

ProNet North

working in partnerships for sustainable development



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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List of Acronyms

BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
CRAFS	Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security Systems
CYWDs	Children & Youth With Disabilities
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DA	District Assembly
DFID	Department for International Development
EMPOWER	Women's Leadership for Economic Empowerment and Food Security
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GCBE	Ghana Complementary Basic Education
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
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
PPEs	Personal Protective Equipment
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SARI	Savannah Agricultural Research Institute
SHS	Senior High School
SLTS	School Led Total Sanitation
StFX/Coady	St. Francis Xavier /University's Coady International Institute
TENI	Tackling Education Needs Inclusively
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSO	Volunteer Services Overseas
WAG	Water Aid Ghana
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

ABOUT US

ProNet Association was registered in 1995 as a Non-Governmental Organisation. ProNet North was incorporated in September, 2014 with registration number CG125392014.

Over the twenty-one 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, while serving as a centre for interdisciplinary learning and development.

To effectively accomplish these thematic areas, the 2017/2021 Strategic Plan retooled our structure into five Departments:

1. Education and Inclusion
2. Women, Climate, Energy & Food
3. Water and Health
4. Finance and Quality Assurance
5. Research and Learning

CORE VALUES

- ❖ Transparency and Accountability
- ❖ Integrity, Respect for Diversity and Human Dignity
- ❖ Partnerships and Teamwork
- ❖ Innovation, Passion and Excellence

OUR VISION: A Society of Equal Opportunities for all

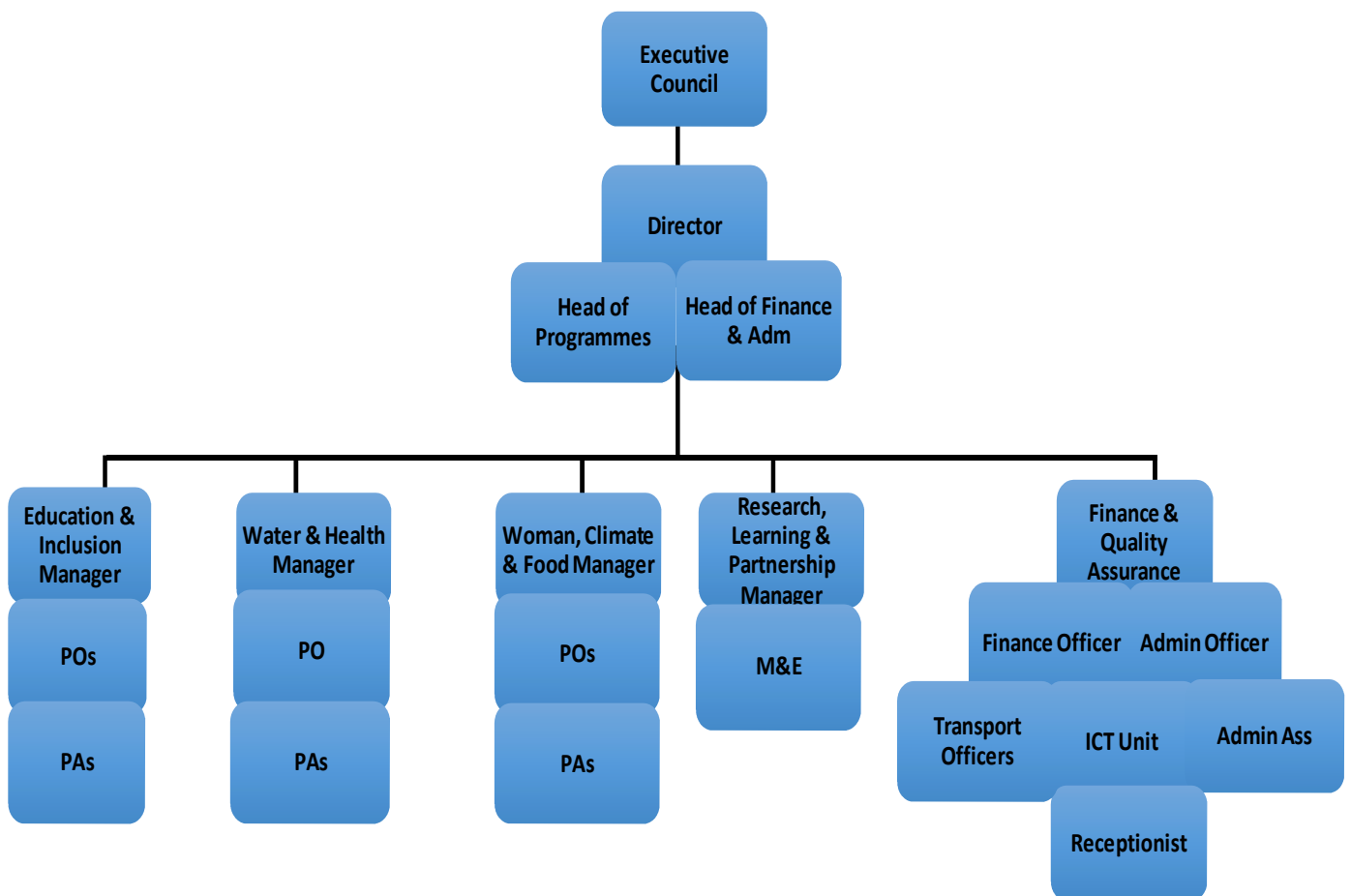
OUR MISSION: Promoting inclusive and sustainable poverty reduction, human dignity, ecological balance and gender equality through effective partnerships, networking and continues learning.

STRATEGIC AIMS

1. To strengthen financial and administrative procedures in ensuring programme quality through effective and robust M&E and internal control systems
2. To contribute to accessible and productive use of water and promotion of healthy living, especially for mothers and children by 2021.
3. To contribute to improved quality of life of 20,000 women and small holder farmers through climate resilient approaches and post-harvest management, empowerment and value chain development by 2021.
4. To promote access to and quality basic education for children, especially girls and children with disabilities by 2021.
5. To contribute to sustainable development, through participatory research and partnerships.

ORGANOGRAM OF THE ORGANISATION

We value ideas over hierarchy! Our open-space management structure allows for free thought and the sharing of ideas between employees and management. There is a strong overlap between departments and the regular flow of information through formal and informal channels which ensure every employee feels a sense of investment in, and loyalty to the organization. Feedback from employees is valued and encouraged.



A Message from the Director



The year under review has been marked by continuous transformation, ProNet North continuous to demonstrate deepened commitment to development. Our organization is growing; our projects are more diversified and our reach is increasing.

