



SEND GHANA



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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2014



SEND GHANA

Vision:

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

Mission:

To promote good governance and the equality of women and men in Ghana

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARICS	Audit Reports Implementation Committees
BOD	Board of Directors
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CHPS	Community-Based Health Planning and Services
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CCA	Canadian Cooperative Association
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CUA	Credit Union Association of Ghana
DA	District Assembly
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DCD	District Coordinating Director
DCMC	District Citizen's Monitoring Committee
DHMT	District Health Management Teams
DIC	District Implementation Committee
DMHIS	District Mutual Health Insurance Scheme
EC	Eastern Corridor
FNGO	Focal Non-Governmental Organisation
FOSTERING	Food Security through Cooperatives in Northern Ghana
GAEF	Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum
GHC	Ghana Cedis
GPSA	Global Partnership for Social Accountability
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
IMPROVE	Improving Maternal Health through Participatory Governance
LCCU	Local Council of Credit Union (Board of Directors)
LSP	Livelihood Security Programme
MDA's	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
NHIA	National Health Insurance Authority
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
PAP	Policy Advocacy Programme
PM&E	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Network
PWD	Persons with Disability
RCWA	Rural Commercial Women Association
RHD	Regional Health Directorate
SADA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
SSF	Small Scale Farmer
SEND	Social Enterprise Development (Foundation of West Africa)
SENDFiNGO	SEND Financial NGO
SMC	School Management Committee
WFP	World Food Programme

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1. Introduction

In 2014 Ghana as Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) led the campaign to mobilize global support to fight the unprecedented outbreak of Ebola Virus in the region. More than 11 000 women, men and children in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea were killed by the virus and over 35,000 boys and child were made orphans. Kailahun, SEND SIERRA LEONE's operational District, lost more than 525 lives and has approximately 1634 orphans. SEND GHANA led civil society, faith based organisations and Trade Union Congress to form the West Africa Against Ebola to educate Ghanaians about the virus and mobilise support for victims in the affected countries.



Mr Siapha Kamara,
CEO of SEND WEST AFRICA

In Ghana, the global economic and financial crisis coupled with declining value of the cedis and worsening energy supply imposed harsh living conations on the citizenry. In addition, between, November, 2013 to July, 2014, petrol price per litre rose by 58% (2.12 to 3.336GHC) and kerosene, the fuel of the poor, increased by 77% (1.82 to 3.23GHC). Consequently, most offices including SEND used private generators at least 3 out of 5 working days throughout the year. Government funding of pro-poor programs such as the Common Fund, Capitation Grants, National Health Insurance Scheme or School Feeding Program was irregular and insufficient to meet the needs of their target groups. Even more importantly, there was wide spread concern among the citizenry that the government was neither taking the required measures to curb misuse of public resources nor adequately using the law to punish corrupt officials.

Notwithstanding these economic difficulties, Ghana remains in Africa among the most politically stable countries with an outspoken media, influential civil society and active political opposition parties. Whether Ghana will accompany the flourishing liberal democracy with sustained improvement in the economic and living conditions of its citizenry especially farmers, women, persons with disability and youth hinges on finding lasting resolution to the power crisis.

Management is indebted to our external donors and local implementing partners who worked with the staff and project principals to implement the activities reported in this Annual report.

2. Overview of SEND GHANA's Programmes

This was the first year of Strategic Plan 2014 to 2018 Making Ghana Work for Equity. Through the 3 programmes-Grassroots Economic and Policy Advocacy Programme (GELAP), Livelihood Security Programme (LSP), and SEND Financial NGO (SENDFiNGO), SEND GHANA directly impacted on the lives of 40, 671 Ghanaians. Women accounted for over 60% of the direct beneficiaries of the different programmes. These beneficiaries were in the 65 poorest districts and from 6 of the 10 regions of Ghana.

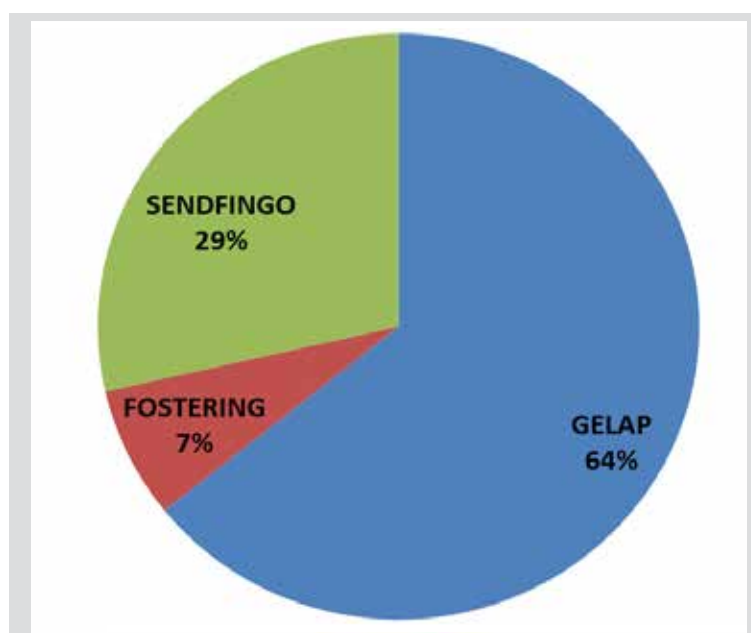


Figure 1 Direct Beneficiaries

Benefits realized by those directly reached by the programs were:

