



*ANNUAL REPORT
2022*

ProNet North
Working in partnership for sustainable development



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WHO WE ARE

ProNet North is a registered non-profit organization (No. CG125392014) and a recognized National Non-Governmental Organization (DSW/7622).

ProNet North works in the following fields; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery, Training and Capacity Building, Decentralization and Governance, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment for Women, Girls Education and Reproductive Rights, Maternal & Child Health, Rooted Advocacy, Inclusive Education and Climate Change Adaptation, Micro finance, Disaster Response and Risks Reduction since 1995.

Over the next decade, we will continue to grow by working with others and adopting strategies that will propel us towards sustainable impact on the lives of people in rural communities across northern Ghana. We intend to deepen documentation of grounded experiences and become a Centre of Learning and Knowledge Management.

To ensure our competitiveness to deliver on our mission and work towards our vision into the future, we will strengthen our organizational development capacity through staff training with emphasis on females in line with our goal to increase the number of female development professionals in our geographic areas of work.

Our vision

A Society of Equal Opportunities for Sustainable Development and Protection of Human Rights

Our Mission

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

Core Values

- ✚ Ideas over hierarchy
- ✚ Transparency and Accountability
- ✚ Integrity
- ✚ Respect for Diversity and Human Dignity
- ✚ Partnerships
- ✚ Innovation, Passion and Excellence

“MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR”

***Martin Dery
Executive Director
ProNet North***



The year under review witnessed dire economic challenges, especially, price hikes of inputs for borehole construction. PRONET NORTH, however, was able to reach out to several vulnerable communities.

We reached out to selected basic schools, CHPS compounds and communities with boreholes fitted with handpumps with funding from Ralph Lauren and Give Me Tap. The visiting Ralph Lauren team also presented learning and play materials to pupils in 2 schools in the Wa West; and cleaning and safety materials to 2 CHPS compounds in the Lambusie district. In addition, the visitors had discussions with the MCE of the Jirapa around strategies to address the WASH challenges in the municipality.

The period also marked the end of our FCDO funded, Strategic Approaches to Girls Education (STAGE) project. The project enrolled 2,851 adolescent girls from the Daffiama-Bussie-Issa, Jirapa and Nadowli Kaleo districts to develop their lives skills and provided start-up capital for small businesses.

The EU funded ENOUGH project, geared towards ending Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Women and girls in WA municipal and WA West Districts in the Upper West Region also came to a close; with results that will endure for a long time.

The period also marked the start of two projects, namely, the Greater Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW) 2 project with a focus on improving the economic and social empowerment of women farmers, entrepreneurs and agribusiness in rural areas in the Upper West Region; and, the Accelerating Social and Behavior Change (ABSC) project targeted at improving healthcare services, especially, for women, new-borns and adolescents. The key focus areas

are, malaria, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene; family planning, sexual and reproductive health, and safe childbirth.

Our work as the local NGO for activating the online Grievance Redress Mechanism under the Transport Sector Improvement Project (TSIP) is still on-going. We have set up 3 grievance counters to receive complaints from PAPs across 8 districts of the Upper West Region.

We are looking forward to positive gains in this post pandemic era. Pronet North will continue to champion issues that are pertinent to vulnerable communities, especially, women, girls and persons with disabilities in the areas where we work. We welcome you on this journey.

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION

Strategic Approaches to Girls Education (STAGE)

ProNet North implemented the STAGE project in three districts in the Upper West region, enrolling girls aged 10-14 and 15-19 for an Accelerated Learning Program. The project had two tracks, formal (FT) and non-formal (NFT), with a total enrollment of 2,025 girls in the formal track and 826 in the non-formal track between 2019 and 2022.