Our organization has a history of embracing vital changes for organizational growth. Our Education and Women's Empowerment Unit has been transformed into Department of Education and Inclusion to better reflect our focus on girls, children with disability and migrant children. Our Women, Climate, Energy and Food Unit aptly mirror the practical linkages that exist in our partner communities. We have also established a Department for Research and Learning to ensure current experiences will inform future actions.

Our effort towards holistic development has led to the development of a new Strategic Plan to guide our path into the next 5 years.

ProNet North believes that sustainable development begins with health and human dignity. These fundamental conditions of human wellbeing cannot be met without sustained investments in safe water supply and improved sanitation which still eludes several rural and peri-urban communities in Ghana. Building the capacity of communities on quality water, women empowerment and the rights of children are all essential for community development.

Through the support of our partners, we will continue to uphold our mission to work towards sustainable poverty reduction, ecological balance, gender equality, good governance and sustainable inclusive development through participatory approaches, networking and partnerships.

We look forward to strengthening our existing partnerships and beginning new ones in the coming year.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION

ProNet North's efforts in inclusive education has helped in the transformation of schools and other centres of learning to cater for all children – including boys and girls, students from ethnic and linguistic minorities, rural populations, vulnerable populations and those with various forms of disabilities and learning difficulties by providing learning opportunities for children within the ages of 5 to 25. This has helped eliminate exclusion that is a consequence of negative attitudes and a lack of response to diversity in economic status, social class, ethnicity, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation and ability. Education takes place in many contexts, both formal and non-formal, and within families and the wider community. Consequently, inclusive education is not a marginal issue but central to the achievement of high quality education for all learners and the development of more inclusive societies. Inclusive education is essential to achieve social equity and is a constituent element of lifelong learning. The Department of Education and Inclusion currently runs the following projects and programmes Complementary Basic Education, Tackling Educational Needs Inclusively, Girls Education Fund, International Citizen Service and Child Disability Project/SWEB.

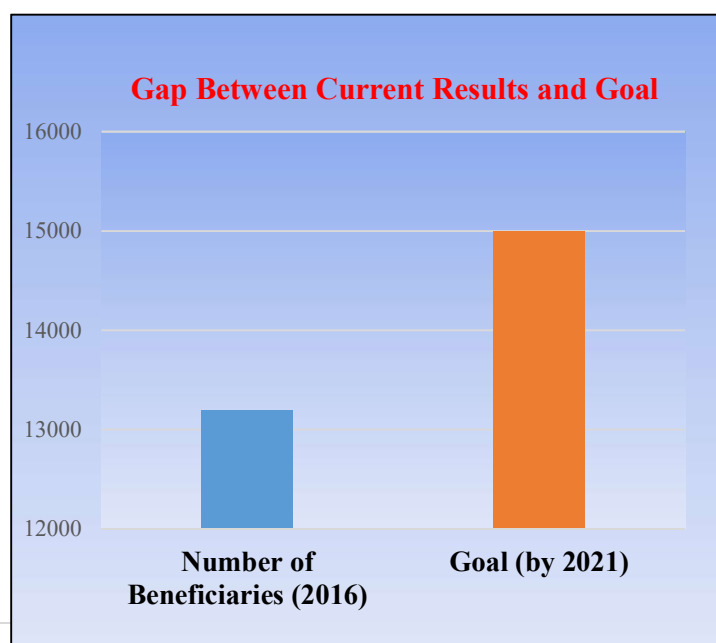
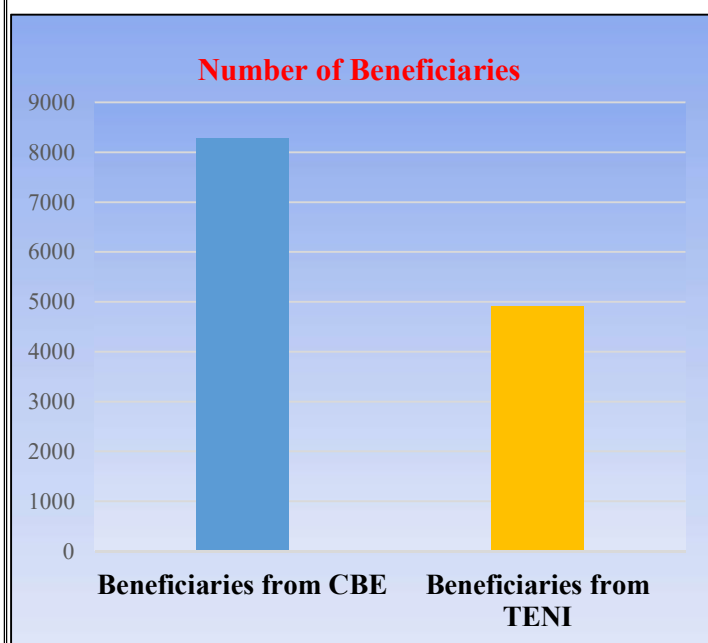
Goal: To promote the educational development of girls, children with disability, migrant children and other vulnerable populations in Northern Ghana through basic education, social and political empowerment.

Objective1: To improve retention and transition rates of girls and vulnerable children from basic to senior high by 50%by 2021

Objective2: To facilitate quality teaching, learning, and safe environment in basic schools in three (3) Regions by 2021

Objective 3: To develop and implement an operational M&E system/framework for improved programme quality by end of 2021

Objective 4: Assist children with disabilities to access quality health, education, and livelihood opportunities, through social inclusion and empowerment by 2021



Complementary Basic Education (CBE)

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

Partner: Crown Agents

Ghana Complementary Basic Education Program is a government of Ghana program with funding from DfID/USAID and Crown Agents as Management Unit. The program is aimed at providing over 200,000 out of school children between the ages of 8-14 access to a flexible learning approach, which includes a 9-month cycle of basic literacy and numeracy in order to transition children to the primary education system by 2018. This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (Quality Education).

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

ProNet North is implementing the project in 10 Districts; 7 in the Upper West Region, 1 in the Northern Region and 2 in the Brong Ahafo Region. The 7 districts in the Upper West Region are: Jirapa, Nadowli, Daffiama/Bussie/Issah, Wa East, Wa West, Sissala East and Sissala West. In the case of the Brong Ahafo, the program is implemented in the Sene West and Pru District whereas it is implemented in the West Gonja District in the case of the Northern Region.

