CIWED GHANA

Annual Report 2022



P.O BOX TL 641
Tamale
Tel: +233246901044
Email: info@ciwedgh.net
Website: www.ciwedgh.net

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2. Acronyms

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	District Assembly
DDE	District Directors of Education
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Center
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHS	Senior High School
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TFSR	Tools for Self-Reliance

Acknowledgements

CIWED Ghana would like to express great appreciation to its donors and partners for their contributions in helping the organization achieve greater landmarks in the year 2022.

We would also like to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the state Institutions/Departments and Agencies throughout the year. We especially give thanks to the district offices in Savelugu, Nantong and Central Gonja of Ghana Education and Health Services; Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Department of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the District/Municipal Assemblies.

We express gratitude to our gender network groups, VSLA groups, youth groups, students, community young men and women, opinion leaders, and traditional and religious authorities for their generosity and support throughout the year in helping us carry out our activities. To the thousands of citizens who have contributed in diverse ways towards the success of CIWED in 2022, we say, a big thank you and hope for greater collaborations going forward.

Director's Message

The CORONA VIRUS pandemic has not spared any continent, country, organisation or person. The year 2022 was indeed a very successful one for CIWED Ghana in terms of growth and development, as well as greater opportunities on inflows to roll-out a number of activities. As the CORONA VIRUS was still with us, we have managed to sail through the turbulence of the pandemic as a promising entity with stronger network base. CIWED Ghana, during the year paid much attention in streamlining its organisational policies and records in order to meet the standards of both local and international donors' requirements.

In line with our mission and vision, we made our voices heard on critical gender and agriculture issues in our catchment communities. The media has always been our allies and back born and did so well for the organisation in the year. The year 2023 comes with great hope and the signals have shown already in the increase of local collaborations including our new partnership with Japan Embassy in Ghana, Alliance for Future Generation (AFG) Ghana, Ghana Coalition of NGO in Health, WUZDA Ghana, Coalition of NGO in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) Songtaba, and Child Safeguarding Alliance Ghana (CSA GHANA).

Our community networks including our VSLAs, gender equality champions, Women Farmers and Gender Network Groups have remained firm and functioning despite the hurdles. We welcome you into 2023 and promise to keep you up to our work. Please remember COVID 19 is still real, take your vaccines and still adhere to the safety protocols. I wish you the best of the coming year.



Baako Abdul Fataw
Executive Director, CIWED Ghana

SECTION ONE: ABOUT CIWED

1.1 Brief Background, mission and Vision

CIWED Ghana LBG originally called "Centre for Capacity Improvement for the Wellbeing of the Vulnerable" which name was changed by special resolutions and with the approval of registrar of companies on the 12th day of August, 2022and was incorporated under the companies Act 1963,Act 179 as a **Limited by Guarantee** on the 30th day of June 2016 with a certificate number; CG0411552016, as a Non-Governmental, Non-profit and Non-Partisan organisation, formed with the aim of promoting the quality of life for the poor and marginalized in society particularly women and children to ascertain their rights. CIWED Ghana also registered with the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) secretariat to obtained a license Certificate with a Number DSW/6908 under the matrimonial causes Act 367, 1971; amendment instrument 2012 L.I. 2191 Non-Profit Organization Policy (2020) and directive for the management of Non Profit Organizations in Ghana (2020) at the ministry of gender, children and social protect, through the department of social welfare.

The head office is located in Tamale, the capital city of the Northern Region.

Vision: CIWED Ghana envisage a society in which every human being has the right to economic independent and self-reliant.

Mission: With this vision, the mission of the centre is 'to work with communities and its structures and other like-mind organizations to build the capacities of community members and affected poor groups to have full access to information that informs and better their lives'.

The aim of the Centre is in two folds; (1) to under-take projects in community and its implementation to the development of the communities needs and; (2) embark on advocacy campaigns and trainings on multi-dimensional issues which relate to the improvement of living standards especially in rural communities in Ghana.

The Centre also has the capacity to conduct effective community entry and feasibilities studies, training programmes, mobilization and facilitation, dispute resolution,

monitoring and evaluation of programmes/projects, impact studies and assessments, public and community campaigns, coordination of field projects and data collection as well recruiting and training of field workers. Other areas of our expertise cover conduct of community research and communication as well as advocacy and community stimulation and sensitization to achieve behavioral change and sustainable development.

