



act!onaid

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Inspiring Change for Social Justice
through Community-led Solutions**



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Community-led Solutions**

April 2026

Published by:
ActionAid Ghana
3rd Asoyi Lane,
East Legon.
P. O. Box AN 19083,
Accra-North

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Designed & Printed in Ghana by: Direct Concept



Our Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.



Our Mission

To achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by collaborating with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people's organisations, activists, social movements, and supporters.

Our Values



Mutual Respect, requiring us to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.



Equity and Justice, requiring us to ensure the realisation of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, HIV status, disability, location, and religion.



Integrity, requiring us to be honest, transparent, and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgments and communications with others.



Solidarity with People Living in Poverty and Exclusion will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.



Courage of Conviction, requiring us 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, injustice, and gender inequality.



Independence from any religious or party-political affiliation.



Humility, recognising that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAG	ActionAid Ghana
AES	Alliance of Sahel States
BARP	Bono and Ahafo Regional Programme
CAWA	Coalition Against Witchcraft Accusations
CAP	Community Action Plan
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CLT	Country Leadership Team
COMBAT	Community-Based Anti-Violence Team
COP	Conference of the Parties (UN Climate Change Conference)
CRC	Constitutional Review Committee
CSP VII	Country Strategy Paper VII
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EUGAP	European Union Ghana Agriculture Programme
FA	Focused Area
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GAVORP	Greater Accra, Volta and Oti Regional Programme
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Cooperation)
GRR	Ghana Reference Rate
HFHI	Habitat for Humanity International
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
HROE	Human Resource and Organisational Effectiveness
IEEPA	International Emergency Economic Powers Act
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee
NAFCO	National Food Buffer Stock Company
NDC	National Democratic Congress
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NPP	New Patriotic Party
NRP	Northern Regional Programme
ORAL	Operation Recover All Loot
OSP	Office of the Special Prosecutor
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
REACH	Resilience Against Climate Change
SP	Strategic Priority

UCW	Unpaid Care Work
UERP	Upper East Regional Programme
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
UWRP	Upper West Regional Programme
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YFP	Young Female Platform
YUWM	Young Urban Women's Movement



“Throughout the year, AAG continued to bridge the gap between advocacy and tangible impact. Working alongside communities, civil society organizations, government institutions, social movements, and development partners...”

FOREWORD

There is no gainsaying that those hardest hit by climate change are frontline communities in developing countries like Ghana. In these communities, women, the youth, persons with disabilities, smallholder farmers etc are among the hardest hit by climate impacts such as drought, floods, rising temperatures, and many more. These are precisely those for whom ActionAid Ghana exist to serve, in our operational regions through partnerships, active citizenship, collaboration, networking, movement building, sharing best practices and knowledge freely, and advocating for gender responsive public services.

Standing with our partners, we are looking back in 2025 with proof that we persevered and delivered some key outcomes. Chief among them is promoting climate, economic and gender justice thorough our community-led solutions, campaigning on just energy transition, lobbying for government's reintroduction of the anti-witchcraft accusation Bill to Parliament, and campaigning for debt restructuring, government's increased investment in Agroecology for sustainable food security and championing accountable government. These contributions reaffirmed the important truth that sustainable development and equity cannot be achieved without vibrant civic space and active community participation.

Across the globe, changing democratic landscapes, shrinking civic space, and increasing restrictions on

fundamental freedoms continue to undermine the ability of communities to organise, influence public policy, and hold institutions accountable. Human rights defenders, women leaders, young people, smallholder farmers, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups increasingly face barriers to participating meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives. It is for this reason that ActionAid Ghana subscribes to the global acceptable concept on free prior informed consent that enables communities not to claim ownership of community interventions.

It is against this backdrop that I am pleased to present the ActionAid Ghana 2025 Annual Report, Inspiring Change for Social Justice through Community-led Solutions. This report captures our collective journey over the past year and reflects ActionAid Ghana's unwavering commitment to advancing social justice through a human rights-based, feminist, and people-centred approach to development. It demonstrates how communities, social movements, civil society organisations, and strategic partners continue to build resilience and drive sustainable solutions despite an increasingly complex operating environment.

