



CRS | Ghana

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

WORKING TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS

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FOREWORD

while preserving the dignity of all. We continue to challenge ourselves to support the capacity strengthening of local actors. Thus, putting the power to transform their lives in their own hands.

Through the generosity of our donor partners and CRS' internal funds, we invested more than \$7 Million, in the 2022 financial year, with 90 percent of this going directly into supporting our priority and emerging program areas. Our proudest project, ACERS, advances our model of sustainability by engaging government and local communities to make significant strides in advancing healthcare delivery systems at the levels of the CHPS and sub-district to advance maternal and child health in rural communities. Through the establishment of two Rural Emergency Dispatch Centers, CRS Ghana collaborated with local actors and the National Ambulance Service to refer 346 emergency cases and thus averted possible negative outcomes including deaths. The REST4D project also trained stakeholders in Rural Emergency Medical Services, tele-mentoring, and repositioning Traditional Birth Attendants as link providers. The project districts were awarded \$40,000 in cash support to address logistical challenges and procure basic medical supplies and commodities for health facilities.

The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sector had the most investment, closely followed by the health sector. The ICOWASH project constructed 2,360 improved pit latrines, 260 resilient latrines, 3,391 handwashing stations, and 4,060 functional soak-away pits, contributing to the certification of 49 communities as Open Defecation-Free and two as sanitized, serving about 18,600 people with basic sanitation services. The project also constructed 22 boreholes, two Limited Mechanized Water Systems, 38 institutional latrines, 6 medical incinerators, and 8 bathrooms to provide safely managed water and sanitation services to 84,065 people.

The global economic downturn and unfavorable local conditions impacted the implementation of interventions within the period, but nonetheless, the dedication from our resilient team and partners was timely in showing resilience and results. I invite you to read more about our work in Ghana and thank you for your partnership and interest in CRS Ghana.

Daniel Mamani

Country Representative,
CRS Ghana

This year CRS Ghana is 65 years old. Sixty-five is a lifetime for many but we are just warming up and inspired by our mission to deliver lifesaving interventions in service of the poor and vulnerable, to whom we remain committed. Our journey over the last six and half decades is aptly summarized in our slogan Faith, Action, Result. As Helen Keller said, "Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into light." Regardless of race, creed, or gender, we have journeyed with the government and people of Ghana since independence through different phases of socio-economic development. We look back at our history with pride and accomplishment, having contributed to Ghana's human capital development through our novel and integrated programs like school meals, food security, and education programming which were implemented until the early 2000s. However, what is of greater significance is how some of these programs have been adopted by the Government of Ghana – the Ghana School Feeding Program being a shining example. Today, millions of school children receive daily meals funded by the state. I hardly walk into an office without hearing testimony of CRS' impact on people's lives. At 65, we remain bold but humbled by these testimonies.

In alignment with our agency's vision and our dedication to strengthening local leadership, we increasingly partnered with local stakeholders; particularly the local church, local communities, civil society organizations, and government at all levels to achieve our vision of catalyzing transformational change at scale to build a more just, equitable and prosperous country. This has, in part, contributed to ensuring that we have improved the quality of our interventions with better prospects for sustainability and scaling up. We sought to deliberately identify and support these partners to effectively deliver their mandate to the people, and to achieve greater impact

ACRONYMS

ACERS	ACUTE CARE AND EMERGENCY REFERRAL SYSTEMS
AGRA	ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA
AGYW	ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN
APIMA	ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS IN WEST AFRICA
CHPS	COMMUNITY HEALTH PLANNING AND SERVICES
CLTS	COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION
CRS	CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
CWIS	CITY-WIDE INCLUSIVE SANITATION
DAES	DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES
DDO	DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
EMONC	EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC AND NEWBORN CARE
GES	GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE
GESSIP	GHANA EXTENSION SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING PROJECT
GHS	GHANA HEALTH SERVICE
ICOWASH	INTEGRATED COMMUNITY WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE
IMBC	INTEGRATED MOTHERS AND BABIES COURSE
I-WANG	IMPROVING WATER IN NORTHERN GHANA
MHM	MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT
MMDA	METROPOLITAN, MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
MNH	MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH
MOFA	MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
MOH	MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REST4D	RURAL EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICE AND TRANSPORT FOR SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT
RIPS	REGIONAL INSTITUTION FOR POPULATION STUDIES
RRR	RISING FROM RESILIENT ROOTS
SANMARK	SANITATION MARKETING
SBC	SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE
SILC	SAVINGS AND INTERNAL LENDING COMMUNITY
SPI	SAHEL PEACE INITIATIVE
USAID	UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASH	WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

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LEFT: Sean Callahan, CEO of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and **RIGHT:** H.E. Nana Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana

WHO WE ARE

HISTORY OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IN GHANA

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops founded Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in 1943 to assist poor and vulnerable people through acts of charity and the pursuit of justice. Since then, the agency, previously known as the War Relief Service, has evolved into an international humanitarian organization with over 8,000 staff working in over 100 countries and serving more than 100 million people annually.

CRS' relief and development work are accomplished through programs of emergency response, health, agriculture, water, education, microfinance, peacebuilding, and partnerships. CRS places an emphasis on accompanying local institutions in achieving their ambitions to be effective, dynamic, and catalysts of change for the people and communities they serve. We believe by investing in people and strengthening local institutions, we support their ability to lead their own development, increase the impact of their programs and services, and produce sustainable solutions.

