

ProNet North

working in partnerships for sustainable development



ANNUAL REPORT

2013

Table of Contents

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page Number</i>
Table of Contents	i
List of Acronyms	ii
About Our Organization	1
Director's Message	2
Department of Health and Environment	3
Testing CLTS Approaches for Scalability	4
Pan African Community-Led Total Sanitation	5
Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project	6
Wa East Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project	7
Give Me Tap	8
Department of Education and Women's Empowerment	9
Tackling Education Needs Inclusively	10
Esong- Supporting Children with Disabilities	11
Ghana Complementary Basic Education Program	12
Partnering for Inclusive Education in Northern Ghana	13
Girls Education Fund	14
Greater Rural Opportunities for Women	15
Department of Climate, Energy and Food Security	16
Enhancing Livelihood Security through Climate Change Adaptation Learning	17
Savanna Accelerated Development Authority	18
Department of Finance and Administration	19
Collaboration with Research and Learning Institutions	20
International Volunteers and Interns	21
Monitoring and Evaluation	22
Information on the Organization	23
Members of Staff	24
Funding partners	26

List of Acronyms

BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DA	District Assembly
DFATD	Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (CIDA)
DFID	Department for International Development
ELCAP	Enhancing Livelihood Security through Climate Change Adaptation Learning
GCBE	Ghana Complementary Basic Education
GEF	Girls Education Fund
GHC	Ghana Cedis
GLOWS	Global Water for Sustainability
GROW	Greater Opportunities for Rural Women
HH	Household
HHL	Household Latrines
IDA	International Development Agency
JHS	Junior High School
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MEDA	Mennonites Economic Development Associates
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
O & M	Operations and Maintenance
PIENG	Partnering for Inclusive Education in Northern Ghana
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SHS	Senior High School
SFB	School for The Blind
SLTS	School-Led Total Sanitation
SADA	Savanna Accelerated Development Authority
TENI	Tackling Education Needs Inclusively
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSO	Volunteer Services Overseas
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

About Our Organization

ProNet North was registered in 1995 as a Non-Governmental Organisation, whose vision is to work towards a society where social justice is at the heart of development.

Over the last eighteen years, ProNet has successfully implemented a range of projects from water, sanitation and hygiene services delivery, training and capacity building, to governance, child rights, sustainable livelihoods and microfinance for women's empowerment, and advocacy. It has also worked in disaster response and disaster risks reduction.

ProNet is expected to continue to grow by adopting various strategies that would propel it to have a sustained impact on the lives of rural and urban communities across the northern regions of Ghana as well as the Brong-Ahafo region, and, also become a centre of learning.

OUR VISION

To be the partner organization of choice for development work in Northern Ghana in order to help build a society where basic human rights are met, where every person has equal opportunities to develop, and where individuals can aspire to be who they want to become without being constrained by existing norms.

OUR MISSION

To work towards sustainable poverty reduction, ecological balance, gender equity, good governance and sustainable inclusive development through participatory approaches, networking, and partnerships.

AIMS

To have a sustainable positive impact on rural communities in the Upper West, Upper East, Northern, and Brong-Ahafo Regions in the areas of health, livelihoods, energy, environment, education, governance, and women's empowerment.

To become a centre of learning, practice, and advocacy, rooted in streamlining approaches and strategies that address felt needs of groups, communities and indigenous systems based on lessons documented over years of experience.

Message from Director



The year 2013 has been an eventful one for our organisation. The stable environment guaranteed by our deepening democratic credentials at national level has provided impetus for sustainable initiatives at local level.

Our organization, in response, have continued to embrace important changes for organizational development. Our Livelihoods and Sustainability Unit has transformed into a *Department for Climate, Energy and Food Security*. We believe the transformation provides deeper focus and emphasis on the interrelationships between these elements into the future. Each of us must make bold but personal decisions to arrest climate variability,

degradation, and resultant deprivation that our conduct continues to deepen. High level proclamations, treatise, and commitments by our political leaders, in themselves, will not reverse current trends towards increasing food insecurity and related challenges. This is the time for re-learn and restore the indigenous knowledge and wisdom that have preserved the balance in nature up until our reckless times.

We have also increased the scope of our work in education and women's empowerment. We are an active partner in the *Ghana Complementary Basic Education Program* that aims to bring children out of school into mainstream education by providing a period of instruction in the mother tongue within their communities. We also look forward to working with selected communities to support neonatal and child health under the *Innovations Project*. Both projects will continue into the future and strengthen our existing partnerships.

We will deepen professional capacity of our staff, with particular focus on the development of female members, in line with our Step Change plans. This will require support from our existing partners, as well as support from new partnerships that we will be building.

We appreciate the support we have received for this exiting year.

We look forward to the next year with much enthusiasm.

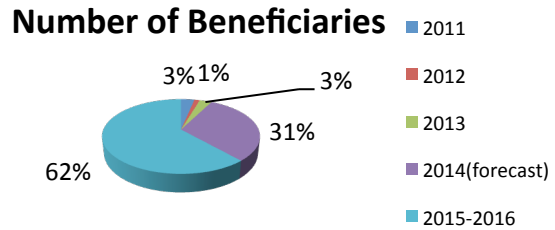
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Dery'.

Martin Dery
Director

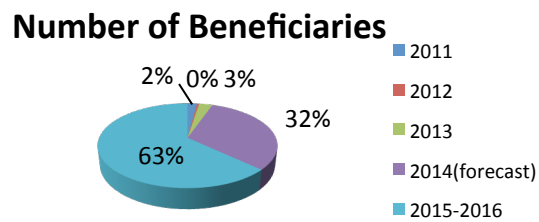
Department of Health and Environment

~To reach out to deprived and marginalized communities with WASH programs through affordable, innovative and gender inclusive approaches~

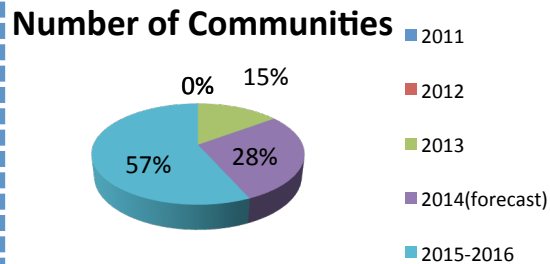
Goal 1: To increase access and rights to potable water to 70,000 poor and marginalized rural and urban people by 2016



Goal 2: To promote and support the adoption of safe disposal of solid and liquid waste practices for 100,000 poor and marginalized people by 2016



Goal 3: To support 45 communities in Northern Ghana to develop, manage and utilize water sources for improved livelihoods by 2016



Department Head:
Emma Kpeno

Staff Members:
Alhassan Seidu
Elvis Kokaa
Salam Mwini-Balonno A.

