

ProNet North

working in partnerships for sustainable development



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

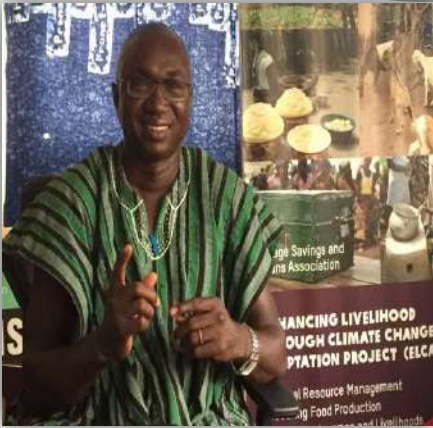
Table of Contents

Contents	Page Number
Table of Contents	i
List of Acronyms	ii
Director’s Message	1
About Our Organization	2
Department of Education and Women’s Empowerment	3
Complementary Basic Education Program.....	4
Tackling Education Needs Inclusively.....	5
Girls Education Fund.....	7
ESONG.....	8
Community Benefits Health.....	9
Greater Rural Opportunities for Women.....	10
Department of Climate, Energy and Food Security	11
Climate resilient agriculture and food systems.....	12
Department of Health and Environment	13
Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project.....	14
Results-based financing for community-led total sanitation (CLTS).....	15
Picture Gallery.....	16
Department of Finance and Administration	18
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	19
Collaboration with Research and Learning Institutions.....	20
International Volunteers and Interns.....	21
Information on the Organization	22
Members of Staff	23
Organogram	24
Funding partners	25

List of Acronyms

BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
CRAFS	Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security Systems
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DA	District Assembly
DFID	Department for International Development
EMPOWER	Women's Leadership for Economic Empowerment and Food Security
ELCAP	Enhancing Livelihood Security through Climate Change Adaptation Learning
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GCBE	Ghana Complementary Basic Education
GEF	Girls Education Fund
GHS	Ghana Cedis
GROW	Greater Rural Opportunities for Women
HH	Household
HHL	Household Latrines
HV	Hygiene Volunteer
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
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PCVA	Participatory Climate Vulnerability Assessment
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SHS	Senior High School
SLTS	School Led Total Sanitation
SRWSP	Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project
StFX/Coady	St. Francis Xavier /University's Coady International Institute
STMIE	Science, Technology, Mathematics and Innovations Education
TENI	Tackling Education Needs Inclusively
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
VSO	Volunteer Services Overseas
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Another year has come to a close, rather rapidly, if one can put it that way.

Our part of the world in the north western edge of Ghana is getting warmer, nay, hotter: and, colder, much colder. Over the past 20 years there is no denying that things have changed around here, and, elsewhere! We are told 15 of the past 20 years are the warmest in history and weather related havoc is on the rise!

The UN led climate talks in Paris this year (COP21/CMP11), reported as the largest ever gathering of governments and stakeholders to agree steps and emission targets to slow down global warming and climate change, have surpassed initial expectations with an agreed target below 2.0 °C by the target year (2030). Good thing is, the most influential leaders and institutions of the world now agree there is climate change, and that human activity, and not evolution, is contributing to this change. On a much quieter front, researchers are working hard to explore the prospects of alternative and renewable energy using elements more consistent with nature and the environment. Emerging technologies include Biogas, Geothermal, Solar and Fusion as sources of energy: and the World Bank has promised massive financial support to match responsive initiatives by member countries.

It is my humble opinion that, the human factor, still largely ignored, remains the most influential in our nose dive towards eminent crisis: our abuse and disregard for nature and unbridled consumption of products whose manufacture and supply results in high levels of environmental degradation, pollution and ozone depletion, is a key factor that must be addressed! We all must take individual responsibility, even if this means living outside our comfort zone. Only time will reveal our commitment.

Martin Dery

ABOUT US

ProNet Association was registered in 1994 as a Non-Governmental Organisation. ProNet North was re-incorporated in September, 2014 with registration number CG125392014 in line with government's directive for existing entities in the country.

Over the 20 years of existence, ProNet North has successfully implemented a range of projects in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery, Training and Capacity Building, Participatory Governance, Child Rights, Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment for Women, Rooted Advocacy, Maternal & Child Health, Education and Climate Change Adaptation. ProNet North has also worked in disaster response and disaster risks reduction. ProNet North will continue to work towards a sustained impact on the lives of communities across Northern Ghana and the Brong-Ahafo Region, and serving as a centre for learning.

OUR VISION: To be the partner organization of choice for development work in Northern Ghana towards building 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.

To be a Centre for learning, practice, and advocacy, rooted in streamlining approaches and strategies that address the aspirations of groups, communities and indigenous systems based on lessons over years of experience.