- Skills and platforms to promote accountability, transparency and equity in pro-poor programs
- Improved food and nutrition security and
- Rise in income levels.

Through the PM&E Network, SEND GHANA collaborated with 65 district-based NGOs, 65 District Assemblies, 6 Regional Coordinating Councils and 14 radio stations to promote good governance practices at national and district levels. This collaborative approach enabled SEND and its partners to increase the impact of government funded pro-poor programs on women, farmers, youth, micro entrepreneurs and persons with disability. The operational districts of SEND GHANA are as shown in the map below.

Box 1

SEND GHANA OPERATIONAL AREAS



Eleven donors donated GHS 6,035,727.00 to support the 3 programmes.

Finally SEND employed in 2014, 68 men and women staff. Women accounted for 28%. Regional distribution of the staff is presented in figure 2.

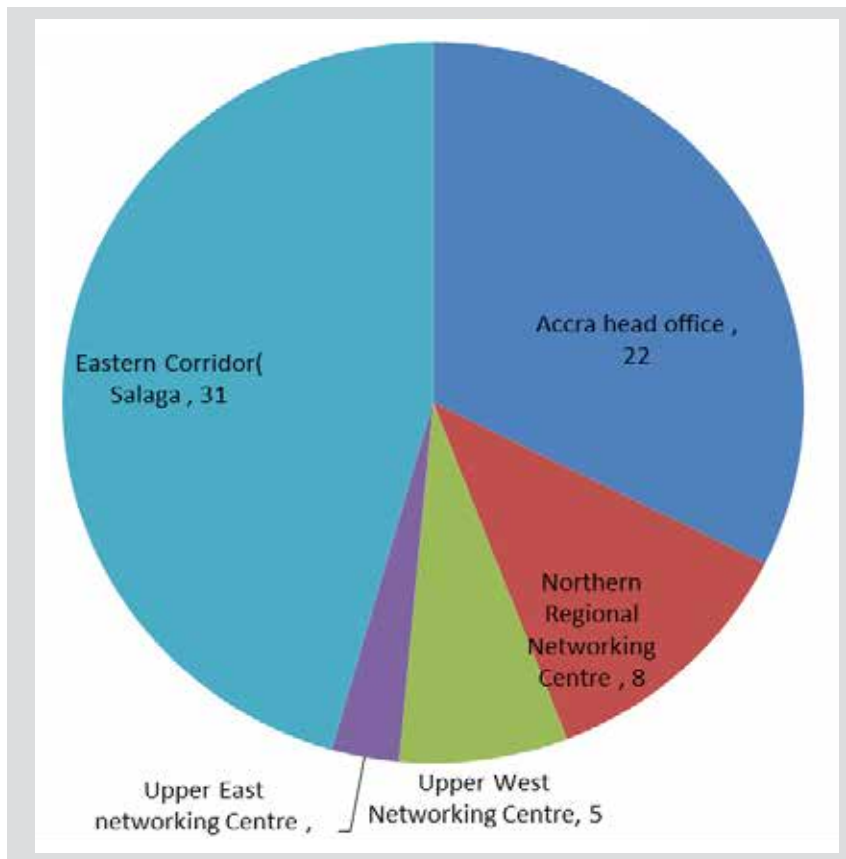


Figure 2: Staffing per office



Some small-scale farmers at work on their farm

3.0 Grassroots Economic Literacy and Policy Advocacy Programme

The GELAP implemented 6 projects that enabled the target beneficiaries to access pro-poor programs to improve on their education, health and livelihood situation.

3.1 Making Decentralisation Work for the Poor

The focus of the project was on PWD of whom 1740 in 16 target districts accessed the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF). Figure 3 is an example of the total amount disbursed per 6 districts. West Mamprusi spent the highest on PWDs. As seen Figure 3, on average each PWD received GHC300 which they used to address livelihood needs of the family and children in particular. For example, of the 67 women beneficiaries in Adentan 37, 23 and 7 invested in small businesses, education and health respectively.