In 2022, there were 75 ALP (Accelerated Learning Program) centres in three project districts (Daffiama-Bussie-Issa, Jirapa, and Nadowli-Kaleo) with an initial enrolment of 2,025 girls. The number of beneficiaries who graduated was 2,009, and the number of beneficiaries who transitioned was 1,875. The majority of the catch-up classes (83.1%) were able to have at most eight sessions (twice a week), and Jirapa Municipal had the highest number of catch-up classes (38.20%) followed by Nadowli-Kaleo district (35.96%), and Daffiama-Bussie-Issa had the least (21.35%). In terms of organizing catch-up sessions, Daffiama-Bussie-Issa District and Jirapa Municipal were the best, while Nadowli-Kaleo district was the least.

Also, all 89 teacher mentors in all three project districts were trained on how to sew reusable sanitary pads, and they, in turn, stepped down the training to the STAGE girls in their various schools as part of the project's sustainability strategies. There were 18 bicycle banks in all three districts, with Jirapa having the majority of bicycles (153) and Daffiama-Bussie-Issa having the least (55). The bicycles are to ensure regularity and punctuality of beneficiary girls living in communities without formal schools beyond the permissible GES distance.

The final graduation ceremony was held at Issa, the district capital for Daffiama-Bussie-Issa district, on 20th September 2022. Start-up capital and tools/equipment were disbursed during graduation, and the trades for NFT 3 beneficiary girls in the Daffiama-Bussie-Issa district were kente weaving, hair braiding, soap making, and stringing beads. All eight communities had kente weaving graduands.

TRANSPORT SECTOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (TSIP)

The Transport Sector Improvement Project (TSIP) is a road construction project, funded by the European Union through a Recipient Executed Trust Fund managed by the World Bank under Additional Financing (AF). The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Roads and Highways (MRH) in collaboration with the Department of Feeder Roads.

ProNet North (NGO) has been assigned the role of activating the online Grievance Redress Mechanism. This involves public information dissemination, creating awareness about the project and the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and ensuring effective redress for project affected persons (PAPs). The organization is also responsible for establishing an efficient grievance uptake system and an effective grievance redress system at the community, district, and project levels. In addition, ProNet North is tasked with collecting and satisfactorily resolving all project-related grievances and implementing the Gender-Based Violence/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (GBV/SEA/SH) framework. The organization is also expected to educate the public on GBV/SEA/SH/Violence against Children/Child Labor and engage project communities to minimize the occurrence of GBV. Finally, ProNet North will collaborate with GBV service providers to manage cases and support survivors' reintegration.

The Project is divided into 3 Lots, and three contractors have been engaged: Nag Fairmount (Lot 1), Memphis (Lot 2), and Attachy (Lot 3). Output & Performance Based Road Contracting (OPBRC) is the method to be used, whereby the contractors will design, construct, and maintain the roads within 24 and 18 months, respectively. The monitoring consultant for the project is TNM/OWA Consult.

ACCELERATING SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE (ASBC)

Accelerating Social and Behavior Change Activity (ASBC) project is a five-year initiative aimed at improving healthcare in Ghana. The project seeks to achieve the Ghana Health Service's (GHS) strategic objective of leading social and behavior change (SBC) efforts using tested mass media and community engagement tools, magnifying Communicate for Health learning's and sustainably adopting healthy behaviors and practices, including, timely use of health services and products, among target populations, which include women of reproductive age, newborns, children under five, adolescents/youth under 25. The project will be implemented nationally and in 17 districts in Northern Ghana, where the most severe health disparities persist.

The ASBC project has a technical focus on key areas such as malaria, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), family planning (FP), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), maternal newborn and child health (MNCH), and emerging infectious diseases. It seeks to change behaviors such as the use of health services and products, timely care seeking for the prevention and treatment of adverse health conditions, delivering babies in facilities with skilled birth attendants, completing four antenatal visits during pregnancy, using modern contraceptives, exclusive breastfeeding, sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs), wearing of face masks to reduce COVID-19 infections, and seeking timely vaccination.

To achieve its goals, the project has conducted key activities including staff orientation, district-level training, Community Health Management Team (CHMTs) training for Community Health Workers (CHWs), engaging communities to develop Community Health Action Plans (CHAPs), CHAPs validation, and implementation, monitoring activities, Joint Program Review and share/ Planning Meetings/Program Planning meetings.