STRATEGIES

Advocacy, Service Delivery, Learning and Capacity Building, Gender, Inclusion and Partnerships

VALUES

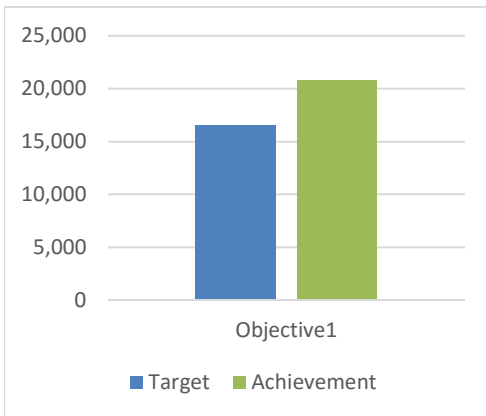
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Partnership
- Openness
- Human Dignity
- Ideas over Hierarchy

Department of Education and Women's Empowerment

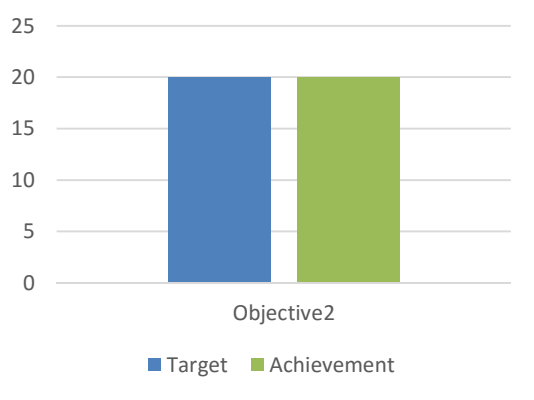
Goal: Support the elimination of social injustice to marginalized groups:

women, girls, children with disabilities and orphans

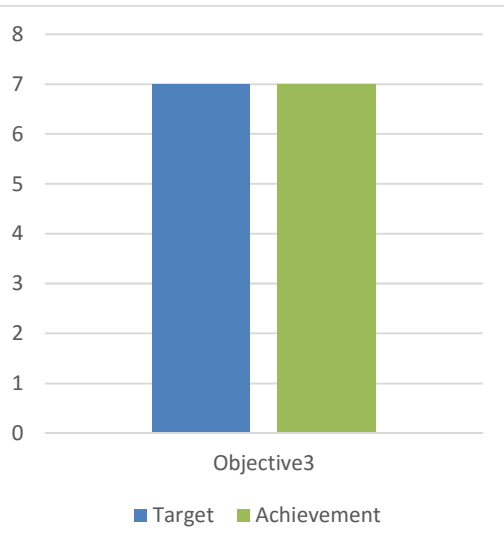
Objective1: To improve enrolment, retention and transition rates of **16,505** girls and vulnerable children from basic to senior high by 30% (2011 levels) by 2015



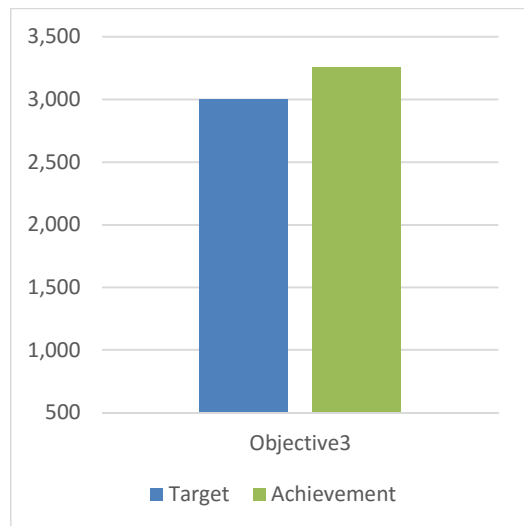
Objective 2: To facilitate quality teaching and learning and safe environment in **20** basic schools in Jirapa district by 2015



Objective3: To increase women's participation in decision making at all levels (households, communities, electoral areas, etc.) in **7** districts by the end of 2015.



Objective 4: To increase access to ready and affordable micro-financing and support services for **3,000** women by the end of 2015.



COMPLEMENTARY BASIC EDUCATION (CBE)

Funded by: Department for International Development (DFID) & USAID

Partner: Crown Agents:

Ghana Complementary Basic Education (GCBE) is a Government of Ghana programme which aims at ensuring every child of school going age, especially, those between the ages of 8-14yrs are enrolled into formal school. Learners are usually taken through a nine-month mother tongue education on literacy and numeracy skills after which they are assessed and transitioned into the formal school system to continue education. CBE contributes to MDG2 which is achieving universal primary education by 2015.

CBE is implemented by several partners including ProNet North which is implementing in Northern, upper west and Brong-Ahafo regions covering 8 districts, namely, Jirapa, Nadowli-Kaleo, Daffiama/Busie/Issa, Sissala West, Sissala East, Wa East, West Gonja and Nkoranza North.

Outcomes

Collaborate with GES and the District Assemblies to identify communities with potential “Out of School Children” learners for the purpose of fore-running and animation.

Establish 234 classes with learner-enrolment of 5850.