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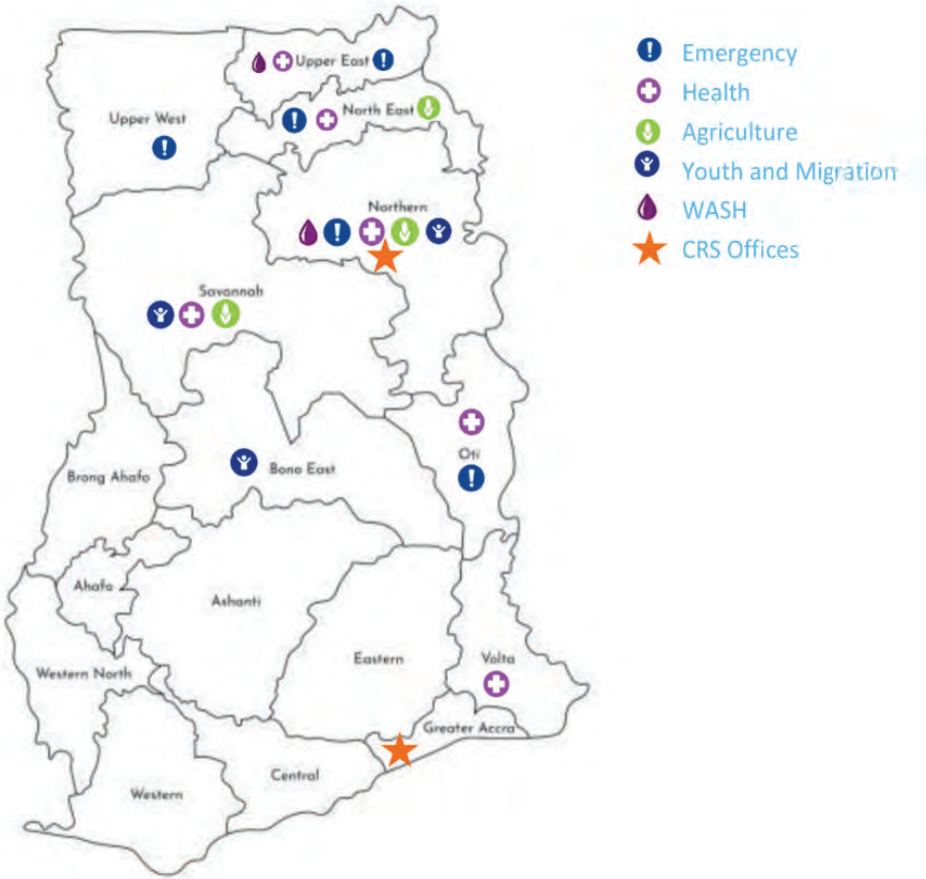
School Children in Bolgatanga eating a hot meal provided by CRS in 2002, through the first school feeding program in Ghana.

Photo Credit: Sean Sprague/ CRS.

CRS operates primarily in the northern regions of Ghana, where development disparities are most prevalent. However, our strength and ability to quickly mobilize ensures that we are able to cover operationally across the entire country within a very limited time.

The country program has offices in Accra and Tamale.

WHERE WE WORK



OVERVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS

This section outlines the Country Program's portfolios and accompanying projects and interventions which were implemented in the 2022 fiscal year in different program areas across regions, districts, and communities to bring development interventions and innovative solutions to the most in-need populations in Ghana. The report also outlines key results and achievements observed within the period of reporting.

In line with the global CRS vision and the Government of Ghana's "Ghana Beyond Aid" priorities, the Ghana Country Program is currently focused on delivering results in the following program priority and emerging areas:



Agriculture



WASH



Health



Youth & Peacebuilding



Care Reform



Emergency Response



Climate Change



Private Sector Engagement

OUR HEALTH PORTFOLIO

CRS is committed to improving maternal, child, and newborn health and contributing to Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

Despite efforts by the Government of Ghana and local actors to achieve these goals, the country still faces high maternal and neonatal mortality rates due to the three delays:

1. Delay in making timely decisions to seek care
2. Delay in reaching service delivery points, and
3. Delay in receiving quality of care.

To address the challenges outlined above, CRS is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, National Ambulance Service at the national and decentralized levels and communities through the USAID funded Acute Care and Emergency Referral System (ACERS) and the Helmsley Charitable Trust funded Rural Emergency Health Service and Transport for Development (REST4D) projects.



DEVELOPING ACUTE CARE AND EMERGENCY REFERRAL SYSTEMS (ACERS) PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The \$5.1 million USAID funded Developing Acute Care and Emergency Referral Systems (ACERS) project commenced in 2018 and now in its final year of implementation. This initiative is focused on improving maternal, child and newborn health by strengthening the health system to deliver quality and timely care. ACERS addresses the three delays in health care by implementing key strategies, including Demand Generation, Referral Transport and Dispatch Coordination (RETDIC), and quality of maternal, child and newborn health care.

CRS through the implementation of the ACERS project has contributed to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality rates in Ghana especially in the project districts. CRS is proud to have supported the improvement of maternal, child and newborn health care, increased access to health care, reduced maternal and neonatal mortality rates, and improved health outcomes for mothers and newborns, and remains committed to improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations.



KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Mobilized and sensitized over 98,000 community members and 4,956 pregnant women from 100 rural communities on maternal, child and newborn health issues as part of the demand generation strategy.
2. Increased knowledge on the need to seek timely care and identify danger signs in pregnancy, delivery, and newborn periods as a result, antenatal care coverage increased from 93 percent to 96 percent; facility deliveries increased from 47 percent to 73 percent, and postnatal care increased from 56 percent to 83 percent.
3. Maternal knowledge on danger signs in pregnancy also increased (24 percent to 31 percent) and in neonates (30 percent to 46 percent).
4. Integrated 74 community-based and 10 facility-based pregnancy and post-pregnancy schools into the healthcare delivery system at the sub-district and CHPS compound.
5. The Referral Transport and Dispatch Coordination Centre (RETDICCS) strategy introduced 22 community-managed Modified Motor-tricycle Ambulances (MMAs), formed/ activated Community Emergency Transport Committees (CETS), established two Municipal Emergency Referral Transport Committees (MERTS) and installed two Emergency Dispatch Coordination Centers in Gushegu and Nkwanta South. Since the launch of the strategy in November 2022, 346 emergency cases have been successfully referred and thus averted possible negative outcomes of these cases, including deaths.
6. The proportion of women who recently delivered and utilized the emergency transport service improved from 0.35 percent to 54 percent in Gushegu and 1.32 percent to 44 percent in Nkwanta South. The RETDIC demonstrated excellence in enabling continuous and integrated referral support by addressing the second delay (delay in reaching health facilities).
7. Deployed an innovative package of Quality Improvement interventions, including virtual mentoring/coaching, facilitative supportive supervision for routine performance indicator assessment, low-dose high-frequency training on competencies, and deploying virtual methodologies for on-demand guidance and referral feedback through social media platforms such as WhatsApp.
8. Improved capacity building for 52 health staff drawn from 13 CHPS compounds, 1 health Centre and 3 municipal hospitals across Gushegu and Nkwanta South municipalities within the following Quality Improvement domains: care quality, client experience, and health facility readiness, through distribution of equipment across intervention areas.
9. Due to this intervention, the proportion of pregnant women who recently delivered and reported respectful maternity care increased from 32.39 percent to 72 percent in Gushegu and 23.16 percent to 82 percent in Nkwanta South.



RURAL EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICE AND TRANSPORT FOR SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT (REST4D)

BACKGROUND

The Rural Emergency Health Services and Transport for Systems Development (REST4D) Project is a three-year program (August 2020-July 2023) with an overall objective to improve maternal and child health outcomes in northern Ghana.

