

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### SUSTAINABLE AID THROUGH VOLUNTARY ESTABLISHMENT (SAVE-GHANA)



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## About Us

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To work with poverty-stricken and vulnerable children, their families and communities in their journey to a life full of dignity, justice, peace and hope

Sustainable Aid through Voluntary Establishment (SAVE-Ghana) is a non-profit organization based in the Upper West Region with its headquarters in Tumu. It was founded in 2004 in response to the need for a non-profit, community-based development organization that will protect vulnerable, deprived and marginalized people and alleviate poverty among them and their families using evidence and rights-based approaches. SAVE-Ghana was legally incorporated as a non-profit organization on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 with registration number G-24,859. We provide training as well as in-kind and financial support for program beneficiaries. We conduct original research, surveys and data collection. We also mobilize the poor and marginalized, educate them on their rights, and empower them to use democratic processes to advocate for policies that address their concerns.

In line with the vision and mission to alleviate poverty among the most vulnerable groups of people in this part of the country and beyond, SAVE-Ghana has over the years implemented several projects in partnership with international organizations. Our works revolve around the following core themes:

1. Primary Health Care and HIV/AIDS Prevention & Treatment
2. Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods
3. Women in the Shea Nut Value Chain
4. Village Savings and Loan Schemes
5. Child Disability and Vulnerability
6. Education

These experiences put SAVE-Ghana ahead in the efforts to achieve increased rural development through an improvement in the livelihoods of the people and their ability to sustain it. SAVE-Ghana has implemented projects in the Upper West Region, the Upper East Region and the Northern Region. It also has a Southern Program office in Greater Accra.

## ***Administration***

### **Letter from Board of Directors**

Dear Friends,

As I write this message, there is much change and promise of progress and development around us. There are fresh faces heading our government and we expect rapid growth in all areas, as the development sector continues to do its best for bringing about social change in Ghana, SAVE-Ghana encourage volunteers to contribute their time, skills and energies to enhance the work being carried out at the grassroots. We are happy to record that in the past year, we have grown from a handful of staff to high numbers with support of volunteers/interns from all over the world, forging new collaborations, partnerships and programs in order to strengthen our program.

Young people are the strength and asset of a nation, and it is in the age bracket of 18-35 years that the maximum number of our volunteers/interns comes. The largest number of these is postgraduates who have contributed to programs that fitted their specialization or abilities best. Their contribution directly impacts the lives of many with whom they interact. It is heartening to note that the ratio of women volunteers/interns is steadily increasing.

Our mission is directed towards bringing about positive social change. Through our interventions, we influence and groups/communities within which we work, and encourage them to contribute to the development sector. By consolidating activities and expanding our collaborations.

I would like to thank all our committed volunteers, partner NGOs, supporters, trainers and my fellow trustees the SAVE-Ghana team for all their hard work and dedication towards the achievement of the vision “A life full of dignity, justice peace and hope”.

Best wishes



**Gariba Chieminah**

**Chairman Of Board of Directors**


## Letter from Executive Director

SAVE-Ghana's organizational goal is to increase women's capacity to overcome poverty and increase their participation in development activity. SAVE-Ghana works to promote and protect economic and social rights. The right to health, including reproductive and sexual rights and other components of health care are categorized under economic and social rights. Furthermore, our projects in slum communities seek to address sexuality and reproductive issues amongst slum.

SAVE-GHANA's work generally carried out is categorized into three main programs:

1. The Women's Rights Programs seeks to educate women in local communities and relevant stakeholders on women's economic and social rights. It generates a better understanding of the link between women's economic status and their economic and social rights.
2. The Evaluation and Monitoring Program seeks to monitor and evaluate local women's economic and social rights and government's compliance to local and international laws on economic, social and cultural rights in its design and implementation of poverty reduction program.
3. The International Partnership Program facilitates the organization's collaborations with international partners in its monitoring and advocacy to increase enforcement of women's economic and social rights in Ghana. It also facilitates exchange of ideas and experiences on economic and social rights between organizations in different locations/regions.

In the following annual report, we highlight the main activities implemented by SAVE-Ghana during the past year, key achievements, constraints with the aim of improving our performance in the ensuing year.



**Dintie Tayire Sule**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## **From our Volunteers**

Worldwide, many people believe in their ability to be part of a positive social change and feel the need to contribute their time and expertise to the development of underprivileged groups in development or developing countries. Since it's not always easy to find trustworthy NGOs from abroad, SAVE-Ghana has made this possible for volunteers by matching their wishes and expectations as much as possible. In the year under review, about 10 people have volunteered with SAVE-Ghana from various parts of the world; and in different forms, some online through the UN Online volunteers and other working from our offices in Ghana.

### **Some quotes from volunteers:**

During the 8 months internship I learned more than can be described in a few lines. First of all, getting to know SAVE-Ghana's partner organizations and their projects gave me an impressive exposure to development projects in and around Ghana. Also, the issue of volunteering made me more aware of an individual's position in society and the responsibilities that one can choose to take. It inspired me to start volunteering in my own country too. I am glad to have been part of the SAVE-Ghana team and I would recommend anyone to take up some volunteering activity with them- Mike, USA

Working with SAVE-Ghana has brought me a new perspective to my life, an awareness and concern for the less fortunate and an attempt to make their lives better in the future through my own initiatives. SAVE-Ghana is an excellent attempt to bring into contact with those who wish to help and those who need help. Moreover, helpful and supportive staff will surely help the world to be a better place.- Anne, student, Denmark

It was a great learning experience and it also gave me satisfaction as this was the first time I was associated with an NGO for a noble cause. I also look forward to doing more of such projects with SAVE-Ghana.- Susan, Student, Canada

I enjoyed understanding with the various aspects of a small project –ranging from inventory management to marketing and people management. I realized that I enjoy consultancy work during my project, plus it's my interest to be associated with development sector for which SAVE-Ghana has given me an avenue. Joyce, corporate employee, Ghana

## 2017 IN REVIEW

### Survey on the Capacity of Local Suppliers to Ghana's School Feeding Programme

The Ghana School Feeding Programme provides school children with one hot, nutritious meal a day in order to reduce hunger and malnutrition and increase school attendance. To be sustainable, it is necessary that the program purchases food locally and provide income for smallholder farmers. The idea is to have the program provide a ready market for the smallholder food crop farmers, leading to wealth creation at the rural households and community levels and thus resulting in improved incomes. This will enable these poor rural households to afford the additional food intake needed to ensure the full complement of nutritional needs.