The year was marked by economic uncertainty, climate-induced vulnerabilities, widening inequalities, and evolving governance dynamics that disproportionately affected women, young people, and marginalized communities. These interconnected challenges reinforced our belief that expanding civic space and strengthening citizen agency are fundamental to achieving inclusive development, democratic accountability, and sustainable peace.

Throughout 2025, ActionAid Ghana intentionally invested in strengthening people's power through our #FundTheFuture Campaigns by supporting community-led action and locally driven solutions. We expanded our work in movement building, strengthened grassroots advocacy platforms, broadened citizen constituencies, promoted youth leadership and active student participation in school governance, as well as supported women and excluded groups to engage confidently in public decision-making processes. Through these efforts, we continued to nurture informed, organized, and resilient communities capable of demanding accountability and influencing policies that uphold their rights and dignity. Our programmes remained anchored in ActionAid's Human-Based Approach, gender equality and that social justice.

Our achievements in 2025 are a testament to the strength of collaboration and solidarity. I extend my sincere appreciation to our Board and General Assembly for their strategic leadership, our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment, our funding and implementing partners for their continued confidence in our mission, and the many community leaders, activists, volunteers, and social movements whose courage and determination continue to inspire our work. Above all, we celebrate the communities we serve, whose resilience and leadership remain the driving force behind every milestone we have achieved.

As we look ahead, we recognize that the struggle for social justice requires sustained collective action through people power. The defense of civic space, the protection of human rights defenders, and the strengthening of people-led movements will remain central to our work. We will continue to stand in solidarity with citizens, particularly women, young people, smallholder farmers, and marginalized groups, as they organize to claim their rights, challenge inequality, and hold duty bearers accountable. We remain convinced that inclusive and resilient societies are built when people have the freedom, opportunity, and power to participate fully in shaping their own development.

To our communities, movements, partners, donors and supporters, who are our compass, I invite you to journey through these pages and witness the impact of what is possible when people come together with a shared commitment to justice. Together, let us continue to expand civic space, strengthen people's power, and inspire actions that create a more just, equitable, and sustainable Ghana for all.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Nkaw', with a stylized flourish underneath.

John Nkaw
Country Director - Ghana



AAG Country Director and Project team visiting CAPs Project sites for monitoring



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2025 has been an eventful one regarding the development assistance landscape. The sweeping USAID Stop-Work Order issued by the United States government halted over 80% of U.S. funded global development programmes and resulted in massive project shutdowns including Ghana. Given the fact that organisations like ActionAid Ghana (AAG) did not have any ongoing project under USAID funding, the organisation's operations were not impacted much. However, the massive projects shut-downs left a huge vacuum for the few established development partners like AAG to strive in contributing to fulfilling the prevailing needs of vulnerable communities and marginalised groups.

Appreciably, ActionAid Ghana (AAG) chalked commendable strides in its fundraising drive surpassing its income targets from both partnership affiliates and local sources. The year therefore kick-started on a high note with vigorous steps taken to set-up the vigorous implementation of the “Community Action Plan (CAP)” interventions secured from the GIZ Resilience Against Climate Change (REACH) Project under the European Union Ghana Agriculture Programme (EUGAP). Another outstanding partnership funding secured was the sub-grant from Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) to take charge of the Ghana implementation of the Component



Female household heads engaging with images at the Climate Photo Exhibition held in the Northern Region.

2 of the “Improved Resilience of Coastal Communities in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana” being funded by the Adaptation Fund.

Remarkably, AAG's impactful interventions directly reached a total of 120,181 beneficiaries in 2025, via face-to-face encounters (community sensitisation and awareness raising durbars, stakeholder engagement meetings, training workshops, etc.). By gender disaggregation, 67,741 were females representing 56% while 52,440 were males representing 44%, manifesting AAG's conscious and unflinching gender inclusivity orientation where the rights of women and other vulnerable groups are prioritised. By age disaggregation, the beneficiaries consist of 50,630 Adults (36+ years) representing 42%, 41,607 Youth (18-35 years) representing 35% and 27,944 Children (<18 years) representing 23%. In furtherance of social inclusion of other marginalised groups, 8% of the programme beneficiaries were persons living with disabilities (PWDs).