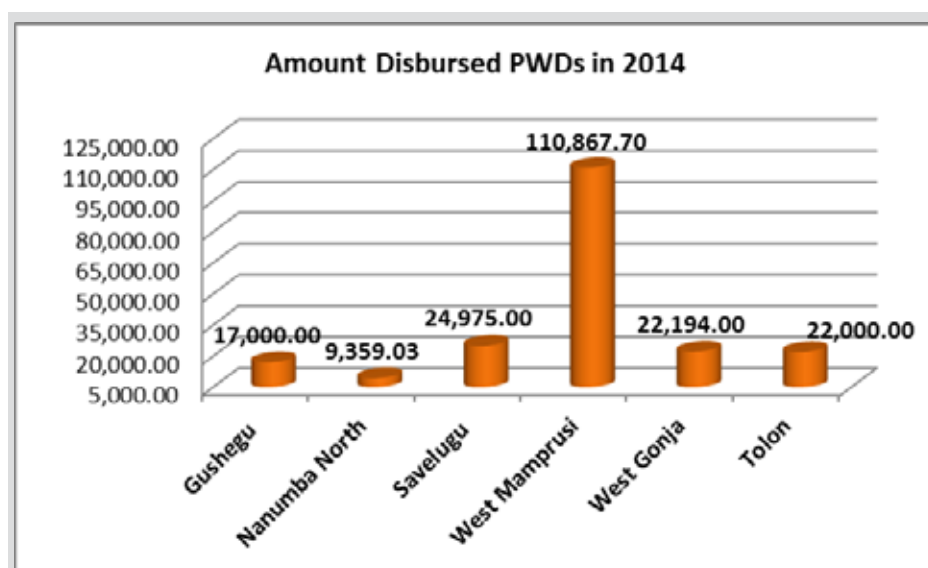


Figure 3: Examples of PWD beneficiaries

Additionally, the district assemblies took measures to strengthen accountability and transparency in the use of DACF: 25 formed Audit Report Implementation Committees (ARIC), 15 established databases on PWDs and 30 started posting financial information on notice boards.

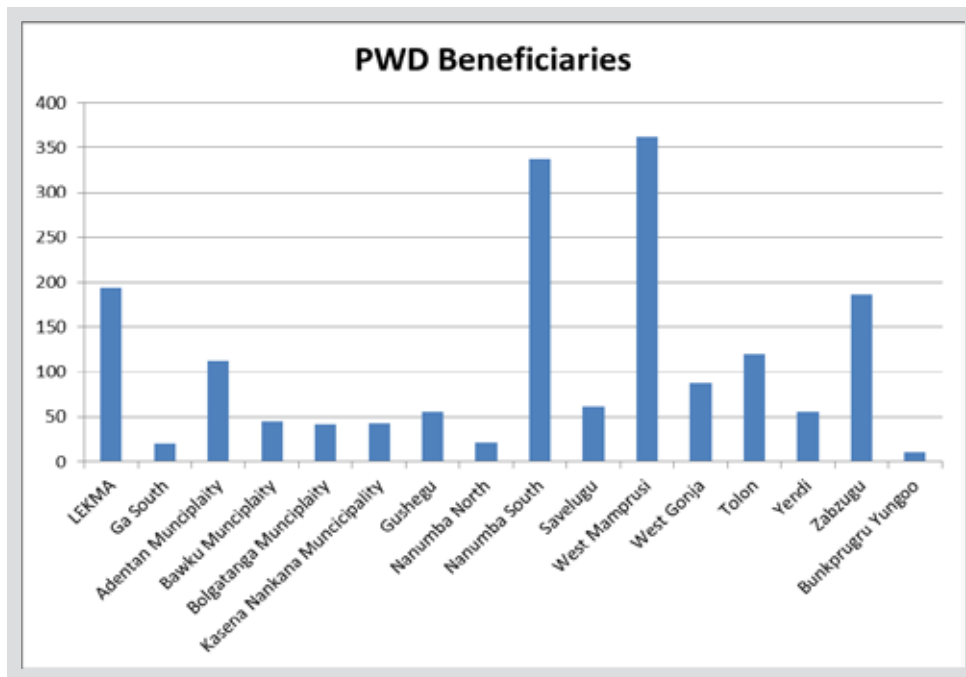


Figure 4: The average amount received per a PWD beneficiary

3.2 Health and Well-Being

Sensitization activities carried by this project gave rise to community self-help initiatives to strengthen maternal health services. Over 807 stakeholders presented in Figure 5 championed initiatives that improved the quality of maternal health care services in remote and underserved communities. The experience of the people of Tampala, a small farming community in the Upper West presented in the Box 2 is an example of the self-help actions in the 20 operational districts.