In 2017, SAVE-Ghana conducted a survey on the participation, capacity and efficiency of local suppliers to Ghana's School Feeding Programme. The study was commissioned by SVN Netherlands Development Organization, which is partnering with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to carry out the Procurement Governance for Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Program. The aim of HGSF is to enable smallholder farmers and other local providers of foodstuff to participate in the School Feeding Programme in order to increase rural income and develop the local agricultural sector and market. The goal of the HGSF program is to get 10,000 smallholder farmers, of which at least 30% should be women, to provide foodstuff to the local schools.

The survey, titled "Baseline Study Report of Procurement Governance for Home Grown School Feeding Program for Sissala East District," provided information on the experiences of caterers, farmers' groups, and traders who are supplying foodstuff to the school feeding programme. It also assessed the capacity of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the District Agricultural Development Units to support smallholder farmers, to link them to the school feeding programme procurement chain, and to develop the agricultural sector in general. The data was collected via structured interviews from July to September 2017. SAVE-Ghana used the data collected to come up with a list of recommendations to improve the skills, knowledge and capacity of local suppliers so that they can supply foodstuff to the schools. These recommendations include the following:

- Local suppliers should attend School Feeding Program coordination meetings in order learn about the program and its procurement processes and to provide inputs so that the program can be efficient, transparent and accountable
- NGOs, agricultural government bodies, and School Feeding Program officers should provide networking opportunities and link caterers, farmers' groups, and traders to the Program
- The process of contract negotiating in arriving at the contract amount should be made more open and understandable to caterers, as most of them do not understand what is taken into consideration
- Caterers should receive training on hygiene and proper food preparation and they should be regularly checked so that pupils receive quality, safe and healthy food
- The Ministry of Food and Agriculture should increase the number of qualified Agricultural Extension Agents in order to extend services and assistance to smallholder farmers and increase storage facilities to prevent spoilage and pest problems
- NGOs and government should help farmers to access credit, technology, and technical and entrepreneurial training in order to maximize their ability to supply foodstuff for the schools



# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND HIV AND ADIS

## WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION

SAVE-Ghana partnered with Olam Cotton to commemorate this year's World AIDS Day in Sissala East District of the Upper West Region of Ghana. The importance of World AIDS Day cannot be underestimated:

- It is also a day that stakeholders use to bring awareness to the AIDS pandemic that is truly a global issue.
- It is our shared vision and our shared responsibility, in memory of the millions who died of AIDS but also for future generations.
- World AIDS Day plays a very important part in helping people to understand the impact of AIDS on society and the steps that have been taken to address this widespread disease.
- This day has been used to educate people about HIV and AIDS in order to prevent the spread of the disease and provide general education about the disease so people can be informed and knowledgeable about the disease on many levels.

### Activities marking the day

#### *Radio Discussion*

- There were series of radio discussions preceding the event held on Radio for Development (RADFORD) in Tumu. On all sessions, the panel included Olam Ghana, personnel from Ghana Health Service, and SAVE-Ghana.
- Some of the discussions were centered on comprehensive knowledge about the disease and its untold effect on the lives of people worldwide, in Africa and Ghana as a whole.
- The listening public were taken through basic issues of HIV/AIDS such as; Preventive Measures, Support to association of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and the need to reduce high level of Stigma against them.

#### *Jingle*

Olam Ghana and SAVE-Ghana composed a jingle which was aired on Radio for Development (RADFORD) in Tumu. The purpose of the jingle was to create awareness and buzz for the event in and around Tumu. The jingle which was in Sisaali was aired five (20) times. The jingle contained stigma free message and the need for one to know his or her HIV status.

#### *Float*

The durbar was preceded by a float with brass band music through the principal streets of Tumu. Participants who were in Olam/SAVE-Ghana branded T-shirts matched with placards, such as getting to zero discrimination, zero new infections and zero HIV related deaths. About 500 condoms were distributed through the match. A banner was also held in front of participants during the root match with inscriptions like world AIDS day 1st December 2017, getting to zero and "an Olam/SAVE-Ghana initiative.



### ***Durbar***

The ground durbar brought together the land lord of Tumu, some divisional chiefs, heads of departments, including the District Coordinating Director, NGOs both local and International, farmers, students etc. In all, about 1,500 participated in the durbar.

### **Presentation by Executive Director of SAVE-Ghana**

The executive director's speech was on two key issues; efforts at scaling up care and support services for those affected by the disease and changing the local name of HIV and AIDS which literally means "small killer". On access to services the executive Director of SAVE-Ghana the UNAIDS World Days 2011 report stated that an estimated 34 million people were living with HIV in 2010, up from 32.9 million in 2009, and the number continues to grow because more people become infected every year But, it is falling in 33 countries -22 of them in sub-Saharan Africa, the region that bears the burden of the AIDS pandemic. He therefore challenges stakeholders to double their efforts to sustain the gains made in this direction.

According to him, AIDS is no longer a death sentence for those who can get the medicines. As the pharmaceutical industry stated much earlier, After all, we now have a drug which can be sold at the incredible price of GHc5.00 a dose. And that those put on treatment early in their infection were at least 96% less likely to transmit the virus to their sexual partners than those who started on drugs later. He urged the government to add the antiretroviral under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

### **Olam Ghana and other collaborators**

Presentations were made by Plan International Ghana, Action Aid International Ghana, and Ghana Health Service among others. It is worth mentioning that in Olam Statement's assured the people of Upper West the company's commitment to addressing their health problems. Dash Douglas, who is the corporate responsibility and sustainability manager for Africa added that though Olam Ghana was a business oriented company partnering cotton farmers, it would do everything possible to help solve some of the health problems in the region. To him and Olam Cotton partnering SAVE-Ghana was timely and indicated their commitment to scaling up to cover other health and development issues of the place.