Analysing the beneficiaries from the perspective of AAG's CSP VII Strategic Priorities (SP), 40,220 representing 33% were reached in furtherance of SP1 (Green Economy and Resilient Livelihoods), 51,464 representing 43% were also reached in pursuit of SP2 (Women's Rights and Decent Work), while 28,497 representing 24% were reached in

respect of SP3 (Active Citizenship, Accountability and Gender Responsive Public Services).

However, it must be noted that the use of traditional and social media platforms in the amplification of AAG's sensitisation, mobilisation and campaign actions catapulted our reach beyond 10 million people considering the mass audience associated with the community-based radio and national television outlets that were used.

The real impact of our work is not in the number reached, but the valuable contributions made in assisting vulnerable communities and marginalised groups to transition into improved resilience and enhanced socio-economic living standards. The manifestation of this is amply demonstrated in the numerous change story testimonials harvested and present in this report cutting across our thematic areas of operations.

Though some few challenges were encountered along the programme delivery processes. The strong performance of the Ghana Cedi against all the major foreign currencies was a commendable feat spearheaded by Ghana's economic management authorities. However, for development partners like AAG that receives most of its funding in foreign denominated currencies, it resulted in exchange rate losses, compelling the scaling down of some initially planned interventions. AAG had to adopt extra-prudent fiscal management strategies to ensure the full implementation of some projects. Particular reference is the facilitation of the Community Action Plans (CAP) implementation funded under the GIZ REACH Project whereby 5 dams were constructed, 5 canal small irrigation systems developed, 60 boreholes provided (7 solar mechanized and 53 hand-pump), 15 forest restoration, 22 agroforestry and 28 sustainable agriculture demonstrations all delivered at full scale.

In our overall reflection, the year 2025 has been a fulfilling one anchored on the partnerships nurtured, the sustained collaborations and alliances built with grassroots actors across communities, and district levels. At the regional and nationals levels strategic relationships were strengthened, maintained and utilised to leverage our policy advocacy and influencing actions.



1.0

BRIEF ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE AND OPERATIONAL SET-UP

ActionAid Ghana is an affiliate member of the ActionAid Federation working to see a just, fair, and sustainable world in which everybody enjoys the right to life of dignity, and freedom from poverty and oppression. AAG has been working in Ghana since 1990 and is a national legal entity with a functional Board of Trustees and a General Assembly which provide the needed governance oversight.

AAG works in the most deprived communities in eleven (11) out of the sixteen (16) administrative regions of Ghana namely, Upper East, Upper West, Northern, North-East, Savannah, Bono, Bono East, Ahafo, Oti, Volta and Greater Accra.

AAG's set-up is strategically structured to position and advance its rooted programming across the state geographic spread. The five (5) Regional Programme outfits accordingly operate under the coordination of the Country Leadership Team (CLT) that operates from Accra. Notably, the Greater Accra, Volta and Oti Regional Programme (GAVORP) outfit is co-hosted at the Head Office. The Bono and Ahafo Regional Programme (BARP) operate from Sunyani, Northern Regional Programme (NRP) from Tamale, Upper East Regional Programme (UERP) from Zebilla and Upper West Regional Programme (UWRP) from Wa.

The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) is the philosophy that defines and guides AAG work. From this lens, AAG plays a pivotal role in mobilizing, organizing, and empowering right-holders to advocate for proactive and responsive commitments from global and national authorities.

ActionAid Ghana (AAG) commenced the implementation of its Country Strategy Paper (CSP VII) titled 'Active Citizenship for Social Justice' to cover the period 2023 – 2028. The CSP VII defines AAG's programme areas, covering broadly laid out in three (3) Strategic Priorities (SPs) with five (5) Focused Areas (FAs) under each.

2.0

THE EXTERNAL CONTEXT THAT SHAPED OUR WORK

Below is an account of the external context within the global and national space that shaped and had a bearing on AAG's operations and also its programme clientele.