Testing CLTS Approaches for Scalability

Funded by: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
and the Water Institute of North Carolina

Research CLTS is a four-year integrated project that involves a variety of activities including implementation of standard and improved CLTS programs. It is aimed at finding out the cost-effectiveness and scalability of CLTS, and sharing of lessons learned with the broader water and sanitation sector.

The project in the Upper West involved a comparison of two different approaches to CLTS implementation in 20 communities split evenly into Pilot and Control groups. Although both groups were treated with a standard CLTS model, the pilot group received focused capacity building of Natural Leaders, the research seek to find out results when the focus is on Natural Leaders

CLTS BOOSTS VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION IN BAALAYIRI COMMUNITY

Baalayirri is an agrarian community located in the Wa East District of the UWR . Vegetable harvesting during the first rains was mostly done in nearby bushes far off the houses.

Before CLTS the community commonly practiced open defecation in over grown bushes and weeds around the houses.

Indiscriminate refuse disposal, pools of stagnant waste water from bath houses and animal droppings were problems engulfing the community.

Gyoglu Roberta is a settler in the community, whose husband is a teacher transferred to the place. She said since her 10 years of stay in the community, she has not been comfortable eating backyard vegetables because of OD.

And even when she reluctantly cooked it sometimes; she could not control nauseating the folly of eating vegetables where people defecate in the open.

Achievements:

- 13 communities were identified to have attained the status for ODF verification
- 11 communities were qualified and declared ODF basic status
- 50 natural leaders were trained and equipped to support community level follow up on CLTS activities

Through CLTS all households in Baalayiri have constructed and are using traditional pit latrines and soak away pits which has freed the community from feces and bad odor. There have also been regular weeding and cleaning of compounds and surroundings giving the community a new look.

“But as you can see, I am harvesting wild vegetable (fauna flora) from my backyard for my family consumption. I no longer step in shit when picking my vegetables. This has been my most distasteful plight all these years.”



Pan African CLTS

Funded by: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Partnered with: Plan Ghana

The Pan African CLTS is a four year program (2012 -2016) which aims at reducing infant and child morbidity and mortality in Ghana through the improvement of sanitation and hygiene practices in households and schools, and empowering rural and urban communities.

The program is in its third year of implementation as it works to develop and scale up the CLTS and SLTS approaches by sharing experiences and innovations through national and international learning alliances, action learning promotion and advocacy.

Nonpong Laluro's Story

Across the road from the Lamuo compound lives Nongpong Laluro, a farmer, who moved to Tindoma from Babile, Lawra district. Determined to have her own latrine, and energized by the CLTS triggering, she asked her son to build her one.

Nongpong wanted a strong and comfortable latrine, that '*can withstand strong winds*'. So Nongpong's structure, with a roof reinforced with cow dung and a

Nongpong is delighted with her clay latrine which she and her family use all the time. '*Even our pigs are healthier*' she jokes.

Her carefully cultivated vegetable patch, where children would often go and defecate, '*is also now free of feaces*'. She smiles.



Nongpong has become a natural leader in the community. While not comfortable with other people sharing her wonderful new facility, she does not chase them out. When she sees her friend, Nuokyire, coming out of her latrine, she rebukes her for not having yet finished constructing her own latrine. Shamefaced, Nuokyire says she will remind her husband to finish theirs as soon as possible.

Nongpong has become a confident and powerful advocate for change in Tindoma

Achievements:

- 409 HHs latrines are in place since CLTS inception
- 36 natural leaders, 18 child club members and 9 SHEP teachers were trained to support the project at the grass root level
- 4 communities were prepared for District and Regional level verification and 3 were qualified and declared ODF basic status

Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project

Funded by: World Bank (IDA)

Partnered with: Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) and CWSA

The SRWSP set out within the National Community Water and Sanitation Program is geared towards assisting rural communities and small towns to plan, construct and operate their own water supply and sanitation facilities. Currently the project operates in Wa Municipal and Wa West Districts.

The aim of the intervention is to ensure ownership and sustainability by investing in community mobilization activities geared towards the creation of a congenial environment for households to invest in hygiene and sanitation using CLTS Approach. There is, therefore, a shift from provision of subsidy to community ownership, mutual support and local solutions for sanitation and behavioral change.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To build the capacity of beneficiary communities in terms of knowledge and skills and their WSMT Committees to be able to promote effective hygiene and sanitation, plan, implement and manage the facilities to ensure sustainability of project interventions

Achievement

1. School Health promotion enhanced through teacher training for 32 teachers
2. 11 WSMT capacity enhance to manage water and sanitation facilities
3. 40 Volunteer and natural leaders identified and are currently leading the mobilization of sanitation and hygiene issues in Kpongungu and Wechau

Challenges

- Difficulty in getting peri-urban communities to attend meetings
- Clustered housing impedes HHL construction
- HHs perception of a quality latrine and related high cost appears to scare majority away.
- Consistent increases in prices makes cost of projects high with budget overruns.

Solutions

1. Holding night meetings with communities
2. Holding discussions with communities to consider building and owning cubicle latrines
3. Considering institutional triggering



Wa East Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project

Funded by: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and WaterAid

Partnered with: WaterAid Ghana

The Project goal is to reduce the incidence of WASH related diseases through the promotion of rights, increased access to safe water, and improvement of hygiene practices by poor and socially excluded people within the LMDGI framework in the Wa East District.

The above was to be achieved by facilitating the establishment and training of community-based management structures for WASH operation and maintenance, as well as using rights-based approaches to hold duty bearers accountable in respect of WASH needs in all target communities. All processes are designed with emphasis placed on the rights of people with disabilities, women, and geographically excluded groups/persons.

THE STORY OF ABDULAI IBRAHIM

Mr. Abudi Gbana is the WATSAN committee chairman for Banun-goma, a farming community in the Wa East District. According to Mr. Gbana, since the introduction of the project, over 95% of households in the community have constructed latrines, thereby, reducing open defecation in the community. He commented that diseases related to poor sanitation have reduced drastically according to health reports.