## GAVI HSS IMMUNIZATION PROJECT

### Background of the Project

Immunization is one of the best uses governments can make of limited public funds for health. Yet 1.5 million children under age 5 die from vaccine-preventable diseases every year and 19 million remain under immunized. This introduction notes some important developments in the global immunization environment that set the context for this project funded by GAVI SS and sub granted to SAVE-Ghana through GCNGOs in Health.

GAVI in 2013 opened a new single funding window for Ghana, to be delivered through the Health Systems funding platform.

Ghana applied for the HSS cash based support and got approval and subsequently sub-granted to the Ghana coalition of NGOs in Health and its members for implementation.

In 2016 the project was extended to cover some low performing district in Ghana of which the Nandom district is part.

SAVE-Ghana has a mandate of working in five communities in the district to contribute to increasing immunization coverage in the district.

### Project Goal

The goal of this assignment is to contribute to save children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunization services in the Nandom district of the upper west region.

### *Participation during community sensitization and durbars*

Name of community	No. of People reached Total			Total
	Male	Female	PWDs	
Koo	300	350	0	650
Vapuo	200	300	10	500

Guo	250	310	2	560
Tokuu	100	250	14	350
Tom-Vuurebaa	150	280	8	330

*Satellite points identify for immunizations*

Community	Satellite site	Status
Tokuu	Facts center	Functional
Vapuo	Community Church	Functional
Tom-Vuurebaa	Facts Center	Functional
Guo	Health center	Functional
Koo	Health Center	Functional

*Key Achievements*

- The project donated a motor bike to Vapuo chip zone to aid the health staff provide immunization services in hardtop reach communities.
- Community volunteers were also given rain coat and Walton boots to help support and motivate the work during the raining season.
- SAVE Ghana has monitored and contributed to the immunization of **356** children in the five selected communities the project.
- 15 community drubbers were organized in the five selected communities; a total of 1,510 people participated in our community drubbers including 650 males and 860 females.
- The drubbers created opportunities to community members to under the type of immunization services available, the need for immunization.
- SAVE Ghana has also increased the knowledge of community members through the use of retired midwives and community volunteers on the importance of immunization in the project communities. A total of 12 retired midwives and private community health nurses were in engage to support the activities of the health officers in the selected communities. This people were supported by the project both I n kind and cash.

- SAVE Ghana has also identified and selected ten community Volunteers from the five selected communities and have provided resources to support them at their satellite sites and community levels. These community volunteers give a lot of support to the community health nurses on NIDs and also educating families on the need for immunization.
- Re-Community level sensitization on importance of immunization and how to support families to send children for immunization was carried out attracting with good participation and support to the project in all the five communities (2,570 people participated).
- SAVE Ghana have also carried out 5 community outreach during the period under review, the communities includes Tokuu, Vapuo, Tom-vuurbaa, Guo and Koo. This was done with the help of the community volunteers, community health officers and retired midwives.
- SAVE Ghana also participated in 3 three quarterly and 1 annual review meetings of the district. SAVE-Ghana was given the opportunity make it inputs in trying to improve immunization coverage in the district.

As part of advocacy activities in the district SAVE Ghana in collaboration with the DHMT have organized radio programs to help weep the interest of the general public in NIDs days and the need for men envelopment in immunization activities. This discussion gave room for people to phone in to contribute and also ask question

## **1. Reducing Maternal Mortality through Access to Information and Abortion Service in the Upper West and Western Regions of Ghana**

### **Overview**

Institutional records from the leading hospitals including Korle-Bu and Okumfo Anonkye teaching hospitals of the Ghana Health Service (GHS, 2005, 2006 to 2011) show that unsafe abortion accounts for nearly 30 per cent of all maternal deaths of which young women under the age of 24 are particularly vulnerable as 60 per cent of maternal deaths are caused by unsafe abortion. The situation is more alarming in Upper West Region and worse still in the Western Region (oil Region) of Ghana. Aside from unsafe abortions, lack of institutional capacity to provide abortion services and stigma attached to abortion are some of the causes of the high morbidity and mortality rates associated with unsafe abortions in Ghana.

The main goal of the project is to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality by creating awareness on the dangers of unsafe abortion, supporting increased access to quality abortion Services in the Western and Upper West regions of Ghana through sensitization of health care providers and incorporation of abortion care services into the training of student-midwives. This will leverage the impact of SAVE-Ghana and Pathfinder International Ghana's earlier interventions in the Upper West Region and reduce the increasing numbers of unsafe abortions occurring as a result of the high rate of teenage pregnancies resulting from an influx of people into the region since the discovery of oil in the Western Region. The project start from 2014 and end in 2017 Funded By Safe abortion action fund.

The specific objectives of the project include:

1. Increase availability of CAC services by supporting GHS to scale-up SAVE-Ghana's CAC facility model to be accessed by at least 5000 women (aged 20 and above) and 2000 girls (aged 19 and under) in the ten project districts by the end of the project.
3. Reduction in abortion-related complications reported to health facilities as a result of increased awareness amongst women and girls (aged 14 to 18) on the dangers of unsafe abortion in the Upper West and Western Regions of Ghana.
4. Strengthen the capacity of 600 Midwives, Registered Nurses and Paramedics in the ten project districts within three years to offer quality counseling services and to strengthen the referral systems to reduce the rate of unsafe abortion.

## Agricultural And food Security

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has been the backbone of many wealthy nations in the advanced world like the America and Western Europe.

The area, Upper West region has a vast stretch of land with lots of potential when tapped to the full(est.) will save Ghana from the acute poverty and its attendance challenges as well as help correct the deficit balance of payment problems facing the country.