2.1. Building Climate Resilience and Enhancing Livelihood Security

Building climate resilience requires proactive implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures to climate impacts. It calls for transforming economic and social systems and reducing greenhouse gases in order to manage the intensifying risks and vulnerabilities. Strategic actions around climate-resilient agriculture, driven by scientific and traditional knowledge, is crucial to managing food supply chain risks and declining yields. To minimize hazards, it also demands the integration of climate risks into infrastructure, alongside investing in nature-based solutions to combat extreme heat and flooding.

At the heart of global engagements is the push for the implementation of carbon reduction interventions. Pursuant to this agenda, the COP 30, hosted in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025¹, focused on shifting from climate pledges to implementation, with key priorities including securing \$1.3 trillion in annual climate finance by 2035, accelerating national emissions reduction plans (NDCs) The COP 30 also marked the deadline for countries to submit enhanced NDCs, aimed at aligning global efforts with the 1.5°C limit. The summit also emphasized the strengthening of adaptation measures highlighting the implementation of nature-based solutions, particularly forest preservation. The operationalisation and replenishment cycles for the Loss and Damage Fund were also affirmed. The forum stressed the need for intensive commitment towards promoting information integrity and countering false narratives around climate change. Regrettably, the United States, for the first time in three decades, decided not to send an official federal delegation to the UN climate summit (COP30), in tandem with the Trump's administration anti-climate change stance. President Trump during his address at the United Nations General Assembly meeting held in September 2025 called climate change the “greatest con job ever perpetuated” and a “scam” “made by stupid people”.

and a “scam” “made by stupid people”. He further warned countries against enacting green policies stating, “if you don’t get away from this green scam, your country is going to fail.” The current US government’s apocalyptic stance portends grave risks to climate finance mobilisation and the ultimate carbon emission reduction goals considering its large share of carbon emissions.

Looking within Ghana, the food security risks anticipated from the 2024 droughts in Ghana was very minimal. This was attributed to rebound production of staple food crops coupled with the fact that government had imported grains such as maize and rice, some of which was rechanneled to feeding students under the Free Senior High School Programme³. These state-led food security interventions somehow contributed to negatively impacting on farmers poor returns, with major crops such as maize being sold for very low prices (i.e. around GH¢300.00 compared to GH¢700.00 during 2024) amidst extreme difficulties of getting buyers. Accordingly, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), by a Producer Price Determination Committee decision⁴, introduced minimum guaranteed farmgate prices for three staple crops, giving farmers the option to sell directly to the National Food Buffer Stock Company (NAFCO) at fixed rates. Thus, an offer of GH¢450 was made for 100-kilogramme bag of maize, GH¢625 for a 50kg bag of rice, and GH¢340 for a 34kg bag of gari. However, this policy measure did not significantly ameliorate the plight of the farmers.

2.2 Advancing Zero Tolerance for Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

In 2025, approximately one in three women is globally estimated to experience some form of gender-based violence (GBV) in her lifetime, affecting around 840 million people⁵. It further notes that in the past year alone, 316 million women experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), representing 11% of women aged 15 years and older. Only minimal annual decline of 0.2% has been recorded over the last two decades. Sexual violence outside intimate relationships is widespread affecting at least 8% of women globally but under reported. GBV disproportionately impacts women in low-income countries, conflict zones and climate vulnerable regions, with humanitarian crises further increasing risks.

According to the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey⁶, approximately 2 in 5 (41.6%) women have ever had an intimate partner perpetrate at least one form of IPV (emotional, physical, or sexual). Notably, 33.2% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence since age 15 while 6.8% of women reported experiencing physical violence while pregnant. Regrettably, only 38% of women sought help to stop the violence

In line with our shared commitment for zero tolerance for gender-based violence, AAG continues to maintain strong collaborations and partnerships at the local and national

³ SHS Feeding Crisis: Mahama directs release of stored food to schools

⁴ Government announces new farmgate prices for maize, rice and gari - Graphic Online

⁵ Gender-based violence, explained | Concern Worldwide

⁶ Ghana DHS 2022 Final Report [FR387]

levels, including supporting vulnerable people to claim rights by resisting and seeking redress for violations, abuses and compliance with decent work principles. The key state actors mandated to oversee the fulfilment such rights include the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Social Welfare and Community Development and Department of Labour. AAG is among the notable organisations that supports grassroots awareness raising, and connects local volunteer groups such as the Community-Based Anti-violence Teams (COMBATs) with law enforcement authorities to effectively respond to rights violations and abuses. AAG also consistently joins global campaigns by commemorating the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence between November 25 and December 10 every year.