Cycle 4	No. of Com'ties	No. of Classes	Enrolled Learners			Facilitators Recruited and Trained			LCM/SMC Formed and Strengthened		
			Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
2016-2017	274	331	4277	3998	8275	105	226	331	993	662	1655

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Increased number of operational Districts from 8 to 10.
2. Graduated 5,697 (97%) of enrolled learners in 2015-2016 cycle.
3. Transitioned 5,622 (96%) of graduated learners in 2015-2016 cycle.
4. Increased enrollment of learners from 5850 to 8275 in 2016-2017 cycle.
5. Formed **153** Local Committee Members and strengthened **178** School Management Committees.
6. Trained 331 community-based facilitators.
7. Over 50% female enrollments over the past two years.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY

1. Adaption of CBE district coordinator into the District Education Oversight Committee (the case of Wa East District Coordinator)
2. ProNet North facilitated the return of eloped female learners from Daffiama Bussie Issa back to CBE class through the Local Committee Member Intervention
3. Most facilitators have expressed very strong interest in becoming professional teachers as a result of CBE engagement and support for them in the Wa East, Sissala West and Sissala East districts.
4. ProNet North has recorded a high level of female participation in the program (i.e. 60% LCMs/SMCs)
5. Media engagement increased publicity and public buying into the CBE program

Going forward:

- ✓ The program should consider supporting transitioned learners with TLMs as they integrate into the formal system
- ✓ Training for District Officers on safety on the field



Director giving an Address at the Launch of the CBE 2016-2017 Cycle at Jankore



District Level Stakeholder Orientation at Sene West



Gender desk officer facilitating community animation at Gaudayiri in Wa East



Dr. Gharthey and Mr. Lanidune interacting with learners at Da biliipuo



CBE programme manager inspecting learners register at Kunyebing



LCM/SMC Training in the Wa East District

Tackling Education Needs Inclusively (TENI)

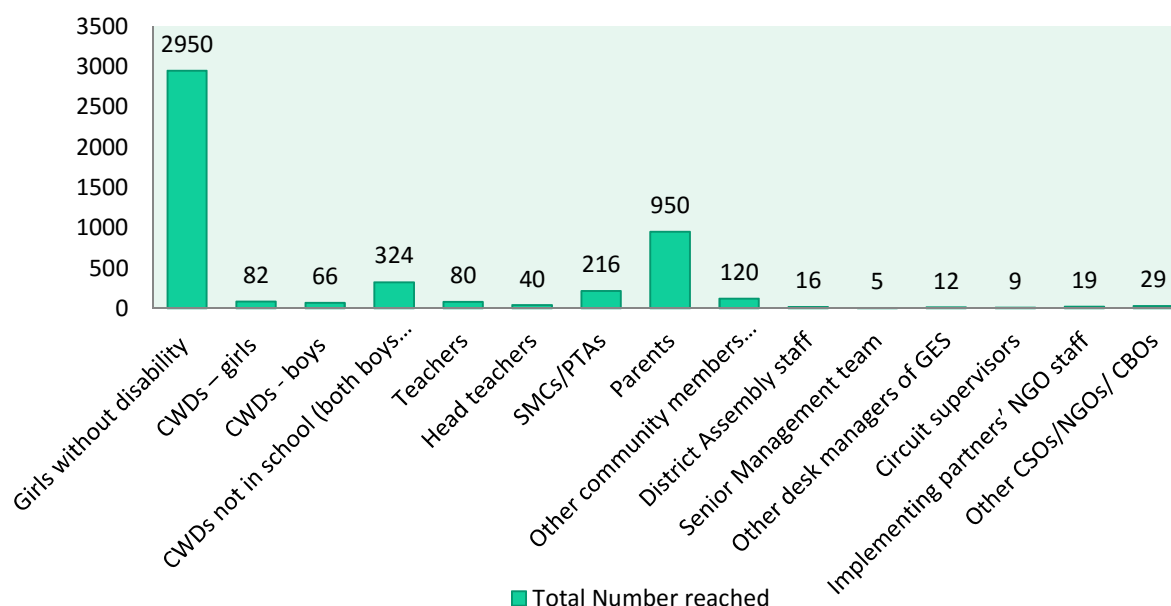
Funded by: Comic Relief; Partner: Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO)

TENI seeks to achieve systemic change by improving transition, completion and quality basic education outcomes for rural disadvantaged children, with keen interest in girls and children with disabilities in Northern Ghana. TENI believes that change can only be achieved when it comes from within and with a personal commitment from the individual, community, family, organization or district towards addressing the problem holistically. The project engages multiple stakeholders and builds on best practices to tackle underlying evils, thus, socio-cultural beliefs, poverty, the school environment, quality of teaching, that prevent children from completing and performing better in school.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- 40 Peer Educators trained in peer education approaches to offer support to girls retention
- Refresher training for 20 patrons and 60 mentors on girls friendly approaches and club management
- Training for 100 club leaders on club management
- Engagement sessions with girls clubs and community leaders to put in bye-laws to curb drop out in schools
- Monthly engagement with girls clubs/supporting clubs develop school based activities
- Monitoring the learning outcomes of beneficiaries of school supplies
- SMC/PTA coalitions trained and supported to track budgets and expenditures of GPEG and Capitation grants
- Engagement with GES Senior Management Team on teacher redeployment
- Organized reading competitions for girls in selected schools (school, circuit and district levels)
- STMIE Clinic for 100 girls from 20 TENI School to help reduce the myths around learning Math, science and ICT
- Annual girls learning camps for 100 girls in selected schools

Beneficiary groups and total number reached



ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTCOMES

- 13 communities have put in bye-laws awaiting gazette to reduce girls' migration, elopement and forced/early marriages
- Teachers more fairly distributed in the 2016/2017 academic year with an average pupil teacher ratio of 1:44 across all 20 TENI schools as a result of redeployment exercise.
- Strengthened 20 Girls/Gender clubs with active *female* patrons and mentors, implementing school based activities to increase girls' assertiveness and boost their confidence
- 36 girls who dropped out in 2015/2016 academic year have returned to school and are supporting peers through engagements and organized activities
- Reduced number of girls' dropout from 156 to 79 in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 respectively; 5 out of 20 communities recording zero (0) drop out in 2016/2017

CHALLENGES

- Unfavorable seasonal conditions (rains) affecting activities scheduled
- Girl's education giving less attention by Households, leading to parents forcing girls into early marriage

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Continuous sensitization and engagement with parents in the communities



Story of Gifty Azaawaazuma



Gifty is a form three (3) pupil of Baazu D/A Junior High School who had a child with her class mate three years ago. “I dropped out of school due to pregnancy. In fact, we (the boy and I) were dismissed from school. I pleaded with the head teacher to allow him complete so he can help our child and I later. I felt I loved him and was prepared to sacrifice everything including my education for him. My parents suctioned our marriage and sent me off to live with the parents of my supposed husband where I was deemed married”

“Life was okay for a few months. I was faced with reality for the first time when my clothes could no longer fit me. I asked for clothes and was told “no one buys clothes for a woman”. I set out in late pregnancy doing all sorts of odd things (gathering wild leaves for sale, burning charcoal etc.) to provide my needs. After I gave birth, his parents treated me like a piece of rag on the floor; hard work on the farm, household chores and my own effort to get some money to provide my needs. Anytime he returned from school, he threatens me. I started thinking about all the good dreams I had in school. I remembered some of the talks in school that encouraged us to rise up after falling. This dawns on

me every day. Sometimes in tears, I felt like I was dreaming while walking. I was scared of the reality to return to school. It felt like adding another heavy load (carrying for myself, child and school).