Agriculture plays a very important role in the development of the Ghanaian economy, its employs about seventy percent (70%) of the Ghanaian population. History and statistics has even shown that, agriculture is the backbone of Ghana and contributes significantly to Gross Domestic Product annually. Our focus is on women groups to improve and ensure their access to productive resources such as land good Argic technology and micro credit facilities. We also help the women groups with inputs such as insecticides, fertilizers, etc. to improve their yield. This, we believe will put more money in to their hands who have proven to take better care of children in the districts in particular and the northern regions in general.

Despite all these, the agricultural sector in Ghana still faced a lot of challenges, more especially in rural communities in the northern regions where much of these agricultural activities even take place.

In view of these, Sustainable Aid through Voluntary Establishment (SAVE-Ghana), a local non-governmental organization based in Tumu partner a number of organizations including International Fertilizer Development Centre/Agriculture Technology Transfer, Innovation without Borders (IWB), Market Development Program for Northern Ghana, ETC to undertaken several interventions in the area of agriculture in other to Increase income of small holder farmers in the rural communities in some selected districts (Sissala east,sissala west, Wa east

and diffiama bussie issa) in the upper west region through the bridging of the extension services gaps in the region.

On the IFDC/ATT project, farmers and farmer based organization in Wa East and Diffiama Bussie Issa districts benefited a lot on the project. Demonstration fields were set-up in some selected communities to educate farmers on good agronomic practices, the use of certified seed (maize, rice and soya) and linkage of farmers to access small grant for agricultural equipment.

Also, on the Market Development Program for Northern Ghana (MADE) farmers and farmer based organization in the Sissala east and west districts benefited on this project. The project objective is to educate farmers on the modern methods of groundnut cultivation considering the challenges many farmers especially in the rural farming communities faced in groundnut farming.

### **ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN**

Lands in Upper West Region particularly in Wa East and Daffiama Bussie Issa districts are generally low lands and the climate is relatively dry with a single rainy season that mostly begins in April and ends in October. Crop production in the regions is faced with several constraints that adversely affect production and limit productivity. Among these constraints are: ,High labour costs, Poor land preparation ,lack of adequate equipment for proper land preparation, lack of quality seeds as a result of lack of effective commercial demand for improved seed varieties. Predominant traditional and inefficient planting methods and seeds used resulting from traditional labour saving application methods that include broadcasting fertilizers and seeds, and lack of labour saving equipment and technologies.

With efforts from the Feed the Future (FtF) ATT project, farmers in these selected districts can now access good certified seeds coupled with good agronomic practices which will help them achieve good results despite the climate change. The goal of every individual farmer in the region and the selected districts in particular is to obtain high yields season after season. Farmers in the selected districts are educated on the good technologies such as the use of certified seeds, planting in rows, maintaining proper plant population , applying fertilizer at the right time, right quantity and in the right manner in order to meet the goal of increased yields.

A number of activities were undertaken to help in the achievement of project goals and objectives, among some of the key activities implemented were;

Identification, selecting and profiling of farmers in order to form a database for farmers.

Technology dissemination through video shows.

Technology fairs and starter pack distribution in some selected communities.

Follow up on right application of technology and carry out crop cut survey phase I

## **Crop cut survey phase II.**

### ***Identification, Selecting and Profiling of Farmer Base Organizations (FBOs).***

FBOs are voluntary interest groups of smallholder farmers which serve as platforms for knowledge sharing and an avenue through which one can influence the prices of their produce in the market with opportunities to press home certain demands as well as seeking interventions.

The FBOs in the two Districts under review engaged in a number of activities Ranging from production, processing, storage, bulking, transporting to marketing to the benefit of the farmers.

SAVE-Ghana work with twenty 33 FBOs across the two Districts where the project is being implemented. Details of FBOs data is shown in appendix I.

### ***Technology Dissemination Through Video Shows.***

In a quest to serve farmers better and in recognition of the fact that the adult farmer learns best through the use of audio-visuals, the USAID/ATT project developed a video on the use of certified seeds varieties, benefits to be driven from the use of these certified seeds varieties, the retail shops where a farmer can walk to get these certified seeds and soya harvesting by cutting above the ground surface to educate farmers at their most convenient time. Adult learning is proved to have been best achieved using audio visuals. That is, through pictures, motion pictures and sound. The reason is that the adult farmer sees and hears with his or her own eyes and ears all what is going on and thus best learned. The video screening was carried out in twenty five (25) communities and was met with a whole lot of enthusiasm and interest.

### ***Technology Fairs and Starter Pack Distribution in Selected Communities.***

Farming in upper west region at large and Daffiama Bussie Issa and Wa East districts in particular was considered as a means of sustenance for rural households. Predominant traditional tools and equipment such as bullocks, mutual labor, and inefficient planting methods and seeds used resulting from traditional labor saving application method that include broadcasting fertilizers and seeds are some major practices for most rural farmers. The major goal of farming was to farm to feed the family.

New farming technologies invented has now moved farming from the use of bullocks, seed and fertilizer broadcasting methods to a more efficient methods of farming with the use of