The Launching of CBE Cycle 2 at Yaru in the Wa East District

Train and equip CBE facilitators on mother tongue literacy methodology and how to manage learners in their various communities. (Initial training, first and second refresher trainings in September, December and March respectively)

Build the capacity of circuit supervisors in the various districts on the concept of CBE and how to monitor CBE classes for the purpose of ownership after donor exit.

Build the capacity of Head teachers/p3-p4 teachers where CBE learners will be transitioning into after graduation.

Our Success Story

Through CBE activities communities such as, Banonyiri, Kenkelee, and Dabilipuo in DBI and Wa East districts have acquired formal schools. Also in Yaru, a community in the Wa East district, the director of education supplied free school uniforms to CBE graduates to enable them integrate into the formal school.



Ongoing CBE class at Gbaru

Tackling Education Needs Inclusively (TENI)

Funded by: Comic Relief

Partner: Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO)

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

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

Outcomes

- More girls are completing their basic education than before, retention rates have increased from 42% in 2011/2013 to 110.64% 2013/2014.
- Girls who drop out of school due to repetition, pregnancy or elopement are returning to school courtesy community and peer mentoring. In 2015, 11 dropped out girls returned to school.
- PTA/SMCs and PTA Coalitions conducting Budget Tracking in Project schools due to increased skills and capacities
- Increasing community commitment to removing cultural barriers to education. 12 communities have instituted bye-laws eliminate socio-cultural barriers to girls education
- District and circuit PTA Coalitions are effectively engaging GES and DA on teacher supply and infrastructure issues
- High knowledge level and acceptance of persons with disabilities at school and community; resulting in more children with mild to moderate forms of disability enrolling in mainstream schools



THE ESCAPE OF GBIEO DEBORAH

A case story of a form 3 pupil of Sigri R/C School



“My dream of becoming a nurse was coming to a painful end when I woke up one morning to find myself in Uwlo, a suburb of Daffiama in the DBI district. I could not imagine being the wife to a man as old as my senior brother. Crying and asking questions why this was happening to me, I found out that my parents were behind my elopement. Though it was not my will, I couldn’t do anything to free myself because I was locked up in a room.

Then I remembered my lessons from my schools girls club on how to escape from threatening situations, so I started searching for how to escape. I stayed in the room for 5 days where I was fed and on the 6th day I went out with my husband to be, there I met one madam Asata, the girls club patron of Baazu D/A school who came for a funeral, and I spoke to her about what I was doing in Uollo. She advised me and also showed me a household I could run to at night, and through them I will find my way to my uncle house in Sigri. That was how I escaped from early marriage, my parents were later called to the Jirapa education office but they refused. I am currently in form 3 and very confident of realizing my dream. Thanks to ProNet North and the TENI project who enlightened me through girls club, and the opportunity to meet people like madam Asata who helped me to escape early marriage”

THE Challenge

A new wave of child out-migration, especially girls to towns and mining centers is derailing the gains made on retention and transition.

GIRLS EDUCATION FUND (GEF)

Funded by: Kanea Foundation and Individual donors

Four years ago, the Girls Education Fund started with a donation of GHS1400 from a group of VSO Volunteers to help finance the education of one brilliant girl. Since then, staff of ProNet North and other interested individuals and groups; notably, Malvern Collage of UK and Kanea Foundation; have donated varying sums to the fund.

Four girls (Esther Zury, Christian Dongdeme, Emilia Kangba-Enie and Vida Dassah) benefited from this scholarship for their SHS education. Three of these girls are currently studying to rewrite /better a couple of subjects to enable them go to the tertiary while one of them is currently studying Community Health Nursing at the Jirapa Nurses Training School.

Recruitment on the fund was suspended in 2015 due to the huge investment made on Emilia who is at a tertiary institution. It was necessary to support this girl beyond Senior High School since she was at high risk of dropping out of school even after High school, owing to extreme poverty.

THE UNFOLDING DREAM

Emilia Kangba-enie is my name and a beneficiary of the Girls Education Fund implementing by ProNet North with support from Kanea Foundation and other individual donors. I was enrolled onto the scholarship in 2011 to be supported in Senior High School. I was given all my basic school needs for all terms in High school and upon completion I was engaged as a volunteer teacher as my community service. I thought at my community primary school where I inspired my younger ones especially girls to take their education seriously.



After Senior High School my dream was to enroll in Ghana School of Journalism to use the media as a platform to encourage the younger ones to take their education serious as that is the powerful tool to fighting poverty. Unfortunately I could not enroll in the School of Journalism but I am currently at the Jirapa Community Health Nursing Training School. My dream of getting a platform is still on course, as I will still be working in communities and with people and will have the opportunity to encourage the younger generation. Am grateful for the support and aspire to contribute to this fund in kind and in cash.

ESONG-SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY AND THEIR FAMILIES IN JIRAPA DISTRICT

Esong is a community-led support group made up of volunteers, children with disability and their families in the Jirapa District. The group so far has registered 106 children and their parents who attend meetings monthly. In addition to education on pro-poor policies they can benefit from, members get to socialize, learn more about their condition and how to better cope, share experience and motivate each other to be positive and strive towards social integration.