One day, in my charcoal burning expedition, it dawned on me that I have been cheated long enough. I got some renewed strength and was prepared to face all the difficulties and have a better tomorrow. The next day I arranged for re-admission, and thanks to the new thinking (pregnancy is not the end of school), I was admitted into JHS1. I started school in the second term of 2013/14 academic year, still a nursing mother. It’s been difficult but I am now in JHS 3. I decided my mother should take care of the baby until I have written BECE. This resulted in my child’s father and his parents harassing me until I could take it no more. My experience at the girls club came in handy. I reported the case to the Social Welfare. The verdict was in my favour. I was asked to choose where I would be comfortable to concentrate on my studies. My aunty was ready to help. The family was charged to provide me with 5 bowls of maize, a bowl of beans, 2 bowls of rice, a bar of key soap, 4 cakes of bathing soap and a sum of GH¢40.00 every month. The family was also charged to ensure all educational needs are provided until the highest possible educational level I want to attain. I was encouraged to report any time the family fails to comply.

I am so grateful for the support systems that exist now especially through the girls club. Some girls who suffered my predicament five years ago never got this support I have now. I am determined to study diligently to pass my exams and achieve my dream career. I am more determined to do better than the boys who impregnated me at both BECE and WASSCE. The sky is my springboard

International Citizen Service (ICS)

FUNDED BY: DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

PARTNER: VOLUNTEER SERVICE OVERSEAS (VSO)

ICS is a USAID/VSO programme which aim at giving opportunity to young people aged 18 to 25 to volunteer in its development projects in Africa, Asia or Latin America. This challenges the youth to make their contribution to developing and changing the world around them. Volunteers are placed in communities where VSO projects are being implemented; they stay for a maximum of 12 weeks and work with communities, schools and possible stakeholders towards the achievement of set objectives. In the Upper West region, ICS operates in the Jirapa district where VSO is implementing a project called TENI (Tackling Education Needs Inclusively) in partnership with ProNet North and GES Jirapa in the area of education: which 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.

ICS is to compliment the TENI project, and support its partners and stakeholders accelerate the implementation of the planned activities for the project period. Volunteers are placed in 4 project communities (Nimbare Kompore, Mwofu, Tizza, and Sigri) all in the Jirapa District for the 12-week period to plan and carryout activities that will help increase attendance, enrollment, performance, transition, and retention of vulnerable children, especially, girls and children with disabilities, and also contribute to the achievement of the TENI objectives. Some activities include;

- ❖ Networking and proposals submitted to other NGOs and tele-communications to support schools with inadequate furniture
- ❖ Development of teaching and learning materials to aid effective teaching and learning in schools
- ❖ Home visits
- ❖ Vacation classes for pupils to reduce idle time and increase performance of these pupils in all four communities
- ❖ ~~Creating and advocating for gender friendly facilities and infrastructural development in schools~~

OUTCOMES

- ❖ 50 dual desks donated by Tigo to pupils in Mwofu community school
- ❖ 218 visual cards (TLM's) developed in all 4 communities
- ❖ Girls who were pregnant and children who had dropped out of school were visited and 2 girls who have dropped out are back to school.
- ❖ 149 pupils were engaged in vacation classes
- ❖ Volunteers in Sigri rehabilitated floors of the class rooms, 6 painted black boards and primary one classroom painted, 298 pupils were engaged in school based club activities.
- ❖ 2 children with disabilities identified in the community, through home visits, were linked to the ProNet Esong group.

CHALLENGES

- ❖ The short nature of project cycle makes it difficult for volunteers to make significant impact on their placement community
- ❖ Unfavorable seasonal conditions (rains) affects activities scheduled
- ❖ Parents paying low attention to their wards education
- ❖ The local language is a barrier to volunteers

POSSIBLE SOLUTION

- ❖ Continuous sensitization and engagement with communities and parents



Girls Education Fund (GEF)

Funded by: Kanea Foundation and Individual donors

Five 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. One of them is currently studying Community Health Nursing at the Jirapa Nurses Training School while the other three are currently studying to rewrite better a couple of subjects to enable them to go to the tertiary level. 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.

STORY OF EMILIA KANGBA-ENIE

“Emilia Kanga-Enie is my name and a beneficiary of the Girls Education Fund from ProNet North with support from the Kanea Foundation and other individual donors. This scholarship supported with basic school materials since when I was in Senior High School. Although I missed my dream of being a journalist, I am a proud final year student at the Jirapa Community Health Nursing Training School where I support the sick and poor with their health needs. I use my work to influence parents to enroll their children in school and also encourage pupils to learn hard to build a better future for them. There is no limitation to success except you are not determined. I am grateful for the support that inspired me and the contributors to this fund for making my dreams come true”



Campaign for Girls Education

As part of efforts to end child marriage and improve Girl-Child Education in the project area, the VSO/TENI Project facilitated the Campaign for Girls Education which sought to bring together all stakeholders, the District Assembly, Education Service, Health Services and Traditional authorities to listen to a petition from the girls in the area. This also aimed at putting decision makers on the alert on various issues confronting girl-child education in the area.



ProNet North Director Delivering Keynote Address

A Petition from Girls to all Stakeholders

A Cross section of Participants at the Forum

ESONG-Supporting Children with Disability & their Families

Funded by: Lilian Fond Foundation with Support from TENI

Partner: SWEB Foundation

Persons with disabilities have been erroneously seen as people whose lives are defined by their impairment and therefore by their special medical and rehabilitative needs (medical model). They are also seen as individuals who are simply unable to participate fully in society and therefore considered to be recipients of social charity support (charity model).

The growing global Disability Rights Movements established by the strong voices of Disable Persons Organizations worldwide, seeks to oppose this ignorance and stigmatization of persons with disabilities by promoting the social model of disability which looks at a rethinking of earlier models by arguing that the constraints faced by persons with disabilities reflect attitudinal, policy, communication and infrastructural barriers imposed by society. A significant milestone in the Disability Rights Movement has been the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) by the UN General Assembly in 2006, which in turn has significant implications for the implementation and revision of the SDGs.