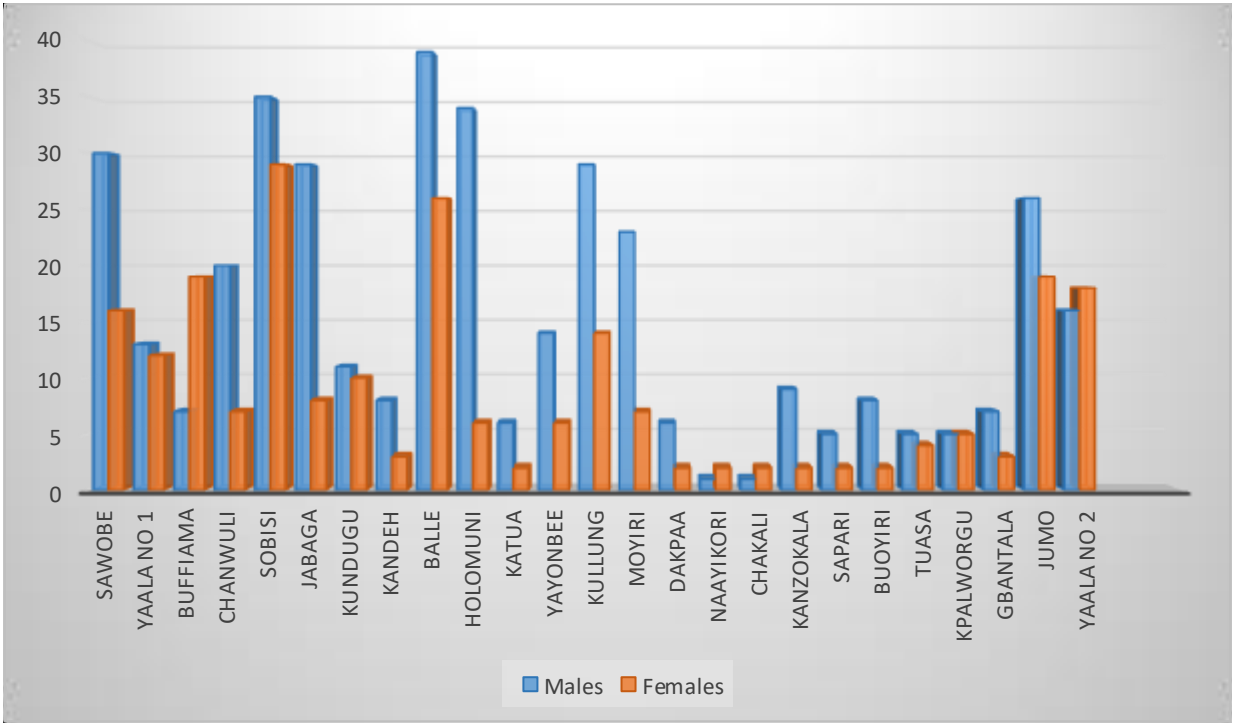
implements such as tractors, combine harvesters, planters, certified seeds varieties which moves farmers from farming to feed families to farming as a business.

The goal of farming as business could be achieved when farmers adopt to the use of certified seeds and follow the appropriate planting protocols. USAID/ATT Feed the Future project implemented by SAVE-Ghana has distributed some maize, rice and soya bean starter packs to some selected farmers to use as mini demos in their respective farms in other to adopt to the new technologies in farming and increase yields.

Appendix 2 illustrates detail information on starter packs distributed within the period under review.

The number of beneficiaries for the technology fairs and starter packs distribution has been depicted on the chart below.

A CHART SHOWING DETAILS OF STARTER PACKS BENEFICIARIES



Analysis can be drawn from the chart that, more males farmers in the selected communities benefited from the starter packs than female farmers hence the technology is likely to benefit males than females farmers.

### ***Monitoring of the application of Technology and Carry out Crop Cut Survey Phase I***

Phase I survey has being conducted to collect data to compute the performance of three key indicators (Number of Farmers Applying Improved Technologies and management practices, Hectares under Improved technologies and Yield per Hectare) amongst project beneficiaries. The purpose of the survey is to enable the monitoring and evaluation team access the impact of the agriculture technology transfer project. This Survey Phase I intend to collect information on the technologies and management practices and input cost.

The survey lasted for 20 days. Sixty (60) farmers were interviewed within these 20 days. Thirty three (33) farmers were males whiles twenty seven (27) were females. Below are the details of survey segregated by gender.

TYPE OF CROP	MALE	FEMALE
Maize	20	10
Soybeans	13	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>

Analysis can be drawn from the table that, there is high number of male maize farmers than female maize farmers. This has been attributed to fact that, maize farming in the district has being seen as a business among most farmers and not merely a means of sustenance. However, leguminous crops such as groundnut and soybeans are mostly regarded as crops for female farmers. Generally, the idea of women involvement in agriculture has being given a major consideration since most men support their wives by way of providing them with lands to aid them in production.

### ***Crop Cut Survey Phase II.***

This survey has being conducted to collect data to compute the performance of production and management practices among project beneficiaries. The purpose of the survey is to enable the monitoring and evaluation team access the impact of the agriculture technology transfer project. This Survey Phase II intend to collect information on the demarcated areas (crop cut area), weigh grains and measure the moisture content using the moisture meter and to collect total weight of

produce harvested by sample farmers, volume produced, volume sold, volume consumed as well as total value of sales.

The survey lasted for 7 days. Sixty (60) farmers were sampled for the activity. Sample farms were visited and demarcated areas/crop cut areas harvested, weighed grains and measure moisture content using the moisture meter. Thirty three (33) farmers were males whiles twenty seven (27) were Females.

### ***SEED PRODUCTION***

Maize production in the regions is faced with several constrains that adversely affects production and limit productivity, among these constrains is the lack of quality seed varieties.

Although, lack of access to certified seed as a result of the inadequate supply of seeds is a major factor affecting maize and groundnut production, SAVE-Ghana has taken its own initiative to produce two (2) acres of maize and four (4) acres of groundnut seeds in other to meet the rushing demand for certified seeds as a results of the education we have given to farmers over the years.. With efforts from SAVE-Ghana to solve the pressing demand for certified seeds, over three thousand (3000) farmers in the districts has access to certified seeds for 2017 production season.

The organization made effort to register with the seed inspectorate unit in Wa who paid a monitoring visit to our seed Felds to ensure that all seed requirements where adhered to.

Available evidence shows that over 5, 000 farmers learn from our seed initiative hence will be adapting the methodology used to produce the seed.



Quite apart from production of certified seed, we also did a lot of sensitization on the media on the use of certified seed varieties to encourage more farmers to use certified seed instead of farmer saved seed which do not give farmers higher yield at the end of the farming season.

Also, farmers and farmer groups who bought and use the certified seed actually testified that, they had more yield than the previous years when they were using their own indigenous seed variety.

### ***Improving Groundnut production in the upper west region***

SAVE-Ghana signed a MoU with Innovation Without Borders under the Market Development Program For Northern Ghana project to undertake groundnut demonstration fields in four selected districts in the Upper West Region of Ghana to increase groundnut production in these selected districts to foster broad-based and sustained economic growth through the increase availability of agricultural technologies to improve and sustained groundnut production in these selected districts( Sissala east, Wa east, Sissala West and Daffiama Issa Busies) .