Ms. Adeye Ibrahim, the women's leader of the community, lauded the project by saying that it has greatly improved hygiene in their homes as children do not practice open defecation anymore.

The committee on ODF urges newcomers to the community to construct a latrine when building their houses in order to eliminate open defecation in the community completely



Achievements

- 7,173 people have access to safe drinking water all year round
- 11,027 people were reached with hygiene and sanitation messages
- 1,549 people now have access to improve sanitation facilities
- Three schools supported with 6 number institutional latrines to stop open defecation

Give Me Tap- ProNet Project

Funded by: Give Me Tap

Give Me Tap is a UK-based company founded by Edwin Broni –Mensah. The company raises funds by promoting reusable water bottles in the UK to reduce littering by plastic bottles, and applies part of the returns to provide access to clean water to communities in need in Africa.

ProNet North with support from Give Me Tap is reaching 700 poor and socially excluded people in the Wa East District with safe water and hygiene information that will lead to reduction in WASH related diseases.

Give Me Tap Project Saves Kpakpalamuni



Situation before intervention

Kpakpalamuni is a farming community with a total population of about 700 people without safe drinking water for the inhabitants before the intervention of Give Me Tap.

Not only were people compelled to trek for long distances in search of water but they used to compete with animals, including pigs, at the same source for drinking water. According to the women, water scarcity affected their time for economic activities and Girl Child Education.

The only source of water accessible to the Community was an unreliable intermittent stream which lies along the community. The water was drunk raw without any form of treatment.

Today, with the help of Give Me Tap project, the community of Kpakpalamuni has been able to taste potable water for the first time from their own borehole.

A community member remarked

"Gone are the days when we were compelled to dig and have access to only muddy Water during the dry season"

"There are some 3.5 million people in Ghana that don't have access to clean drinking water. We are focusing our efforts in these areas in order to really maximize our impact and help whole communities."

Kpakpalamuni is just one of them.

**Edwin Broni-Mensah,
Founder of GiveMe Tap**



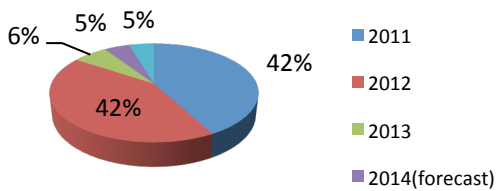
Situation after intervention

Department of Education and Women Empowerment

~Supporting the elimination of social injustice to marginalized groups: women, girls, children with disabilities and orphans~

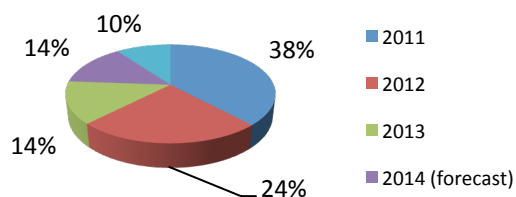
Goal 1: To improve retention and transition rates of **9,330** girls and vulnerable children from basic to senior high by 30% (2011 levels) by 2016

Number of Children



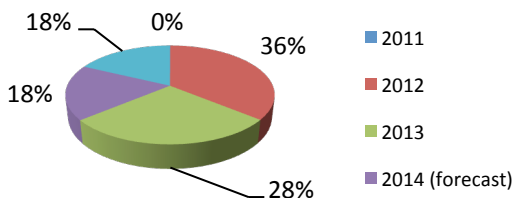
Goal 2: To facilitate quality teaching and learning and safe environment in **135** basic schools in 2 districts by 2016

Number of Communities



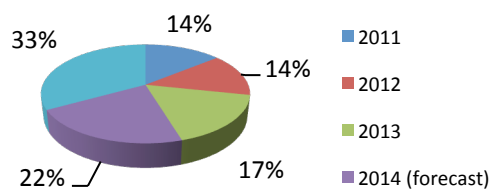
Goal 3: To increase women's participation in decision making at all levels (households, communities, electoral areas, etc) in **8** districts by 2016

Number of Districts



Goal 4: Increased access to easy and affordable micro-financing and support services for **10,000** women by 2016

Number of Women



Head of Department:
Catherine Amisshah

Staff Members:
Fian -Naah Ali Seidu
Ivy Nayiri
Issahaku Adam
Juliet Baliebanoe
Josephine Y. Terkpeng

Mathilda Deri
Mavis Kuunaaiguo
Samual Lanidune
Stephen Kobom
Samuel Faasob
Yunus Jinsung Zakaria



Tackling Education Needs Inclusively (TENI)

Funded by: Comic Relief

Partnered with: Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO)

The Tackling Education Needs Inclusively (TENI) project seeks to achieve systemic change by improving transition, completion and quality of basic education for disadvantaged children, particularly girls and children with disabilities, in Northern Ghana.

TENI believes change can only be achieved when it comes from within an individual, community, family, organisation or district, and the problem addressed holistically. We engage multiple stakeholders and build on best practices to tackle underlying causes that prevent children completing and performing in school, including socio-cultural beliefs, poverty barriers, school environments and quality of teaching

The Story of a Little Boy Called Mwintuo

ProNet had worked together with the Ghana Education Service to complete a baseline survey to determine exactly how many disabled children were out of school in the Jirapa District under the TENI Project. During this survey, they found a little boy called Mwintuo sitting outside a house in the village of Kuncheni, and decided that they wanted to find out more about this boy.

“One afternoon when Mwintuo was a toddler he became convulsive. We took him to the hospital where he stayed for a few days. While we were there we noticed that his hand was curled, and gradually over time the left side of his body became inactive. He had been walking till then, but after that it was many years before he started to try and walk again. He would have seizures as often as three times in a day” Mwintuo’s mother narrates.

The work of this team was so important....Now I see my own child and he looks like more of a human being to me than he did before. ... Now the hospital has given us some more medication and the seizures have decreased from three times a day to about twice in a month. People shun him and even I was scared to touch him. I was made to understand that I need to support him so that he would not hurt himself. We didn’t send him to school because we thought his condition meant he was not intelligent enough. We felt his mind wasn’t good to be in school. In the village it is normal for us to just put a disabled child away believing that the child cannot learn. The team told me that if he went to school I might see him transforming and his situation might improve just by having other children to play with. Now I know that although he has a disability it doesn’t mean his mind can’t learn. Before ... school he would beat his siblings and when he saw other children he would just run at them and scatter them, but now he plays with children calmly....the teachertells me how he understand things and he is beginning to complete exercises, like sorting coloured pots. Children with disability need to be given an opportunity. I was approached to give an opportunity to my child and I think all parents should give their children an opportunity to learn.”