ProNet North is leading community mobilization and engagement of district structures and communities and is responsible for achieving measurable behavior change and leading local capacity sharing efforts with HPD in three districts of the Upper West Region: Nadowli/Kaleo, Daffiama/Bussie/Issa, and Wa East districts. The project aims to empower communities to take ownership of their health and create a sustainable impact on healthcare.

The USAID- ASBC project is an excellent initiative that will help improve healthcare in Ghana, especially in the Northern Region. The project's focus on changing behaviors and promoting

healthy practices is commendable, and the planned activities are well-structured to achieve its objectives. However, to ensure the project's success, stakeholders must work together to ensure effective implementation of activities and timely monitoring and evaluation of the project's impact. This will ensure that the project's goals are achieved and sustainable health practices are adopted in Ghana

WOMEN, LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ENOUGH

The Enough Project has been carrying out impactful activities in the Wa Municipal and Wa West Districts of the Upper West Region, with a focus on ending gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG). The project has achieved significant progress towards its objectives, despite the challenges encountered during the implementation phase.

One of the key activities carried out in 2022 was a Project Review - Learn and Share session. This session provided an opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate and share ideas on how to address the challenges related to GBV and VAWG in the region. As a result, there was an enhanced collaboration and commitment among stakeholders towards addressing the issue.

Also, the commemoration of International Women's Day, has created a platform for residents to celebrate the efforts of women and girls in shaping a more equal future while highlighting the gaps that still exist. This activity helped to increase public awareness and knowledge on VAWG, which was one of the project's aims.

The project also developed Community Action Plans to support the communities in affirming strategies identified to address key issues related to ending SGBV. The implementation of these plans has led to improved community actions towards ending SGBV and increased actions towards the protection of survivors.

The project also provided support to SGBV survivors to access safe justice, which was another key activity. This support has contributed to increased access to justice for survivors, thereby, helping to address the issue of impunity for perpetrators of GBV and VAWG.

The commemoration of 16 Days of Activism was another activity that the project implemented to increase public awareness and knowledge on VAWG. This activity helped to amplify the message of the project and contributed to the increased public awareness on VAWG.

One of the significant challenges encountered during the implementation of the project was the lack of awareness among the public on some key issues such as available support systems, laws, and access to safe protection. To address this knowledge gap, the project recommends sustained awareness campaigns to increase public knowledge on these issues.

A key lesson learnt is that stakeholder-led implementation results in greater outcomes and sustainability. Therefore, in future program initiatives, the project recommends involving all stakeholders in the implementation process to achieve greater outcomes.

To sustain the gains made, ProNet North plans to leverage on its ongoing programs, state institutions, and local systems. These measures include engaging with state institutions, to wit, DOVVSU, Legal Aid, DSW and CHRAJ, to ensure the continued implementation of laws and policies that support the project's objectives and leveraging on local systems to sustain community-led actions towards ending SGBV.

In conclusion, Enough Project has made significant progress towards its objectives, and despite the challenges encountered, has achieved remarkable outcomes. The project's focus on collaboration, community-led actions, and sustained awareness campaigns will contribute significantly to the sustainability of project outcomes.

Songtaa Women Empowerment program

The Songtaa Women Empowerment Project is a community development initiative that aims to empower rural women to help bridge the gap in the livelihood of families in rural communities and eradicate poverty. The project operates in four districts in the Upper West Region of Ghana, including the Wa Municipal, Nadowli-Kaleo, DBI, and Wa East, with 100 women beneficiaries in 53 communities.

The project is supported by Unilever PLC, which provides startup capital in the form of products worth GHS 1,261.30 to each of the 100 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are expected to repay the loan in installments over a period of one year after a one-year grace period.

To ensure the success of the project, several activities were planned for the year of review. These activities include planning and review meetings, community entry, interview and beneficiary's selection/recruitment, training, and launching. The project also involves weekly monitoring and taking of sales records, restocking of products, reorientation on sales techniques, and recovering of product loans.