Groundnut production in the three (3) Northern regions of Ghana is faced with several challenges that adversely affect its productivity. Among these challenges include: poor land preparation, lack of equipment for land preparation, lack of quality seeds, inefficient traditional method of planting, inefficient use of chemicals, poor planting distances etc.

In other to address these challenges, SAVE-Ghana mobilized their already exiting VLSA groups in four selected districts in the Upper West Region. SAVE-Ghana has up to three or four VLSA groups in some communities. In such communities, group members were allowed to select twenty five members each to form a group for the purpose of the demonstration, after which, the participants will go back and also educate their various group members.

### ***OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT***

To introduce and transfer new technologies (seed and Good Agronomic practices) to farmers.

To work with targeted farmers and farmer groups on post handling methods.

To assist farmers to adopt the right planting distances **for** groundnut

### ***SITE SELECTION***

Based on the protocol received from MADE regarding site selection, SAVE-Ghana deployed its field officers to visit the various selected communities which they operate for site selection. Among some of the factors considered during site selection include; the land should be level or gentle slope, avoid low land prone to water logging, well-drain sandy-loam soil, avoid shady locations and stony areas were the factors considered during site selection.

### ***LAND PREPARATION***

Considering the ways farmers prepared their land, by way of burning, the use of highly distractive weedicide, felling of economic and other trees, SAVE-Ghana organized a one- day training for farmers in thirty five (35) communities each in the four selected districts to sensitized them on the disadvantages of felling trees, the used of highly distractive weedicide, bush burning etc. Farmers were encouraged to practice proper ways of land preparation. Farmers in all the districts appreciated the effort of SAVE-Ghana and promised they were going to replicate it in their various farms.

### ***PLOUGHING AND LEVELING***

Breaking and losing the top soil helped crops to develop roots faster and easier. Farmer groups in the thirty five (35) selected communities in the four selected districts were educated on the importance of ploughing and leveling. Funds were distributed from the office of SAVE-Ghana to its lead farmers in the various communities to help ploughing and leveling activities. Monitoring of ploughing was done by field staff of SAVE-Ghana. A total number of thirty five farmers based organizations were reached in the Thirty five selected communities. Farmer groups were educated by SAVE-Ghana staff on the importance of leveling their field before planting. It was stated to farmers that, leveling helps to get optimum plant population on their field, control the rate of running water on the field, uniformity of crops



### ***PLATING /FERTILIZER APPLICATION***

Immediately after ploughing, 50kg of Triple Super Phosphate fertilizer each was supplied to farmer groups in all the thirty five selected communities in which we operate to be broadcasted on their field before planting, this was however supervised by field officers of SAVE-Ghana. The entire planting process was successful; farmers in all the thirty five selected communities came out in their numbers and participated in this important activity. Planting was done using recommended planting distance of 40cm by 15cm for the main demo. Planting was done in rows for the main demo field and one seed per hole and at least 3cm and a maximum of 5cm depth and firmly covered with soil, all the demos were planted at a time when the soil moisture is enough to aid germination. However, farmers were educated on the importance of planting in rows and why they should use recommended planting distances.

Some farmers saw it to be tedious but were convinced at the end; they even promised they were going to replicate it in next cropping season in their various farms. Below is a picture showing planting activity at Kandia community in the Sissala west district.



Farmers participating in Planting Activity in Kandia community

### ***RAPTOR DEMONSTRATION***

Raptor is a herbicide used for the control of weeds in leguminous crops more especially groundnut. It has no side effect on the crops as well as on human being when applied. It also, makes the soil more loose for strong root formation, development and easy growth of crops. Before SAVE-Ghana recommended the product for its farmers and farmer based organizations for use, they first of all set-up two demonstration field in two different districts (Sissala east and west) to testify the efficiency and effectiveness of the product to ensure that the product works perfectly.

After applying the product, farmer in the community and also from nearby communities where invited to participate in a green field day to compare portion of the field where the product is applied and the remaining field where the product is not applied to access the effectiveness of the product.

The pictures below show how the product (Raptor) works.



Farmers and farmer groups who participated during the green field day activity actually testify how effective and efficient the product is and therefore pledged to buy and use some on their respective farm come next crop season.

### ***OUTCOMES /OUTPUTS***

Generally, the turnout for the entire demonstrational activities was encouraging throughout the thirty five selected communities in the four operational districts in the Upper West Region. Participants sing their cultural songs during field day activities to show their enthusiasm and readiness for the project. A total number of three thousand five hundred and sixty (3,560) farmers participated throughout the entire planting

Period. Out of which, two thousand five hundred and sixty (2,560) were females and one thousand (1,000) were males. Infact, it was really a joyful

experience for both field staffs of SAVE-Ghana and the farmer groups. After observing how nice and beautiful the fields were after germination, ninety percent (90%) of the farmers pledge to replicate whatever they have learned on their farms come next farming season.

### **CHALLENGES AND EMERGING ISSUES**

The infestation of the Fall Army Worm (FAW) has affected a lot of crops especially maize in the 2017 crop season.

The introduction and wrong use of Agro chemicals is a major challenge that has affected crop production.

Inadequate agric extension officers are a serious problem facing many farmers in rural communities.

Inadequate credit facilities for farmers are a major problem affecting the sector.

The solely dependent on rain-feed farming is hindering the development of agriculture in Ghana especially northern sector where farmers had one raining season.

Inaccessibility of farm-land by women is affecting productivity.

### **Shea Nuts Value Chain Development**

The shea trees in the Upper West Region of Ghana provide an important source of livelihood for women. The shea nuts contain edible fats and butter, which can also be processed into creams for cosmetic uses. Income from selling shea nuts and cream enables many poor, rural women to provide for their family's basic needs and to send their children to school. However, the women were not maximizing their profits and incomes because they lacked the necessary skills and business savvy. The shea nuts were picked and processed without considerations for the quality nature of the nuts, how to get buyers and make good sales, and how to stockpile the nuts until market demands improved and the women could get higher prices. To rectify this situation and to improve the livelihood of poor, rural women, SNV Netherlands Development Organization engaged SAVE- Ghana as a Local Capacity Builder (LCB) to supplement SNV's Shea Value Chain Development Program.