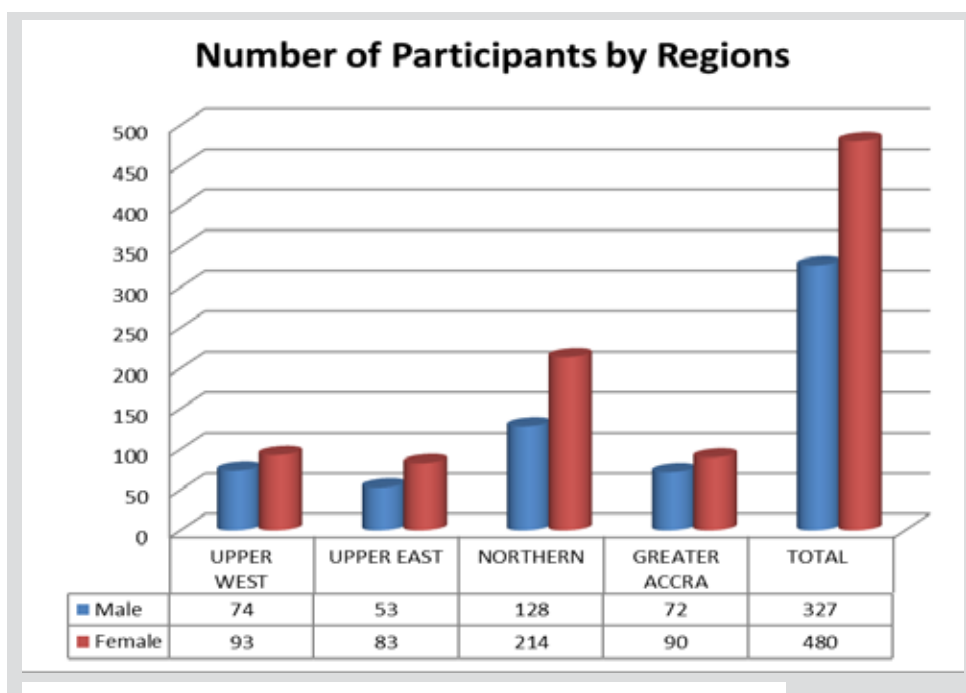


Figure 5: Number of participants per region

Box 2: Example of self-help to improve maternal health delivery

After the sensitization event, the people of Tampala came up with an action to prevent women in labor from dying. Each household agreed to contribute one (1) GHC towards the setting up of a Community Emergency Transport System (CETS). The CETS includes a mini-van located at Jirapa, district capital and tricycle stationed at Tampala. In the agreement with the owners, the community will pay for the fuel. The owners agreed to make available their facility any time to transport women in labour and emergency situation to the nearest hospital. Also the community decided to use part of the fund to connect electricity to the CHPS Compound. Experience sharing facilitated by SEND enabled Gbare, a nearby community to replicate the Tamapla self-help approach to construct urinary pit to be used by clients of their CHPS. Their initial funding raising action was to sell the refreshment prepared by SEND for the sensitization session and use the income to support the construction activity. In addition, households were levied 500 GHC to support the building of a unitary pit for the CHPS. Similarly, Jeyiri community in Wa East District, self-financed a urinary pit and security post for the CHPS Compound.

3.3 Improving Maternal Health through Participatory Governance

Under this project SEND in partnership with 12 community radios reached over 23,024 women and men in 30 districts with maternal health educational messages: family planning, skilled delivery and emergency, obstetric and new born care. These sensitization activities mobilized diverse forms of community support for the implementation of the CHPS. Kayereso experiences in Box 3 are a typical example of stakeholder led initiatives in the project districts.

Box 3: Example of self-help to CHPS

The East Gonja DCMC participatory research on CHPS in the district identified the following challenges: inadequate CHPS compounds in the district; 80% community health nurses (CHNs) lacked midwifery skills; low motivation of staff and community health committees and volunteers; and poorly funded health facilities. Most of the Community Health Volunteers were without bicycles, lack working gears and no allowance. The community health officers were not involved in budget preparation. These findings were validated by key stakeholders including District Director of Health who cited this example *“one pregnant woman from the area lost her life in 2013 because she developed complications and while being rushed to the nearby health facility, there was no ambulance and that resulted to her death”*. The consensus among the stakeholders on the challenges resulted into a joint action plan of complementary commitments by assemblies, district health directorates and community leaders. The DCMC collaborated with “Kanyiti FM” and Ghana News Agency to follow up on the implementation of the action plan. Commitments delivered: i) the community members renovated the CHPS ii) EGDA provided electricity iii) EGDA and the community provided a plastic water storage tank (Polytank) for storage. After the improvement in the infrastructure of the CHPS it recorded rise in antenatal care from 83 in 2013 to 150 women in 2014.