REST4D focuses on the replication of CRS' maternal and child health best practices, health systems development, and capacity building to promote timely health care-seeking behaviors and effective referrals. These are meant to improve maternal and child health outcomes in the most marginalized rural communities in the Upper East, Savanna, North-East, and Northern regions of Ghana.

The project objectives are to ensure:

1. Maternal, child, and newborn services within the CHPS program are improved.
2. Strengthening of the decentralized health system
3. Integration of successful REST4D strategies into the national CHPS policy and guidelines.

The REST4D project is deploying key technical interventions such as maternal and newborn care, tele mentoring and consultation, integrated mothers' and babies' course (iMBC), and health commodity and supply chain management. The Project continued in its second year to improve maternal and child health outcomes across 10 districts in northern Ghana.



KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Conducted a five-day planning and implementation meeting with 82 partners and stakeholders to review progress, challenges, and lessons learned, and to draft a detailed implementation plan for the second year.
2. Trained 110 health staff on quality improvement of health service delivery at the CHPS level and equipping them with knowledge and skills in WASH and infection prevention and control.
3. Screened and downsized 200 iMBC groups to 100 to improve the management of group sessions and ensure the quality and fidelity of the curriculum.
4. Provided iMBC training for 200 Lead Mothers and 50 Health Staff across the 10 project districts.
5. Conducted a comprehensive assessment of all CHPS compounds in 10 project districts to identify operational and systemic gaps that impact service delivery.
6. Facilitating a three-day meeting for CHPS stakeholders to reflect on the gaps identified in the assessment and to brief stakeholders on the policy and their roles in supporting effective implementation. This has helped to improve CHPS functionality in REST4D project-supported districts.
7. Conducted training for Councils of Champions, Community Health Volunteers, and Community Health Management Committees on the CHPS Excellence Model and Community Voice for Action. These trainings were conducted to empower community voice for action to advocate for CHPS excellence. This is a significant milestone in CHPS implementation.
8. Awarded \$40,000 cash support to implementing districts to address logistical challenges and procure basic medical supplies and commodities for health facilities.
9. Renovated and handed over seven (7) district medical stores to GHS to develop a robust and sustainable Health Commodities Supply-chain Management system. Trained sub-district staff and community-based agents and organized feedback sessions on Tele-mentoring and Mentor & Coaches strategies for effective implementation.

These activities have contributed to improved capacity building for the health system and staff in target locations. The investments are expected to strengthen and sustain the best strategies of the REST4D project.



OUR WASH PORTFOLIO

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) remains one of the key programming areas of CRS with a focus on addressing identified needs in Northern Ghana and parts of the Bono Region. CRS continues to work with national, regional, and district-level partners in its WASH programming.

In 2022, CRS continued with monitoring of implementation and provision of technical assistance, including local capacity building geared towards positioning government departments to deliver on their mandate. The WASH program also intensified collaboration and partnerships with government departments and private sector for WASH service chain enhancement and sustainability of service delivery.

In 2022 alone, over 108,035 citizens, including school pupils and health staff have been reached by the WASH program through capacity building, sensitization and access to safe water, latrines, and hygiene facilities. The WASH team continues to adapt its programming due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its changing nature to become sensitive to necessary prevention and responses.



INTEGRATED COMMUNITY WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT (ICOWASH 2.0) PROJECT

The ICOWASH 2.0 project is a three-year project with a total budget of \$6,646,511, funded by the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. It is a follow-on project to the Integrated Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition for Education (I-SHINE) and ICOWASH 1.0 projects. The project aims to improve the health and well-being of communities in northern Ghana through the expansion of water and sanitation services, improvement of WASH service chains and private sector participation, and facilitating the engagement of national and sub-national actors. This will improve understanding, acceptance, and scale-up of ICOWASH best practices, innovations, documentation, and knowledge management.

The project is being implemented in the Talensi and Mamprugu - Moagduri Districts and West Mamprusi Municipality.



KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. ICOWASH constructed 22 boreholes fitted with hand pumps, 2 Limited Mechanized Water Systems, 38 institutional latrines, 6 medical incinerators, and 8 bathrooms to provide safely managed water and sanitation services to 84,065 people.
2. Through the implementation of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Sanitation Marketing (SanMark) activities, 245 community volunteers were trained as sanitation champions across 91 communities resulting in the construction of 2,360 traditional pit latrines, 260 resilient SanMark latrines, 3,391 handwashing stations and 4,060 functional soak-away pits. These initiatives contributed to the certification of 49 communities as open defecation-free (ODF) communities and serving about 18,600 people with basic sanitation services.
3. During the year, the project also fabricated and deployed three mobile sales-vans to facilitate sanitation marketing activities in the communities and at market centers. The innovation contributed greatly to the construction of the 260 SanMark latrines reported above.
4. The proliferation of sanitation infrastructure in CLTS communities coupled with the implementation of behavior change interventions have resulted in the certification of additional 49 communities as Open Defecation-Free (ODF) communities and four communities as sanitized.
5. The project collaborated with Amplio Ghana to deploy 100 Amplio talking books pre-loaded with SILC operating procedures, recorded in their local languages to enhance SILC operations. About 2,000 people reached
6. Through CRS' national level engagements, 10 ICOWASH project indicators were adopted and integrated into the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement (WASHFIT) tool and the District Health Information Management System (DHIMS II). The WASHFIT is a risk-based, quality improvement tool that was initiated by WHO for healthcare facilities, covering key aspects of WASH services; environmental cleaning; healthcare waste management; and selected aspects of energy, building, and facility management. CRS, UNICEF, and other partners supported the Ghana Health Service to review, contextualize and update the indicators in the tool to aid routine assessment of healthcare facilities nationwide.
7. Over 70 percent of households across project communities, 80 percent of schools, and 90 percent of healthcare facilities are sustainably managing WASH infrastructure. This achievement is a result of CRS' implementation of WASH activities and the regular monitoring and technical support to schools and healthcare facilities by GES staff and District Health Management Teams (DHMTs). WASH planning has improved significantly as 89 percent of schools in intervention areas have updated WASH plans and implemented many activities to accelerate WASH implementation in schools.
8. The training of Menstrual Hygiene mentors and the heightened campaign in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities have resulted in improved knowledge, with 85 percent of school children able to describe the actions to take during menstruation at school, and 99 percent using appropriate sanitary pads during menstruation.



