Ghana



Organization: Open Ghana
Location: Northern, North-East, Savannah, Upper-East, and Upper-West Ghana
Solution: Dry-season vegetable gardens, climate training, and financial inclusion to empower women, youth, and persons with disabilities in Ghana with year-round income and climate resilience.
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (18 months); Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (14 months)



Women's group sowing rice and maize crops in a dry-season vegetable gardens @OpenGhana

In Ghana, social and cultural barriers often limit persons with disabilities from accessing economic services and societal assimilation (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2018). Women with disabilities face additional challenges due to intersecting forms of discrimination. As a result, many individuals engaged by Open Ghana live on less than US$1.90 per day and struggle to find decent employment. To address these issues, Open Ghana provides facilities and training for dry-season vegetable gardening, allowing farmers to increase their incomes by growing high-value crops like peppers. Open Ghana promotes financial inclusion through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) for rural farmers, helping marginalized communities adapt to impacts of climate change.

Key achievements

- Engaged eight communities, accounting 557 people in total (69% women)
- Developed eight dry-season gardens and successfully distributed essential farming implements and equipment to the communities
- Set up 16 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) groups in the eight communities
- Provided training to 384 women on climate change adaptation, VSLA, vegetable production and business management

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US$235,000 (initial grant: $125,000; scaling grant: $110,000)
- USAID Feed the Future Mobilizing Finance in Agriculture grant: $51,000

Social impact

- Provided alternative livelihood opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities, fostering year-round income and economic empowerment
- Improved food security and nutrition within communities







Adaptation benefits

- Raises awareness of climate change adaptation measures within communities
- Promotes adoption of innovative climate-smart agricultural practices, tools and technologies for improved livelihoods and resilience
- Breaks cultural barriers, including mixed-group, granting marginalized individuals access to resources and increasing their participation in decision-making

Innovation

- Achieves 100% return on investment on dry season crops like peppers, compared to traditional maize cultivation
- Enables year-round income generation through dry-season vegetable production
- Empowers communities by creating VSLAs, promoting financial inclusion and resource management

Replication potential

- The use of dry-season vegetable production, VSLAs and climate-smart techniques has high replication potential in other regions facing similar challenges
- It can be used as a model for future initiatives promoting sustainable agriculture and community development

Investability	
Revenue per year	The six dry-season gardens have generated a total gross revenue of $4,251 from a single production cycle through produce sales. Of this amount, Open Ghana retains $1,418. Generated additional $37,000 from the sale of Soybean and Maize seeds.
Sustaining criteria	Open Ghana has developed a revenue generating model from the sale of dry season harvests, to be shared in a 1:3 ratio between Open Ghana and farming communities. The initiative plans to fill remaining funding gaps with grant funding.
Financial innovation	VSLAs have promoted a culture of savings in rural communities, who use their savings to procure farm inputs, technology and labour in the main cropping season. This model provides a pool of savings for cyclical lending to group members. It does not require collateral, is easy to access, and participation is voluntary. VSLA groups have become attractive to mainstream financial institutions because of their saving culture, organized nature, and community visibility.
Expected return	The initiative is seeking a $250,000 loan over a five-year period with 3% interest.

ADAPTATION FUND Climate Innovation Accelerator

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To watch their video, click here

To contact the initiative, visit Open Ghana