Four additional examples of commitments delivered by stakeholders that improved CHPS facilities were:

- Kpandai assembly extended electricity to Buya CHPS and provided solar to Nassandin CHPS
- Chereponi Assembly renovated CHPS in Naazoni and Garinkuku
- West Mamprusi built CHPS in Tinguri and DHMT provided motorbike for outreach activities
- Savelugu Assembly started construction of CHPS in Nanbgla

3.4 Building Effective Advocacy for Improved Maternal Health Care Services Delivery for the Attainment of MDG 5 in Ghana projects.

This project using a multi-stakeholder driven budget advocacy approach mobilized resources in 6 districts to improve health facilities for maternal care. Three hundred and twenty five (325) leaders representing the stakeholders in Box 4 contributed different resources. For example traditional leaders provided land and assemblies allocated in their budgets funds to build CHPS compounds and community radio stations devoted free airtime to educate the communities about maternal health services.

Box 4: Multi-stakeholders budget advocacy members

DCEs, Coordinating Directors, Planning Officers, District Health Directors, Traditional Authorities, Assembly Persons, Ghana Health Service staff, Assembly staff, Traditional Birth Attendants, Media, GPRTU, Religious Leaders and Citizens Monitoring Committee members

Examples of the impact of budget advocacy activities on maternal health services are provided by the experiences in the two districts shaded below:

Districts	2013 Maternal Report Card	2014 Maternal Report Card
Ejura	2 death, 865, registered FP & 1291 supervised deliveries	1 death, 910 registered FP & 1596 supervised deliveries
Amansie West	6 death	3 death

Summarized in Box 5 is an example of how the project sensitization activities empowered communities to overcome traditional practices that adversely affect maternal health.

Box 5: Example of the use of the community durbar to improve maternal health services delivery.

SEND GHANA's interventions in the Kpandai District targeted pregnant women, lactating mothers, and their spouses. Women access to quality healthcare was being restricted by multiple factors: socio-cultural and religious beliefs, weak infrastructure, low income, illegal levies, lack of drugs, poor attitude of nurses and low knowledge of free health care services. SEND, FNGO, DCMCs and the Kpandai District Health Directorate jointly conducted sensitisation in local dialects on maternal healthcare and family planning. A community durbar approach was used in carrying out the sensitization followed by the community radio using the local language. The sensitization activities mobilized and created positive responses. For example the traditional midwives reduced the use of "Gmanchi Duro" a local herb that is applied to induce labour and supervised delivery increased. According to the nursing Sister "we use to record about 5 cases of PPH in a week as a result of the use of the Gmanchi Duro but now only one case has been recorded." To replicate this experience DHMT contracted DCMC to plan and conduct community durbar on maternal health education. To facilitate actions to address the infrastructure constraints DCMC gathered evidence and held policy dialogue sessions attended by district health directorate, assembly persons and traditional leaders. At the end of the session, the stakeholders pledged to take measures to address the challenges identified. Key actions were :i) the health directorate renovated the Food Assisted Child Survival (FACS) project facility at Namangu, provided logistics, posted a new staff to the CHPS and extended electricity to Buya. ii) Assembly built 4 unit accommodations for health staff and upgraded the road leading to Buya CHPS. In the words of the Director of Health services "maternal deaths has reduced from 5 in 2012, 1 in 2013 and 0 by mid-year 2014 and SEND sensitization approach was significant contributor to our achievements".



A nurse attending to a patient

3.5 Building an effective advocacy movement for sustainable and equitable agriculture

In the 22 districts covered by this project, the capacity of smallholder farmers was strengthened to hold government accountable for the investment commitments to the agricultural sector. For instance, advocacy and communication skills training workshop was conducted followed by establishment of Women in Agriculture Lobby Team. The workshop participants supported the women lobby team in demanding accountability and fair distribution of farm inputs for example access to subsidized fertilizers. For instance 71 men and 43 women participated in policy dialogue sessions at district and national levels on women and smallholder agriculture development.

Box 6

Most significant change story

Improving income of smallholder farmers through crop diversification and better farm management. Smallholder farmers in Ghana can increase their income either by intensifying the existing enterprises or diversification (by growing new crops), value addition, or improved market linkages. A good example of the strategy is provided by Jonathan Agbetiameh, a vegetable and maize farmer who struggled to increase the productivity of his small farm in Afiadenyigba, a village located outside of Sege in the Ada West District. His village traditionally practiced smallholder agriculture for as long as he could remember.



Mr Jonathan Agbetiameh on his farm at Afiadenyigba

Jonathan had little knowledge on how to improve his crop yield and also diversify. Traditional farming techniques often resulted in crop failures. Changing patterns in rainfall and drought was making it worse for him to rely on old approaches. Additionally, he didn't know how to identify the level of humidity in the soil, which was critical to determining the best fertilizer application rate. With his land only marginally productive, it was often difficult for Jonathan

to feed his family.