Esong- Supporting Children with Disabilities in Jirapa District

An Extension of the TENI Project

Esong - meaning 'do good' in Dagaare - is a new community-led support group for children with disabilities and their parents, operating in the Jirapa District. ProNet assists the Esong group by providing logistical support and a small amount of funding through the TENI Project. ProNet works closely with the Esong group to establish a data base of persons with disabilities and together with the GES Inclusion Officer have identified and assessed children with disabilities who are not currently in school, and enroll them in school where possible.

Although there is a long-standing and well organised Association for People with Disabilities in Jirapa, community members felt that there was not enough support for children with disabilities and their families, and hence decided to start a monthly group.

The group aims to reduce stigma of children with disabilities and increase access to basic human rights through raising awareness, providing links to education and healthcare, and giving regular encouragement to the families. Topics discussed at the group so far include: National Health Insurance, the District Assemblies Common Fund, nutrition, school enrollment, immunisations, and mental health.

The new group is now thriving with over 50 families accessing the service. This is thanks to the hard work of people such as Emilda Tugkpar, Head Physiotherapist at Jirapa Hospital, and key members of the Association for People with Disabilities. Children attending the group range from 0 – 18 years of age and they have a variety of physical and mental disabilities.

Families come from across Jirapa District and from communities beyond the district boundary, sometimes travelling long distances with their children.

Many parents have expressed their gratitude at the formation of the Esong group. One father said:

“Before I came here I thought I was the only one with a disabled child. Now I see there are lots of families like mine...and I don't feel alone anymore.”

ProNet assists the Esong group by providing logistical support and a small amount of funding. Through the TENI Project, ProNet works closely with the Esong group and the GES Inclusion Officer to help identify and assess children with disabilities who are not currently in school, and enroll them in school where possible.

ESONG in Jirapa



Ghana Complementary Basic Education (GCBE)

Funded by: Department for International Development (DFID)
Partner: Crown Agents

The project is a collaboration between the Government of Ghana and the UK government through the Ministry of Education. The main objective of the project is geared towards enrolling out-of-school children between the ages of 8-14 years back into the formal school system. This is done by organizing 9-month mother tongue literacy and numeracy classes for these children. The classes usually start at 2:00 pm to 5: 00 pm each day for 5 days within a week. (Classes consist of 25 learners per community with a gender composing of 13 girls: 12 boys). Each class is governed by a five-member local committee and one facilitator. The facilitator must be literate in the mother tongue and willing to teach these types of children. The composition of the LCM is 3 female: 2 male. Currently the organization is implementing the project in 4 districts: Jirapa, Nadowli, Daffiama/ Bussie / Issa Districts in the Upper West Region, and Nkoranza North District in the Brong Ahafo Region.

MAIN DELIVERABLES

- Forerun and animated 80 communities in 4 district(s)
- 80 communities applied and selected for formal literacy Class
- Formed 80 classes (20 per District) in 4 District
- Conducted mother tongue and class management training for 80 facilitators
- Trained 27 Circuit supervisors on functional mother tongue Literacy and monitoring
- Conducted Monitoring and supervision of literacy classes
- Held 1 Media advocacy on the need to enroll all children out school-going age in school
- Conducted baseline survey on out-of-school children in 4 districts



OFFICER'S PERSPECTIVE

Samuel Lanidune, Program Officer



GCBE has come to save a lot of children of school-going age who, if not for the project, would have been left out of the educational cycle in Ghana. Currently, 2000 children are to benefit from the GCBE project in 4 districts within a year. Besides this, parents in the various communities within which the project operates now have the opportunity to send their children to formal school and attain education. The project also offers the opportunity for children to learn to read in their own mother tongue.

Partnering for Inclusive Education in Northern Ghana (PIENG)

Funded by: STAR Ghana (DFID, EU, DANIDA and USAID)

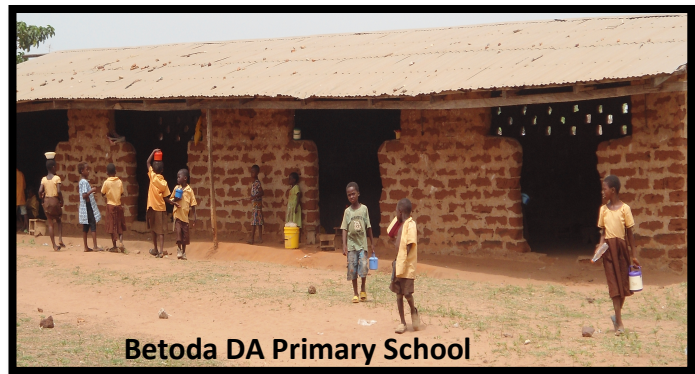
Partner: Center for Community Participation & Development (CCPAD)

Partnering for Inclusive Education in Northern Ghana (PIENG) is a three-year project being implemented by ProNet North with support from STAR Ghana in the Nkoranza North District of Brong-Ahafo Region and the Wa West district in the Upper West Region.

The project seeks to promote systemic change in basic education at the community and district levels to increase retention, transition and performance for girls, migrant children, and children with disabilities in two districts in Northern Ghana, by supporting community engagement with major stakeholders in education delivery in the districts.

The Story of Betoda Community

Betoda is a settler farming community in the Nkoranza North District in the Brong Ahafo Region about 20km from the district capital, Busunya with a population of about 300. Until recently, education was not a priority for the people as they had not planned to stay in the community for long. However, the settlements developed into a community as the years went by and the people took an initiative by starting a school under a shed and hired a JHS graduate to facilitate the classes. The GES in 2007 decided to mainstream the school due to the increase in enrollment (A pupil teacher was posted to the school). Currently the school's population is 120 (70 boys and 50 girls) according to 2012 EMIS data.



In spite of the contribution of Betoda to the district food security and income generation, the people live in a very precarious condition, especially, with regards to their children's health and education. Attention is only paid to them by the local government authorities during elections with deceptive promises, which are mostly not delivered. As a result, their children attend school under very difficult and harsh conditions.