However, the latter is still the case in most developing nations such as Ghana where issues of disability are the least discussed in terms of developing national development agendas.

Budgetary allocations for persons with disabilities are diverted into other uses that do not benefit the association.

Esong is a Community-Led Support Group made up of volunteers, children with various forms of disability and their families in the Jirapa District. The group now has a total of 310 members up from 106 in 2015. Both parents and children attend monthly meetings to share experiences, encourage each other and seek support from well-wishers in their yearly programmes.

ProNet North with support from the SWEB-Foundation and TENI Project provide the group with logistics, medical/livelihood/educational assistance, dietary support and meals at their monthly meetings. Through this initiative, ProNet North over the years has collated a data base on children with various forms of disability in the Jirapa District. Some of these children are currently beneficiaries under the SWEB/TENI funded disability fund for their education 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.



Rita with Esong group



ProNet staff with beneficiaries/ parents of Esong

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, CLIMATE, ENERGY AND FOOD

Climate change affects all four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, food utilization and food systems stability. It has negative impact on human health, livelihood assets, food production and distribution channels, and changes purchasing power and market flows of poor populations. Its impacts are both short term, resulting from more frequent and more intense extreme weather events, and long term, caused by changing temperatures and precipitation patterns, Climate variation also has a direct impact on energy resources.

Women farmers currently account for 45-80 per cent of all food production in developing countries with diverse regional variations. Women form about two-thirds of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and more than 90 percent in many African countries including Ghana. In the context of climate change, traditional food sources become more unpredictable and scarce. Women face loss of income as well as harvests-often their sole sources of food and income. Related increases in food prices make food more inaccessible to poor people, in particular to women and girls whose health has been found to decline more than male health in times of food shortages. In most localities, women are often excluded from decision-making on access to and the use of land and resources critical to their livelihoods. For these reasons, it is important that the rights of rural women are ensured with regards to food security, non-discriminatory access to resources, and equitable participation in decision-making processes.

The Department of Woman, Climate, Energy and Food currently runs the Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems and Greater Rural Opportunities for Women projects to contribute to improved quality of life of 15,000 women and smallholder farmers through climate resilient approaches, post-harvest management, empowerment and value chain development in the Ghana.

Goal: Contribute to improved quality of life of women and small holder farmers through climate resilient approaches, post-harvest management, empowerment and value chain development.

Objective 1: To ensure food security all year round through sustainable farming systems and practices in Northern Ghana (50,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries) by 2021.

Objective 2: To increase women and vulnerable groups' sustainable access to productive resources in Northern Ghana (50,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries) by 2021.

Objective 3: To improve rural farmers income levels in Northern Ghana (50,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries) by 2021.



Dry Season Gardening in Project Communities

Picture Gallery



Practical Demonstration on how to measure an arce at Sem -B



CLTS monitoring at Tuosa



Orange Flesh sweet potato farm



Husband supporting wife to gather Soya bean



Soya bean threshing



Best farmer award at Navilli



ProNet GROW staff and Director



Director with the Canadian High Commissioner & GROW CPM



ProNet staff with Esong group beneficiaries and parents



ProNet staff and Give Me Tap team



Mad. Kate interacting with MEDA Funding partners



Barata interacting with beneficiary community on bee keeping at Daffiama



Tree nursery training at Dakyie



Climax of CBH project at Holiday inn



Completion of KVIP at Bulenga D/A primary school



Soap making demonstration at Daffiama



ProNet staff and Give Me Tap team



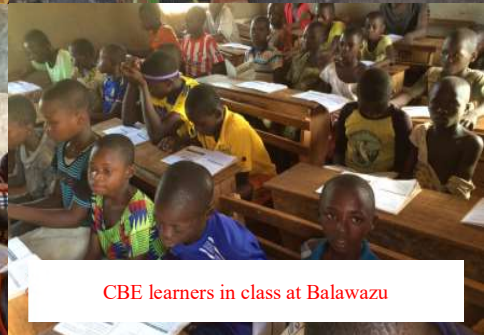
M&E Manager, Dr. A. Gharthey interacting with CBE Learners



WAG M&E officers training



M&E Manager, Dr. A. Gharthey visit CBE ongoing class at Halinboi



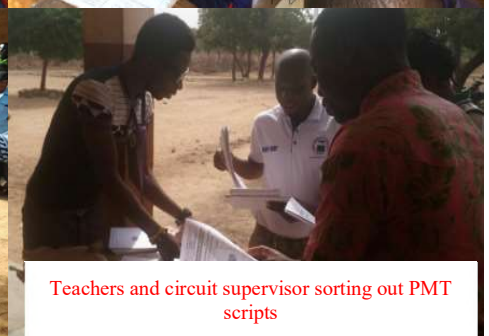
CBE learners in class at Balawazu



Soya bean award winners of the 2016 farmer's day celebration



Teachers and circuit supervisor sorting out PMT scripts



PMT at Kogri R/C



ProNet staff at workshop training



Climate Resilient Agriculture & Food Systems (CRAFS)

Funded by OXFAM:

Duration: March 2015 – March 2018

CRAFS is an extension of the ELCAP project that ended March 2015. It is a Climate Change Adaptation program that seeks to improve food security and general livelihoods for smallholder farmers through Climate Smart farming practices. The project is currently working with 1125 small holder farmers comprising 70% women and 30% men in 5 beneficiary communities in the Daffiama-Busie-Issa District.

Achievements

1. 156 farmers trained in compost making
2. 2 demonstration and 1 seed multiplication farms established
3. 20 women trained and supported in soap making.
4. 10,000 nursery capacity established in Dakyie
5. 3 climate smart clubs formed and assisted to plant 109 trees
6. 613 seedlings (mahogany and moringa) planted in 3 communities
7. 110 women supported with 34 goats for revolving
8. 12 bee hives colonized

CHALLENGES

- Poor road network to some of the communities making accessibility difficult or impossible at certain times of the season
- Poor mobile network coverage hence information must be conveyed to the people personally which sometimes delay implementation process
- Poor cooperation from one of our beneficiary communities

CASE STORY



Bangmuuru Susana is a 59 years old widow who lives in Dakyie community with her two grown up children and her sister in-law. Though farmers, she brews pito periodically to supplement their income. Susana is a member of Esong group, one of the VSLA groups formed under the CRAFS project. She has always also been involved in almost all the meetings regarding the project. Though an elderly woman she has endeavored to contribute at every sitting in their VSLA group as shares. She has contributed a total amount of about GH 220 as shares bought. Before the intervention of the project Susana like every other woman in the community did not know how to save. “we use to spend as and when we earn and so saving does not even come into mind but now we make the conscious effort to hide something small to put in our box every week” Susana recounted.