He was introduced to Ayongo Foundation, a focal organization for SEND GHANA in the district and he became a beneficiary of the “Building an Effective Advocacy Movement for Sustainable and Equitable Agriculture” Project sponsored by Diakonia. He participated in SEND’s training programmes, sensitization on agricultural policies and policy dialogues with district level government officials. During one of the policy sensitization on agriculture, he mentioned the problem of low income from farming and his desire to improve on the situation. He was advised to undertake diversified farming. Persuaded by the Agricultural Extension Agents, he diversified into growing different crops under the guidance of, Ayongo Foundation and District Extension Officers.

Having acquired the necessary advocacy skills through the Project, Jonathan led a group of farmers to the District Agriculture Department to invite the Extension Officers to provide them with lessons on crop diversification, agronomic practices and farm management. Jonathan was educated on how to prepare, grow and harvest crops using improved farming techniques. He learnt how to manage pests, check for plant diseases and use local plants as natural pesticides.

The lessons made a huge difference to his farming. Jonathan no longer focused on growing vegetables and maize alone – he began to grow sorghum. Soon, he was enjoying higher yields and harvesting several times a year and made additional income from the sale of sorghum leaves which is used in the production of “Waakye”; a local delicacy. According to Jonathan, “many of my colleague farmers were impressed by the results of my diversification and improved farm management skills. I was contacted to share my experience with them, so that they can also improve on their farm practices.” With the extra money he made from the farm produce, he bought a bicycle to transport his goods to the nearby markets in Sege. His main ambition, he says, is to provide a better future for his children through increased income from the farm. Jonathan no longer views his farm as a source of frustration and dissatisfaction. Now farming brings him regular income, satisfaction and self-esteem, enabling him to provide for his family and contribute positively to his community.

3.6 Linkage and GROW Campaign Project

The joint advocacy activities of Food Research Institute, Ghana News Agency and Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture (ECASARD) successfully mobilized smallholder women farmers in the pilot district of Techiman to adopt measures to control aflatoxin in maize. Farmers are using the improved storage practices that are preventing the aflatoxin from destroying their maize. Also, due to the pressure of the GROW advocacy campaign implemented in partnership with the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG), MOFA accepted to increase the extension staff from the national to the district offices.



The reality of climate change

4.0 Livelihood Security Programme

The programme consists of two projects - FOSTERING and Women's Wood Lots and it is operational in 8 districts in the Northern Region

4.1 Food Security Through Cooperatives in Northern Ghana Project

4.1.1 Agriculture and Climate Change

As seen in Figure 6 both projects reached over 1,747 men and women farmers as well as small scale entrepreneurs in 130 communities in operational districts. In addition FOSTERING using the Ghana Grains Board standards upgraded 3 silos with holding capacity of 900 metric tons that are being used by project beneficiaries.

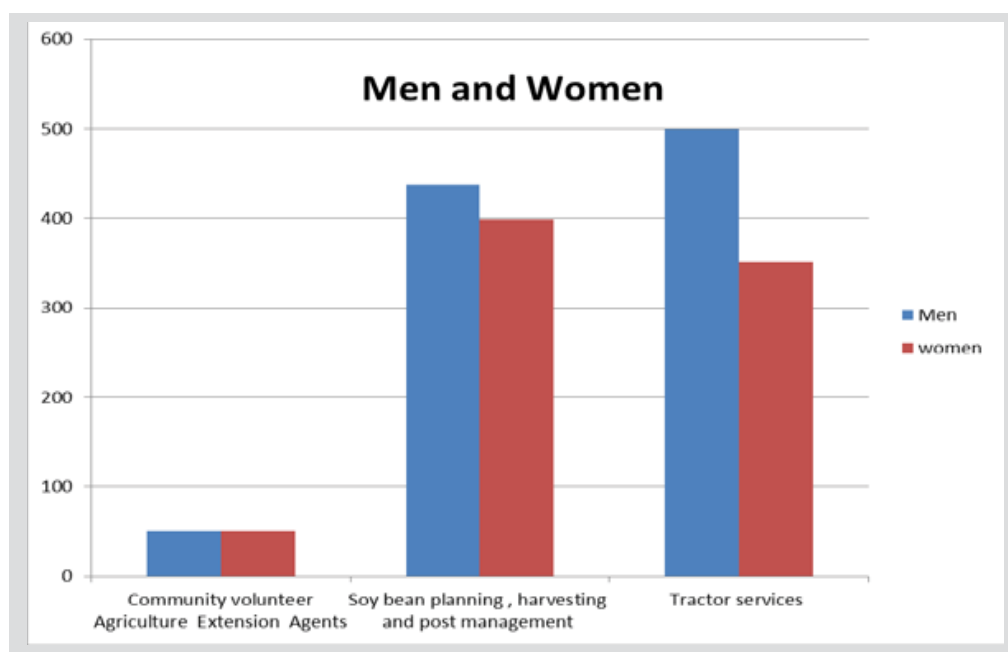


Figure 6: Men and women beneficiaries of FOSTERING

4.1.2 Nutrition and Home Processing

This component trained 30 women and 62 men and established them as Community Health and Nutrition Agents (CHNAs). Their training covered: soya bean utilization, fortification, food poisoning, preservation, storage and hygiene.