These people hitherto could not send their grievances to the District Assembly because they were afraid to do so, but for the training on advocacy given to them through PIENG. They are now able to petition the GES and DA for support for their School.

Through PIENG, Betoda and the other settler communities in the B.A were trained on advocacy and lobbying skills to enable them hold duty bearers accountable and demand responsiveness. As a rights based approach the leaders such as the P.T.A, Chief, Women Leaders are empowered to lead the communities to demand some change in situation.

The chief of the community, Kojo Bonkang, and the SMC/PTA executives have written letters and sent delegations to the District Assembly to appeal for the construction of school building and also make follow-ups. The chiefs and people say they will not relent until they have a new school building.

Girls Education Fund (GEF)

Funded by: Kanea Foundation
Individual donors

The Girls Education Fund (GEF) was instituted in 2011 to support needy but brilliant girls from deprived homes to access secondary education and beyond. Target beneficiaries are girls who have taken their BECE and are awaiting results. Potential beneficiaries would have to pick up, fill and return an application form from basic school head teachers after their exams. Applications are sorted, after which shortlisted candidates are invited for interviews. The scholarship is only activated after the selected beneficiaries have received results of BECE and school placement information.

Four girls have benefited since inception. A fifth girl, Patience Kuukang, who is visually impaired, has just enrolled in the Akropong School for the Blind under the GEF.

Our Girls

Christina
Dongdeme
Ullo SHS

Vida Dassah
St. Francis Girls
SHS



Esther Zuure
Ullo SHS

Emilia
Kangba-Enie
St. Francis Girls
SHS

Christina Dongdeme is a student at Ullo Senior High School in Jirapa district. In her own words she speaks about the positive effects of the Girls Education Fund:

"I come from a poor family. My family had no money to pay for my school fees, books, uniform or sandals. I used to carry firewood and charcoal to Jirapa market to sell so that I could get money to pay my school fees and buy my uniform. I had only two pairs of sandals and one uniform throughout my Primary to Junior High School. After I wrote my BECE exams, I stayed in the house, until one day my former headmaster came to my village and told my mother about the Girls Education Fund. He encouraged me to apply and attend the interview.

I was so happy that I was chosen to receive the fund. The Girls Education Fund pays for my school fees and all the other items I need for education. Thanks to the fund, I now have health insurance too. I am very grateful to the Girls Education Fund for giving me this wonderful opportunity to learn".

Patience Kuukang
Akropong SFB



Greater Opportunities for Rural Women (GROW)

Funded by: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Partner: Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)

Greater Rural Opportunities for Women is a project that seeks to provide business solutions to women, in order to generate income for their families. We aim to achieve this goal through the production of soya beans for sale and also to serve as a nutritional supplement for the families. The project will run for two years, and is implemented in two districts, Nadowli and Wa East, with a targeted population of 1200 women for the first year and 3000 women as direct beneficiaries

THE STORY OF HAWAWU ISSAHAKU

Hawawu Issahaku comes from Goh in the Wa East District of the Upper West Region. She is 27 years of age and is married with two children. She is a farmer and grows millet, maize, groundnuts, and beans, which are used to feed her family. During the dry season she sells charcoal to raise money for the family.

According to her, she initially felt reluctant to join ProNet on the GROW project because of a bitter

experience that she previously had with another NGO, but she decided to give ProNet a try after much thought. She has not regretted her decision since.



“Before joining the project I could hardly speak in public and also found it difficult to associate myself with people. Now, as a member of the women group, I have learned how to work and interact with others. I can also speak to a large number of people now.

As a member of the group, we do small savings which one can borrow from the group and use it when the need arises and pay back later. This has been so helpful to us because we were not in the habit of making small savings for difficult times before.

I am happy to be among the few women supported to cultivate soya beans. Looking at my farm, I am convinced that I will get some income out of it, which will allow me to send my children to a nearby community to attend school since the school in our community is no more in operation. Aside from that, soya beans can be processed into different kind of meals to feed my family.

I am very grateful to ProNet for bringing this project to my community because it will go a long way to improve the lives of my family.”

Deliverables

- i. Linked 339 farmers to tractor services and farm inputs.
- ii. Linked 339 farmers to high price markets and processors eg Vester Oil, Y3K&A Ltd
- iii. Trained 339 farmers on how to process soya into various nutritional uses

Challenges of the project

- Inability to support 1000 women due to inability to get service providers that would supply credit to the women
- Late and irregular rain pattern resulted in poor yield (average 1.5 bags per acre) instead of 6 bags per acre on an average

Possible Solutions

- Will hold engagement meeting with tractors service providers ahead of next season
- undertake sensitization meeting to encourage all clients to use early maturing varieties

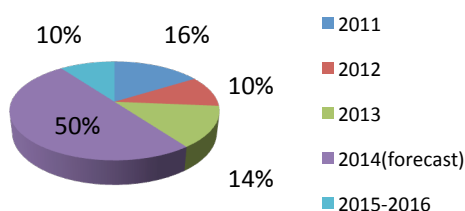
Department of Climate, Energy and Food Security

~To promote food security and sustainable livelihoods in rural communities through Disaster Risk Reduction and climate adaptation~

Goal 1: To increase food availability all year round through sustainable farming systems and practices to 10,000 beneficiaries by 2016

- Animal rearing
- Maize and Soya Bean farming

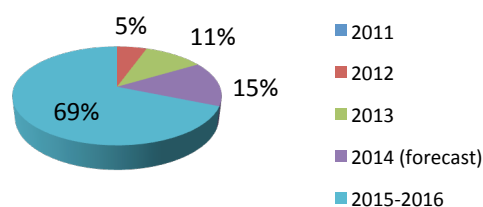
Number of Beneficiaries



Goal 2: To improve rural farmers' income levels to 10,000 beneficiaries by 2016

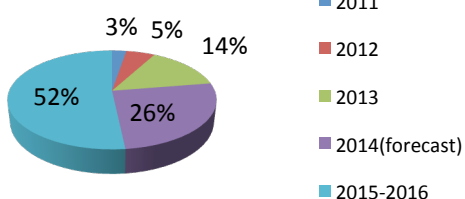
- Dry season Farming
- Farmers exchange visits
- Tree planting