Most of them just live a life of chance and when problems comes it over shadows them especially when there is no family member to help or any asset to sell to help out. “because we use not to save, any small challenge weighs us down and get us going from one family member to the other for help or to borrow which also comes with insults and disgrace” Susana adds. “My daughter who completed JHS and went down south in search of greener pastures came back pregnant but for this VSLA she would have died” Susana narrated her story beaming with smiles. “It was from the VSLA that I borrowed GH100 to buy drugs and other petty expenses to replenish her blood, now I have a granddaughter and my daughter is still alive” an excited Susana recounted. Thank you OXFAM and ProNet for the support.

Greater Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW)

Funded by: Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Partner: Mennonites Economic Development Associates (MEDA)

Greater Rural Opportunities for women (GROW) seeks to ensure food security and provide business solutions to rural women. The project is aimed at achieving this through the production of soya beans for sale and also to serve as a nutritional supplement for families. The project started in 2013 with a total number of 1,200 clients and will end in 2018. Currently the project has 5,772 clients in three districts which include Nadowli, DBI and Wa East.

The project has changed the lives of over 5,000 women within its operational area since the inception in 2013 through soya beans production, processing and sales, as well as alternative livelihood activities in dry season, which is complemented by capacity building on gender, agronomics, nutrition and infant and young child feeding.

GROW CHANGING LIVES

The impact of GROW on women has increased tremendously. Six women received various awards at the Regional and District level at this year's Farmers' Day celebrations. Soya production now serves as a major livelihood to most rural women through the soya utilization trainings and market value of the soya.

OUTCOMES

- Mobilized 5,772 over a targeted number of 5,000 clients out of which 4,217 cultivated soya beans in the 2015/16 crop season
- Conservation Agriculture Practicing Clients increased from 523 clients in 2015 to 1,158 in 2016
- Linked groups to financial institutions for easy access to credit
- Six women were recognized for their significant contribution in this year's farmers day celebration
- Women have adopted soya farming as a business and are farming in large quantities for sale
- Through series of training women on the project, process soya beans into different varieties of food for both household consumption and sale
- The introduction of VSLA into project has increased the production rate of the clients



A woman picking weeds from her farm



Demonstration on PPEs



Variety of Orange Flesh Sweet Potato Food



ProNet staff/MEDA with lead Farmers at Fian



Field visit with MEDA staff

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND HEALTH

Through research and learning over the years, ProNet North continues to wrestle the knowledge gaps that impede effective action on important WASH and health issues, respond to the information needs of both partners and communities, act on emerging WASH issues and proactively take steps to address these challenges. By developing local initiatives and capacities, the department delivers innovative, relevant and highly accessible training programs aimed at strengthening the capacities of communities and institutions with the knowledge and experience to solve water and sanitation challenges using indigenous technology and resources. By identifying or developing, synthesizing and distributing relevant and up-to-date information on WASH, the unit support effective policy making and decision-making especially at the local government level that protects health and improves human development, as well as predicting and helping to prevent emerging risks. Through networking and effective partnerships, we bring together individuals, communities and institutions from diverse disciplines and sectors, to work together to solve the most critical issues in water and health.

Department of Water and Health carry out projects named Supporting Localized Governance and Rehabilitation for Sustainable Water Service, Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation and Community Benefits Health.

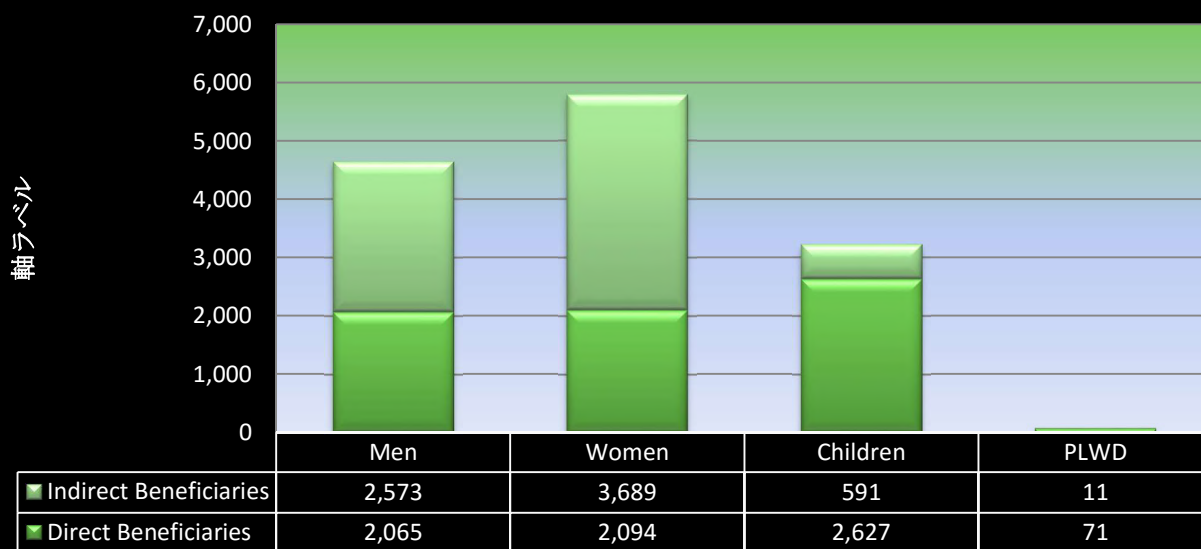
Goal: To contribute to accessible and productive use of water and promotion of healthy living, especially for mother and children by 2021.

Objective 1: To Increase access and rights to potable water to 15,000 poor and marginalized rural and urban people in Northern Ghana by 2021.

Objective 3: To support 40 communities in Northern Ghana to develop, manage and utilize water sources for improved livelihoods by 2021.

Objective 2: To Promote and support the adoption of safe disposal of solid and liquid waste practices for 150,000 poor and marginalized people in Northern Ghana by 2021.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES



Supporting Localised Governance & Rehabilitation for Sustainable Water Services (WAG)

Funded by: Conrad Hilton Norman Foundation (CHNF)

The Project aimed to increase capacity in terms of knowledge and skills of beneficiary schools, communities and WSMTs Committees towards the promotion of effective hygiene and sanitation practices, implementation and management of facilities as well as sustainability of project intervention.