4.1.3 Gender and Cooperative Development

Under this component, 52 family based farmer co-operatives were mobilised to champion gender equality promotion in their communities. Three hundred and ninety two (392) women learner volunteers who are leaders in the co-operatives were organised to be trained by non-formal education facilitators. As seen in figure 7 the Rural Commercial Women was revived with membership of 445 women.

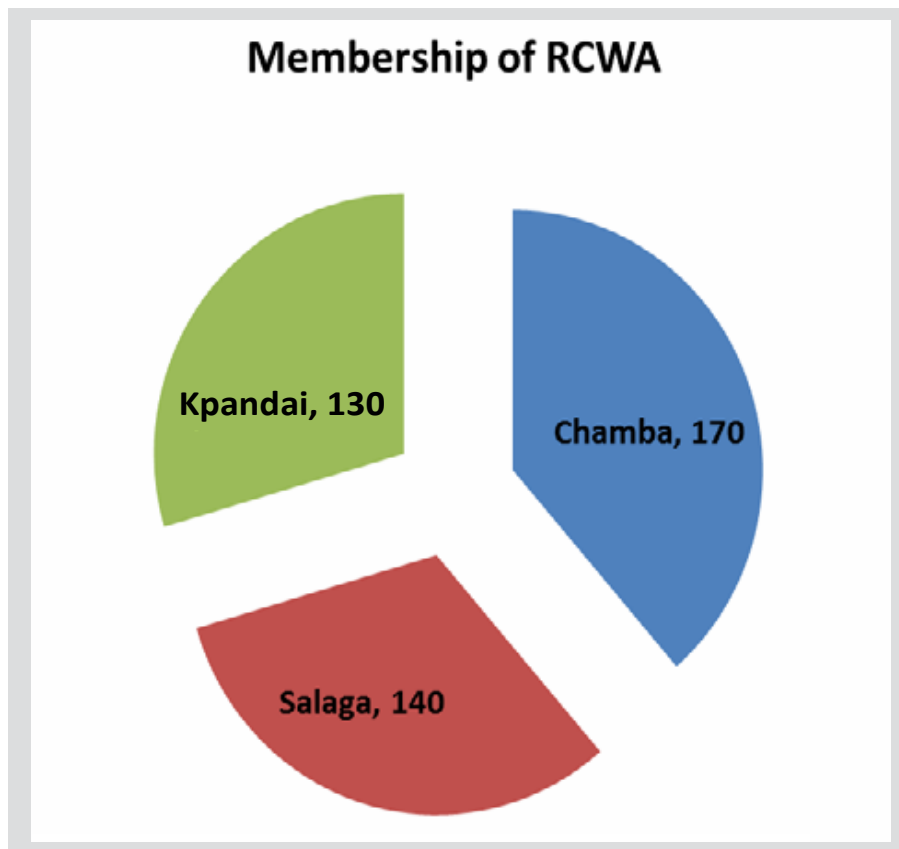


Figure 7: Membership of the RCWA

4.1.4 Peace Building

In collaboration with the Ghana Police, 96 peace animators were trained to support the assemblies and traditional authorities to prevent conflicts in the 8 operational districts of FOSTERING.

4.2 Woodlot Project

This project is promoting climate change resilience farming practices by enabling community based women groups to establish and maintain commercial woodlots. Four thousands (4000) assorted seedlings of Cassia, Albizia, Luciana, Mango, Teek and Mahogany were produced by 174 women at nurseries in Kalande, Biyuundo and Mbowura. Three (3) new woodlots in Kuwani, Sabonjida and Nkanchana No.1 supplied with over 2000 seedlings of Cassia sp, Teek, Luciana and Albizia for nursery and planting.