A number of activities were carried out by SAVE-Ghana to increase the production and incomes of rural women in the Upper West region. SAVE-Ghana organized the women shea nut pickers and processors into 25 cooperative societies, registered them with the appropriate authorities, and provided training on the technical aspects of shea nut processing and warehouse storage. They also received training on entrepreneurial development, cooperative management and marketing skills.

The cooperatives were further registered as Village Savings and Loan Associations, which are groups of 15-25 people who save together and take small loans from those savings. The activities of VSLAs run in cycles of about one year, after which the accumulated savings and loans are shared out among the members according to the amount they have saved. VSLAs were necessary to enable the women to raise the needed funds because credit and bank loans are scarce in poor, rural areas. The cooperative societies were taken through 7 training models of VSLA operations and management. Finally, SAVE-Ghana also assisted the shea cooperatives to negotiate contracts with shea nuts/butter buying companies. One of the buyers, AAK, agreed to provide pre-financing for the stockpiling of nuts.

This project has achieved the following results:

- 75 cooperatives have been formed and supplied with VSLA tool kits
- VSLA members now access loans at very low interest rates without going to banks
- Excess liquidities at the rural communities are now put to judicious use
- Over 100 metric tons of quality nuts have been stockpiled
- Registered all 75 cooperative society and Two cooperative Unions
- Registered a VSLA based cooperative credit Union



### Other related activities

Over the period under review the groups have been able to cultivate the following crops

S/n	Crop	No. of farmers	Total acreage
1	Maze	1188	7128
2	Soya beans	238	1428
3	Grougnots	356	2136
4	Cow pees	238	1428
5	Vegitables	356	2136

SAVE-Ghana piloted an initiative that seeks to link smallholder farmers to the Ghana School Feeding Programme in the Sissala West District. The pilot initiative successfully linked farmers to the Sissala West District Assembly and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) for regular supply of inputs to produce relevant food items to feed schools benefiting from the GSFP in the district and beyond. A feasibility analysis of the existing potential to scale up and make the GSFP more effective in the district whilst improving the incomes of smallholder farmers was initially conducted before the pilot. In 2016 We intend to expand the project to cover the Sissala East and West District of the Upper West region.

To further position itself as an organization committed to improving agriculture, food security and the incomes of smallholder farmers, SAVE-Ghana also conducted various studies in the agricultural value chain. The most recent of them was done in November 2017 to identify and map the capacities of agro-input dealers, the production capacities of seed growers and farmer-based organizations in the region. The object of the study was to generate some relevant database to be used for the design and implementation of an initiative to disseminate certified seed for smallholder farmers in the region.

SAVE-Ghana has supported women groups in Shea and Shea butter production, developed 75 groups into registered cooperative Societies, two cooperative unions in the Sissala West and East which are all deeply involved in VSLAs. With a new development of Box stilling, THE organization facilitated for the registration of a VSLA Based cooperative Credit Union which currently shares its office with SAVE-Ghana. This facility gives credit to its members to engage in agricultural activities.

### HIV/AIDS Counseling, Testing and Awareness

This project will be funded by Olam-Ghana and will also receive support from Ghana Health Service. The project will aim to achieve the following:

- To encourage demand for HIV testing through raising individual awareness of the benefits of knowing their HIV status.
- To increase the number of HIV-infected persons who know their status in order to develop, maintain and sustain preventive and coping strategies
- To prevent the continuous transmission of HIV/AIDS and decreasing the infectiousness of people with HIV.
- To influence policies for increasing the availability of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) to people with HIV
- To remove healthcare providers' stigma as a barrier to positive prevention and to build capacity within treatment centers to respond to the needs of people with HIV/AIDS.
- To raise awareness about the role of women and men living with HIV/AIDS in HIV/STI prevention and enable people with HIV/AIDS to reduce risky behaviors.
- To change community norms and attitudes surrounding violence against women living with HIV/AIDS.
- To increase the visibility of people with HIV/AIDS in order to reduce community-based stigma

SAVE-Ghana plans to achieve these objectives through the following activities:

- Training and improving the skills of Ghana Health Service Workers so that they can better serve persons with HIV/AIDS
- Holding community durbars and radio discussions in all eight project communities to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, advocate for ending stigma and discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS, and educate people about safe sexual practices
- Providing counseling and testing services so that people can find out their status
- Providing a three-month ART to Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, which will be paid for by Olam-Ghana

## **Reducing Maternal Mortality through Access to Information and Abortion Service in the Upper West and Western Regions of Ghana**

### **Overview**

Institutional records from the leading hospitals including Korle-Bu and Okumfo Anonkye teaching hospitals of the Ghana Health Service (GHS, 2005, 2006 to 2011) show that unsafe abortion accounts for nearly 30 per cent of all maternal deaths of which young women under the age of 24 are particularly vulnerable as 60 per cent of maternal deaths are caused by unsafe abortion. The situation is more alarming in Upper West Region and worse still in the Western Region (oil Region) of Ghana. Aside from unsafe abortions, lack of institutional capacity to provide abortion services and stigma attached to abortion are some of the causes of the high morbidity and mortality rates associated with unsafe abortions in Ghana.

The main goal of the project is to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality by creating awareness on the dangers of unsafe abortion, supporting increased access to quality abortion Services in the Western and Upper West regions of Ghana through sensitization of health care

providers and incorporation of abortion care services into the training of student-midwives. This will leverage the impact of SAVE-Ghana and Pathfinder International Ghana's earlier interventions in the Upper West Region and reduce the increasing numbers of unsafe abortions occurring as a result of the high rate of teenage pregnancies resulting from an influx of people into the region since the discovery of oil in the Western Region. The project will start from 2014 and end in 2017 Funded By Safe abortion action fund.