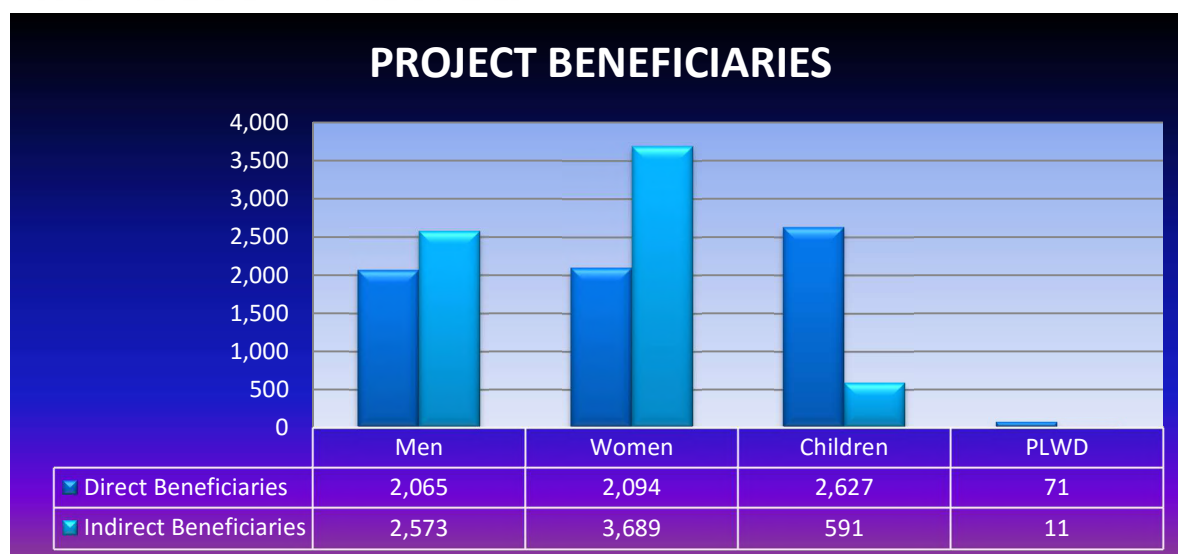
The table below shows the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND DELIVERABLES

- To directly support 5 communities and 3 schools with accessible, appropriate and affordable access to sanitation
- To improve access and right to sanitation through the construction of institutional latrines (ILs) and household latrines
- To implement CLTS to generate demand for sanitation
- To support 5 communities to attain open defecation free status through the CLTS approach
- To carryout hygiene promotion and sensitization in 5 communities
- To form and train school health and hygiene clubs in 3 schools

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Participatory Approach to Community selection with District Assembly
- Community Entry
- Baseline Data collection
- Community Mobilization/Sensitization
- Construction of Institutional Latrines
- Follow up monitoring visits to project communities
- Formed, developed and trained natural leaders/artisans (WSTMs)
- Hold Hygiene and Sanitation sessions with project communities and schools
- Post implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation



THE STORY OF AMA ON OPEN DEFECATION



Ama constructing a household latrine

Ama is a Natural Leader from Viehaa Community. She lives alone with her four children and was the first person to construct a latrine after triggering. The team was impressed and probed for her motivation; she said “I have always seen open defecation as a challenge but never knew how to tackle it. When the team from ProNet came and triggered our community, I felt the need to construct a latrine knowing that my shit and that of my household will not be eaten by animals, pollute our streams and vegetables which eventually is consumed by our very selves”.

According to her, people hardly listen any time she talks; they disregarded her because she ever

suffered serious mental illness before. She is one person in the community who goes to sweep the market square and most people link it to insanity but she strongly believes it’s all geared towards total sanitation and added that “if we all sweep our houses and ignore the public places that cannot achieve our aim”. I am happy that the disgust of seeing my own feces is now a thing of the past because I no longer shit indiscriminately behind my house; however I hope my community members would also be motivated to construct their household latrines so that we can together end open defecation and live healthy lives.



Ama's Completed Household Latrine



Demonstration of CLTS Latrine by Natural leaders at Viehaa

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 and beyond 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 has reached over 16,000 poor and socially excluded people in the Upper West Region with safe water and hygiene information that has led to reduction in WASH related diseases.

After the intervention at Chapuri community, 12 more communities have also benefitted with a total population of about 16,740 people without safe water for the inhabitants before the intervention of Give Me Tap. Currently 4 communities are being accessed to be considered for support with a total population of about 3,853 people to benefit from further interventions.

Today with the help of Give Me Tap communities like Kusiele, Kamahego, Dariwudo, Kanatu, Chapuri, Lugtanga, Kusekpane, Kpakpalaamuni, Eribieyiri among other hard to service communities have access to potable water for the first time from their own borehole” A community member remarked.



Give Me Tap team interacting with community chief at Chapuri



Give Me Tap team in community durbar



Monitoring a constructed borehole at Chapuri by Give Me Tap team



Give Me Tap team with ProNet Director

Community Benefits Health (CBH)

Funded by: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Partner: Concern Worldwide (CWW), USA

Community Benefits Health (CBH) is a project that creatively uses messaging and non-cash incentives to support communities improve their behaviors towards improving maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH). CBH program is part of the “Innovations” project that is testing creative solutions for improving the survival and health of women, babies and children. CBH aimed to promote healthy behaviors and reduce resistance to accessing services, ultimately changing normative behaviors or community wide social norms. The program was implemented between April 2014 and March 2016, targeted 34 communities in 6 CHPS zones within Jirapa, Lambussie, and Wa West Districts in the Upper West Region of Ghana. The main objective is to improve MNCH by addressing the demand side barriers through behavior change around social norms and normative behavior and gender empowerment.

The project targeted a variety of MNCH behaviors but focused more deeply on achieving the following outcomes

1. Antenatal care (ANC) within the first 3 months of pregnancy
2. More than 4 ANC visits during pregnancy
3. Skilled birth attendance
4. Postpartum care (PPC) within 48 hours after delivery
5. Initiation of breastfeeding within 30 minutes after delivery
6. Exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months

The end line results conducted by JSI around changes over time include

- Findings suggest that CBH had a very strong effect on breastfeeding initiation within 30 minutes of birth and almost none on exclusive breastfeeding.
- Immediate breastfeeding initiation: outstanding increase from 18.7% to 21.2% across intervention communities.
- Modest improvement in exclusive breastfeeding by 3.5% across all intervention in communities
- A large increase in skilled birth attendance by 10 %
- Large improvement in postpartum care from 5% to 10%

The evaluation registered several Successful Outcomes

- ❖ Collaboration with traditional authorities and structures during the implementation provided an opportunity for chiefs and leaders to be community champions for maternal and newborn health.
- ❖ Male involvement increased significantly in community activities around MNCH and in
- ❖ The health of women and children.
- ❖ Close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service (GHS) as well as with key global partners, such as UNICEF, JICA and World Bank, legitimized the project.
- ❖ Purposeful involvement of beneficiaries during the design and implementation of the program created users’ buy-in and sense of ownership.
- ❖ 10 communities earned new boreholes, and 2 communities received community emergency vehicles by achieving their collective targets.
- ❖ The project galvanized community unity, cohesion and enthusiasm around women’s and children’s health.