ProNet North supports the Esong group by providing them with logistics and feeding for their monthly meetings through the TENI project. Support was also extended to the Esong group to establish a data base of persons with disability. ProNet North also worked with the GES Inclusion Officer to assess children in school for vision and hearing impairments for proper placement, treatment and management.

We are Very Grateful to YOU: the voice of Esong

The Esong group supported with gifts during the 2015 end of year meeting at Jirapa.



Community Benefits Health (CBH)

Funded by: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partner: Concern Worldwide (CWW), USA

Community Benefits Health is a pilot project in Ghana's Upper West Region that creatively uses non-monetary incentives to cultivate communities' commitment to improving maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH).

The CBH program targets Ghana's rural communities that have among the country's highest death rates for pregnant women and newborns. Community Benefits Health aims to improve healthy behaviors through robust health messaging that targets women and the important influencers in their lives – such as husbands, mothers-in laws and village elders-- and through a non-cash incentive that benefits the entire community.

The program aims to make four antenatal care visits, facility delivery, a post-delivery check for mother and baby and early exclusive breastfeeding a community social norm.

Success of cbh so far

- Social norms around MNCH changing - community no longer considers pregnancy issues as a 'woman's business'
- Increased support of key community influencers in health decisions (mother in laws and husbands) in encouraging and accompanying pregnant women for:-
 - Early trimester ANC
 - Skilled delivery
 - post natal care
- Improved communal spirit of community members towards improved community health and best health practices.
- Women admitted that project has reduced workload of women due to male involvement in ANC and PNC.
- Women are practicing exclusive breastfeeding and have come to understand that the early initiation of breastfeeding is making their children healthier



A CHO attending to a nursing mother at Olli CHPS

Greater Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW)

Funded by: Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

Partner: Mennonites Economic Development Associates (MEDA)

Greater Rural Opportunities for Women project (GROW) seeks to ensure food security and provide business solutions to rural women. We aim at achieving this through the production of soya beans for sale and also to serve as a nutritional supplement for families. The project has been operational for the past three years and will continue up till 2018. It is implemented in, Nadowli, Wa East and DBI districts, with a targeted population of 3000 women for 2015.

The project has changed the lives of over 3000 women farmers in these three districts since its inception in 2013 through soybean production, processing and sale as well as an alternative to dry season activities, which is complemented by capacity building on gender, agronomics, nutrition and infant and young child feeding.

Farming as a Business

During the 2015 season, About 433 women planted 0.5 acres, 1166 planted 1 to 1.5 acres whilst about 256 clients cultivated more than 2 acres of soybeans. More women have now taken up farming as a business as they are gradually moving away from the practice of producing solely for household consumption. This has significantly improved women incomes to support household needs such as food, health and education. The following are attestations of how GROW is offering business solutions to women:



“those who used tractor to till their field paid about GHC 90 this year but I was not having that kind of money so I decided to try with the herbicide which I bought at GHC 14 from my field officer but when I used just that one bottle this year I have been able to harvest 7 bags which is even more than the four bags I had as at last year” Bahajatu Issah, Gilang Community.

Aside the nutritional benefits we derive from these two keyhole gardens, we have been able to generate an amount of GHC350 through the sale of the vegetables Gyoglu Roberta, Baaleyiri



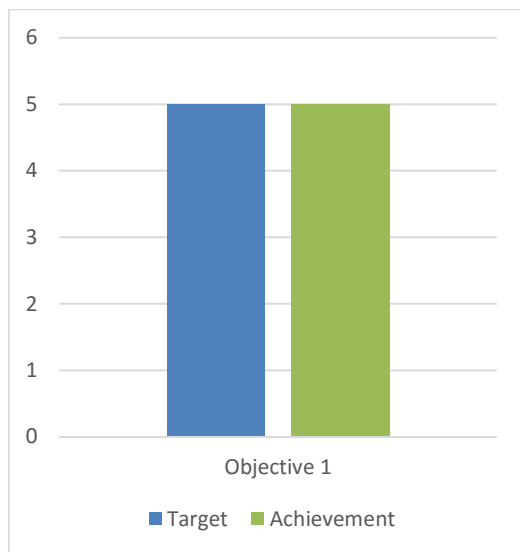
Outcomes

- Mobilized 3256 over a targeted number of 3000 clients of which 1954 (81%) cultivated soya beans.
- GROW /ProNet North received best NGO in Agriculture Award for Wa East District
- Conservation Agriculture practicing Clients increased from 35 clients from 2013 to 523 clients in 2015
- 6 Women, 2 groups received awards from MEDA/GAC for conservation agriculture, leadership and group dynamics