The specific objectives of the project include:

5. Increase availability of CAC services by supporting GHS to scale-up SAVE-Ghana's CAC facility model to be accessed by at least 5000 women (aged 20 and above) and 2000 girls (aged 19 and
6. under) in the ten project districts by the end of the project.
7. Reduction in abortion-related complications reported to health facilities as a result of increased awareness amongst women and girls (aged 14 to 18) on the dangers of unsafe abortion in the Upper West and Western Regions of Ghana.
8. Strengthen the capacity of 600 Midwives, Registered Nurses and Paramedics in the ten project districts within three years to offer quality counseling services and to strengthen the referral systems to reduce the rate of unsafe abortion.

## Education and child protection

In pursuance of the erstwhile MDGs, the Government of Ghana made huge investments in the education sector. At the school level however, a number of problems such as teacher absenteeism, poor planning, monitoring and supervision of school activities, mismanagement of school resources, late disbursement of grants and the use of pupils as farmhands at the expense of their studies have collectively and wickedly conspired to dissipate or devalue the full realization of the benefits of government's investments in the sector. The Upper West Region which is considered the poorest in Ghana is worst hit. SAVE Ghana's MAVC funded project; IMPROVE, is seeking to tackle these issues. Working in collaboration with Regional, Municipal and District Directorates, the project is strengthening basic education governance structures such as the SMCs, PTAs and DEOCs to facilitate effective planning, monitoring, supervision as well as promoting parents and community participation in school governance to ensure that resources are effectively utilized. It involves community assessments, reporting, dissemination and interfacing with local education duty-bearers and demanding accountability at the community, district, regional and national levels of the education system for better learning outcomes. A web-based innovative technology is facilitating data/information gathering, community tracking of expenditures of the capitation grants, monitoring of the performance of teachers by both parents and pupils; and generating a direct feedback mechanism between schools, communities, district and regional education directorates.

This report is the project's final account of the results that are being achieved, the lessons learnt, challenges that were encountered and circumvented and the way forward in completing the project delivery process.

## **Summary of final results of the project:**

Over the project period some key achievements included; the development of mobile web-based application which is fully functional. Thus, helping the various directorates (district and regional) to easily monitor attendance of teachers at the comfort of the directorate hence, reducing cost of monitoring by the directorate. A successful formation of collation of NGOs in education partnering with other CSOs and traditional authorities paved way for making some educational reforms. Notably among the reforms is the introduction of byelaws with punitive action, improved relationship between communities and stakeholders – (demonstrated by the fact that community representatives are now being invited to sit in school governance meetings etc.). Communities-parents and pupils relationships have also been strengthened through training and awareness programs to effectively engage and provide the needed feedback on education service delivery to duty-bearers.

Basic School governance structures such as the School Management Committees (SMCs), PTAs and District Education Oversight Committees (DEOCs) including school heads and teachers are being strengthened through trainings – While some have been formed in areas where they are defunct, other have been reconstituted and revived to promote effective planning and implementation of the School Performance Improvement Plans (SPIPs) as well as promote transparency and accountability in the use of school resources. SAVE-Ghana as an organization has also strengthened its internal systems and structures institutionally; including networking and performance thereby leveraging its standing (in the eyes of the community and education authorities) as a credible, proactive and development centered civil society organization working in the education sector.

## **Contextual and other related challenges:**

In the wake of these achievements, the project has surmounted challenges: More contextually, the 2016 elections in Ghana had serious implication on project delivery on agreed timelines. Many Education duty-bearers and related institutions and individuals (Members of Parliament, Municipal and District Chief Executives as well as Coordinating Directors) with whom SAVE Ghana sought to make the change happen virtually came to a standstill due to the political campaigning events. This challenge was crowned by the change in government which It meant that after having spent time and resources sensitizing and developing working relationships with people at the helm of affairs in education in the region, the whole exercise had to be repeated all over again in view of new staff or appointees haven assumed office. As at the time of compiling this report, Municipal and District Chief Executives who are kingpins in the sector and, in fact chairpersons of the District Education Oversight Committees have not yet been appointed to replace the old ones whose tenure of office expired after the election of a new government. All these had and continue to have implications on project's time lines and resources.

At the local level, getting technological innovation to function effectively in a largely non-literate environment; an environment that is characterized by insufficient electrical power transmission was quite challenging. Also, worth mentioning has been delays in recruiting qualified web-based consultants, as well as the slow response from central government or national education duty-bearers in releasing the needed funds and Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs). How these have been sidestepped is captured in this report.

## **Key Lessons/insights:**

The first key lesson that emerged at the project implementation stage is that accessing and engaging public officers/duty bearers is critical in the success of social accountability projects like IMPROVE. It is important to take note of political campaign seasons or such related events which normally absorb their time and availability and plan accordingly.

Secondly, technology platform or web-based platform development is a time-consuming process. It is important to make times for reviews if project implementation time lines are to be maintained.

Thirdly, the web-based innovative technology applications require electricity to function so when proposing a tool for web-based application, it is critical to consider electricity connectivity in the project/target area (we have to change some communities that have been jointly selected by SAVE-Ghana and its Implementation partners)

Also, many of the users of the web-based platform lacked basic ICT skills, which is very necessary for the successful implementation of the project

Finally, aggressive or confrontational approach to engaging duty bearers in social accountability projects does not yield positive results most of the time. Diplomacy and appreciative approaches are very rewarding in terms of results.

## **General Organizational Challenges**

SAVE-Ghana faces three main challenges at the moment. These include;

- Donors position on funding or supporting operational cost of civil society.
- Inadequate logistics such as motor vehicles, motorbikes that are used to reach our target reasonable communities as there increasing calls for our services.
- high bureaucratic procedures in public offices of some major stakeholders

## **Way Forward**

- Donors should consider operational support to NGOs including salaries, utilities etc and funding capital items like vehicles, motorbikes for up growing organizations.
- Public officers should open up their doors for collaboration and partnership with civil society organizations
- SAVE-Ghana will be playing a key role as Ghana prepares for another crucial election. The role of civil society in ensuring that the elections are free, fair, peaceful and transparent is crucial.