One of the significant challenges faced during the period under review was delays which affected the availability of products in relation to demand. Poor road networks and the onset of rains also affected the project's delivery, making it challenging to distribute products to the beneficiaries.

To address these challenges and ensure the project's success, the project team organized regional-level training on how to collate and analyze field data to establish a unified monitoring and evaluation system. The four operational districts were demarcated among three Regional Service Providers (RSPs) who were mandated to visit the one hundred women in these districts every week to monitor and take the weekly sales recordings of the women and restock/distribute the products that were sold.

To help the women market their products better and achieve high sales, re-orientation on selling techniques was organized on a monthly basis. RSPs undertake marketing research to enable the women to get current information about market operations, which enables them to stay in competition. Some of the re-orientation selling techniques the RSPs impacted on the women include ensuring the availability and accessibility of products at the right time to meet customers' demand, building a cordial relationship with customers through effective communication, making available assorted products to tailor every customer's needs, discounting to customers in the form of credit within a reasonable period considering their creditworthiness, ensuring proper records keeping, educating customers on the benefits of

the products, and encouraging clients to keep the products clean all the time to attract customers to purchase.

A flexible term was agreed with the beneficiaries regarding the payment of the product loan (startup capital) within a period of one year after an initial one-year grace period of operations. A monthly target of GHS 105.10 was agreed with beneficiaries to be paid. After the loan is fully recovered, it will be used to enroll another set of one hundred beneficiaries.

In conclusion, the Songtaa Women Empowerment Project is a vital initiative aimed at empowering rural women in Ghana. The project faced several challenges during the period under review, but measures were put in place to address them. The project team is optimistic about the project's success and looks forward to enrolling another set of beneficiaries after the loan is fully recovered to sustain the gains made, even after funding has ended.

Grow 2

The GROW 2 project is an initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by Mennonites Development Associates (MEDA) in collaboration with four local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs) in three regions of Ghana. The project aims to create decent work for 500,000 women by 2030, with a focus on improving economic and social empowerment among women farmers, entrepreneurs, and agribusinesses.

The four LNGOs, also known as the Key Facilitating Partners (KFPs), play a critical role in mobilizing clients at the community level, identifying women Savings and Loans Groups (SLGs), and facilitating the implementation of the project. The KFPs work closely with project staff to conduct advocacy campaigns, awareness, and community engagements on issues such as land access, unpaid work, and inclusion at the family and community levels.

