

act!onaid ghana



**End poverty.
Together.**

annual report
2010

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAG	ActionAid Ghana
AEAs	Agricultural Extension Agents
AP	Affiliate Programme
AAI	ActionAid International
BARDP	Brong Ahafo Regional Development Programme
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CD	Country Director
CEPA	Centre for Policy Analysis
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CISP	Cultural Initiative Support Programme
CLWs	Community Livestock Workers
COMBATs	Community Based Anti-violence Teams
CRC	Constitution Review Commission
CREST	Children's Reflection and Empowerment for Social Transformation
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DCE	District Chief Executive
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victims' Support Unit
DRR	Disaster Risks Reduction
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
FBO	Farmer Based Organisation

LIST OF ACRONYMS

FCUBE	Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FoodSPAN	Food Security Policy and Advocacy Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GARDP	Greater Accra Regional Development Programme
GES	Ghana Education Service
GNECC	Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition
GNFS	Ghana National Fire Service
HATS	Health Assistant Training School
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LI	Legislative Instrument
LIWG	Legislative Instrument Working Group
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIS	Management Information System
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
NDC	National Democratic Congress
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NPP	New Patriotic Party



LIST OF ACRONYMS

NORSAAC	Northern Sector Action on Awareness Centre
NORWACGG	Northern Region Assembly Women's Caucus on Good Governance
NRDP	Northern Regional Development Programme
PNC	People's National Convention
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
RAVI	Rights and Voice Initiative
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
SMC	School Management Committee
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
SODIA	Social Development and Improvement Agency
SVAGS	Stop Violence against Girls in School
UERDP	Upper East Regional Development Programme
TATCO	Tamale Teacher Training College
TUDRIDEP	Tumu Deanery Rural Integrated Development Programme
UWRDP	Upper West Regional Development Programme
VRDP	Volta Regional Development Programme
WISA	Women in Small Business Association
YFP	Young Female Parliament

BACKGROUND OF ACTIONAID GHANA

ActionAid Ghana (AAG) is an Affiliate of ActionAid International, an anti-poverty Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) working in over 40 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

ActionAid Ghana began operations in Ghana in 1990 and now works with more than one million (1,000,000) people in Upper West, Upper East, Northern, Volta, Greater Accra and Brong Ahafo regions of Ghana. AAG fights for rights of the poor, lobbying government and other stakeholders to change policies and practices that adversely affect the lives of poor and excluded people. AAG also works to support communities' basic needs and improve their access to services. To achieve our objective, ActionAid Ghana works with community

groups and local civil society organisations permanently to improve the situations and conditions of life of poor and excluded people in the long-term.

OUR VISION:

“A world without poverty in which every person enjoys their right to life of dignity”.

OUR MISSION:

“To work with the poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice”.

Our Goals:

1. Poor and excluded people and communities will exercise power to secure their rights.

2. Women and girls will gain power to secure their rights.
3. Citizens and civil society organizations across the world will fight for rights and justice.
4. States and their institutions will be accountable and democratic and will promote, protect and fulfill human rights for all.

VALUES

1. **Mutual respect;** to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.
2. **Equity and justice;** to work to ensure equal opportunity for everyone, irrespective of race, age, sex, sexual

BACKGROUND OF ACTIONAID GHANA

orientation, HIV/AIDS status, class, ethnicity, disability, location and region.

3. **Honesty and transparency;** to be accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and openness in our **j u d g m e n t s a n d** communications with others.
4. **Solidarity with the poor;** powerless and excluded will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty and injustice.
5. **Courage of conviction;** to be creative and radical, bold and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible

impact on the causes of poverty.

6. **Independence;** from any religious or political party affiliation.
7. **Humility;** in our presentation and behavior, recognising that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

FOREWORD

The year 2010 marked the first year of our (AAG) Country Strategy Paper IV (CSP IV). Christened “Rights and Responsibilities” the document summarises the agreed direction and focus for the Affiliate Ghana programme up to the year 2014. AAG still believes it is critical to address the causes of poverty – whether these causes are at local, national or international levels – using the human rights based approach (HRBA) in all our interventions.

2010 also marked AAG's 20th anniversary in Ghana. The celebration was under the theme: “AAG: 20 years fighting poverty. Together.” The period gave us the opportunity to reflect on the journey we have undertaken during the past 20 years. We

reflected -taking into consideration the fact that our mission to “End poverty. Together.” is a huge goal we had set for ourselves but we still believe its attainment is imperative.

Looking back, we recounted the numerous school buildings, clinics, childhood development centres, nurses and teachers' quarters we have built. We also took note of the dams and tube wells, grinding mills, farmers' centres and numerous seed and grain banks we have provided and many more.

We are emboldened by the fact that during the past 20 years, AAG has used various methodologies to achieve its objective of working together with others to end poverty. These methodologies

include working in partnership, networks and coalitions; using people centred advocacy and the HRBA while ensuring that women's rights are at the center of what we do.

Our greatest joy has to do with the changes we are creating at the personal and grassroots levels. Many women and girls in the deprived communities in which we work have had their capacities built for critical thinking, solving their problems and seeing themselves as agents of change and having the confidence and determination to drive their own agenda.

We have been able to facilitate processes in our communities to create change in some negative cultural practices such as Female



FOREWORD

Genital Mutilation (FGM) and widowhood rites among others. We have worked with hundreds of farmers – improving their practices, production and economic status. Our work in the education theme has resulted in thousands of children being able to access quality education, through improved contact hours and new teaching technologies among others.

In spite of all these great impacts our interventions have made in the lives of the over a million people we work with, we are not oblivious of the fact that the issues that brought AAG to Ghana are still with us – millions of people still go to bed hungry every night; women and children, particularly girls, face all forms of violence every day.

More so, farmers are still the poorest category of people in the country.

In view of these realities, AAG is committed to continue building people's power to work with each other even better, build their confidence and power within to act on their courage of convictions to hold duty bearers accountable. We believe this is the only way we can End poverty. Together.

We recognise with gratitude the contributions of our partner communities, traditional authorities, government institutions and civil society organisations to our work.



Dr. Abena Oduro
Chair, Board of Trustees

INTRODUCTION | 20 Years of Fighting Poverty Together

2010 marked an important year for ActionAid Ghana (AAG) as it heralded the declaration of Ghana as a middle income economy, the development of a national development framework, the lifting of Ghana's first barrels of oil, the achievement of some Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the 20th year of AAG's operation in Ghana and the beginning of the implementation of a new strategy- Country Strategy Paper IV.

National Context

The Gross Domestic product (GDP) was revised by the Government Statistician, Dr. Grace Bediako from Ghc24.1 billion to Ghc44.8 billion. This re-classification moved Ghana

overnight to a middle-income status country with a per capita GDP based on 24.3 million people of G h c 1 , 8 4 3 (\$1,289). The country also witnessed the lifting of its first barrels of oil from the Jubilee oil fields which are estimated to possess 1.8 billion barrels of crude oil. It is projected that the new oil wealth could bring \$1 billion a year into government coffers. The oil find (if managed properly) is enough to turn Ghana into one of the biggest players in natural resources alongside Saudi Arabia and the USA.



Hon. Juliana Azumah - Mensah and AAI CEO, Joanna Kerr discuss AAG-MOWAC collaboration during Joanna's visit to Ghana.

The government has developed a medium term development framework – the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda, to guide the development agenda of government spanning 2010 – 2013. It offers strategic direction for the structural transformation of the economy through industrialisation especially manufacturing, based on

AAG CONTEXT

modernised agriculture and sustainable exploitation of Ghana's natural resources, particularly minerals, oil and gas.

Ghana has had mixed progress towards achieving the MDGs. Significant progress on MDGs 1 and 2 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and achieve universal primary education) have been made and Ghana is likely to attain them by the target year 2015. Goal 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) is also potentially achievable; Goals 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women) and 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) are likely to be partially achieved. However, goals 4 (Reduce child mortality) and 5 (Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality

ratio) are unlikely to be achieved despite showing marginal improvement. Despite the fact that Ghana has 'achieved' middle income status, poverty levels are still very high in areas where AAG works. For example the average poverty level in the three northern regions, (where we work) is 62 % compared to the national average of 18%. Government has established an accelerated development programme intended to reduce poverty levels in these areas from 62 % to 20%. The oil find opens up new growth opportunities and if well-managed alongside a strong and effective local content policy, the pace of growth would be quicker and greater prosperity for all would be the outcome.

AAG Context

AAG used its 20th anniversary celebration to highlight its experiences, best practices, successes and to reflect on the next 20 years. AAG used the celebration to rededicate itself to the AAG values particularly, mutual respect, transparency, independence from any partisan politics, courage of our convictions and solidarity with the poor. We recognise that these are noble values and “walking our talk” will not be easy but we are committed to them because they are right; and at this point, 20 years since we started working in Ghana, AAG rededicates itself to these values.