Programme Areas:

CIWED works in four thematic areas:

1. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**



2. **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security**



3.Education, Skills and Livelihood Development





4.Gender Equality and Child Protection

SECTION TWO: PROGAMMES AND EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

2.0 Introduction

The year saw CIWED rolling out numerous interventions from the community to the district levels.

2. 1 Health stakeholders commit to sustain delivery of essential health service during and after the COVID 19



As part of supporting coordinated civil society advocacy for women's, children's and adolescents' health (WCAH) in COVID-19 response and recovery, the team of CIWED Ghana held community sensitization meeting with community members in Savelugu and Nantong Districts. These meetings formed part of the orientation phase of the 10 months project supported by the Management Societies for Health (MSH) based in the USA.

The community health volunteers on the district and the municipal, noted that the unprecedented global crisis caused systematic and widespread disruptions in the operation of national public health systems including Ghana. They added that the government adopted stringent measures to prevent, detect and slow down the spread of the COVID-19, diverting resources and pivoting the health system to respond to the crisis.

The inception meeting was therefore to officially introduce the project to the stakeholders and also discuss the various roles they will be playing throughout its lifespan. The project lead at CIWED, Mr. Issah Aminu Danaa presented highlights of the project to the stakeholders. He revealed that the 10 months project will be rolled out in

20 communities in two districts. The stakeholders expressed their readiness to partner with CIWED and also made commitments to support all the activities. The participants for the inception were drawn from Ghana Health Service, District Assemblies, Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Youth Leaders, Community Leaders, Media and Sister CSOs in the districts.

2.2 CIWED GHANA FORMED MEN ADVOCACY NETWORKS (MAN) FOR CAMPAIGNING FOR MALE ENGAGEMENT IN DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES IN 20 COMMUNITIES



The formation of the “MAN” was to create a network of men who will lead advocacy and campaigns in their respective communities for male engagement in domestic responsibilities in the communities. It was also to create good focal points to capacity building and information dissemination.

The Men Advocacy Networks (MAN) was recruited form the following category of citizens;

a. Community leaders such the assemblymen and unit committee members

b. Community teachers
c. Community religious leaders

The Executive Director of CIWED, Mr. Baako Abdul Fatawu took active part in all the “MAN” formation and inaugurations in the 20 communities. In each of the communities he took time to explain the objectives of the project as well as the task and requirements that the men advocacy networks were supposed to carry out. He urged all to cultivate the habit of teamwork and also the will to work together to ensure that the networks survive.



The directors of the Department of Social Welfare in each of the districts also took active interest in the formation of the networks. The communities expressed delight for being part of the project and also assured that they will give us the needed support to ensure that the objectives of the project actually see the day of light.

A common question that the CIWED team had to deal with was why women were not members of the men advocacy network (MAN). In his response, the director re-echoed that there were various strategies that can be used to ensure that adolescents, women and children actually benefit and one way is to engage man slowly so as to empower them to understand how to live peacefully with their wives and daughters at home and in the communities. Tasks for action planning: The CIWED team assured the “MAN” of subsequent capacity building and tasked them to come out with advocacy action plans for their communities.

Advocacy Actions: There was a subsequent advocacy action planned by the communities summarized below;

2.3 CIWED Organizes a Radio Discussion to update the public Essential Services in the COVID era

Discussions on Essential Health Services: The health personnel explained the concepts of essential service such as antenatal care visits, attended births, child vaccinations and access to family planning. Explaining the need to still observe the protocol despite the pronouncement on the relaxing of some of the protocols by government, madam. Hamida explain the need for people to protect themselves from the disease and observing the protocol seriously. She mentioned that, despite the relaxing of some of the government measures, individual need to still take care of themselves such that, they will be save until the vaccination is fully completed or gets to everyone. Talking about the vaccination, madam Hamdia indicated that, the vaccine is for free and no one need to pay before he/she is given the dosage and their contact will be given out in the course of the programme for those who want to take the vaccination to reach out to them.

Assessing the situation of patronage of essential health services in the COVID era: the effects, challenges; the health personnel madam. Hamida and Mr. Muftawu, explained that during the peak of the first wave of COVID, there were shortage of essential drugs and equipment, short supply of ANC booklets and increased in home deliveries instead of coming to the hospital. But patronage at this period now better as compare to the peak season of the wave, as there has been a tremendous increase in the service demands for the essential service in the first quarter of 2022.

