Ghana



Organization: BasicNeeds-Ghana
Location: Savelugu, Kumbungu, Talensi, West Mamprusi and Daffiama-Bussie-Issa District, Ghana
Solution: Promoting resilient organic farming and livestock rearing among marginalized groups
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months); Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (12 months)



Session on resilient organic farming and livestock for community members in Ghana @Basicneeds

People with psychosocial disabilities, epilepsy and widows are among the most poor and marginalized groups in Northern Ghana. They are often denied opportunities to work and lead dignified lives in their communities. This initiative seeks to improve and secure the livelihoods of 200 people (oof which 70% are women) with psychosocial disabilities or epilepsy, primary caregivers and vulnerable widows. The solution supports vulnerable groups to use climate-smart agricultural practices for organic vegetable farming and goat and sheep rearing, to improve productivity, household diets and income, while helping to adapt to the impact of climate change.

Key achievements

- 12 vegetable gardens (18 acres) established with collaborating communities
- 564 beneficiaries (63% women) trained in climate-smart agriculture, animal husbandry and leadership, improving food security, income generation and community resilience
- 10 climate smart organic vegetable gardens scaled up
- 22 community consultation and inception meetings conducted with stakeholders
- 365 farmers (227 females) supported with small ruminants, resulting in 200 new lambs born
- 200+ community leaders and members consulted, securing buy-in
- Comprehensive survey conducted to support data-driven interventions
- Safeguarding training organized for 20 staff members (5 women) to engance the organization's capacity to protect vulnerable individuals
- 202 community members (63% women) enabled to gain self-employment and enhanced incomes through vegetable farming, improving their socio-economic wellbeing and family support

Social impact

- Providing occupational therapy for individuals with mental health conditions, in the form of farming activities
- Enhanced visibility of vulnerable individuals and their contributions to the community
- Reduced stigma and discrimination towards people with mental illness or epilepsy and vulnerable widows, fostering societal acceptance and integration
- Increased production of organic vegetables to generate income and diversity household diets





Adaptation benefits

- Prevention of air and water contamination through biopesticides
- Protecting beneficial species in the ecosystem
- Improved soil health through the use of local high-yield, nitrogen fixing bean-leaf crops
- Increased plant growth with higher quality, nitrogen-dense soil

Innovation

- Integrating occupational therapy with income generating activities to create livelihoods for marginalized individuals who typically face challenges in finding dignified work

Replication potential

- Evidence-based approach can be scaled and replicated to other areas effectively
- Replication enabled by use of traditional and social media for knowledge capture and sharing

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US$235,000 (initial grant: $125,000; scaling grant $110,000)

Investability	
Revenue per year	Estimated $83,333 of value created from the initiative's produce, which is firstly consumed at household level, with excess sold.
Sustaining criteria	Operations are sustained by grantee overheads costs, which are built into a grant project proposal to cater for staff, administration and related recurrent cost.
Financial innovation	Operates purely as a not-for-profit and does not charge or earn revenues

ADAPTATION FUND Climate Innovation Accelerator

ADAPTATION FUND

To read their story, visit UNDP-AFCIA

To watch their video, click here

To contact the initiative, visit Basic Needs Ghana