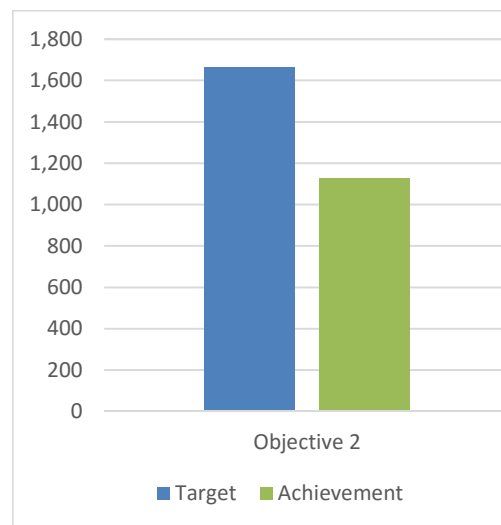
DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY

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

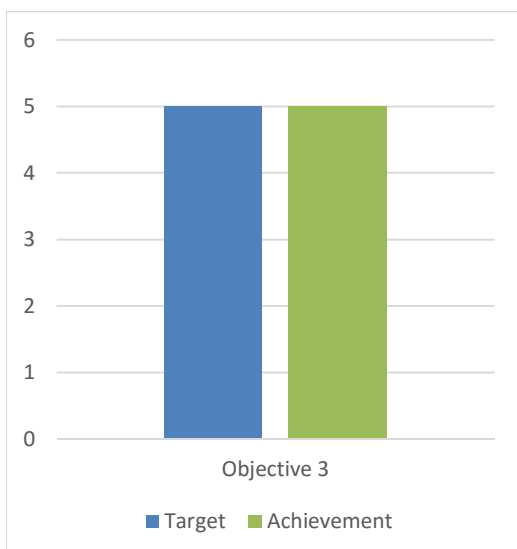
Objective 1: To increase food availability all year round through sustainable farming systems and practices in 5 communities by the end of 2015



Objective 2: To increase women and vulnerable groups' (1,666 beneficiaries) access to productive resources sustainably by 2015



Objective 3: To increase rural households adaptation levels for 5 communities through DRR strategies by 2015.



CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

(CRAFS)

Funded by: OXFAM

Duration: March 2015 - March 2018

CRAFS is a climate change adaptation program that seeks to improve upon food security and livelihoods through climate smart farming and livelihood interventions. It is an extension of the ELCAP project that ended March 2015. It involves several activities to improve upon livelihoods of 1125 small holder farmers of which 70% are women in 5 beneficiary communities in the Daffiama- Busie- Issa District.

Outcomes

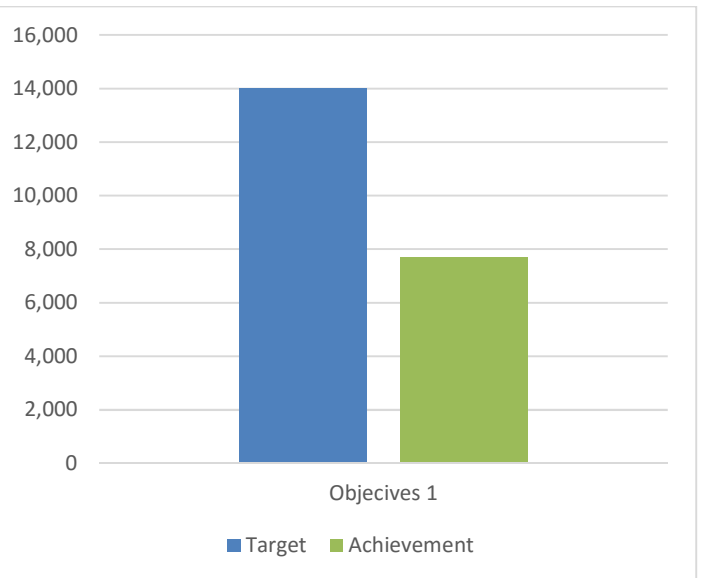
- 45 farmers supported to do dry season Farming
- 126 farmers trained and supported in compost making
- 6 Climate Smart Clubs formed in 6 schools in the district
- 48 women supported with 110 livestock (goats) in 5 communities
- 20 farmers trained and supported in bee keeping/ Apiculture
- PCVA conducted in five beneficiary communities
- 10 VSLA groups with a total membership of 125 members formed, trained and supported.



Department of Health and Environment

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

Objective 1: To increase access and rights to potable water to 14,000 poor and marginalized rural and urban people by 2015



Objective 2: To promote and support the adoption of safe disposal of solid and liquid waste practices for 20,000 poor and marginalized people by 2015



CHALLENGES

- Inadequate funding.

SUSTAINABLE RURAL WATER and SANITATION PROJECT

Funded by: World Bank (IDA)/GOG

Partner: Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) and CWSA

The SRWSP set out within the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme aims at assisting rural communities and small towns to plan, construct and operate their own water supply and sanitation facilities. The aim of the sanitation and hygiene intervention is to ensure ownership and sustainability by investing in community mobilization activities towards the creation of a congenial environment for households to invest in hygiene and sanitation.