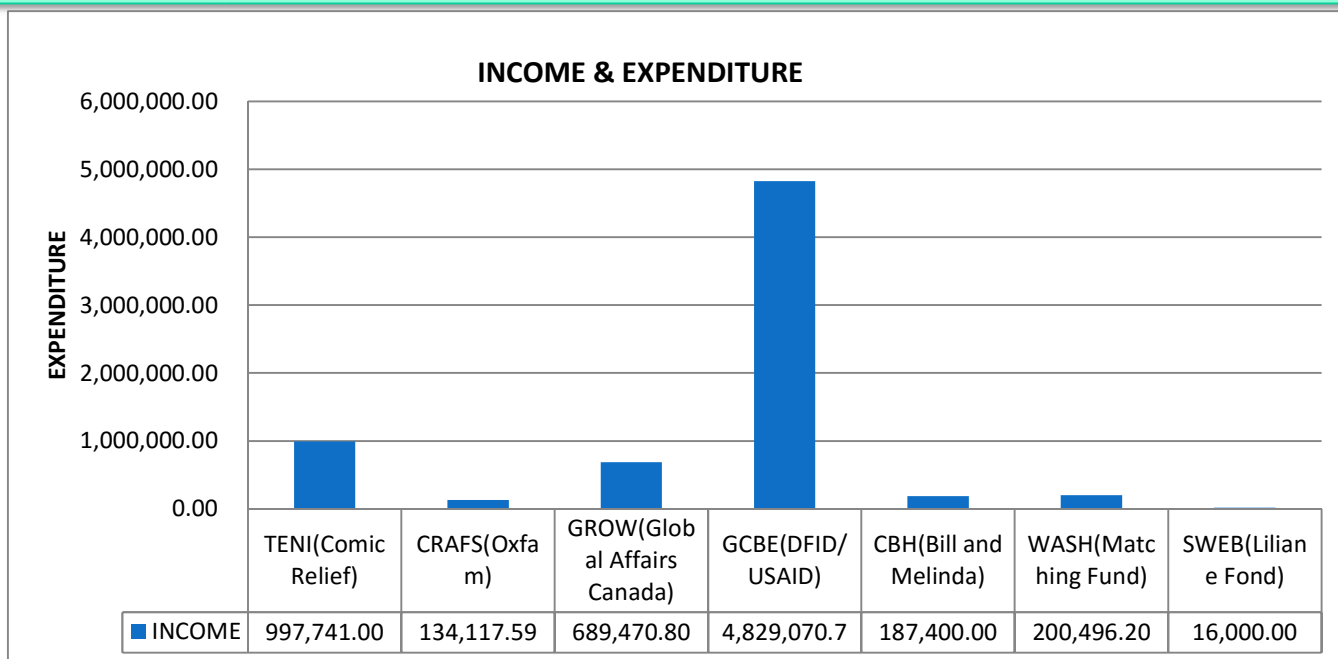
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

The quality assurance system is designated to assist management in reviewing, analyzing, evaluating, and reporting on the organizational and donor financial procedures, accounting records, and internal controls. ProNet North uses robust accounting systems and software which serves as a management tool to identify strengths and weaknesses in our projects fiscal operations and ensure value for money in project implementation. It ensures conformity and compliance with financial and administrative policies, human resource and information management for organizational development and as well validates the outcome and objectives of project activities and offers the needed support to staff to effectively engage for efficient project delivery.

Our annual turnover across projects demonstrates the prudent financial management and compliance with both national and international standards in project planning and implementation. The financial portfolio of the year under review stood at GHC 5,922,437.79 as income available to the organization under six thematic projects from different donors.

The charts below indicate the financial income and expenditure during 2016. According to the charts, GCBE projects saw the largest ratio, as it constituted about 70% of all the income and expenditure. And the ratio of TENI and GROW are about 25% of overall.

Goal: Strengthen financial and administrative procedures and assuring programme quality through effective M&E and robust internal control systems.



DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH, LEARNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Research and Learning Unit is one of the units created in line with our 2017/2021 Strategic Framework to meet the needs of the changing community development environment and also in conformity with the strategic goals of the Organization. This unit will also recommend and develop partnerships to improve community development impact. The unit also seeks to ensure a sustained resource base of the organization in terms of fund raising, research, documentation and building on previous learning for organizational growth.

Research does bridge the gap between theory and practice. ProNet North's approach in research seeks to blend development and action research applying a multi-level approach to attaining holistic development in our communities. Beyond demonstrating how to solve specific problems in practice, our research also illustrates that short-term tactics can produce significant short-term advantages essential for community development practice

Monitoring and Learning

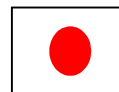
To achieve the goals of sustainable growth, equity and poverty reduction, ProNet North uses very robust Participatory Planning Monitoring and learning Systems which allow beneficiaries to co-create and measure the impact and outcomes of our intentions: to get their total buy-in, active participation and ownership of every intervention.

To this end, the organization has devoted significant resources to building the capacity of women groups and other community level stakeholders involved in the implementation of the programme to ensure active participation of beneficiaries and stakeholders throughout the project cycle.

Looking ahead, we envisage further development of digital platforms, rebranding our website, development of social media presence, continuing work to support fundraising, and progress on solidifying our brand through effective partnerships and networking.

International Interns and Volunteers

ProNet North is privileged again in 2016 to receive the fourth volunteer from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and 29 volunteers from Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) as well as individual volunteers and researchers whom the organization worked with under various capacities. This has been part of the organization's objective on capacity building through multi-faceted approach in learning.



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 Department for International Development (DFID)
 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
 John Snow Inc. (JSI), USA.
 Oxfam Ghana
 Think Place, Australia
 World Bank
 Comic Relief
 Mennonites Economic Development Associates (MEDA)
 STAR-Ghana
 Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)
 WaterAid Ghana
 Liliane Fond Foundation

SWEB Foundation

Coalitions:

Coalition of NGOs in WASH
 Coalition of NGOs in Health

Others

Coady Institute
 Give Me Tap

GOVERNMENT

All District Assemblies in the Upper West Region and Sene West and PruDistricts in Brong-Ahafo Region
 Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)
 Ministry of Local Government
 Ministry of Health
 Ghana Health Services

National NGOs

Centre for Community Participation and Development (CCPAD)
 Kanea Foundation



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