Number of Beneficiaries



Goal 3: To increase women and vulnerable groups' (10,000 beneficiaries) access to productive resources sustainably by 2016

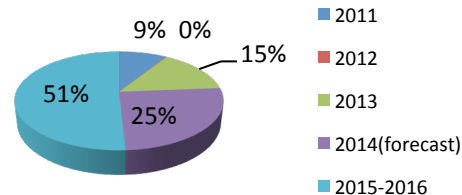
Number of Beneficiaries



Goal 4: To increase rural households adaptation levels for 10,000 households through DRR strategies by 2016

- 1,000 Trees planted

Number of Households



Head of Department:
(To be Determined)

Staff Members:
Josephine Y. Terkpeng
Yahaya Wahid



Enhancing Livelihood Security Through Climate Change Adaptation Learning (ELCAP)

Funded by: Oxfam in Ghana

Climate change is increasingly hurting the lives of farmers in the Northern areas of Ghana. Livelihoods are being undermined by erratic rainfall, flooding, and subsequent depletion of natural resources. Unfortunately, due to limited dissemination of information regarding mitigation and adaptation techniques, most farmers are ill-prepared for any form of disaster and suffer severely when disasters strike.

The Enhancing Livelihood Security through Climate Change Adaptation Learning (ELCAP) project aims to educate and sensitize communities on the realities of climate change and its effects, and help implement initiatives to mitigate or adapt to climate variability, in order to raise incomes and improve food security in the region while developing resilience to the negative effects of climate change.

ELCAP HAS BROUGHT HAPPINESS-ABEDNEGO VIVIAN

“Living in peace with my family was totally impossible in the face of poverty coupled with my sole dependence on my husband“, recounted Vivian Abednego from Zambogu community in the Nadowli District.

As one of the beneficiaries of the ELCAP project, she could not hide her happiness. According to her, it was the project that opened her eyes to the prospects of saving through the VSLA Scheme introduced.



The ELCAP project under its alternative livelihood intervention facilitated trainings for groups to go into savings and lending to each other. This is to enable them cultivate the habit of saving that help them have the capital to undertake some income generating activities to support their families. Now every group has up to about 1,000 GHC in their box and a total of about 7,000 for the 7 groups in the Zamboggu community, not counting other communities where the project is also ongoing.

This intention has helped a lot as Vivian continues her story. “Now I can pay for my children school fees,

health insurance premium and feed them. I have also bought a phone as a result. I now brew Pito and process shea butter as well from the capital I had from this ‘dagbile (small box) susu.’ Now there is happiness in me and my husband because I can also help out in certain things at home, for example I wired our house to connect to electricity from that money. I want to thank you Oxfam for this intervention and pray more good will come through them”

Deliverables

- Developed 4 communities CAPS for Integration into the MTDPs
- Supported 55 women with pigs and 25 men with goats
- Trained and provided Bee kts to 16 women in 4 communities

Achievements

- 20 HH adapted the use of energy saving stoves
- 2 communities passed by-laws to prevent bush burning and cutting of trees

Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)

Funded by: Government of Ghana (GoG)

ProNet North, in collaboration with the government-led SADA initiative, is supporting farmers to create a market-based out-grower system for agricultural development by providing financial and human resources to technical service providers who work with farmers. The program will engage 1000 households per year on a cumulative basis, with a ceiling of 5,000 households in total. After five years, the first 1,000 households are expected to have graduated from the system and be autonomous of SADA.

SADA's support will be based on building an intensive agricultural support system in which input, ploughing, supervisory and marketing services are provided to out-growers by ProNet North, who themselves may be nucleus farmers or be in control of a processing unit. Smallholder farmers must be oriented and sensitized to treat agriculture as a business and move beyond subsistence agriculture to commerce.

Objectives:

The objectives of the agricultural support system are to:

1. Build an asset base for farm households to engage in agricultural modernization
2. Increase agricultural productivity to world average thus generating an internationally competitive small-scale agricultural production sector
3. Increase household incomes
4. Create the raw material base for an agro-processing industry
5. Improve food security

Main outputs:

- Selected 1500 end beneficiaries/farmer together with the Financial Operator
- Trained and provided technical assistance to 410 end beneficiaries on cultivation techniques
- Supplied inputs to 410 end beneficiaries,
- Follow-up of the research activities related to the project, in conjunction with the institutions in charge of this component,
- Assisting farmers with SADA support to obtain global certification for their produce.

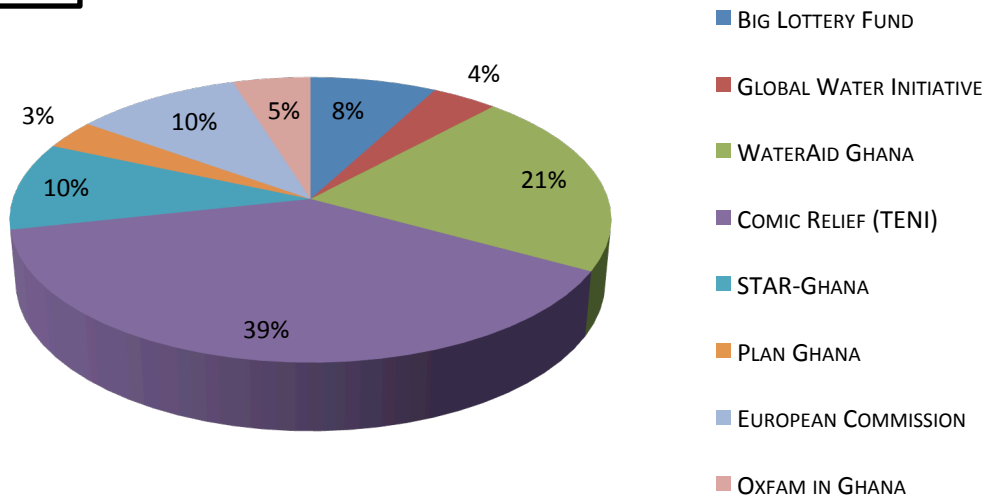


Maria Abudi on Her Soya Bean Farm at Gilang Community, Wa East District.