The advocacy and campaign against witchcraft accusations and molestations have remained a key concern for AAG and other rights advocates. Despite the inability to obtain Presidential Assent to the Anti-Witchcraft Accusation Private Members Bill in pass in July 2023, the Coalition Against Witchcraft Accusations (CAWA), of which AAG is Co-Convenor, sustained its advocacy for reconsideration of the legislative intervention⁷.

2.3 Global and National Geo-Political Dynamics

Geo-political confrontations and polarization became an unabated phenomenon. The Russia invasion of Ukraine and the ravaging Isreal-Palestine war continued. A major inter-locutory engagement between the US President and Russian President in August 2025 in Alaska of USA concluded without reaching a ceasefire deal and has remained elusive to date. Regarding the Isreal-Palestine War, a Gaza Peace Plan brokered by the US was signed in October 2025 leading to the release of all living and dead Israeli hostages by Hamas and reciprocal prisoner exchanges. But overall progress in the implementation of the Gaza Peace Plan has remained sketchy. Another major event that unfolded was the 12-day Isreal-Iran confrontation during which Iran's notable nuclear scientists became prime targets. Eventually, the United States of America (USA) was drawn into the conflict which carried-out the "operation mid-night hammer" that dropped massive bunker-buster strikes on Iran's major nuclear sites at Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan⁸. A fragile ceasefire was brokered by the USA on June 24, hours after Iran had fired missiles at its largest airbase in the Middle East, based in Qatar.

West Africa also continued to grapple with intense political fragmentation characterized by the formal split between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) constituted by the military juntas of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, creating a fractured regional security and economic landscape. Other coastal states such as Benin, Togo and Ghana accordingly witnessed heightened threats of violent extremism which had been an albatross

⁷ Lawmakers Join ActionAid Ghana and Partners on Advocacy Visits to Witch Camps: A Step Toward Survivor-Centered Legislation | ActionAid Ghana

⁸ Visualising 12 days of the Israel-Iran conflict | US-Israel war on Iran News | Al Jazeera

hanging on the necks of the Sahelian states. The level of influence by western authorities especially in the Sahelian region has reduced and largely drifting towards stronger Russian cooperation.

In terms of Ghana's political highlights, following the largely peaceful and successful 9th Presidential and Parliamentary Elections held under the 4th Republic, there was a smooth transfer of power from the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to the National Democratic Congress (NDC), consolidating Ghana's democratic credentials. The government prioritized rebuilding the economy and succeeded in reducing inflation, debt and commendable currency stability. A major policy initiative has been the "Big Push" aimed at accelerating infrastructure development across the country. The government's "24 Hour Economy" headlined policy canvassed during the elections was launched on July 2, 2025⁹, but yet to witness groundbreaking implementation. The policy is a strategic initiative designed to shift the country toward a three-shift (24/7) operational model to boost productivity, create 1.7 million jobs, and build an export-driven economy. The sub-programmes encapsulating the policy are coined as *Grow 24* (agriculture), *Make 24* (manufacturing), *Build 24* (infrastructure), and *Connect 24* (logistics/digital).

In a bid to reinforce Ghana's constitutional governance, The President inaugurated an eight-member Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) in January 2025 to review previous works and undertake further engagements towards overhauling the 1992 constitution. The Committee discharged its mandate and submitted a report in December 2025¹⁰.

The anti-corruption drive has also been of major concern to all segments of the Ghanaian society. It was to this end that the current government's campaign pledge to implement an "Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL)" was hailed. Even before the transfer of power, an ORAL Committee was established which received various whistle blower information and submitted a report to the Presidency for action. The Attorney General and Minister of Justice have subsequently been engaged in prosecuting a number of high-profile cases. Other law enforcement agencies, particularly the Office of Special Prosecutor (OSP), are also working on some major prosecutions key amongst them is the former Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta and other accomplices for alleged crimes¹¹. However, Ken Ofori-Atta's prosecution has faced entanglement of Interpol alert notice and pull-downs as well as extradition hurdles from the US.