Over the next 20 years, ActionAid Ghana is committed to doing what we have been doing even better, we

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

want to build people's power to work with each other and build their confidence and power within to act on the courage of their convictions, holding duty bearers to account. That is the only way that we can truly **End poverty. Together.**

The Affiliate Programme (AP) began the implementation of its fourth country strategy paper – CSP IV- in 2010. The CSP IV, which does not depart significantly from CSP III, is meant to deepen the work that AAG has been doing over the last 5 years for increased impact. However, 3 additional sub-themes have been added, subsumed under the existing key themes of women's rights, right to education and food rights and climate change. There has also been a shift in focus in respect of

power analysis in the CSP III to rights and responsibilities in CSP IV. The new sub- themes are women and land and maternal and child health with the focus on nutrition to be subsumed in the women's rights theme whilst work on climate change has been added to the right to food theme.

Programme priorities

The major priorities for the work over the year included demanding that, government develop a Legislative Instrument to underpin the implementation of the Domestic Violence (DV) Act; building skills and leadership of women to articulate their agenda; taking action to claim rights and addressing basic needs.

In the area of right to education, the AP strengthened the capacity of girls and their organisations to challenge unequal power relations and subordination; facilitated SMC/PTAs and their networks to challenge government to claim their rights to quality education delivery; monitored government spending in education and used Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques (REFLECT) and Children's Reflection and Empowerment for Social Transformation (CREST) to facilitate analysis and reflection on causes of inequality, exploitation and exclusion that underlie rights violations and to generate occasionally appropriate community led solutions.



Joanna Kerr (CEO of AAI) with AAG General Assembly Members

AAG also worked on small holder farmers' access to extension services and to productive resources; campaigned on the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme

(CAADP); campaigned on the impact of biofuel plantations on farmers, farmlands and food security. We also continued to respond to climate change issues; and helped build relationships of mutual accountability between

Farmer Based Organisations and government.

The priorities in HIV and AIDS work included increasing space for effective dialogue and engagement between People living with HIV/AIDS and government on universal access to care, support and treatment as well as creating awareness and raising the consciousness of the general public on the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS.

In the human security in emergencies theme, the priorities included advocating for the relocation of poor and excluded people from flood prone areas and the use of REFLECT as a means to build peace in conflict prone areas in the Upper East region.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS



To achieve the objectives of empowering women to stand up against violence perpetuated against them, to participate fully in decision making, as well as enjoy their economic rights, land rights and good nutrition for themselves and their children, the following activities were undertaken.

Dialogue with government to develop and sign the Legislative Instrument for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act 2007

Driving the agenda for a legislative instrument

AAG continued to play an active and leading role in the fight against violence and its debilitating effects on the lives of women and girls by

forming a Legislative Instrument Working Group (LIWG) with the expectation that the multi-sectoral group would develop the appropriate procedures to form the basis of the drafting instructions to be prepared by the Attorney General's Department. The group's formation was critical as the absence of a Legislative Instrument (LI) is hampering the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (ACT 732) passed in 2007.

Two meetings were held on November 30 and December 14, 2010 by the LIWG to set the

objectives of the Working Group, as well as to define the working relationships with the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. The interest and enthusiasm of the members of the LIWG indicated how critical the lack of the LI was viewed and their commitment to fight for the LI to be drafted.



Hon Juliana Azumah - Mensah (MOWAC) in a chat with Adwoa Kwateng Kluvitse, CD AAG at the DV Act workshop



Community-based anti-violence teams (COMBATs) reducing incidence of domestic violence

AAG is advocating for government to replicate and scale up one of its best practices, which ensures effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. This very successful initiative is the Community-Based Anti-violence

Team (COMBAT). COMBATs are grassroots teams of women and men who provide community education on domestic violence, monitor domestic violence cases, counsel survivors and support them to report cases to the law enforcement agencies. COMBATs have contributed to a reported steady reduction in the incidence of domestic violence at the

community level. In the Upper West Region, COMBATs settled 156 domestic violence cases and reported 21 to Domestic Violence Victims' Support Unit (DOVVSU). In Sissala East District, COMBAT members reported 1 defilement case to the police; brought 12

girls, who had been abducted for marriage, back to school and are demanding that chiefs deal sternly and justly with Fulani herdsmen who are causing havoc to the social and economic lives of the people. AAG believes that community-led structures like these are more effective and sustainable and will introduce to as many communities as possible.

ActionAid facilitated a dialogue meeting of 34 traditional authorities (all male), women leaders, staff of DOVVSU (of the Ghana Police Service), the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the Social Welfare Department to discuss gender-based violence in communities and schools in the Sissala East District of the Upper West Region and to



COMBAT members happy to have a bicycle to make monitoring and intervening more effective



get support from traditional authorities in the fight against gender-based violence. The meeting was also used to build the capacities of the traditional rulers on the laws of Ghana and thus to define the cases they could adjudicate in their communities. It was made clear to them that despite the fact that they have been adjudicating all cases, those with legal implications e.g. defilement, physical assault, and abduction must be referred to DOVVSU.

AAG is proud to report that, during the celebration of 16 days of activism in the Upper West Region, the DOVVSU of the Ghana Police Service stated that as a result of the role of COMBATs, domestic violence cases have reduced by 50% in the communities where COMBATs operate.

Building skills and leadership of women to articulate their agenda to claim rights

Supporting women to contest District level elections

Over the years women have shown an increasing interest in local level elections due in part to the awareness creation and confidence building programmes organised for women's groups by AAG. With 2010 being an election year for local level elections, AAG organised many more activities to prepare more women to contest the elections. Activities undertaken included training and building of skills in public speaking, confidence building and leadership; fundraising; community sensitisation; as well as critical

dialogues with traditional, religious and state authorities. There were also radio/media campaigns on the need to vote for more women. The women were also supported to 'mount platforms' and print posters during the campaigning period.

These programmes raised the awareness and consciousness of the women as active participants in local and national development. Out of 543 women trained, 451 of them filed their nominations and contested the elections. Those who did not file for assembly elections opted to contest at the Unit Committee level. In all 115 of the contestants won the District Assembly elections and some were elected as Unit Committee members.



Madam Agnes Atayila, a 57-year old widow and mother of six (4 girls, 2 boys), from Bolga-Soe is one of the victorious women. She shares her experience.

“In 2002, I contested the assembly election for the Soe electoral area and won. I rose to become the first female Presiding Member of the Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly and in fact the whole region. In 2006, I once again contested but luck run out for me as I lost the election.

As a woman and a mother obviously there were challenges I faced during my campaign in the just ended local government election. These included political interference and intimidation by my opponents. My supporters were

beaten by my opponents, while others peddled information that I am an old woman and cannot therefore be an effective Assembly Member.

I was not discouraged by these threats and false allegations against me because I was made aware that these were bound to happen during the training in leadership and campaign strategies by ActionAid and partners. I am glad to say that I did not just win but beat my opponent with over 500 votes.

I want to challenge my fellow women not to give up because of what people say or perceive about women. Rather, they should improve their knowledge and skills in leadership and how to package

their campaign messages and I believe with time the numbers of women in leadership would increase”.

Signature campaign to demand the appointment of more women into District Assemblies

According to Ghana's 1992 constitution, it is mandatory for the government to appoint one third of Assembly Members to complement the capabilities of the elected representatives. The current government promised in its manifesto to allocate at least 40% of its appointments to women but this has not been achieved.

It became clear that a lot more effort was needed to increase the number of women appointed into the District Assemblies. Therefore AAG, in



partnership with Ibis, Send Foundation, SNV, NORSAAC, FIDA and ISODEC launched an advocacy initiative for government to appoint 50% women to serve on Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies.

In both the Brong Ahafo and Northern Region Rights Programmes, over 300 women signed communiqués to their respective Regional Ministers, District Chief Executives and all Regional and Constituency Chairpersons of the ruling party demanding the appointment of more women into the Assemblies in February 2011.

In a related activity, AAG held meetings with four political party leaders in the various constituencies in the Northern and Brong Ahafo regions to ensure that

more women were put forward as candidates in the 2010 District level election's and also to influence the appointment of more women into the Assemblies. The forum brought together 60 people including the women organisers of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), National Democratic Congress (NDC), Convention People's Party (CPP) and People's National Convention (PNC) (the dominant parties in the country). The party leaders had the opportunity to discuss and identify the obstacles that inhibit women's representation as well as possible ways to improve women's participation in decision making processes.

Women organisers from the various parties who were very active and committed in the process pledged to support any woman contestant irrespective of

her political affiliation – a huge step forward! Madam Mariama Alidu, the NPP women organiser for Gushiegu District had this to say;

“ I am happy to be here today to witness this platform that AAG and NORSAAC have created to ensure that more women are voted into power. Though I am NPP supporter, I took it upon myself to support a female contestant in the previous election and she won. I didn't even consider the party I was in but the fact that she was a woman and that whatever development she brings will affect the lives of women in the district. So why wouldn't I do same this coming elections? But am urging my fellow women here to also take my footsteps and support the women who will come out to contest the election in their various districts irrespective of their 'party colours ”.