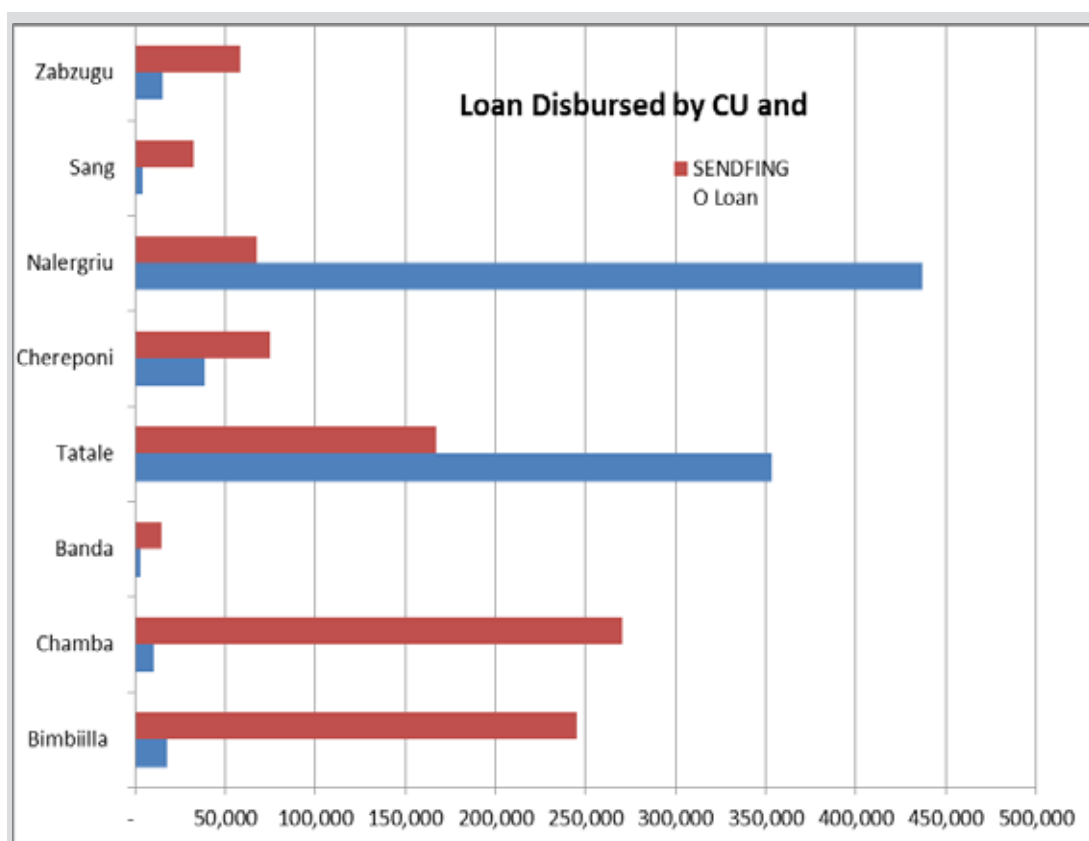
One hundred and seventy four (174) women supported by 6 men have been trained to manage the seedlings and nurseries.



Promoting good governance through constructive engagement

5.0 SEND Financial NGO

SENDiNGO is an independent financial NGO and a subsidiary of SEND West Africa. It specialized in the provision of micro credit and related services to rural commercial women operating micro enterprises in Northern Region. Overall performance of SENDiNGO is summarised in Figure 8. In partnership with 9 community based credit unions, it reached 11,616 clients with approximately GHC 1,810,610 micro loans. Ninety seven (97%) and 3 % of the loans were granted to women traders and farmers respectively. Three hundred and fifty four (354) women graduated from micro finance (below-200GHC) to credit union loans.



Figures 8: Beneficiaries of SENDiNGO

6.0 Administrative and Financial Highlights

SEND GHANA was financed by 15 donors. These donors include the World Bank (WB), TrustAfrica, European Union (EU), Canada Co-operatives Association (CCA), Southern African Trust, CORDAID, Christian Aid, International Fertiliser Development Corporation (IFDC), IBIS, Oxfam, International Budget Partnership (IBP), Care International, New Venture Fund, USAID and Hivos.

Income & Expenditure Account

Income & Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31st December, 2014

	2014 (GHS)
Income	6,038,202
Less: Expenses	
Administrative & General	1,207,024
Field Expenses	3,489,918
Financial	93,095
	4,790,036
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,248,166

Accumulated Fund For the Year Ended 31st December, 2014

	2014 (GHS)
Balance at January 1	1,125,922
prior year adjustment	-
Excess of income over expenditure	1,248,166
Less:	
Refund of donation	-
Balance at December 31	2,374,088

Balance Sheet As at 31st December, 2014

	2014 (GHS)
Fixed Assets	1,133,546
Investments	-
	1,133,546
Current Assets	
Cash at bank/on hand	1,190,736
Debtors & Prepayment	209,524
	1,400,260
Less: Current Liabilities	
Creditors & Accruals	159,719
Net Current Assets	1,240,542
Net Assets	2,374,088
Represented by:	
Accumulated Fund	2,374,088

7.0 Outlook for 2015

In 2015 SEND GHANA priorities will include mainstreaming Downward Accountability, strengthening monitoring and evaluation and improving communication of programme results to partners and stakeholders. Fund raising will be a major preoccupation of senior management. The purpose will be to secure adequate financial resources to cover the life span of the strategic plan.



Women excited about planting trees to reduce climate change

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