Department of Finance and Administration

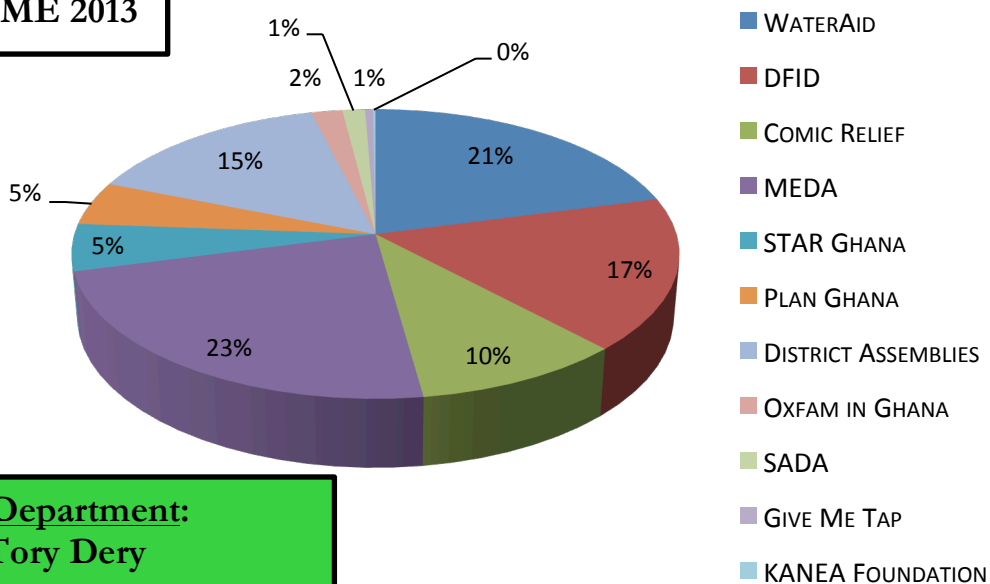
~To support office staff through review and implementation of financial and administrative policies to ensure efficient and effective project delivery~

INCOME 2012



TOTAL INCOME: GHC 996,938.46

INCOME 2013



TOTAL INCOME: GHC 2,541,926.96

Head of Department:
Vincent Tory Dery

Staff Members:
Clifford Mwinapuo
Samuel Antieku
Thomas Yiryel

NB: Financial data for 2013 is based on data as of October 2013

Collaboration With Research And Learning Institutions

As a key player in the development sector, many individuals, development practitioners, and institutions are interested in learning through the experiences of ProNet in the areas of programming and project implementation. Our vast experiences provide a supportive environment for students pursuing development to deepen their understanding of development work more practically.

UDS Students Internship:

ProNet has over the years engaged with students of University for Development Studies (UDS) to equip them with practical experiences of the theories and knowledge that they gain through studies at school. The emphasis of the UDS internship program is to mentor and guide students at project sites, and to also assist students with information for their research work.

Malvern College Summer Program:

Malvern College is a reputable boarding school based in the UK for pupils aged 13-18, and a contributor to several charities. Malvern Collage has been a key contributor to Concern Universal, who have funded several projects for ProNet North, such as the Northern Floods Project in 2007 and the Women for Upper West Upholding Rights Project, which was a 5-year project running from 2007 to 2012.

Since 2009, students from MC have organized annual trips to Ghana and ProNet. While at ProNet they spend a couple of days visiting project areas to interact, participate and learn with Communities directly. In previous years, students participated in the extraction of Shea butter at a center funded by Concern Universal.

The 2013 batch had the opportunity to visit Tampieni Primary School, which is a target school for School-Led Total Sanitation (SLTS). During their visit, students participated in the construction of a urinal pit for the school and also played some sanitation games with the students.



UDS INTERNS in a Community



Students laying blocks and plastering the Tampieni primary school urinary



International Interns and Volunteers

ProNet has built relationships with international organizations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Volunteer Service Overseas, and Engineers without Borders, as well as individual volunteers and researchers. The organization identifies capacity gaps within, which they then ask volunteers with relevant skills to come and assist appropriately depending on the length of their stay.

ProNet is grateful to JICA, VSO, EWB, Individuals who have supported with various personnel with varying skills to help in organizational development. Currently, ProNet Works with five international members working in various capacities.

Jane Longville
(VSO)

Organizational Development
Officer
Assisted with Structural Change



UNITED
KINGDOM



Jeannine Vankan
(VSO)

Inclusion Officer
Assisted with
Inclusive Education



NETHERLANDS

Alice Delemare
(VSO)

Media Communications Officer
Assisted with Advocacy



UNITED
KINGDOM



Hikaru Okamoto
(JICA)

Program Officer
Assisted with Documentation
and Resource Center Renovation



JAPAN



Nittaya Saenbut
(UDS-Brandeis University)

Intern/ On Practicum
Assisted with Planning and
Start-up of CBH Project



THAILAND



Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E is a key element of accountability for ProNet. Ultimately, Monitoring and Evaluation is intended to:

- Support and strengthen the ProNet team towards **achieving organizational goals**
- Support the accountability role of the management team to **meet the target results** of development partners
- Support the documentation, learning, and communication of successes and challenges on progress made for up-scaling or replication purposes

Focusing on Evidence

ProNet is a believer in EVIDENCE when it comes to monitoring deliverables. The baseline information collected at the beginning of projects add to high quality evidence collected during the process to strengthen our overall evaluation of projects.



Reviewing the Past Year...

This year, the M&E Unit benefited from various trainings and development workshops to build our capacity. We attended workshops on Results Based Management facilitated by partners such as CIDA, MEDA, STAR-Ghana and Oxfam, which exposed us to the most current M&E tools used for development work.

Through the support of STAR-Ghana, the entire organization benefited from training on the use of various tools and was able to develop an M&E manual for organizational purposes. Tools such as Daily Data Capture Sheets have been developed for use by field officers on a daily basis as well.



Looking Forward...

Two new projects; Community Benefits Health (CBH) and Complimentary Basic Education (CBE) have come on stream and will enhance the scope of services that we bring to the doorsteps of partner communities

The unit will work hard in areas of fundraising and proposal development to increase the portfolio for rural development in the future.