It is gratifying to note that, most of the political parties implemented their promises and encouraged women in their communities to contest the elections.

As a result of these initiatives, the government through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development directed all Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies to appoint at least 40% women to serve on all Assemblies.

AAG worked to mobilise women's groups like the Tain Gender Network (comprising of NGOs, individual gender activists, gender officers of decentralised departments), Women in Small Business Association (WISBA) and other CSOs like SODIA and NORSAAC to improve women's

representation and participation in the public decision making arena. The CSOs worked closely to develop a joint plan on women's participation in the 2010 District Assembly elections.

Prior to the District level elections, several meetings took place to ensure that the election was actually conducted despite delays and other challenges and also get more women contesting and voted for. One such meeting was held to discuss the delay/ postponement of the district assembly elections culminating in a press conference where a communiqué demanding specific actions to be taken by government was read by the CSO platform. The CSO platform also supported mass sensitisation campaigns and advocacy via radio

to create general public awareness on the low numbers of women in decision making as well as providing women the opportunity to market themselves.

Time with traditional authorities

Recognising the potential positive role of chiefs in promoting women's participation in leadership and decision making, 5 interactive meetings were held with the Regional House of Chiefs, and 5 traditional council meetings were held to create space for Northern Region Assembly Women's Caucus on Good Governance (NORWACGG) to discuss their community level challenges with the Chiefs and to solicit their support for women candidates in the district level elections.



These meetings enabled Chiefs to discuss and agree on how they would support the women. The Chiefs since then have been actively involved in the activities of the Assembly Women and have been giving them the needed support and encouragement.

Hon. Gladys Bosah, an Assembly Woman in the East Mamprusi district who was part of the meetings had this to say:

“I feel like I have achieved half of my aims already. It's a great privilege to be standing in front of the Paramount Chief and his elders of my area today and listen to them embrace the idea of our active participation in the coming elections. In fact, this has encouraged me a lot because some

of the elders are in my electoral area and I am sure they will give me their support. Having Paramount Chiefs to solicit support for us is a big thing that has happened in my life” ,

Also from the Brong Ahafo Regional Programme this is what Amina Adams has to say:

“ My name is Hon. Amina Adams. I am 39 years old and a mother of two children but I'm single. I am an Assembly Woman for Menji Pantranso electoral area. Initially, I found it very difficult to do my work as a leader in a typical Muslim community. If I received male visitors and wanted to see the Chief or the Imam, I would need to get a male to lead them to the palace.

However, with the training from ActionAid and SODIA, I have been able to break through this challenge. I now lead visitors without any hindrances. I am always invited by Muslim elders in the community and other opinion leaders to take part in major decisions regarding the development of the community. As an Assembly Woman among several men, meeting and interacting with several opinion leaders who were mostly men, posed another challenge for me. My husband was upset and could not support me and married a new wife. Despite that, my training from ActionAid/SODIA has helped me to still forge ahead with my ambition of becoming a leader”.



Innovative approach to address root causes of low participation of women in leadership and governance

The Young Female Parliament model is an AAG innovative long-term strategy to improve the participation of women in governance and leadership by organising and mobilising young and enthusiastic girls to increase their confidence levels and abilities to actively participate in leadership and decision making. The Young Female Parliament (YFP) has 40 members comprising representatives of young women from Senior High Schools - aged 15 to 22. The YFP already has a well developed leadership structure,

standing orders and schedule for sittings/proceedings.

The model has progressively enhanced the participation and contribution of girls in policy development, enforcement or implementation and monitoring, and national governance. A member of the Young Female Parliament, Ms Rabiatu, contested to be elected into the West Mamprusi District Assembly in the just ended District Assembly Elections. Though not elected, Ms Rabiatu's candidature has made an emphatic statement that young girls need a space in local governance to articulate their views; it also displayed the high sense of

courage and confidence of members the YFP. Rabiatu is already now a motivator and inspirer of her peers. The confidence instilled by the YFP has resulted in a number of members vying for or occupying leadership positions in tertiary institutions like Tamale Teacher Training College (TATCO), Tamale Polytechnic (T-Poly) and as girls' prefects in second cycle institutions.

This novel model is further expected to increase significantly the number of women and young girls offering themselves to contest for and winning or assuming leadership and political positions in schools and communities, thus enhancing women's participation in decision making.



Challenging subordination and exploitation of women

From charity to solidarity to action: our work with the alleged witches

A common phenomenon in some communities in the northern region, which clearly constitutes an abuse of the fundamental human rights of mostly women, is the practice of accusing them of witchcraft, resulting in threats, banishment, and sometimes lynching of these victims. Most of these women are banished or chased out of their communities to camps known as “witches’ camps” where they seek refuge. AAG and her partners have, over the last six years, been



Mariama Nakpanzuo, from Kukuo, is the Regional Chairperson of the Network

working with the six identified alleged “witches’ camps” in the

Northern Region with a total adult population of 679 (51 men and 628 women) and 435 children to secure their basic rights.

AAG's work with the alleged witches has resulted in the development of these women beyond mobilising and organising themselves to the point where they are challenging duty bearers as well as the status quo of culture and tradition.

In an AAG organised dialogue with government officials, they demanded that government take action to address their lack of access to basic social facilities like water, health and sanitation facilities, electricity and their difficulty in renewing their registration with the National Health



Insurance Scheme. The Deputy Regional Minister expressed the commitment of the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) to ensure that all women living in the camps who qualify to be included in the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme are all included as beneficiaries. He also expressed the government's commitment to support all the alleged witches to renew their health cards/subscriptions with the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The Nanumba South District Assembly has also made budgetary allocation to support the alleged witches.

Having built their capacity to know and fight for their rights, AAG supported the alleged witches to

form a Network of all the 6 camps, and to elect their executives to articulate their wishes.

The Network has on several occasions made their position clear to the media. The alleged witches' constant interaction with the media has opened the door for the Network and AAG to be invited to make a presentation at conferences organised by the W. B. Dubois Centre and Cultural



The C. E. O. of AAI, Ms Joanna Kerr at the Gnani Camp

Initiatives Support Programme (CISP) on the practice of alleged witchcraft in Ghana, thereby providing further opportunities for the Network to use these forums to disabuse the general public's minds about them. In the interaction



between the women and the Chief Executive Officer of AAI, Ms Joanna Kerr, the women unequivocally stated that their most important wish was to be reintegrated back into their communities. This portrayed a strong desire to challenge the system of cultural biases and power against women and to find a more sustainable and permanent solution to their predicament. As one of the women put it

“ActionAid, we appreciate what you have done for us so far; but we do not want to continue being at the receiving end, what we want now is to go back to our homes, families and livelihoods”.

The pinnacle of alleged witches expressing their fearlessness to challenge systems of abuse and discrimination was when they, through their Network issued a press statement expressing their position on a reported burning and subsequent death of Ama Hemmar, an 'alleged witch', in Tema Community 15, on November, 2010. They called on government, the police and appropriate state institutions to punish the perpetrators of that heinous crime. The regional network leader Madam Mariama Nakpanzuo has this to share:

“My name is Mariama Nakpanzuo from Kukuo camp and I am the Regional Chairperson for the Ti-Gbub'taba Women's Network. Gone were the days when we

thought that we were forsaken and lacked social support. Our work with ActionAid and Songtaba has deepened our understanding of the need to unite and has given true meaning to the adage that says that when single broom sticks are put together they cannot be broken easily. I am particularly happy because of a strong understanding by all members of the six alleged witches' camps that building a collective voice was the only way for us to make our voice heard and be fulfilled in a society full of inequality. We are poised for 2011 as we will be challenging the Regional Minister, DCEs and other government officials to do what they are supposed to do to respond to the realisation of our rights as women and Ghanaians”.



Conscious women act on their rights consciousness to enhance their dignity

There exists an appreciable level of rights consciousness especially relating to women's rights in some ActionAid communities in the Brong Ahafo Region. A sustained awareness creation on women's rights regarding marriage, spousal property sharing and domestic violence as enshrined in the Domestic Violence Act, Will's Act, Marriage Act and Intestate Succession Law has gone on for over four years in communities.

In 2010 more than 160 community women in the Brong Ahafo Region applied the knowledge they obtained when they participated in activities such as community fora,

community drama, radio discussions and several training workshops on rights conducted by ActionAid Ghana. With enhanced self-confidence, these women have taken action to secure their rights including moving out of unrecognised marriages, influencing husbands to regularise marriages, exposing and reporting acts of domestic violence, seeking



Madam Rebecca telling her story

justice for sexual abuse, going back to school to further their education, and going through processes to legally retrieve their share of property from spouses and siblings.