IMPROVING WATER IN NORTHERN GHANA (IWANG) PROJECT

BACKGROUND

Improving Water Access in Northern Ghana (IWANG) is a rolling project with funding from Water Access Now (WAN). The project focuses on improving safe water access in communities, health facilities, and schools, particularly in areas where other CRS Programs are being implemented to ensure integration that brings more impactful results. In 2022, the project collaborated with Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs), Ghana Health Service (GES), and Ghana Education Service (GES), in Saboba, Bunkpurugu, Yunyoo, Asunafo South, Builsa South, and Mamprugu – Moaduri districts, to expand water access to an estimated population of 23,970 people, at a cost of \$240,000.

The water facilities have been particularly useful in facilitating the delivery of quality healthcare to institutions like health centers.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. The project has constructed 19 boreholes, with seven fully installed with handpumps and the remaining 12 at various stages of completion.
2. The project also constructed two Solar powered Limited Mechanized Water Systems, serving an estimated population of 5,968 people in two healthcare facilities and other nearby households.
3. A total of 72 people, 36 males, and 36 females have been trained as Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMT) to support the operation and maintenance of the water facilities in communities.



URBAN WASH AND RESILIENCE PROJECT

BACKGROUND

CRS Ghana has been implementing the Urban WASH and Resilience project for the past 4 years to address water security and sanitation challenges. This project is expected to improve the resilience, health, and well-being of children and adults in the Greater Tamale Area of the northern region. The project is funded through CRS internally generated funds and jointly implemented by CRS and the Government of Ghana through its ministries and decentralized agencies including the Tamale Metropolitan and Sagnarigu Municipal Assemblies, Ghana Water Company Limited, Water Resources Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, among others.

This initiative focuses on three thematic areas:

1. Water Security
2. Enhance WASH service delivery and
3. Facilitate the construction of household latrines.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, the project took major steps towards the establishment of the Tamale Water Fund, a funding mechanism that seeks to unite multiple stakeholders around the goal of addressing water security through improved watershed management in the Nawuni Sub-Catchment.

A business case analysis for the establishment of the Tamale Water Fund has also been Completed. The findings of the business case have been shared with project partners to generate a better understanding and facilitate acceptance and support from the sector stakeholders.

The project has also supported the development and promotion of City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) plans for Tamale Metropolis and Sagnarigu Municipality. The plans are also being used as marketing tools to attract funding and technical support for safely managed sanitation. The CWIS plans have been extensively marketed at the global, national, and regional levels.



OUR AGRICULTURE, LIVELIHOODS & LANDSCAPE PORTFOLIO

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), agriculture contributes to 54 percent of Ghana's GDP, accounting for over 40 percent of export earnings, while at the same time providing over 90 percent of the food needs of the country.

The Agricultural sector contributes about one-fifth to Ghana's GDP whilst providing employment to around 30 percent of the labor force in 2021 (Statista, 2023). Notwithstanding its contribution to the GDP, the sector remains vulnerable to climate change impacts while also contributing significantly to Ghana's Green House Gas emissions (Close to 50percent).

This sector therefore remains a priority for CRS where the organization has a goal for ensuring that all people achieve a dignified and resilient livelihood in sustainable and striving landscapes. Through our Agricultural and Landscape portfolio, we work to address food insecurity by bolstering farmer capacity, promoting access to extension services, facilitating input and output linkages, reversing land degradation, increasing climate awareness, resilience, and strengthening local and regional policies.

Ghana's geographic position is in one of the world's most complex climatic regions affected by both weather from the Sahel and Atlantic Ocean as well as tropical storms. This threatens livelihoods across the country, creating a variety of needs that must be addressed.



ENHANCING REGREENING THROUGH LIVELIHOODS (ENHANCE) PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The ENHANCE project is being implemented by CRS in the West Gonja and West Mamprusi Municipalities. ENHANCE sought to scale up best greening practices tested during the implementation of the Regreening Africa project. ENHANCE was rolled out in twenty (20) communities across the two project municipalities. Overall, ENHANCE reached out to 1,750 direct participants and 5,800 indirect participants. The project achieved the following results.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Facilitated restoration of 1,038.35 hectares of degraded land in twenty (20) participating communities across target districts by December 2022. This was achieved through the establishment of 8 community nurseries and 20 communal Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) hubs used as community resource centers.
2. Capacity building and refresher training on greening practices and technologies which enhanced the knowledge of 28 Agriculture Extension Agents (AEAs), 230 lead farmers, 20 traditional leaders, and 8 church partners, including local NGO representatives in tree planting, FMNR, conservation agriculture, shea grafting, nursery establishment, and management, etc.
3. Introduced energy-saving cookstoves in ten (10) communities each in the West Mamprusi and West Gonja Municipality.
4. Constructed 200 energy-saving cookstoves with 100 pieces in each targeted district. Data from an impact assessment and a video documentary of the energy-saving cookstoves showed that the energy-saving cookstove requires three times less firewood as compared to the three-stone open fire. Furthermore, the energy-saving cookstoves have reduced the cooking time by at least an hour. This has contributed to a reduction of the fuelwood used for cooking by households.
5. Beekeeping training support for eight Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) groups. Forty (40) beehives were established in 2022 and 100 percent colonized across 4 project communities in West Mamprusi and West Gonja Municipalities.



GHANA PRIVATE AGRICULTURE SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK (GPN) PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The GPN project is a 3-year fully funded initiative by CRS which is implemented in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Catholic Dioceses in six districts (West Mamprusi, East Mamprusi, West Gonja, Sawla-Tuna-Kalba, Saboba, and Chereponi). GPN seeks to provide smallholder farmers with access to agricultural information and facilitate input and output markets, and financial products and services through a sustainable Private Agriculture Service Providers (PASP) approach. GPN builds on the successes and learnings from the Ghana Extension Systems Strengthening Project (GESSiP) and I-SEARCH projects, which built Community Based Advisors (CBA) and PSP quantity and capacity.

These two projects identified a gap between the CBAs' awareness of SILC and PSPs' lack of awareness of extension services, and limited access to other critical agricultural services in the Last Mile. GPN, therefore, works to bridge this gap by fostering awareness around the roles and capacities of CBAs and PSPs between each group, along with key gender sensitization, financial service linkages, business skills training as well as access to inputs and markets. Overall, GPN has reached 5,248 smallholder farmers and 90 PASPs with the following results.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Formed 201 SILC groups that are actively saving.
2. Through GESSiP, 5,220 farmers across 6 districts have access to and are using financial services.
3. Trained 90 PASPs (60 CBAs, 30 SILC PSPs, and 5,248 smallholder farmers) in 6 districts on Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA).
4. Trained 90 PASPs (60 CBAs and 30 SILC PSPs) on integrating gender into PASP services.
5. Formed 6 districts, 3 regional, and 1 national level PASP networks with active governance structures.
6. PASP networks have increased the potential to purchase in bulk, negotiate better prices with suppliers and created access to funding opportunities.
7. Commissions worth GHS 10,000 have been received by PASP for service delivered in 2022.
8. 3,102 Smallholder farmers trained in Good Agronomic Practices by PASPs.
9. Smallholder farmers have improved access to market. So far, 25,000 metric tons of produce have been aggregated directly from smallholder farmers by PASPs.
10. Facilitated linkages to agro-dealers for PASPs. By the end of 2022, 34 agro-dealers had been profiled and five agro-dealers delivering services to PASPs.