Paschal Gyireh
M&E Focal Person

Information on the Organization

Director	Martin Dery
Executive Council	Mr. Robert Daniels Mr. Oduro Donkor Mr. A.Y.O. Modoc Mr. Clement Kofi Fosu Mr. Thaddeus Sory Very Rev. Fr. Conrad Bayor Mrs. Anacleta Naab
Head Office	Deprico Building Napogba Kole, Konta Behind Nasona Filling Station, Wa, Ghana
Auditors	Badiko, Suglo & Associates Chartered Accountants Diamond House, 3 rd Floor P.O. Box GP 18097 Accra, Ghana
Bankers	Barclays Bank (GH) Ltd Stanbic Bank (GH) Ltd Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd National Investment Bank Ltd
ProNet North Office:	P.O. Box 360 Wa, Upper West Region Ghana
Telephone Number:	+233 (03920) 22513
Fax Number:	+233 (03920) 20348
e-mail address:	pronetwa@gmail.com
Website:	http://www.pronet-ghana.org

Members of Staff

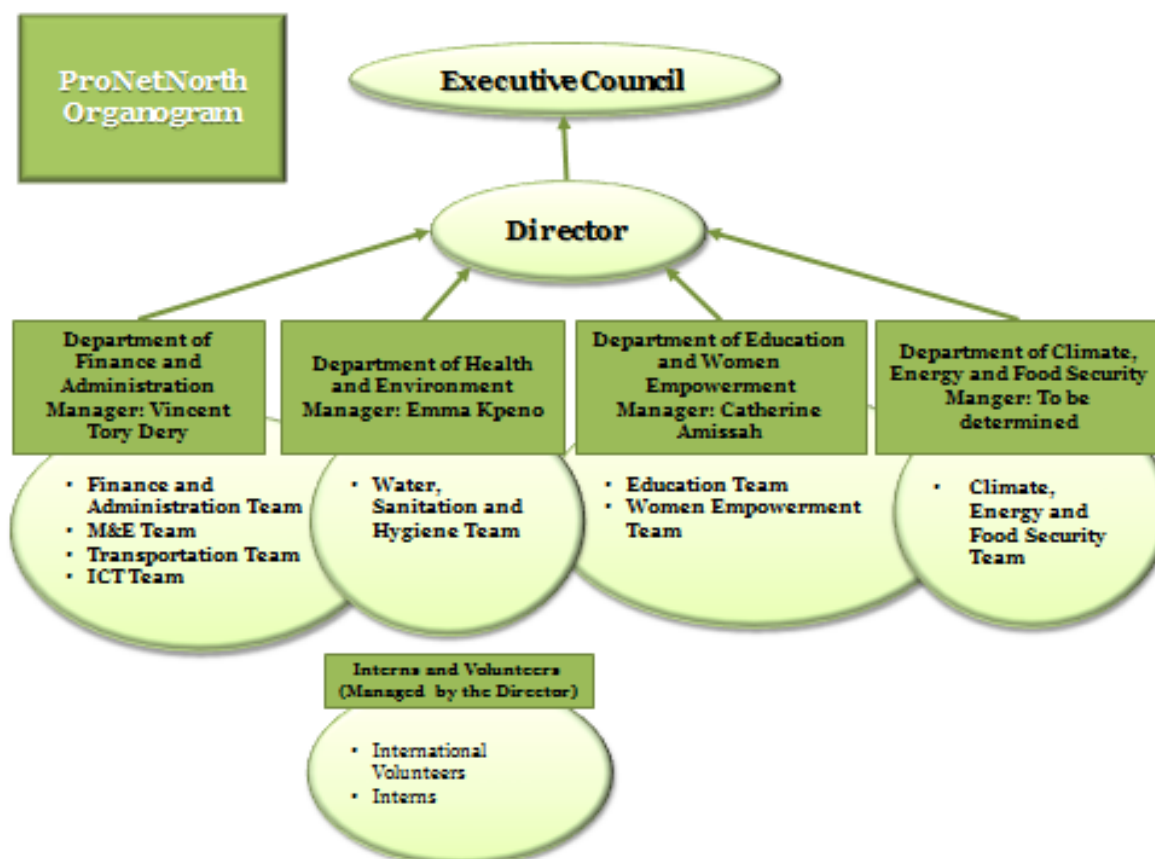
Full Complement of Staff (in Alphabetical Order)

Abdul-Rahim Mohammed
 Aminu Awudu
 Alhassan Seidu
 Bayor Daniel Bangs
 Bayorlee Basilide
 Catherine Amissah
 Clifford Mwinapuo
 Charity Nang
 Collins Soyeng
 Erasmus Awuni
 Emmanuel Ballans
 Elvis Kokaa
 Emma Kpeno
 Haruna Tia
 Haliti Yahaya
 Ivy Nayiri
 Issahaku Adam
 Josephine Yuora Terkpeng
 Juliet Baliebanoe
 Mathilda Deri
 Martin Dery
 Mavis Kuunaiguo
 Pascal Gyireh

Samuel Antieku
 Samuel Faasob
 Stephen Kobom
 Samuel Lanidune
 Salam Mwini-Balonno Amadu
 Sumaiya Adams
 Thomas Yiryel
 Vitus Nakurayiri
 Vincent Tory Dery
 Wahid Yahaya
 Yunus Jinsung Zakaria

International Volunteers

Alice Delemare (VSO)
 Hikaru Okamoto (JICA)
 Jane Longvile (VSO)
 Jeannine Vankan (VSO)
 Nittaya Saenbut (Intern)



Date Published 28 February 2014

Compiled by Hikaru Okamoto
 Issahaku Adam
 Josephine Yuora Terkpeng
 Salam Mwini-Balonno Amadu
 Wahid Yahaya

All photos and articles contained in this report are the property of ProNet North, and cannot be duplicated without permission of the organization.

Any questions or comments regarding the content of this publication should be sent to the following address:

ProNet North
P.O. Box 360
Wa, Upper West Region
Ghana

Partners – Thank You!!!!

Multi-lateral and International Organizations

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Crown Agents
Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
Department for International Development (DFID)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Oxfam Ghana
World Bank
Water Institute, University of North Carolina
International Development Bank
Comic Relief
Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)
Plan Ghana
STAR-Ghana
Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)
WaterAid Ghana

Government

All District Assemblies in the Upper West Region and Nkronza North District in Brong Ahafo Region
Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)
Ministry of Local Government
Savanna Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)

National NGOs

Centre for Community Participation and Development (CCPAD)
Kanea Foundation

Others

Coady Institute
Give Me Tap
Malvern College
University for Development Studies (UDS), Wa