“I have got my share of the property to take care of my children. I lost hope of getting my share of property after my husband divorced me and threw me out of our matrimonial home thereby refusing me the right to enjoy my share of our property. I wept and had no hope of getting my share until one day, ActionAid and her partner Social Development and Improvement Agency (SODIA) came to our community to educate us on marriage rights and women's rights to property. I then realised that there is something I could do to help myself to get my share of



property. Now thanks to ActionAid, SODIA, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and all those who supported me I am getting my share of the cocoa farm”,

says Madam Rebecca, a 50 year old divorcée from Nsuhunu community in Tain District.

Addressing basic needs in an empowering manner to generate alternatives to leverage government

Industrious female farmer emerges second best award winner at Bawku Municipal farmers' day celebration

Madam Lydia Bukari, a farmer and mother of 5 children from Nayoko

No.1 emerged as the first ever female second overall best farmer in B a w k u Municipality of the Upper East Region at the 2010 national farmers' day celebration in 25 years.

Even though w o m e n constitute about 65% of the farmer population in the district, no woman had ever been selected among the best three farmers by the Bawku Municipal Assembly. The major reason for this trend is that women



Madam Lydia the second best Municipal farmer receiving her prize

are rarely targeted by agricultural extension services because of cultural biases and because women are mostly small holder farmers.



ActionAid Ghana started a programme of gender mainstreaming where the issues of women were taken more seriously by MOFA. About 2,000 women including Agriculture Extension Agents were introduced to dry season farming around dams, use of improved seeds and small ruminant production.

Madam Lydia, a farmer who benefited from the interventions applied the knowledge acquired on her farm diligently.

“In 2009, I worked very hard on my farm and realized 7 bags of maize and 4 bags of soya beans from my one acre maize-soya bean intercrop farm. As per the support agreement with ActionAid and partners (for the seed and the

extension advice) I gave one (1) bag each of maize and soya bean to the community to be shared to other needy women farmers as seed for planting in 2010. My yields in 2009 were close to the regional average yield of maize and soya beans in the region which is 8 and 6 bags for maize and soya beans respectively.

I cannot believe myself that today I have realized the dream I have been harbouring for so long. I am very happy that I have not only won an award but the perception of men about women being 'slaves' or that they cannot think and do anything positive for their lives in this municipality has been seriously challenged. I have broken this myth today and wish my colleagues women farmers will rise up and

strongly take up the challenge in the coming years to maintain and sustain the image I have created for women in the Municipality”,

says Madam Lydia in an interview she granted immediately after the award ceremony.

Using indigenous knowledge to improve nutrition

ActionAid, in collaboration with Tumu Deanery Rural Integrated Development Programme (TUDRIDEP) and Ghana Health Service undertook an exercise to raise awareness on maternal and child health in 30 communities (20 in Sissala East and 10 in Jirapa-Lambussie in the Upper West Region) benefitting a total of 1,360 women and 2,130 children. The



health talks and supplementary meal demonstrations raised the level of awareness on the importance of maternal and child health and improved nutrition among pregnant women and children in the 30 affected communities.

96 women in four communities (Chinchang, Challu, Nabulo and Fatchuboi) were also supported to undertake food demonstration on using soya beans and moringa leaves. The women were very excited about the prospects of improving their health. Zenabu Abdulai from Nabulo a beneficiary of the programme has this to say.

“Soya bean is cultivated in this our community as a cash crop. We never thought of the nutritional value it has let alone to think of using it in our meals. Thanks to ActionAid for opening our eyes. Our children can now eat better and grow better”.

AAG has added the sub-theme of maternal and child health focusing on nutrition to its work with women. This is because it was clear that children in many of our sponsorship communities were malnourished with the negative consequence for their intellectual and physical growth in the short and long term. It is evident that the communities have the resources to resolve the problems with a little short term support from AAG.



AAG improving chances for malnourished children in our communities

RIGHT TO EDUCATION



Strengthening capacity of girls and their organisations to challenge unequal power relations and oppression

Transforming the hopes and aspirations of girls

The Government of Ghana has recognised the value and impact of the approaches and strategies AAG adopts to challenge unequal power relations and subordination of girls. Consequently, Government has incorporated the provision of adequate toilet facilities and water sources in schools to create girl friendly school environments. The Government is also enforcing a 'zero tolerance' policy for sexual harassment in schools. Finally, AAG is proud to note that the Government has endorsed the Girl's Camp concept and has

institutionalised it. Even though the policy document did not refer to it as "Girls' Camp" but rather as "Vacation Camp", the target remains empowering girls from rural and deprived communities.

With the involvement of government as collaborators in organising the Annual Girls' Camps over the years and the participation of 800 girls in Regional and National Girls' Camps in 2010, the government has opened discussions with development partners to use "vacation camps" to transform the hopes and aspirations of girls in deprived communities.

Participants of the Annual Girls' Camps have come to the realisation that there are a wide range of opportunities for their

growth and development into responsible women in future.

Klikpa Patience, a 15 year old second year Junior High School student from Kosamba L/A JHS said

"This is the first time I have travelled outside my district and I have learnt many new things that will motivate me to learn hard and achieve my aim in life. I admired the lady lawyer who spoke to us and I am convinced that with hard work, I can be like her".

With the exposure to various career opportunities, girls have developed their medium and long term objectives to pursue in life. Many of them demonstrated enhanced assertiveness and self confidence even during the short time at the



Participants enjoying the Wa camp

National and Regional Girls Camps.

A 15 year old pupil of Amamaso Junior High School in Asutifi District, Alijatu Adam testified that,

“I participated in the regional girls' camp in Sunyani organised by ActionAid in 2010. The camp has

helped to develop my interest to be a leader wherever I find myself and as a result I'm now the Senior Girls' Prefect of my school. It is my dream to become a police woman in the near future. I now feel I have a key role to play towards the development of my community and for this reason, I encourage my friends who did not get the opportunity to attend the girls' camp to take their studies seriously”.

On their return to their communities, most of the past girls campers have mobilised themselves into clubs in their schools and communities and have been meeting to talk about issues that will ensure that they stay in school and complete their education, perform well in examinations, resist violence and

take up leadership positions. The girls have become role models in their communities and schools as they are neater, punctual at school and are now more serious with their academic work.

As the AP focuses on youth in the current strategy, these girls will be graduated into a youth group to continue to challenge discrimination and subordination in



Girls Campers trying their hands on computers in Wa



their communities. With the interest expressed in the annual Girls' Camp initiative by government, AAG is collaborating with the Ministry of Education to share lessons and best practices and to develop guidelines on the selection of participants as well as on the content and organization of vacation camps.

Children's Charter on the Rights of Girls produced

In order to ensure a safe and conducive school environments for girls to study and to continue to build girls' assertiveness and confidence to resist all forms of violence, AAG collaborated with Plan (West Africa) Regional Office to develop a West African version of the Children's

Charter on the Rights of Girls in School which AA produced in 2004. Illustrations portraying Ghanaian representations for the various



Participants at the national Girl's Camp

Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child will soon be published and used to engage government to adopt to ensure provision of adequate sanitation

facilities and water sources to create girl friendly school environments and the enforcement of a 'zero tolerance' policy on sexual harassment.

Facilitating SMC/PTAs and their networks to challenge government to claim their rights to quality education delivery

Engaging in national dialogue on the revision of Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs) Handbook

Having carved a unique and successful niche in mobilising and building the capacities of Parent



Teacher Associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs) to engage education authorities at the school and district levels, AAG participated in the Ghana Education Service revision of the Head Teachers' Handbook as well as the School Management Committee/Parent-Teacher Association Manual. This provided AAG the opportunity to share experiences from the grassroots on how our work with PTAs & SMCs has resulted in improvements in school supervision, increases in numbers of trained teachers in rural communities, increases in school enrolment and improved performance of pupils. Inputs on ActionAid values such as transparency, accountability and women's rights informed the revision processes and it is

anticipated that the new manual will be more gender sensitive.

Transforming education governance through networking

Through the human rights based approach, AAG has built the Capacity of PTAs to demand their rights. PTAs' passion for improving the teacher situation in deprived communities has put pressure on the Ghana Education Service to respond to community needs for more teachers. In the Nanumba north district, the District Directorate of Education has responded to community demands by posting all the newly trained teachers to deprived communities. This helped to increase the number of trained teachers in 14 of the communities in which AAG works.

Target communities have also developed a deeper sense of ownership and support for teaching and learning in schools. Three (3) communities (Bolni, Nakpa and Nassamba) have been able to sustain payment of six (6) volunteer teachers who were employed and paid for by PTAs of the schools.