REGREENING AFRICA

BACKGROUND

The Regreening Africa Ghana country consortium is made up of World Vision Ghana (WVG), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), and CRS. The main objective of the project is to reach 40,000 households to bring a total of 90,000 hectares of degraded land under restoration across the project districts of Mion, Bawku West, Garu, and Tempene in the Northern and Upper East regions.

The project successfully strategized and exceeded this target within the period. CRS was expected to end the project implementation technically in the fourth year (2017 - 2021), However, an additional year was granted to close the project in the fifth year ending September 2022. This was due to the quality of the project implementation, significant achievement of targets and introduction of sustainable innovations.

Subsequently, an additional no-cost extension of six months, from September 2022 to February 2023, was granted by the donor. This extension provided the opportunity to secure additional funds for the scale-up of interventions and to strengthen sustainability measures for a long-term benefit to the project participants.

CRS implemented the project in the Mion District of Northern Region while World Vision was responsible for it in the Upper East Region districts.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. CRS utilized Project lessons from the Regreening Africa project to design the ENHANCE Project that scaled up the adoption of best regreening practices.
2. Overall, the project reached 19,721 (6,766 men, 10,405 women, and 2,550 youth) participants through various programming activities.
3. Evergreen Agricultural practices adopted by 19,725 farm households over an area of 27,724 hectares in the Mion District.



DIGITAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROJECT

BACKGROUND

A consortium comprising CRS, Farmerline, and The Hunger Project is implementing the USAID funded “Building Smallholder Farmer Resilience to Mitigate the Secondary Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic Through Digital Agricultural Extension,” also known as the “Digital Agriculture Extension” project. This intervention is contributing to effectively linking 100,000 smallholder farmers to input and output market actors in 15 districts in the North-East, Northern, and Savannah regions of Ghana.

The project builds on the successes of GESSiP, a project which contributed to increasing the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers in 29 districts of the North-East, Northern, Savannah, Bono, and Bono East Regions of Ghana. The deployment of ICT in the agriculture sector is crucial to the growth and sustainability of the sector, more so, with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The digital profiling of farmers will strengthen and improve the farmer input-market and output-market chains from pre-production through to post-production and throughout the entire value chain. Digital classroom systems were deployed together with audio-visual content to the District Departments of Agriculture to help strengthen agriculture extension.

As part of measures to further strengthen the digital component of agriculture extension and to build a robust database, the Digital Extension Project was designed to provide digital technologies like smart mobile phones to AEAs and Community-Based Advisors (CBAs) to digitally profile farmers.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. In the 2022 fiscal year, the project trained 491 extension agents, comprising 400 CBAs and 91 AEAs), on the use of MERGDATA app for digital farmer profiling.
2. CBAs have commenced the digital profiling of 100,000 farmers onto MERGDATA for further engagement and to build a robust database.

DIGITAL EXTENSION PROJECT

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OUR YOUTH AND PEACEBUILDING PORTFOLIO

Ghana is renowned throughout the West African Sub-Region as a beacon of democracy and peace. Despite intense tensions over the close results of several elections, Ghana has experienced a peaceful handover of power between political parties since its return to democratic rule in 1992. The high level of social cohesion, strong intercultural interaction, tolerance, and acceptance is being threatened in recent times by activities of violent extremists as evidenced by an escalation of unrest in the Sahel region of West Africa. The influx of refugees fleeing the instability in the neighboring countries, as well as internal ethnic conflicts, tensions between farmers and herders also known as agro-pastoralist conflicts, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs), among other factors, are fueling inter-ethnic hostility and ultimately violent extremism.

While known to be a steadily growing middle-income economy with low political turbulence, Ghana's youthful population is faced with serious issues of unemployment and underemployment. A situation that could potentially be exploited by the volatile security situation from the Sahel to the borders of the country.

A 2016 World Bank report titled "Landscape of Jobs in Ghana" found that 48% of youth between 15-24 years old are unemployed. Due to high levels of unemployment, climate change, and social pressure, many of the country's youth believe that they have no choice but to leave their communities for the big cities or seek greener pastures outside



SAHEL PEACE INITIATIVE (SPI) 2.0

BACKGROUND

The Sahel Peace Initiative (SPI) is led by the catholic church-and supported by CRS to address the rising security crisis in West Africa's Sahel region. The purpose of SPI is to reduce the incidence of violence by identifying and addressing the root causes of the crisis with the goal of ensuring improved levels of peace, social cohesion, and resilience for communities in the Sahel. SPI in Ghana is focused on providing a comprehensive community-based service in collaboration with the local church. The project has chalked several milestones in line with the goal and strategic objectives of the project.



The strategic objectives of SPI are to aid the youth to increasingly contribute to the local economy strengthen local community support systems and promote peaceful coexistence among competing tribal groups. A total of 2,891 participants comprising 1,126 females and 1,765 males were reached in FY22 alone. This was achieved through 68 events and activities organized under the initiative.

Activities such as peace fora, peace games, community service activities, a joint celebration of religious festivals as well as review meetings and training sessions brought together young people, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and community leaders from diverse government institutions, religious backgrounds, ethnic groups, and political affiliations.



KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Rosary Rally for Peace:** The Tamale Archdiocese organized sixty (60) youth to march through the main streets of Tamale to promote peace and social cohesion.
2. **Joint Festival Celebrations (Christmas and New Year):** 388 youth participated in joint festivities organized in the four northern Diocesan Youth Offices (Tamale, Damongo, Navrongo-Bolgatanga, and Wa). The aim was to promote peaceful coexistence by bringing together people of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.
3. **Trauma Resilience and Awareness Training (Rising from Resilient Roots):** CRS organized community-based training to help 151 individuals develop coping skills for building resilience to violent conflict and displacement. This was organized in the 5 Northern Dioceses.
4. **The Catholic Diocesan Youth Offices of the Yendi, Navrongo-Bolgatanga, and Damongo as well as the Archdiocesan youth office of Tamale** organized peace forums to holistically mitigate emerging risks from early warning signs in local communities. The peace forums brought together 853 participants from the various dioceses.
5. **Two-day capacity-building training workshop** was organized to train 41 youth leaders on the basic concepts of social cohesion and peacebuilding, conflict analysis, dialogue, mediation and leadership at the community level, gender mainstreaming, the role of youth in peacebuilding, religion, and peacebuilding during the pandemic.
6. **Peace games** were organized in all five dioceses to bring young people together and promote opportunities for networking among youth beyond the pitch. Approximately, 522 people participated in the peace games from the five dioceses.
7. **Iftar Celebration (Breaking of Muslim Fast) during Ramadan:** In solidarity with the Muslim communities, CRS supported the five dioceses to participate in Iftar celebrations (breaking of the Muslim fast) as Muslims marked the end of Ramadan.
8. **Technical and vocational skills Training in Conflict-prone Communities:** 165 youth were trained in building and construction, fashion and design, electrical engineering, wood construction technology, Information Communication Technology (ICT), catering, and solar installation. This was to equip the participants with skills to reduce unemployment.
9. **Deployment of Shelter Items to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocesan area:** CRS collaborated with the NABOCADO to support Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and provided shelter to two communities (Kandiga/Doba). A total of 75 households were supported with building materials to rebuild their homes.



ACTION RESEARCH ON INTERGENERATIONAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS PEACE-BUILDING (USIP) PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

CRS in partnership with the Center for Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies (CECOTAPS) and with funding from the United States Institute of Peace, implemented the Action Research on Intergenerational and Interreligious Peacebuilding (USIP) Project.

The aim of the project was to expand learning and improve practices whilst documenting key lessons learned on intergenerational and interreligious peacebuilding in Northern Ghana.

Through the Catholic Church, CRS conducted a literature review on past peacebuilding interventions in Northern Ghana. Sixty diverse respondents were sampled for key informant interviews, and 26 significant change stories were selected for reporting purposes. Focus group discussions were also organized in the five northern dioceses.

Sixty-four respondents, comprising religious and traditional leaders, diverse males, and youth, participated in the discussions. Religious leaders in the five dioceses were tasked with convening community members for peace fora and community service activities. This was to evaluate the ability of religious leaders and the community to mobilize diverse and conflicting groups for peacebuilding interventions.



Overall, these activities recorded an attendance of 278 participants, comprising 172 Christians, 82 Muslims, and 24 traditionalists. A total of 180 males and 98 females took part in the peace forums and community service.

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. Religious leaders maintain a high capacity to mobilize youth and communities for peacebuilding activities.
2. To meaningfully engage women and youth, religious leaders must partner with established traditional structures such as queen mothers and youth associations to co-lead activities while clearly separating their peacebuilding activities from evangelization activities.
3. All peacebuilding activities should seek to improve inclusion, partnerships, and economic resilience within communities to drive impact and engagement.

PROVIDING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR KAYAYEI PORTERS (KAYAPORT)

BACKGROUND

Catholic Relief Services' project - Providing Livelihood Opportunities and Support for Kayayei Porters (KAYAPORT) is a 2-year internally funded project (October 2021 to September 2023). This project is implemented through a partnership with the Navrongo Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Office (NABOCADO), Tamale Archdiocesan Development Office (TADO), and YEFL Ghana. KAYAPORT is adapted and leveraged from the successes, lessons, and best practices of the Youth Led Initiative for Employment (Youth LIFE 1.0 and 2.0) and the Action for the Protection and Integration of Migrants in West Africa (APIMA) projects in providing a holistic approach to addressing the socio-economic needs of female head porters (Kayayei) in Ghana.

The project aims to train 260 selected Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) between the ages of 15-25 in technical and vocational skills, psychosocial support services, professional skills development, and community reintegration to improve the well-being and economic empowerment in the West Mamprusi Municipality. The project achievements for FY22 are outlined below.



KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Capacity strengthening on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) for 120 project participants as part of activities to mark 16 days of activism against SGBV. The participants comprised of 80 returned Kayayei, 20 community leaders, and 21 peer leaders.
2. SMART Couple training for 200 couples to foster social acceptance of AGYW's livelihood support in West Mamprusi by promoting gender-equitable attitudes and norms regarding the role of girls and women in society.
3. Overall, 1,300 community members comprising 1,041 females and 259 males were engaged in the 10 project communities to contribute to reducing the pressure to migrate to cities in search of non-existent jobs. A total of 30 community discussion sessions were held.
4. 194 participants, comprising 136 females and 58 males, benefited from and shared experiences on good parenting during the Good Parenting Seminar.
5. 79 community members, comprising 19 males and 60 females, participated in the Family Reunification Day activity held in two communities with the aim of reuniting the returnee Kayayei with their families.
6. 260 returned female migrants screened and selected to benefit from skills training.
7. 34 private service providers were selected to provide skills training to participants in fashion and design, hairdressing, kente weaving, soap making, make-up and decoration, electricals, bead making, and tiling.
8. Orientation of 36 mentors to facilitate a 3-month mentoring and coaching of 260 AGYW, ahead of the start of the vocational skills training.
9. Facilitated a national stakeholder dialogue with the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection.



INVESTORS & PARTNERS EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT (IP2E)

BACKGROUND

CRS is the technical partner for social inclusion under the IP2E project. This partnership is led by Investors and Partners (I&P) with funding from the Mastercard Foundation (2021 - 2023). The overall goal of the project is to improve the employability of African youth. The role of CRS under this initiative is to promote social inclusion in the training programs of selected Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education institutions in Ghana, Senegal, and Cote D'Ivoire. In Ghana, CRS offered social inclusion support to three private educational institutions, Code Train, Open Labs, and Garden City University College. This support enabled the institutions to conduct equity assessments to diagnose their strengths and weakness in relation to inclusive training. CRS facilitated social inclusion action plan workshops with the institutions and supported them to prepare and implement action plans to improve the levels of inclusion across their institutions.



KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Through the CRS social inclusion support, the private institutions, who hitherto concentrated on increasing their student numbers or did not pay much attention to inclusion have implemented key inclusive strategies such as:

1. Development of inclusion, safeguarding, accessibility, and data protection policies.
2. Promotion of existing scholarships and introduction of need-based scholarships.
3. Designated female and disability-friendly washrooms.
4. Standardized female washrooms, provided mirrors, tissue, and sanitary pads.
5. Developed applications for student feedback on training content.
6. Introduced alumni and employer engagement sessions to improve training programs.