The overall objective: Is to increase capacity in terms of knowledge and skills of beneficiary communities and their Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMT) to promote effective hygiene and sanitation, plan, implement and manage the facilities to ensure sustainability of project interventions.



Outcomes

1. Eleven (11) member Water and Sanitation Management Team formed in Wechiau and Kpongu.
2. Twenty (20) Community Hygiene and Sanitation Volunteers formed and trained in Wechiau and Kpongu.
3. Capital Accounts, Operational Accounts and Sanitation Accounts for water and sanitation management in Wechiau and Kpongu.
4. Trained 30 School Health Teachers 10 selected schools in the Wa West District and Wa Municipality.
5. Trained 16 community-based artisans on safe latrine construction and CLTS concept.

RESULTS-BASED FINANCING FOR COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION (CLTS)

Funded by UNICEF

Improved sanitation and hygiene services integrated with potable and adequate water supply are a critical factor in deciding the health of a nation. The Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) estimates that Ghana loses GH¢42 million annually in labour and productivity caused by lack of, and, or inadequate sanitation and hygiene services. This notwithstanding, stakeholders in the sector believe that this trend could be reversed, but will require considerable efforts and resources from the Sector

Project objective

To Put Ghana back on-track to meeting the MDG target for sanitation through development and implementation of innovative but effective programmes involving sector players and to recognize the need to pool resources together to work toward scaling up sanitation delivery in the country.

Outcomes

- Triggered 25 communities
- 16 communities self-assessment carried out.
- 14 ODF basic status attained

Way forward

- Integrate CLTS concept in all program areas to help broaden the urgent need for good sanitation at community levels.
- Adopt innovative measures to facilitate communities involvement in sanitation delivery.
- Share best practice after using the innovative approaches among practitioners at various levels.
- Advocate/lobby DAs/MMDAs to increase budgetary allocation for sanitation during the Development of medium term plans.



PICTURE GALLERY



Wa East District Director of Education presenting learning materials to learners at the launch of CBE cycle 2



CBE class ongoing at Bulee No. 2



A visit by the president of Concern World Wide USA



CETS Drivers Training session in Chebogu



Sowing Demonstration at farmer school field at Dakyie



Livelihood support to women groups at Pulbaa



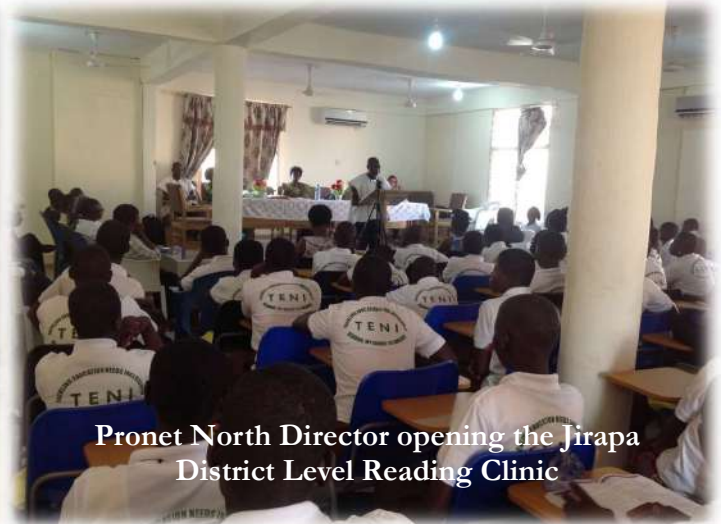
Inspection of Soya growth at Tafale



Soak away construction ongoing



Participants of STMIE workshop
(Girls Club)



