northern, and North-East—and aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023 - 2025 outcome areas of Economic Transformation, Accessible Social Services, and Durable Peace.

A critical milestone chalked for this year includes building the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Northern Ghana. This session strengthened their capacity to deliver transparent and accountable social services and introduced innovative digital platforms like UNICEF's "SDG Café." The platform facilitates dialogue between the government and local communities, promoting gender-responsive discussions and collaborative solutions to address vulnerabilities.



FINANCE

For the financial year January to December 2024, we are excited to report that our grant portfolio continued to grow despite funding challenges within the Development sector. Overall revenue increased to GHS 24.7m this year from 21.8m in 2023. Leveraging on balances carried forward from prior year and income raised in current year, we worked with our partners to deliver SEND Ghana's strategic objectives. We have recorded revenue growth consistently for the last three years as seen below:



The portfolio growth reflects investment in business development leading to improvements in restricted and unrestricted income generation to underpin the sustainability drive of the organisation. For the year, three new projects were added to existing projects and two new grant donors joined the SEND family. The continued high inflation rates and exchange rate pressures increased operating cost for the year as well.

Our achievements for the year 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, MasterCard Foundation and Alinea International.

We will build on the gains over the past years to expand our funding sources to sustain ongoing programmes and interventions aimed at addressing core issues in health, education, agriculture, inequality, food security, social protection, climate change and others as outlined in our strategic plan.



SEND GHANA

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