In Nanumba north, PTAs from 14 schools have been able to support their school authorities to meet the conditions for the release of their capitation grant and have continued to monitor its use. In Sissala East, the PTA tasked itself to promote enrolment and retention, create cordial relationships between school and community, and ensure effective teaching and learning and to address all forms of violence



especially against girls. The District PTA Federation tasked itself to monitor and note issues impinging on quality education delivery and engage with the relevant duty-bearers for redress. According to C.K. Bukari, a 60 year old retired educationist and the PTA Network Chairperson for Talensi Nabdam District

“Today the structure of the PTA has improved as we have school level executives; circuit level executives and district level executives all serving a two-year term in office as per our constitution. What is new about the PTA structure is that the current leaders derive their mandate and existence from the grassroots as a result of the elections conducted. The numerous training and exposure

received from AAG and its partners has helped us to understand that our mandate goes beyond merely contributing to provide classroom accommodation and other physical structures. Indeed we see the future differently and our objectives are redefined. We have also been organising quarterly dialogue meetings with the District Education Office, District Assembly and in some cases Members of Parliament on low teacher–pupil ratios, poor educational infrastructure, poor quality instructional time with children, proper use of the capitation grant, among others. Our efforts have been rewarded as we were able to reveal to the District Assembly the plight of some deprived schools and get them to construct new three classroom buildings each in three

communities to accommodate over 1000 pupils and their teachers. Even though this is commendable, we still demand and deserve more from the District Assembly and Ghana Education Service”.

Monitoring government spending on education

Sustaining national debate on education financing

In the words of Mariam Iddrisu, from Jou in reaction to a school infrastructure AAG and partners supported her community to construct,

“The presence of this nice school appears as a dream considering the long period of suffering we have gone through”.



Mariam is a 12 year old class 5 pupil of the new Juo Primary School. She narrated her ordeal while learning in a pavilion.

“Classes were always disrupted at the slightest threat of rain. Even when there was intense sunshine and heat or wind, learning was not possible. Our parents made several appeals to the District Assembly and GES but could not be helped. The poor condition of our school affected us a lot. Our teachers were not always regular to school and they also did not stay long. Now even before we started using it (the new school), the situation has changed. Some of the teachers now come earlier than us and also leave after us. Most of us are now also very eager to leave home for school even when it threatens to

rain. Unlike previously where the gathering of clouds was an excuse for us not to go to school. I am hopeful that our academic performance will improve very well”

In order to further boost our advocacy work in education, AAG has developed an education financing fact sheet titled 'Ghana Education Financing Brief'. The brief was intended to be used as the main reference tool for advocacy by the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC), (an AAG partner) during the Global Action Week and 1

GOAL campaign. There were two television discussions and several radio interviews on the issues highlighted in the brief. With listeners phoning in to contribute, the public debate on education financing was kept in the forefront of people's minds for a long time. AAG believes that an increase in





the number of schools government is building to replace schools under trees is an outcome of this sustained discussion. A hundred and seventy-five (175) school buildings replaced schools under trees during the year. This falls far below the 600 buildings that were expected from government but still constitutes progress made.

AAG, in a pilot initiative, has demonstrated how government can roll out the concept of promoting science and technical education at all levels. AAG did this by organizing an in-service training for basic school teachers in the teaching of Science and Mathematics. A total of 135 teachers, made up of 84

males and 51 females, benefitted from the training workshop.

The beneficiary teachers acquired knowledge, skills and confidence in the teaching of these subjects. This has also resulted in the children



Egle Afeafa telling her experience

developing interest in the subjects, as testified by Egle Afeafa:

“I am Egle Afeafa. I am a 15 year old JHS 1 student of Dzamlome L/A JHS in the Volta Region of Ghana. I used not to like mathematics due to the caning and punishments I received from teachers each time I made little mistakes in the subject. On one occasion I had wanted to stop school when the subject became more difficult to learn in Primary 4. This changed in the second term of my Primary 6 when our teacher returned from a two-week course on mathematics. On return, our teacher used teaching aids which made it easier to relate what I was taught to the environment around me. He also encouraged us to learn more. I am now in JHS 1, and one of my best subjects is Mathematics”.



Children submit proposal to prescribe punitive sanctions against perpetrators

The review of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana has presented young people with a unique opportunity to make known their discontentment with some of the provisions or the lack thereof in the Constitution. 16 year old Mariam Aliu who presented a submission signed by over 80 children to the Constitutional Review Commission said

“We are using this year’s celebration of the International Day of the African Child to insist that the Constitutional Review Commission adds a clause to prescribe ‘punitive sanctions against perpetrators’ to (1) article 16 sub-section one (1), which states that (a person shall not

be in slavery or servitude). We observed that a lot of children are sold out by parents and guardians to business persons, to be engaged in hazardous work like fishing, mining, quarrying and prostitution”.

The children also called on the Review Commission to compel parents to be responsible and active in discharging their responsibilities as parents since they observed that article 28 clause 1, which state that, “parents undertake their moral rights and obligations of care, maintenance and upbringing of their children in cooperation with such institutions as parliament may by law prescribe in such manner that in all cases the interest of the children are paramount” is not fully operational since some parents are still irresponsible.

“In article 38 (2), the constitution mandates government to make education free, compulsory and universal within ten years of the operation of the constitution. However, the constitution has operated for 18 years and not all children of school going age are in school. We want the constitution to compel state institutions and district assemblies to ensure that Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) becomes fully operational”,

Aliu Mariam concluded.



Using REFLECT and CREST to facilitate analysis and reflection on causes of inequality, exploitation and exclusion that underlie rights violations.

AAG has piloted the establishment of Children Rights Empowerment for Social Transformation (CREST) circles in 25 communities in the Northern and Greater Accra regions. The CREST circles have not only developed action plans but have gone beyond this to implement their plans which have resulted in children challenging their parents to meet their needs. A CREST circle in Chanshegu whose action plan identified the need for toilet facilities for the entire community and

for their school challenged parents to provide these facilities. This led to the entire community mobilising to construct toilets for the community and for the school as well. CREST circles can effectively increase enrolment figures in schools as their activities and actions increase the interest of children not in school to enrol. A CREST circle in Tuutingli in the

Northern Region identified the acquisition of a school band for their school to be used in attracting and keeping them in school. This was done and has succeeded in increasing enrolment in the school.

Reinvigorating REFLECT

In order to reinvigorate REFLECT activities in the AP, a refresher training was organised for 30 trainers and 40 community facilitators to sustain mobilisation efforts for collective action and follow-up on engagement with duty bearers.

The focus of the REFLECT training was on the participatory processes, dialogue and power analysis of issues.

This refresher training was meant to help facilitators to develop new



Florence Oyinka, sharing what she has learnt from the training with the rest.



ideas in order to refocus discussions at the community level for action. The facilitators have become more confident and skilful as indicated by one of them, Florence Oyinka:

“I am a 48-year old seamstress and a mother of 5, from Ampeyo. I have been a teacher before with experience in imparting information to learners. But I think that facilitation in a REFLECT circle goes beyond giving information to include facilitating the group to know more about their own community and networks around them. I will now change my facilitation processes to ensure that our community take action to hold people accountable. I now know that even individuals can be duty bearers depending on the situation”.

Stop Violence Against Girls in School (SVAGS) Project

In pursuit of the Education for All campaign agenda and support for Government of Ghana to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on gender parity, ActionAid Ghana continues to implement the Stop Violence Against Girls in School project into its third year. The Big Lottery funded project aims at empowering girls to be able to enjoy their right to education and participation in a violence free environment.

The project in year three focused on the three key areas:

- a. Development of a national gender specific school policy.

- b. Mobilising state and community support for girls' education rights protection and safe school environment.
- c. Girls empowerment.

Development of Gender Education Policy

The SVAGS project proposed to the government of Ghana that it adopts a Gender Education Policy. The project therefore is leading the drafting of the Gender Education Policy to support government and girls education promotion agenda. The aim is to provide a policy framework that comprehensively addresses all gender related issues in education from kindergarten through tertiary and technical education. The document outlines



gender mainstreaming in school management. The draft has so far been shared with key stakeholders in education for input and review. This will enhance quality and also mobilize strengths for advocacy for its adoption when the document is complete.

Mobilising state and community support for girls' education rights protection and safe school environment

To facilitate support of all stakeholders to eliminate violence against girls in school as well as protect girls education rights, the SVAGS project established strong linkages and working relations between major state child protection agencies and community child protection groups established under the SVAGS

project at both national and community levels.

At the community level, the project works closely with state child protection units in the decentralized government departments in Nanumba such as the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) the Department of Social Welfare, the National Commission on Civic Education, The Ghana Police Service including the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit, the Ghana Health Service, Ministry of Justice, the Department of Women and Children, the District Education Directorate and the District Assemblies among others.

Since these state agencies' presence is only at the District capital in Bimbilla in the Nanumba

North District and partially in Welensi in the Nanumba South District, the project also works closely with community structures such as the chiefs and opinion leaders, Assembly men and women, School Management Committees and Parent Teacher Associations.