Pronet North Director opening the Jirapa
District Level Reading Clinic



Staff Capacity Building workshop

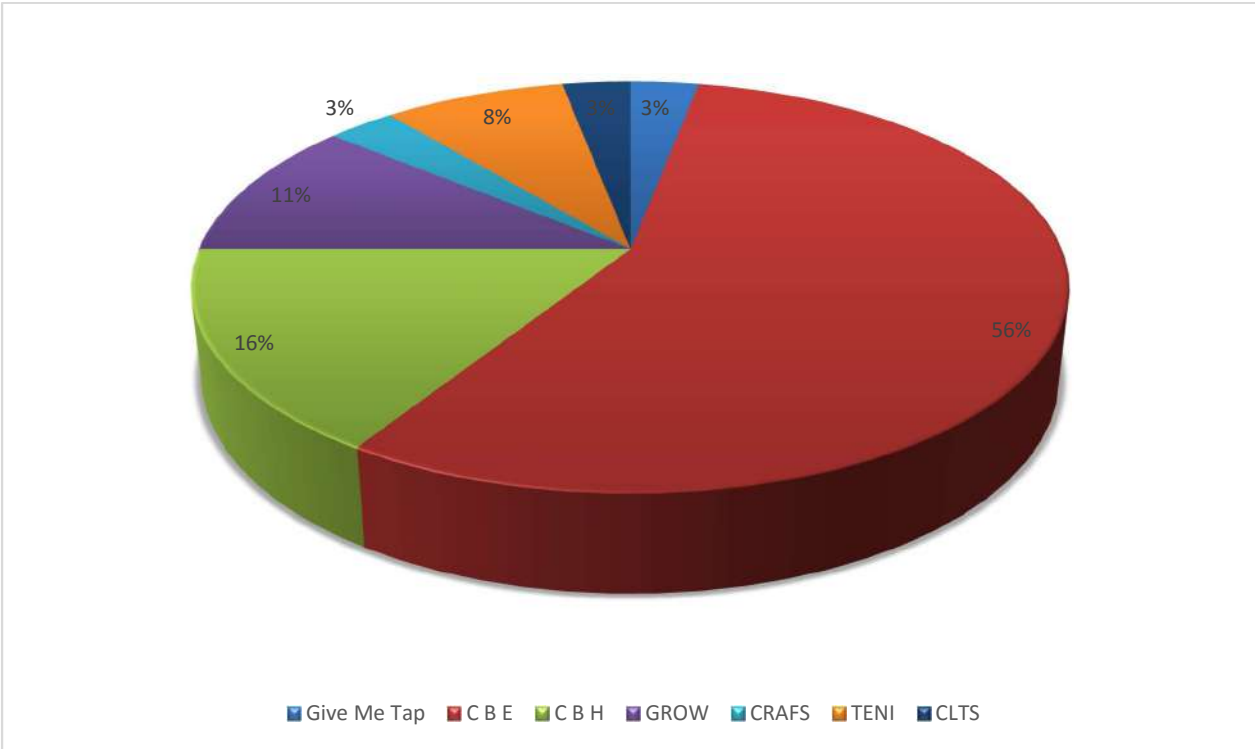


A section of ProNet North staff

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

INCOME 2015



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

ProNet North will commit to **evidence** based deliverables through effective Monitoring and Evaluation. The focus of M & E will be supporting and strengthening the various teams towards achieving project goals, support in the documentation and learning into projects/programs, and communication of successes and challenges on progress made for up-scaling and or replication and sustainability purposes. The Organization's M&E system therefore will remain a critical part of good project management and accountability.

Basic M&E Tools

ProNet North is working with partners to develop an effective M & E system that would ensure accuracy of information and safe data management. ProNet North with the support from Think Place-Australia and Concern Worldwide employed the Design Thinking methodology on the CBH project which looked at practical and participatory ways of solving MNCH problems. Process Documentation (PD) helps track emerging project implementation issues and learning to improve project outcomes. The organization has in place the I-Form Builder and the ODK Mobile applications that support data collection and information management.

Collaboration with Research and Learning Institutions

Development practice today requires evidence as reasonable justification for the practice and appropriate platforms for learning and sharing of knowledge gained for replication and up scaling.

As an Organization dominantly involved in community development and proficient in using human centered approaches to improve lives, ProNet North collaborates with Research and Learning institutions such as UDS-Ghana, Malvern College-UK and StFX/Coady, Nova Scotia-Canada

University for Development Studies (UDS)

Students from UDS over the years have been supported with practical fieldwork to complement their theoretical knowledge base through industrial attachment. Students are deployed to the field to perform specific project tasks within a 6 weeks period each academic year. Experienced field officers lead these students to perform duties such as scheduling community meetings, Community entry procedures, Facilitating community meeting, consensus building, notes taking, report writing, group dynamics, needs assessment and prioritization among others;38 students were granted this practical opportunity for learning in 2015

Malvern College-UK

There was no visit in the year under review (2015)

Women's Leadership for Economic Empowerment and Food Security-EMPOWER

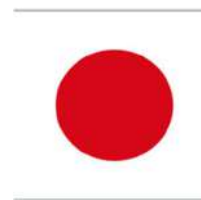
EMPOWER is supported by GAC aimed at contributing to reducing poverty in Ethiopia, Ghana and Zambia. Led by StFX/Coady, the program works with three experienced African partners; WISE in Ethiopia, UDS and CIKOD in Ghana and WFC in Zambia. They aim at:

- Promoting leadership by rural women and their organizations to address food security and sustainable economic livelihood issues.
- Enhancing strategies and approaches by Partner organizations to promote opportunities for women and girls in the rural communities in their respective countries.