Strategies in place to promote access to healthcare during COVID: Commenting on the patronage of the essential services, Mr. Muftawu stated that, they have recognized a higher patronage of the essential services and as a result of the community sensitization they embarked on the communities about the importance for them to visit the hospitals for health care service. They acknowledged the role of CIWED in complementing the effort of the health regional directorate.



2.4 CIWED Ghana Took their Livelihood Trainees on Refresher Capacity Training

It is a common knowledge that urbanization is fast catching up with Tamale which includes the Sagnarigu Municipality. The 2010 Population and Housing Census indicated that Tamale is the fastest growing city in West Africa. This growth has consequences on the poor rural people who are predominantly farmers. Their

farmlands have been taken over by estate developers rendering the youth jobless. The results of this, force the youth to migrate from Northern Region to the southern regions of Ghana to do menial jobs such as head-potting (Kayaye) to earn a living. Most of them return home especially females with unwanted pregnancies and STIs, worsening their situations and increase their poverty level. This influenced CIWED to champion the agenda of contributing in addressing youth unemployment through Skills Training to make them self-reliance through a project partnership with Tools for Self-Reliance (TfSR) titled “Community-Based Livelihood Initiative Project (CLIP)” to ensure that the youth, especially those out of school to acquire entrepreneurship skills to become self-reliance, live dignified lives and reduce social vices in society. As part of the project activities, tools kits and a form of training materials were handed over to the trainees for their practical training and also financial, numeracy and entrepreneurship training were also conducted to equip trainees well before passing them out.



2.5 CIWED Ghana VSLA groups from 20 communities received training on income generating activities (IGA), financial literacy and basic book keeping

As part of project roll out, CIWED-GH in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development trained the leadership of VSLA groups from 20 communities. These communities were drawn from Nantong and Savelugu; the two districts CIWED is rolling out the Women Voice and Leadership Project. The trainings spanned for two weeks in each district covering topics on various VSLA and leadership principles including; income generating activities (IGA), financial literacy, leadership skills and basic book keeping.

The Executive Director of CIWED, Mr. Baako Abdul Fatawu explained to the leadership that their understanding of the modes of operation and management of the VSLA is essential to its sustainability in the communities. He urged the leadership to embrace honesty and transparency in managing the VSLA boxes.



The project is supported by Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) which seeks to increase the effective participation of women in decision-making roles and leadership positions and also to empower them to have access and control of resources. The project also seeks to have visibly empowered women, girls, men and boys' groups leading the campaign for gender transformation. The programme is expected to directly benefit approximately 2,840 and about 8,741 indirect beneficiaries in the medium to long-term, with sixty-five percent (65%) being women.

On their part, the leadership of the VSLAs expressed delight for the capacity enhancement to manage the associations. They revealed that the intervention of CIWED in their communities was great and

pledged more support to upcoming activities.



2.6 CIWED Ghana VSLA groups from 20 communities received training on income generating activities (IGA), financial literacy and basic book keeping

Section Three: Partner, Networks and Collaborators

3.1 Main Project Partners for 2022

S/No	Name of Partner	Location
1	Tools (TFSR)	United Kingdom
2	Plan Ghana	Ghana
3	MSH	USA
4	OSIWA	Senegal
5	AFG	Ghana
6	Ghana Coalition of NGO in Health	Ghana

3.2 Networks and coalitions in 2021

CIWED belongs to the following networks and coalitions:

- **Girls Not Bride:** It is a representation of a number of, Non-Governmental organizations, women Groups, Youth Groups, and Individuals has realized the benefits of working together and recognize our common objective of fighting against Child, Early and Forced marriage.

- **ACCESS Coalition:** The coalition is to strengthen the efforts of CSOs working to deliver universal energy access.

- **Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH):** Its main objective is to create synergy among NGOs in health, ensure evenly distribution of health interventions and to avoid duplication of projects.

- **Northern Ghana Network for Education and Development (NNED):** It is network of NGOs in northern Ghana and its aim is to create synergy among education NGOs for strong voice.

- **Coalition of NGOs in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (CONIWAS):** It is platform for NGOs in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions. Its aim is to partner with all stakeholders in WASH to promote WASH activities for free ill-health.

- **Child Safeguarding Alliance Ghana (CSA GHANA):** It is an Alliance created with perpetual succession and that its aims to improve the overall well-being of children of Ghana through rights-based and strategic advocacy approaches, operational synergy and participatory policy research and dialogue.

Gallery

Gender Transformation Issues Gathering





Visits to VSLA groups meeting