The project has established girls' and boys' clubs as well as volunteer Community Advocacy Teams and Peer Parent Educator groups to support the SVAGS campaign.

To ensure timely intervention on issues of girls' abuse and protection at the community and school levels, the SVAGS project brought together both the state child protection agencies and the community child protection structures into a network launched



Safe school environment enhances girls' learning

as the “Naumba Child Protection Network”. The network is expected to facilitate child education awareness raising and public

education, reporting, referral and redress of cases of child abuse as well as monitoring and evaluation of child protection in Naumba.

At the national level, a strong working relation has been established with the Girls Education Unit of the Ghana Education Service and the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service. The 2 major stakeholders developed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to bring policing to the doorstep of schools in order to prevent VAGS and also support girls to report cases of violence against them in schools.

The stakeholders agreed to plan joint school outreach programmes to sensitise schools and communities on VAGS and also to fast-track reporting of VAGS cases. The formation of the child protection networks at both national and community ensures state and



community responsibility to the protection of children's rights especially girls and accountability to children.

Girls Empowerment

Empowering girls to build confidence to be able to confront, challenge and report gender-based abuses remain a major focus of the SVAGS project. The project continues to work to build confidence of girls through girls clubs established in all 13 project intervention schools. The SVAGS project established mini-library stocked with reading books to all the project schools and trained the girls club members in basic reading skills to enhance their studies.

The girls also benefitted from exposure visits and diverse training

programmes in leadership, education rights, gender-based violence and self esteem and assertiveness to help them build the confidence to challenge and report abuses. The trainings prepared the girls to be advocates and helped them to champion re-entry advocacy for girls who dropped out of school out of ignorance of their rights, posting of more female teachers to the Nanumba District schools, parental responsibility to girls education among others.

Reports from the participatory review and reflection process at the end of the year recorded reports of girls challenging unwarranted punishment of teachers from 2 schools and a good number of parents attributed positive attitude changes of their girl children toward

education to the SVAGS project. To avoid the risk of friction between teachers and girls as defense of their rights may be misconstrued as insubordination to authority, the project also trained over 2500 teachers in Nanumba on the use of the Teachers Code of Conduct. Realising that many teachers had not seen the Teachers Code, over 4000 copies were distributed to individual teachers and schools throughout the country.

The training is intended to foster safe and violence-free teaching and learning as well as rights respecting school environments.

RIGHT TO FOOD & CLIMATE CHANGE



Small holder farmers' access to extension services

Improving extension service delivery to livestock and vegetable farmers through collaboration with MoFA

Livestock production particularly small ruminants, poultry and guinea fowl production and vegetable production are gaining prominence among smallholder farmers in the Northern Region due largely to the speedy reduction in farm sizes as a result of urbanisation leading to loss of farmlands to residential development. However, access to adequate extension services, such as veterinary and advice for vegetable production, which is necessary for increased production is woefully inadequate. The desire

of poor farmers to increase their production of vegetables and therefore livelihoods is high. However, the lack of extension

knowledge deprive farmers from engaging in the most cost effective ways of production. Agricultural extension advice could help in the



Women in rabbit production



integration of the livestock production with the vegetable farming where farmers could possibly use animal droppings to increase production.

AAG and partners (UrbANet and Grameen Ghana) adapted the group extension delivery model of providing extension advice to farmers by making use of already organised structures facilitated by AAG and partners over the years. Interactive fora were organised through and by structures like corporative societies, Community Livestock Workers (CLWs), Women Extension Volunteers and Farmer Networks based on specific extension needs of farmers.

The intervention has since led to the access of an estimated 3,000

vegetable and livestock farmers to extension services which they hitherto did not have in Tamale. It also increased (Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) outreach and transfer of improved farming technologies to over 12,000 farmers in deprived communities in both Nanumba North and South districts and the Tamale Metropolis in the Northern Region.

Campaigning on biofuel

In response to the emerging issues from biofuel activities, AAG presented a Biofuel Policy Brief on December 15, 2010 to inform discussions at a national policy dialogue on biofuel. AAG was able to push for the inclusion of an additional policy objective to redress social and economic

challenges that commercial development of biofuel has created. There was also a discussion with the Chairman of the Energy Commission and a presentation of the policy brief to him. These resulted in an interest to push for incorporation of sustainable agricultural concepts and practices into biofuel production and a deepening of land title awareness and security matters.





A biofuel campaigner with a placard

Climate change a threat to rural development

The adverse effects of climate change pose major threats to developing countries including Ghana. The impact in the areas in which AAG works is multiplied due

to limited capacity and knowledge of mitigation and adaptation measures.

In response, ActionAid Ghana in collaboration with the Tumu Deanery Rural Integrated Development Programme

(TUDRIDEP) supported 11 members of environmental clubs of 5 schools on an exposure and learning visit to the hardest hit communities in the Upper East Region of Ghana. The visit exposed the children to the effects of good and bad environmental practices as well as highlighting the efforts others are making to curb desertification.

“On our way to Yagzori (one the communities visited in the Talensi/Nadam district of the Upper East Region), there were no trees there, one can move more than 1000 metres without seeing a single tree and the grass was very short. We saw, people using millet stalks as fire-wood!. What is happening to this community is terrifying”.



A pupil of Apodabogo plants trees to protect the school from windstorms

Exclaimed Amina Basuglo Yoho, one of the participants of the exposure visit.

Since this exposure and learning visit, the children are now “ambassadors of the environment” in their schools and communities. They have already undertaken 10

community sensitisation programmes involving 1,300 people to raise awareness on how human activities are impacting negatively on the environment and have been appealing to their community members to take steps to minimise these negative practices.

Seeing the positive impact of the young people's activities, the Sissala East District Assembly has collaborated with AAG and has supported the clubs with logistics to enhance their work.

Built relationships of mutual accountability between Farmer Based Organisations and government.

Small-scale farmers meet government

As a result of AAG sponsored capacity building trainings, Farmer Based Organisations (FBO) have been empowered to hold meetings with District Chief Executives (Heads of Local Authority) and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture representatives to challenge processes used in identifying the farmers selected to access tractor/bullock plough services, agro-credit and extension services. On the relevance of the FBO to farmers, Maxwell Kparib, a 36 year old, married farmer with 2 children,



from Nangodi community and chairperson of the District Farmers' Network for Talensi-Nabdam observed that;

“In the past it was not easy for small-scale farmers like us to arrange meetings with key staff of the District Assembly, let alone the District Chief Executive to discuss our challenges. Today the situation is different. With the support of ActionAid Ghana and partners, not only have we been able to meet with the DCE and his team, but also with heads of other decentralized departments like Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA), Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) and National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) who together with the District Chief Executive responded to our

concerns. We raised the issues of inadequate tractor services to plough our fields, inadequate agricultural extension services and non-availability of improved seeds for sowing. The District Chief Executive has responded positively to this. Since the meeting, about 1,000 farmers (400 male, 600 female) had tractor services provided with the support of the Assembly”.

District Farmer Network presents communiqué on inaccessible subsidised agric inputs

Members of the District Farmer Network made up of forty farmer groups in Asutifi District took advantage of the National Farmers' Day celebration in December to present a communiqué to get the

District Assembly to address issues affecting farming in the district as part of their advocacy plan.

Two key issues highlighted included access to subsidised farm inputs and the need for the District Assembly to rehabilitate the roads of farming communities regularly especially during the rainy season. The farmers have had positive responses from follow up meetings with the District Assembly and MoFA on these issues.

ActionAid also supported the Sissala Farmers Association to organise a series of quarterly meetings and reviews which led to two District Assemblies making commitments to allocate office space and personnel to help coordinate the activities of Farmer Based Organisations.



Women in a male dominated venture

ActionAid and its partner TUDRIDEP (Upper West Region) have supported two, fifteen-member, women's groups to cultivate upland rice, an activity that hitherto has been the preserve of men. The Upland Rice Project vividly demonstrated how women can be as productive as men when given the chance. (Although rice is consumed widely in Ghana most of it is imported. In country cultivation has been very minimal and is usually done by a few men). This demonstration project linked the Ministry of Food and Agriculture with women farmers through the MoFA Crops Officer who provided technical support to the women farmers throughout the period of

production. The women were very surprised to see rice cultivated up land and not in valleys matured so fast. Mariama Abdulai has this to say:

“This is amazing, I have never seen rice do that well upland, this is great, and I will try it the next farming season. In fact if one cultivates this crop, he/she can use it to feed the family while harvesting other crops”.

The success of the project has boosted the confidence level of the women farmers, their income, and is changing the power dynamics in the communities for the better.

AAG focused on upland rice as it is a rice variety that does not need much water to produce a good crop

yield. The rice can also produce a good crop without the use of fertilisers, thus making it an ideal crop for poor women who are not able to meet the high cost of production. The success of this project was shared with MoFA and the Assembly for replication in other communities.