Amidst these, the current opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP) following its defeat in the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections has begun an early reorganization process and gearing up for the 2028 elections. Its internal elections resulted in its 2024 flagbearer Dr. Mahamudu Bamumia being maintained for the 2028 elections.

⁹ ghana 24 hour economy policy launch - Google Search

¹⁰ Final-Recommendations-of-the-CRC_Presented-to-President-Mahama.pdf

¹¹ https://osp.gov.gh/case_files/case_profile/33/cases/

2.4 An Assessment of the Global and Domestic Economic Outlook

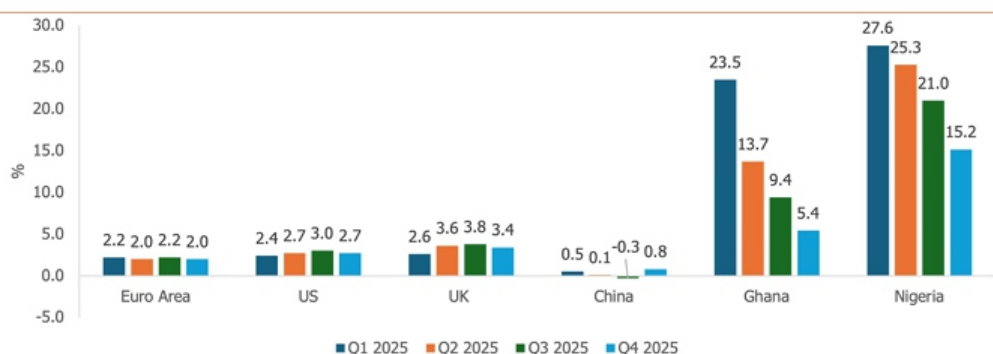
In 2025, the global tariff landscape was heavily defined by substantial, volatile, and protectionist United States (US) tariff actions, including universal levies and high targeted duties on specific countries. The United States (US) President implemented widespread import duties, including duties of at least 10% on most countries, with higher rates, such as 50% levies on imports from Brazil and India, and a 35% tariff on Canada. These actions caused significant supply chain disruptions. While some countries secured, and later adjusted, exemptions, the overall environment was marked by increased economic uncertainty and retaliatory measures. Notably, legal suits were instituted challenging the President's powers to embark on the tariff measures without recourse to Congress. The Lower courts, including the US Court of International Trade and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit deemed the tariffs imposition unconstitutional. In February 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court by 6-3 decision eventually ruled that President Trump's 2025 tariffs (10%-41% rates) imposed under the International Emergency and Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) were unlawful¹². President Trump ferociously lashed out and criticized the judicial ruling and rather reimposed a 10% global tariff.

In terms of macro-economic outlook, the global inflation in 2025 fell to 4.2% compared to the 5.8% recorded in 2024, despite the impact of the US tariffs and other economic pressures¹³. Inflation in many developed economies was moderate, with the Euro Area and the U.S recording rates of 2.0% and 2.7%, respectively. China on the other hand experienced inflationary pressure of 0.8% in the last quarter compared to -0.3% in the third quarter. Inflation in sub-Saharan Africa also declined driven by currency appreciation as in the case of Ghana and slowing cost pressures. While overall price increases slowed, the region still faced challenges, with countries such as Nigeria (15.15%), Angola (15.70%) and Zambia (11.20%) experiencing high inflation. Notably, Ghana recorded a 12th consecutive month disinflation ending at 5.4% inflation rate in December 2025, a significant turn-around from the 23.8% rate in December 2024. The achievement constitutes the lowest level recorded since May 2021 and the first-time inflation fell below the lower band of the Central Bank's medium-term target since May 1999.