In 2015, ProNet North had training for 1 staff (Terence Tienaah) at StFXU/Coady, on Global Youth Leadership; Facilitation and Training Approaches and Community Driven Impact Assessment. This has strengthened the organization in its community empowerment

International Interns and Volunteers

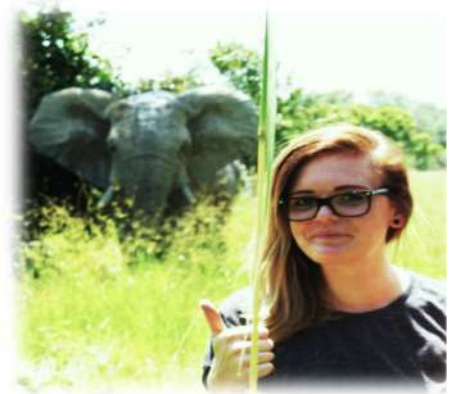
ProNet has built relationships with international organizations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and Engineers without Borders, as well as individual volunteers and researchers. The organization identifies capacity gaps within, and request volunteers with relevant skills to come and assist appropriately depending on the length of their stay. In 2015, ProNet worked with three international members through AIESEC, the world's largest youth-led network creating positive impact through personal development and shared global experiences in various capacities.



Shiori Hayashi, Kobe University



Simon



Lena Chmielewski,
Universitat Kassel

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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Mr. Awuni Erasmus
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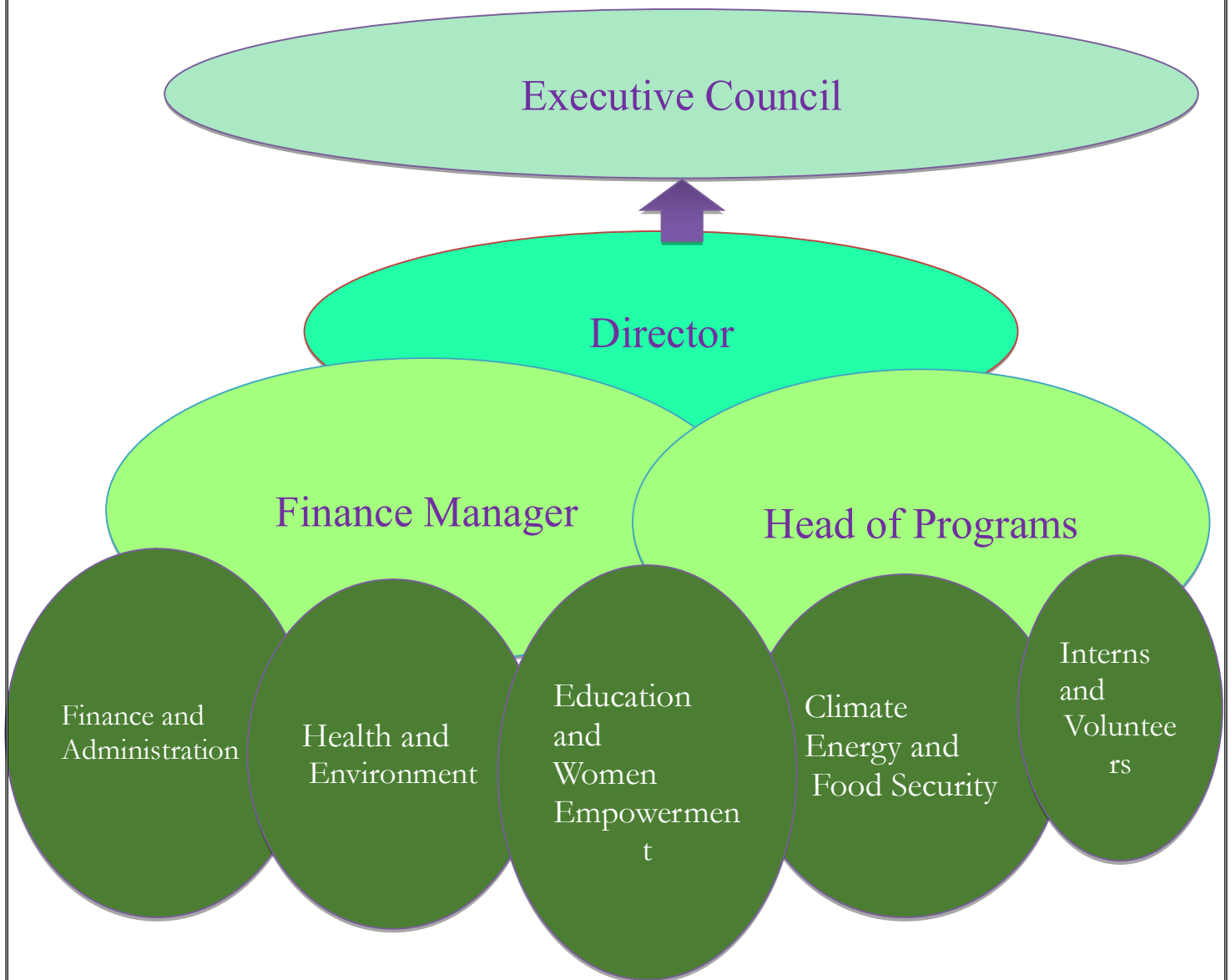
Internship and Volunteers

Adade Michael
Sauri Esther
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International Volunteers

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Lena Chmielewski
Shiori Hayashi

ORGANOGRAM



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Monitoring of Soya Beans Farm by ProNet North Staff and Partners