Overall, the project has raised awareness on the need for inclusion and all the institutions have committed to the use of inclusive language, videos, and audio in the delivery of their training programs. CRS continues to offer support through routine monitoring visits and engagements with institutions to ensure the implementation of their social inclusion action plans.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (SCORE-ECD) PROJECT

BACKGROUND

Early childhood development (ECD) is a crucial building block for a lifetime of education, good physical and mental health, and social well-being. The Nurturing Care Framework, which was adopted by the WHO, UNICEF, and the World Bank in 2018, highlights the importance of a stable environment created by parents and caregivers which ensures children's good health and nutrition, protects them from harm, and gives them opportunities for early learning through emotionally supportive and responsive interactions. Unfortunately, many children across the world do not receive the care and support they need within a nurturing family environment. Studies have found that more than two-thirds of children under the age of five in Sub-Saharan Africa are not on track to reach their cognitive and social-emotional development, which is higher than in any other region in the world (Black et al., 2016).

To address the above situation, CRS is collaborating with Catholic Sisters in Ghana, Zambia, Kenya, and Malawi to implement the "Strengthening the Capacity of Women Religious in Early Childhood Development (SCORE ECD III)" Project. The project which is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation seeks to build the capacities of Catholic sisters in four project countries to expand the provision of quality ECD services to caregivers. Now in its third phase (2021 - 2024), the SCORE ECD III project will engage 32 congregations and four National associations in the project countries and the Association of Consecrated Women in Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA) at the regional level with activities designed to increase their technical capacity in ECD, organizational sustainability, networking and learning around ECD.

The project is leveraging the presence and influence of the Catholic Sisters who have been playing key roles in reaching vulnerable and underserved groups through health, education, and family-focused service delivery in communities across Africa. In Ghana, CRS is collaborating with the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Ghana (CMSR-Gh) in the implementation of the SCORE ECD Project with total funding of \$1,319,184. The project is implemented in four regions of Ghana, spread across 10 political districts, three catholic Dioceses, and 30 communities. With a goal of Ensuring children, between 0 - 3 years old in the target areas live in nurturing environments by 2024. The project is employing four main and interlinked strategies, Early Childhood Development (ECD) curriculum, Integrated Mothers and Babies Course (IMBC), SILC, and Strengthening Marriages and Relationships Through Communication and Planning (SMART) couple strategy.



KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. In 2022, 20 Catholic sisters from seven sister congregations and 30 Community Health Volunteers (CHV) have been trained and are being mentored by CRS to implement activities based on the project strategies.
2. 30 catholic sisters from the seven congregations and executives from the CMSR-Gh have received orientation about the project and supported the development of concrete action plans for implementation.
3. In partnership with Municipal and District Assemblies, and Ghana Health Service (GHS), 30 communities were identified and sensitized, Subsequently, 30 community health volunteers coordinated project activities in their various communities.
4. The project trained 50 people in early childhood development curriculum, IMBC, SILC, and SMART couple strategy. They comprised 20 sisters and 30 community health volunteers.
5. Sisters and Community Health Volunteers (CHV) conducted step-down training for 185 lead mothers, 40 SMART couple facilitators, and 10 SILC field agents.
6. The sisters and volunteers conducted screening for over 1,000 mothers using the Edinburgh Postnatal depression Scale.
7. 4,302 participants were reached through 188 IMBC/ ECD community groups, 44 SMART couple groups, and 20 SILC groups.
8. Over 2000 children have benefitted from the community ECD play centers instituted by the project.
9. The project has provided 700 pictorial job aids to all community volunteers and sisters to facilitate their work, and for easy comprehension by community members.
10. A Holistic Capacity Assessment (HOCAl) was conducted in December 2022 to improve the institutional capacities of all seven sister congregations on the SCORE-ECD project, as well as that of the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Ghana, and an assessment on institutional strengths and gaps. A total of 20 sisters benefitted from this training.



OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PORTFOLIO



BURKINABE PERSONS OF CONCERN SUPPORT INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

Since 2018, the rise in terrorist-related attacks in major parts of Burkina Faso has pushed a growing number of Burkinabè to seek refuge in border towns of Ghana. On the night of July 11, 2022, attacks in the Berdeyali communities near the Ghana-Burkina Faso border resulted in a new wave of displaced persons seeking refuge in Bawku Municipal and the districts of Bawku- West and Binduri in Ghana's Upper East Region. According to situational reports from the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) offices, a total of 1,446 persons of concern, or approximately 380 households, from the town of Berdeyali in Burkina Faso, are being sheltered in six communities in these districts.

In response to this situation, CRS instituted a \$ 110,000 Burkinabe Persons of Concern Support Initiative to provide assistance in the form of food, non-food items, and cash to the Burkinabè conflict victims was funded by CRS discretionary funds to support the persons of concern who have taken refuge in the communities within these districts in Ghana.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. A rapid assessment was conducted by NABOCADO and supported by the three district offices of NADMO in August 2022 to gather adequate information on the number of displaced persons, population dynamics, and support required by the affected persons.
2. A critical sensitization and awareness creation on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) was successfully delivered to the 1,446 persons of concern.
3. A total of 380 households received the full food basket, based on WFP standards.
4. Non-food items such as bathing, laundry soap, and water jerrycans were provided to both persons of concern and host communities, with menstrual hygiene kits provided to targeted individuals.
5. Successful distribution of cash sums to 380 persons of concern households.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING



BACKGROUND

CRS is responsive to the specific needs and priorities of the most vulnerable and marginalized and therefore directs its programs to the individuals and groups with the greatest need of assistance, to meet their basic needs, uphold their dignity and enable them to achieve their full potential. Of highest priority are those within societies who are particularly vulnerable or marginalized.

CRS recognizes the specific needs, capacities, interests, and strategic priorities of women and men, boys and girls, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. CRS ensures their full participation and access to project activities and benefits. CRS uses the Gender Transformative Approach in program/ project design to promote improved equity, reduce women's time and energy burdens, increase land access for women, and facilitate equal access to assets and more equitable decision-making.

In 2021, CRS designed and implemented the Gender Equitable Masculinity (GEM) project to respond to and transform harmful gender norms and unequal power dynamics through the 'Journey towards a Peaceful Masculinity Approach'. A total of 215 men were directly engaged in the 9-month project, from community durbars, and radio discussions to positive masculinity training.

CRS' ANNUAL WOMEN'S ROUND TABLE EVENT

BACKGROUND

The Women's Round Table has been held yearly since 2019 for the female staff of CRS. This is part of the CP's efforts to promote gender equity by supporting and empowering women. The 2022 Women's Round Table took place in October, 2022 with the following objectives:

1. To give women a safe space to unwind
2. Bond over shared experiences, and
3. Learn from one another and experts in women's health and mental health.