¹² Supreme Court Rules Against Tariffs Imposed Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

¹³ Economic Report

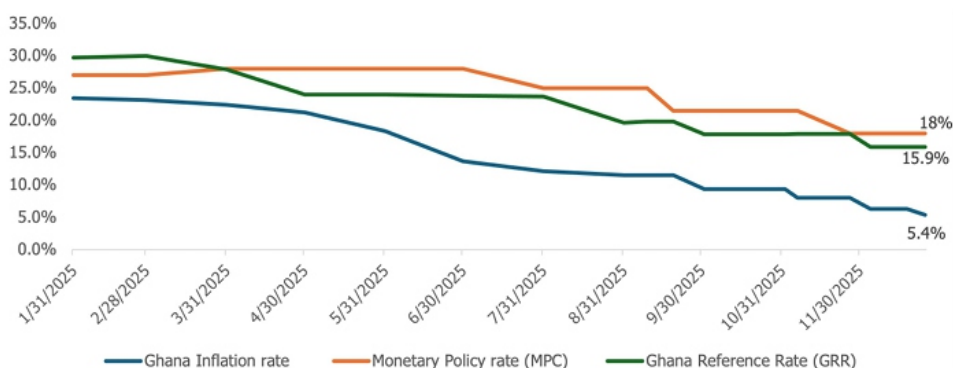
Fig. 1: The 2025 Inflation Trend for Major Global Economies and Ghana



Source: MIIF Economic and Market Overview 2025: Citing Data from Bloomberg

Further review of monetary policy shows that the fourth quarter of 2025 largely saw policy rates being eased or maintained across developed and developing economies. The U.S. Federal Reserve saw a 25bps cut in December 2025 to a range of up to 3.75%. The UK also saw a 25bps cut in the fourth quarter. China maintained the key lending rate for seven months to 3%. In Ghana, the Bank of Ghana, considering the improved macroeconomic outlook and falling inflation trend, progressively reduced its monetary policy rate by as much as 350 bps in November 2025 to settle at 18% compared to 27% in November 2024. Also, the Ghana Reference Rate (GRR) fell sharply from 28.84% in November 2024 to 15.9% in December 2025, suggesting an easing of credit costs ahead. Together, these trends indicate a significant moderation in price pressures and a more accommodative monetary policy stance, supporting prospects for lower lending rates.

Fig. 2: The Inflation, Monetary Policy and Ghana Reference Rate for 2025



Source: MIIF Economic and Market Overview 2025: Citing Bank of Ghana and Ghana Statical Service Data

Ultimately, the Ghana cedi witnessed strong performance against the major trading currencies, posting broad-based gains against the USD, Euro and the British Pound. Over the year, the Ghana cedi recorded an appreciation of 40.7 percent against the US dollar compared with a depreciation of 19.2 percent in 2024. The exchange rate strengthened from roughly GH¢14.7 per USD in December 2024 to around GH¢10.5–11.5 per USD by end of December 2025. The Ghana cedi also appreciated between 12–19% against the Euro and around 20–30% against the British Pound, reflecting improved macroeconomic fundamentals, strong export earnings, tight fiscal and monetary policies, and rising investor confidence, which helped reduce inflationary pressures and improve external stability.

The overall economy witnessed growth and recovery momentum while fiscal operations also reflected continued consolidation¹⁴. Overall Real GDP expanded at an annual rate of 6.1% during the first three quarters of 2025, relative to 5.8% during the corresponding period in 2024. Similarly, non-oil GDP grew by 7.5% from 5.8% over the same comparative period. On the fiscal side, the overall fiscal deficit on commitment basis stood at 0.5% of GDP, significantly below the target of 3.5%. The primary balance on commitment basis recorded a surplus of 2.8% of GDP, compared with a target of 0.6%. Public debt declined to 45.5% of GDP at end-November 2025, down from 63.1% a year earlier.

The combined effect of these macro-economic indices on living standards typically brought about slower increase in prices of goods and in some cases prices for food items were actually reduced, which invariably put farmers at a significant disadvantage of obtaining extremely low returns from their investment. Utility tariff adjustments also negatively impacted on the extent of relief brought by these commendable economic gains. Thus, a 14.75% electricity and 4.02% water tariff hike was implemented in May 2025. This was followed by further quarterly electricity adjustments, up by 2.45% in July and 9.86% in December.