Include Right to Food in Ghana Constitution Review

The Hunger FREE scorecard report *Who's really Fighting Hunger* released in September, 2010 showed that a lot more is needed to halve hunger by 2015. The report put Ghana among the nations which have slashed hunger by dramatically scaling-up investment in small farms and introducing social protection schemes such as



free school meals, food rations and public works employment. Following the release of this report, AAG intensified its interventions on food security. To ensure that the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana has provisions that address

food security specifically.

AAG in collaboration with FoodSPAN organised a signature campaign which collected over 3,000 signatures, thumbprints and hand prints of adults and children to

endorse the demand for the explicit and specific mention of right to food in the national constitution. This was presented to the Constitution Review Commission (CRC) after a route march with the display of placards with various demands on the right to food and food security. AAG's call generated significant interest by the general public on the need for right to food to be included in the constitution.

AAG will continue to advocate for the right to food to be enshrined in the Constitution.



ActionAid staff documenting the Right to Food with the unique petition just before its presentation to the CRC

HIV & AIDS



Women show resilience in the face of violence and HIV/AIDS epidemic

“After completing Senior High School, I was engaged by the Ghana Education as a non-professional teacher in the Kassena-Nankana District of the Upper East Region. Shortly after I was tested positive and my health started deteriorating and the head of the school wrote to the District Directorate of Education that he could no longer work with me (without any justification), so I lost my job”,

Says Ramatu Abdulai, a thirty-four year old woman living with HIV/AIDS. The sad situation is that women living with HIV suffer stigmatisation and discrimination

from the society and this constitutes a violation of their rights. Women living with HIV/AIDS have lost their jobs; they have been verbally abused, divorced, and ostracized or evicted from their homes.

According to the 2009 HIV/AIDS sentinel survey, the HIV prevalence in Ghana was 2%. However women accounted for over half of this figure, thus feminising the epidemic. The high prevalence of HIV/AIDS amongst women is partially attributable to the various forms of violence perpetrated against them. Most common forms of violations are the culturally condoned forms of violence such as child and forced marriage, widowhood rites, widow inheritance, and female genital mutilation.

As part of our programme to promote a sustained realistic prevention campaign on HIV/AIDS, AAG collaborated with its partners to create space for people living with AIDS to lead community sensitisation programmes and dialogue meetings with stakeholders. The confidence of Ramatu Abdulai improved as a result of the interventions by ActionAid which encouraged her to live a positive life.

“As a young lady I enrolled into the health assistance training school in Zuarungu in the Upper East Region. I disclosed my status to the school authorities as well as to some students. Others got to know my status through the media because I have been doing radio education on HIV prevention. Some



also got to know my status through ActionAid Ghana organised campaigns like the Global AIDS Week of Action and International Women's Day activities, on which occasions I represent women living with HIV/AIDS to engage with traditional leaders, religious leaders and key decision makers in the Upper East Region. Life at the Health Assistants Training School (HATS) has not been easy for me. But with the positive attitude I have built the over the years from my interactions with ActionAid Ghana and partners, members of the Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, and the trainings and programmes I have participated in, I have been able to stand against the odds. I am living a positive and more focused life than before. I shall be graduating from the Health Assistants Training School in November 2011”.



Capacity building workshop for members of NAP+

HUMAN SECURITY IN EMERGENCIES



Unique approach in reaching the unreachable to secure their right to human security in emergencies

The year under review witnessed the worst incidence of flooding in the past five decades. Several districts in the region experienced severe flooding with devastating loss of homes, farms, fishing gear, and livelihoods among others. The most severely hit district was the Central Gonja District in the northern region.

In response to this, several international and local NGOs, individuals and Government and local government institutions like the National Disaster Management Organisation made efforts to respond by supporting victims with

relief items. Almost all affected persons in the District live along the two main rivers, Black and White Volta Rivers. However, about 80% of those affected could only be

accessed by boat or canoe; this made it extremely difficult to reach the victims. AAG, unlike other responding institutions, focused all its attention on 11 relatively



AAG supports Central Gonja flood victims with food and non food items



inaccessible communities, using a unique approach of enabling communities to set their agenda, to determine beneficiaries and mode of distribution of items. Our approach which sought to find a sustainable solution to the perennial incidence of flooding in the Region is to support willing communities to relocate out of the flood plain. AAG is now investigating how to support recovery processes to ensure a sustainable solution to the increasing insecurities.

Using REFLECT to promote peace and development among different ethnic groups

“If we begin to speak the truth and not listen to outsiders particularly the politicians, we will always live together in peace

despite the fact that people have their differences. After all, our grandparents were living together happily before they died, why can't we also copy and not allow outsiders to come and destroy our relationship?”

asks Salam Mohammed, a member of the REFLECT Committee.

Salam's comments came in the wake of the REFLECT Committee meeting to settle a dispute between two rival youth groups. The dispute had the potential of escalating and causing mayhem in the community and beyond as the groups were alleged to be supporters of the two main tribes involved in the Bawku ethnic chieftaincy conflict.

In 2009, AAG introduced REFLECT to Pusiga, Binduri and Bazua communities as a means to provide the opportunity for concerned parties to dialogue and constructively engage on issues affecting the community. Salam Mohammed continues

“I must commend ActionAid for introducing REFLECT to the community. Having gone through the process and methodology, REFLECT has shaped my thinking and instilled in me patriotism towards my community. We in this community are enjoying relative peace and are going about our normal daily activities without any hindrance. As a member of the REFLECT committee I will not take this peace for granted and will stand against anything that is likely to disturb it!”

FINANCE REPORT

For Year ended 31st December, 2010, Ghana

1.0 Income, expenditure and reserve

The period began with a reserve of £2,218k from regular giving sources and £249k from partnership sources. During the year, income received totalled £3,796k compared to £4,989k for the same period last year, indicating that income for 2010 dropped by 24%, using the income received for 2009 as the base.

Expenditure for the reporting period totalled £4,551k, which indicates about 7% increase over 2009 expenditure of £4,265k. Flexible funds transfers-in and transfers-out included in the income and expenditure were £491k and £538k respectively.

Income deficit for the year ended 31st December 2010 was £755k. Regular giving reserve has therefore reduced from £2,218k at the beginning of the year to £1,611k as at 31st December 2010. Reserve attributable to donor projects

totalled £153k as at the end of the year 2010.

Table 1 presents summary of income, expenditure and reserves for the period ended 31st December, 2010.

Table 1: Performance summary

Income Type	Actual	Planned	Realised	2009
	2010£ '000			£ '000
Total Income	3,305	3,959	315%	4,377
Flexible Funds Transfers-in	491	474	104%	612
Total Income	3,796	4,433	86%	4,989
Expenditure	4,013	5,225	77%	3,746
Flexible Funds Transfers-out	538	462	116%	519
Total Expenditure	4,551	5,687	80%	4,265
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Exp	(756)	(1,254)		724
Opening Reserves	2,218	2,576		1,848
Closing Reserves	1,611	1,322		2,215

**Closing reserves exclude £153k for partnership projects.*

FINANCE REPORT

1.1 Income received versus plans for the period to 31st December 2010

Planned income for the nine month period was £ 4,433k. Actual income realised for the period was £3,796k.

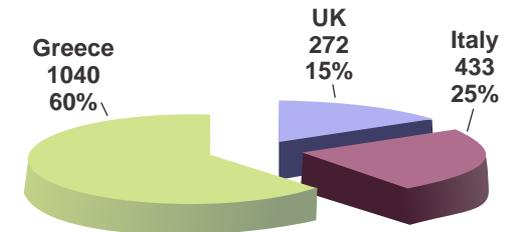
This was therefore 86% of planned income. The amount of regular giving income (sponsorship income) realised for the period was £2,717k. This represents 131% of planned regular giving income of £2,073k. Table 2 below presents details of regular giving income.

From Table 1, although the amount realised from regular giving income exceeded what was planned by 31%, income has consistently dwindled between 2007 and 2010. One of the main reasons for the continuous decrease in regular giving income is AAI's policy to restrict growth of certain Country Programmes (now known as Net Spending Units) including ActionAid Ghana. Chart 1 demonstrates distribution of child sponsorship income from the Income Affiliates (now known as Net Contributing Units).

Table 2: Regular Giving Income

Income Type	Actual	Planned	Realised	2009	2008	2007
	2010 GB£ '000			£'000		
Child Sponsorship	1,745	1,216	144%	2,017	1,998	2,522
Next Step - UK	503	435	116%	539	571	518
Big Step - Italy	443	412	108%	461	379	125
Amico Paese etc-Italy	26	10	260%	19	23	25
<i>Sub-Total- Regular Giving</i>	2,717	2,073	131%	3,036	2,971	3,190

Chart 1: Regular giving income distribution by source (£'000)



FINANCE REPORT

From Chart 1 on page 57, income from Greece constituted the greatest proportion (59%) of child sponsorship income. UK and Italy contributed 16% and 25% respectively.