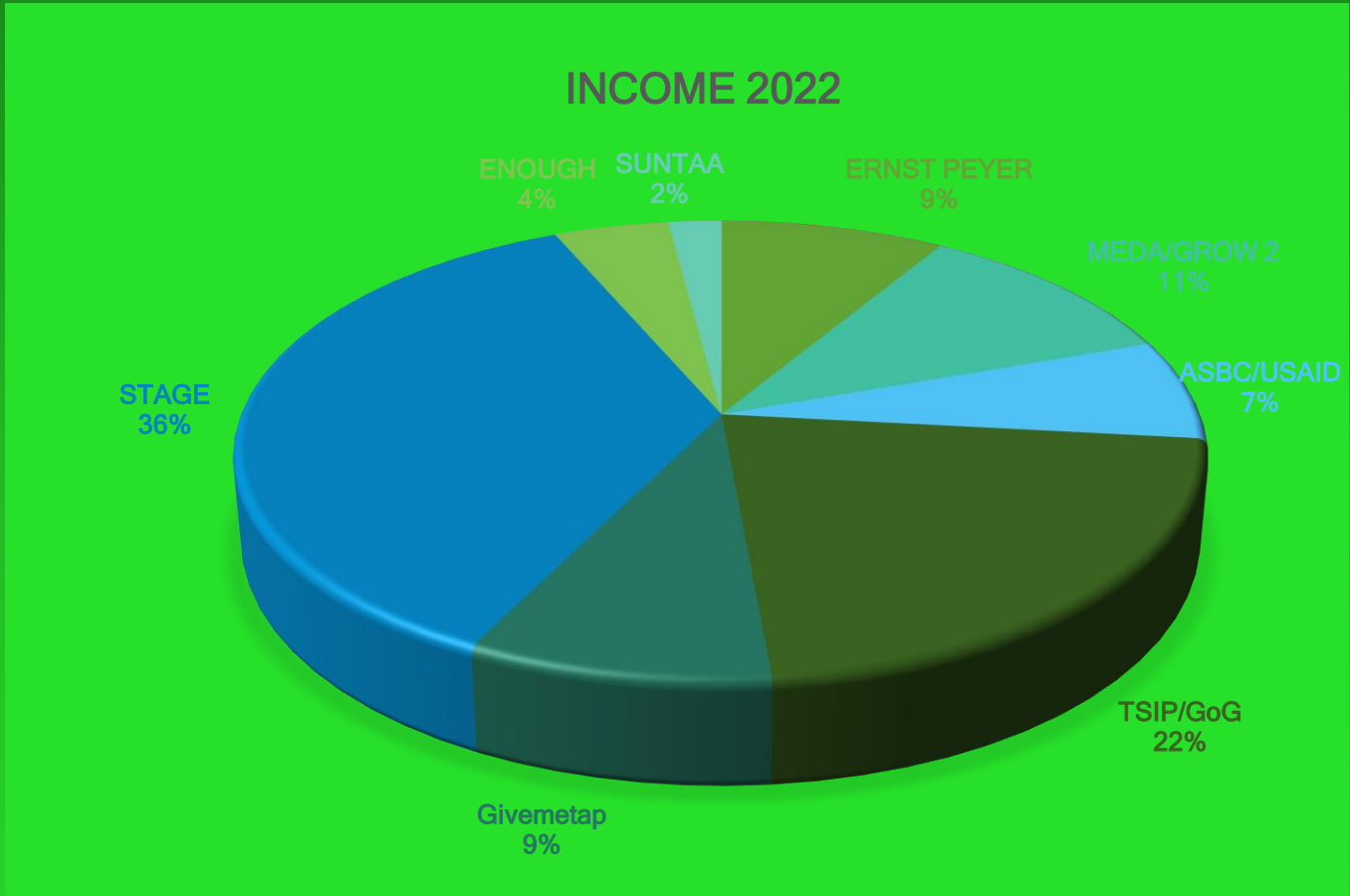
The project's ultimate goal is to increase the economic and social empowerment of women farmers, entrepreneurs, and agribusinesses. To achieve this goal, the project has three intermediate outcomes. The first outcome focuses on improving the business environment and access to means of production, including finance, training, and land, for women in selected agricultural value chains. The second outcome, aims to increase the application of environmentally sustainable and nutrition-focused agricultural practices among women farmers and entrepreneurs. The third outcome seeks to increase gender-equitable participation of women and men in decision-making within their households, communities, and the private sector.

The project is focused on two production value chains, namely, soya and groundnuts, with vegetable cultivation as an added focus to the nutrition component. ProNet North operates in the Savannah Region (West Gonja and Sawla-Tuna-Kalba Districts) and the Upper West Region (Wa Municipal, Wa-West, Wa-East, Nadowli-Kaleo, and Jirapa Districts).

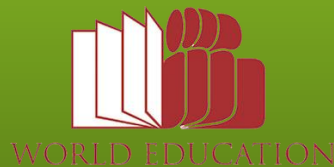
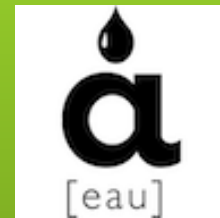
The project's duration is five years, from 2021 to 2026, during which ProNet North will play a critical role in mobilizing women at the grassroots level, facilitating the implementation of the project, and conducting advocacy and awareness campaigns to promote inclusion and gender equity. By improving access to means of production and promoting sustainable and nutrition-focused agricultural practices, the project aims to create decent work opportunities

for women farmers, entrepreneurs, and agribusinesses, ultimately leading to increased economic and social empowerment for women in Ghana

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



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