This holistic event brought together female staff from the Tamale and Accra offices and field staff. The Women's Round Table was formed to advance CRS's commitment to ensuring that women are heard and supported individually and professionally.

KEY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. A guidance session on career growth and development was led by the Head of Programming. She highlighted and explained various means for self-growth and career development at CRS, such as mentorship, career courses, and being deliberate in creating a 5-year career plan.
2. Commemoration of the third anniversary of the Women's Round Table in the Ghana Country Program with a cake, breast and cervical cancer awareness and screening sessions facilitated by nurses from the breast health and oncology unit of the Tamale Teaching Hospital
3. Hands-on training in producing fabric earrings and beaded accessories.
4. Expert-led session on mental health awareness facilitated by TOLEC Ghana.
5. A yoga and meditation session.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

BACKGROUND

CRS Ghana continued to ensure gender is integrated in all programming and operation efforts through training and advocacy initiatives. As part of its advocacy efforts to end Gender and Intimate Partner Violence, CRS commemorated the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence which is observed from November 25 to December 10 each year. Staff created awareness via social media by sharing related messages and pictures. There were quizzes online to optimize the involvement of staff and partners.

To culminate this campaign on December 1, 2022, CRS Ghana collaborated with a Women based Civil Society organization known as Songtaba to engage over 100 young men and women in Walewale in the North-East Region of Ghana on the theme for the year's celebration which was "UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls,".

The Event brought together influential persons such as Chiefs, opinion leaders, and representatives of the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service and Municipal Assembly.

KEY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Strengthened capacity of community/ peer leaders to effectively report issues of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) for Redress.
2. Deepened participants' understanding of the concept of SGBV.
3. Created awareness of the 16 days of activism celebrated globally and the relevance of the commemoration.
4. Created awareness on the available support systems including psychosocial, legal, health, etc. for victims of SGBV.
5. Trained selected participants to develop positive attitudes to foster and build better relationships as women.
6. Stimulated discussions on experience sharing among participants.
7. Program participants including community leaders made commitments to end Gender-based violence by reporting perpetrators and stop stigmatizing victims.



ADVOCACY, INFLUENCE, AND PARTNERSHIPS



CEO OF CRS MEETS PRESIDENT OF GHANA

The President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Catholic Relief Services, Sean Callahan paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, at the Jubilee House in Accra during his visit to the country in July 2022. His Excellency in a welcome address expressed his gratitude to CRS on behalf of the Ghanaian people for the life-saving interventions and investments implemented over the past six decades targeting the vulnerable populations in Ghana.

The CEO in turn commended the President for his dedication to implementing development programs aimed at positioning Ghana on the path to prosperity. He also noted CRS Ghana's successful implementation of the School Feeding Program which targeted Northern Ghana for many years and has been taken over by the government. He therefore commended the Government of Ghana for adopting and scaling up the initiative which is still actively reaching about 3.4 million Ghanaian children across the country.

Sean Callahan further highlighted CRS' Rural Emergency Referral Systems initiative currently being implemented in Ghana's health sector, entreating the President to consider a possible adoption and scale-up to reach the unserved populations in rural Ghana. The President of Ghana indicated his administration's commitment to preserving the investments made by CRS over these past decades and to strengthen the relationship and partnership with CRS Ghana in transforming the lives of the Ghanaian people.



REVIEW OF THE RURAL SANITATION MODEL AND STRATEGY (RSMS)

The Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy (RSMS) for Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) & hygiene in Ghana was rolled out in 2011 to guide national and decentralized agencies and sector players in implementing improved sanitation and hygiene programs in rural Ghana. After 10 years of its implementation, the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR) with support from UNICEF commenced a review of the RSMS by engaging stakeholders from government, private sector, and NGOs.



Highlights of CRS' contribution to the review of the RSMS

1. CRS as part of its influencing efforts facilitated a field visit by a team of consultants leading the review of the strategy to CRS' intervention areas to gather implementation evidence and innovations to improve the strategy.
2. CRS also participated in virtual and in-person review meetings, and presented an overview of the WASH Program, highlighting key strategies in Sanitation marketing, SILC for sanitation financing, and some innovations.
3. CRS supported with the tools and processes (WASH-in-Schools and WASH-in-healthcare facilities certification tools) necessary to contribute to improved total sanitation.
4. CRS participated in technical and validation meetings during the review process. As a result, reports from the team of consultants highlighted CRS' Integrated Community WASH (ICOWASH) approach and WASH-friendly certification of schools and healthcare facilities as innovations that are making a significant difference in sanitation improvements and worth studying further for adoption and scale-up.

ADVOCACY FOR ADOPTION OF WATER FUND APPROACH IN GHANA

CRS and the Coalition of NGOs in WASH (CONIWAS) engaged Ghana's Parliamentary Select-Committee on Works and Housing to raise awareness to advocate for increased investment in the water sector and on the Tamale Water Fund (TWF). CRS and the Coalition presented the business case of the TWF to the legislators as a way of securing their buy-in and to advocate for legislation on structured investments for the TWF. CRS and the Coalition further implored Government through the Parliament to consider financially supporting and scaling-up the Water Fund approach to accelerate investments in nature-based solutions for sustainable management of water resources in Ghana. They also advocated for increased financial allocation and timely release of funds for source water protection prior to the approval of Ghana's 2023 budget.



FINANCIAL REPORT



The strategic, coordinated fundraising and business development efforts initiated in the previous fiscal year ensured that CRS Ghana was able to mobilize and operate a budget of about \$7.34 million with support from seven major donor partners. The support from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, USAID, Water Access Now, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, AGRA, Mastercard Foundation, the European Union, and CRS' funds ensured that the Ghana Country program was able to execute the program strategy for the period. CRS Ghana contributed 25 percent of the fiscal total funding to match and co-finance the support of donors in the project sectors.

2022 Financial Year Donor Funding



2022 FINANCIAL YEAR EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

Sectors	Amount in USD
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	2,838,285.64
Health	2,804,165.21
General Operations & Small Projects	731,854.81
Agriculture/ Livelihoods	432,764.74
Youth/ Peacebuilding/ Migration	255,807.65
Emergency Reliefs	141,597.34
Grand Total	7,204,475.39

DONORS AND PARTNERS



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SEAN CALLAHAN'S VISIT TO GHANA



CRS STAFF RETREAT



2022 NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT



WASH - NATIONAL LEVEL LEARNING ALLIANCE PLATFORM (NLLAP) WORKSHOP





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