Partnership income (income from Donor Projects) realised was £525k. Amount realised was 28% of planned income for the year 2010 of £1,866k. Partnership income for 2010 dropped by 59% compared to partnership income for 2009. The ratio of regular giving income to partnership income was 81:19. This is contrary to CSP IV expectation of 45:45:10 where 45% was expected to be raised from partnership income and another 10% was expected to be generated from local fundraising sources.

1.2 Income variance explanation

The 28% of income realised from partnership sources was the main reason for the 14% negative variance for total income. During the year, expected income for partnership projects that were not confirmed could not be realised. Secondly, the RAVI project could not utilise 60% of its income during the project extension period. These were the main causes of the negative variance on income. Expected income from the RAVI project extension reduced by more than 60% due to specific activities that the donor de-prioritised to pave way for the implementation of the successor project. The RAVI project officially ended on 30th June, 2010.

1.3 Expenditure- Natural Cost Classification

Expenditure for the original plan submitted by AAG for 2010 was £4,526k. In April, 2010, it became necessary to utilise excess regular giving income that had accumulated over the years in reserves. The revised plan was finally approved in June to increase planned expenditure to £5,225k (excluding flexible funds transfers-out but including expenditure for unconfirmed income). Actual expenditure was £4,013k against planned expenditure of £5,225. Expenditure utilisation was 77%. Table 3 on page 59 shows expenditure distribution by natural cost classification.

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Table 3: Expenditure by natural cost classification (£'000)

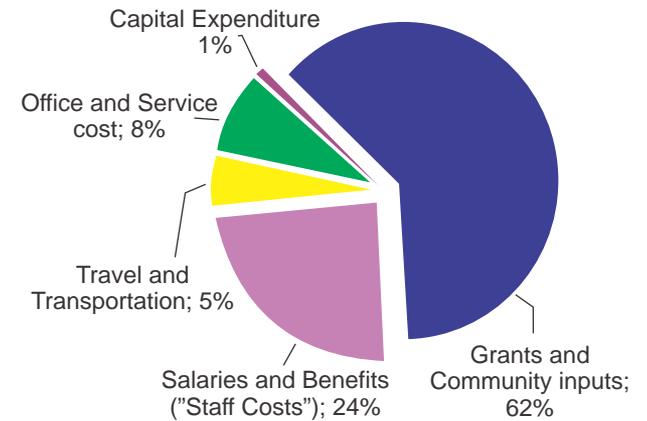
Natural cost analysis	ACTUAL 2010	PLAN 2010	UTIL 2010	PROP 2010	ACTUAL 2009	Change '10/'09	ACTUAL 2008
Grants and community inputs	2,476	3,496	71%	62%	2,250	(10%)	2,607
Salaries and benefits ("staff costs")	975	1,1153	85%	24%	935	(4%)	1,046
Travel and transportation	197	140	141%	5%	201	(2%)	194
Office and service costs	331	215	154%	8%	343	(3%)	365
Capital expenditure	33	222	15%	1%	18	(83%)	105
Total costs	4,013	5,225	77%	100%	3,746	(7%)	4,317

From Table 3 above, utilisation from confirmed income for the period was 94%. This also confirms that the remaining 5% variance was due to expenditure not incurred because of the unconfirmed income and RAVI project situation discussed above.

Unconfirmed projects (as demonstrated in Table 2 on pages 56,57 and 58) explains the cause of the variance in expenditure. From table 3 £1,146k which should have been part of expenditure was not realised from unconfirmed income.

Chart 2 below shows proportion of expenditure for each natural cost element.

Chart 2: Natural Costs Proportions



From Chart 2 above the proportion for grants and community input is 62% in line with CSP IV target of 60%.

FINANCE REPORT

1.4 Statutory Cost Analysis

Statutory cost is analysed into project (thematic cost) support, governance and fund-raising costs.

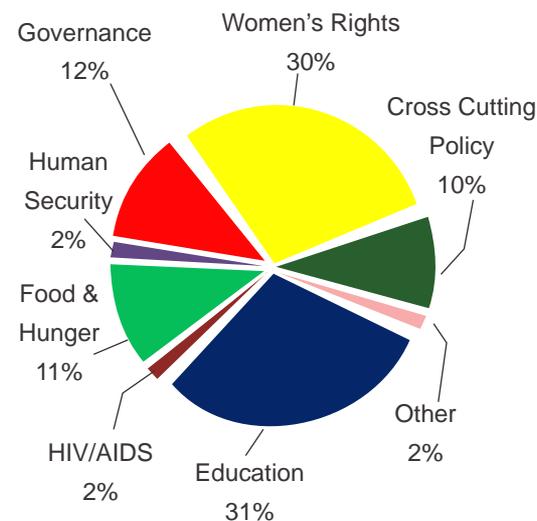
Table 4 below shows expenditure analysis and distribution under statutory cost.

Total project expenditure (thematic cost) for the period was £3,001k. This is 75% of total expenditure. Project expenditure utilisation is 73%. The deviation of project expenditure from plan was the cause of total expenditure variance. Expenditure distribution for the period for project cost is represented on the Chart 3

Table 4: Statutory cost analysis (£'000)

Description	Actual	Plan	Util	Prop	2,009
Project costs	3,001	4,137	73%	75%	2,787
Support costs	661	740	89%	16%	620
Fundraising costs	284	263	108%	7%	275
Governance costs	67	85	79%	2%	64
Total	4,013	5,225	77%	100%	3,746

Chart 3: Thematic expenditure distribution



From Chart 3, Cost of Women's Rights stand alone activities was 30% of total project costs. These costs in addition to other women's

FINANCE REPORT

rights activities mainstreamed into other themes highlight the importance AAG places on focusing on issues about women and girls. When all mainstreamed activities are disintegrated from the various themes, expenditure on women and girls' issues constitute 82% of total project cost. Support cost of £661k was for expenditure support in departments such as finance, administration, human resources and communication.

Included in governance cost is Board of Trustees' expenditure of £20k and annual external audit expenditure of £22k.

Details of analysis to measure impact of women's rights mainstreaming into other themes is presented on table 5.

Table 5: WR Mainstreaming

Theme	Degree of mainstreaming (in % per theme)					Actual £'000
	0	1	2	3	WR	
Education	46	12	20	22		927
HIV/AIDS				100		49
Food & Hunger	16	8	7	68		48
Human Security	4	64		32		53
Governance			100			358
Cross Cutting Policy	16	21		64		307
Other		42		58		55
Women's Rights					100	904
Total	18	9	19	24	30	3,001

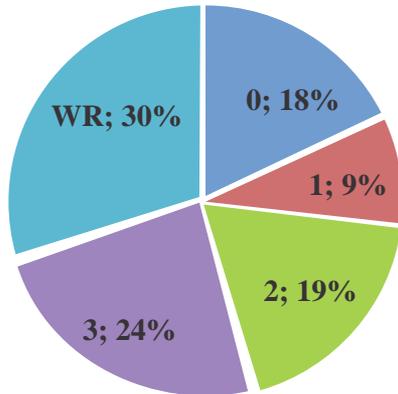
Table 5 indicates that 54% of total thematic expenditure equivalent to £1,621k was spent on activities that prioritised addressing the position, power and rights of women and girls. More than 55% of

this was women's rights stand alone activities. The table also indicates that only 18% of total expenditure did not target women's rights issues.

FINANCE REPORT

Chart 4 below demonstrates the degree to which activities of themes other than women's rights addressed women's rights issues as a priority, (denoted by 3), enabling (denoted by 2) participating (denoted by 1) and women's rights issues not addressed (denoted by 0).

Chart 4: Women's Rights Mainstreaming



Key to the Degree of WR Mainstreaming

WR - Women's Rights Stand-alone activities

3	Priority	-	programme directly addresses the position, power and rights of women
2	Enabling	-	women gaining resources and confidence
1	Participation	-	women and girls are involved
0	Not Addressed	-	women's rights not addressed

AAG 20th ANNIVERSARY IN PICTURES



Adwoa Kwateng Kluvitse, Country Director briefs the media at the launch of AAG's 20th anniversary in Accra



A journalist asking a question during the launch



Women exhibiting their products at the forum to launch the 20th anniversary at Kadjebi in the Volta Region



'Health Walk' prior to the launch in Tamale in the Northern Region



Officers of the Brong Ahafo Regional Rights Programme in an anniversary pose



Pupils of Tumu Training College Demonstration school receive AAG anniversary exercise books with jubilation

Acknowledgement

The Board of Trustees, Management and staff of ActionAid Ghana wish to thank all our high value donors, sponsors, partner communities, traditional authorities, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ghana Education Service, women's rights groups, coalitions and other government institutions for their diverse contributions and support to our intervention efforts to

End poverty. Together.

Thank you.



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 **End poverty.
Together.**