Reflecting on the impact on AAG's operations, the strong Ghana cedi appreciation resulted into significant exchange losses due to the fact that its funding is mainly sourced in foreign currency. Invariably, AAG's anticipated income portfolio was reduced leading to budget reviews and expenditure cuts on some planned interventions.

¹⁴ MPC-Press-Release-January-2026-.pdf

3.0

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES, QUALITY ASSURANCE MEASURES AND BENEFICIARIES REACHED

3.1. Programme Implementation Approaches

The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) has been the over-arching framework guiding AAG's programme delivery. This is interwoven around four pillars: Empowerment, Solidarity, Campaigning, and Advancing Alternatives.

In addition to that, the following approaches shape our programme design, implementation and reporting: Advancing Women Rights and Feminist Leadership; Working with Social Movements, Peoples' Organisations, and Allies; Working with the Youth and Digitalisation and Artistic Activism

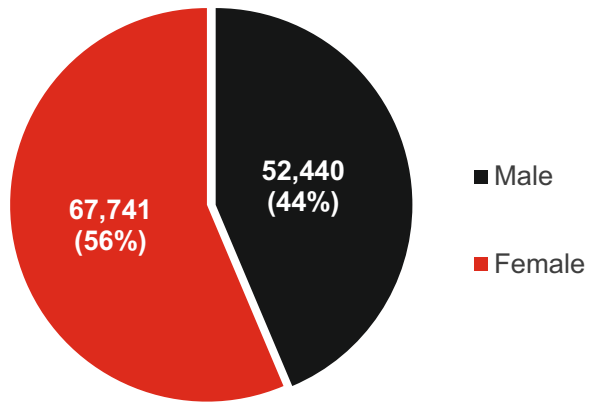
3.2. Programme Beneficiaries

The programme beneficiary data is disaggregated by gender, age and also analysed from the AAG CSP VII Strategic Priorities (SP) perspective.

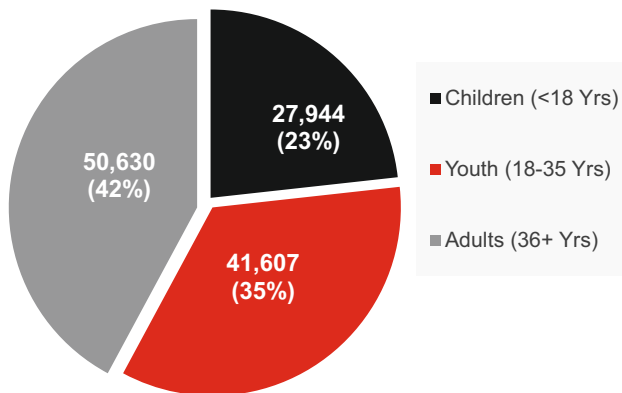
- The total programme and project beneficiaries in 2025 were 120,181 people.
- By gender disaggregation, 67,741 were females representing 56% while 52,440 were males representing 44%, manifesting AAG's conscious and unflinching gender inclusivity orientation where the rights of women and other vulnerable groups are prioritised.
- By age disaggregation, the beneficiaries consist of 50,630 Adults (36+ years) representing 42%, 41,607 Youth (18-35 years) representing 35% and 27,944 Children (<18 years) representing 23%.
- In furtherance of social inclusion of other marginalised groups, 8% of the programme beneficiaries were persons living with disabilities (PWDs).
- Analysing the beneficiaries from AAG's CSP VII Strategic Priorities (SP) perspective, 40,220 representing 33% were reached under SP1 (Green Economy and Resilient Livelihoods), 51,464 representing 43% under SP2 (Women's Rights and Decent Work) and 28,497 representing 24% under SP3 (Active Citizenship, Accountability and Gender Responsive Public Services).

The charts below provide a graphical view of the people reached while the table underneath also presents detailed analytical data by CSP VII Strategic Priorities (SPs) and Focused Areas (FAs).

AAG 2025 Programme Beneficiaries: Gender Disaggregate



AAG 2025 Programme Beneficiaries: Age Disaggregate



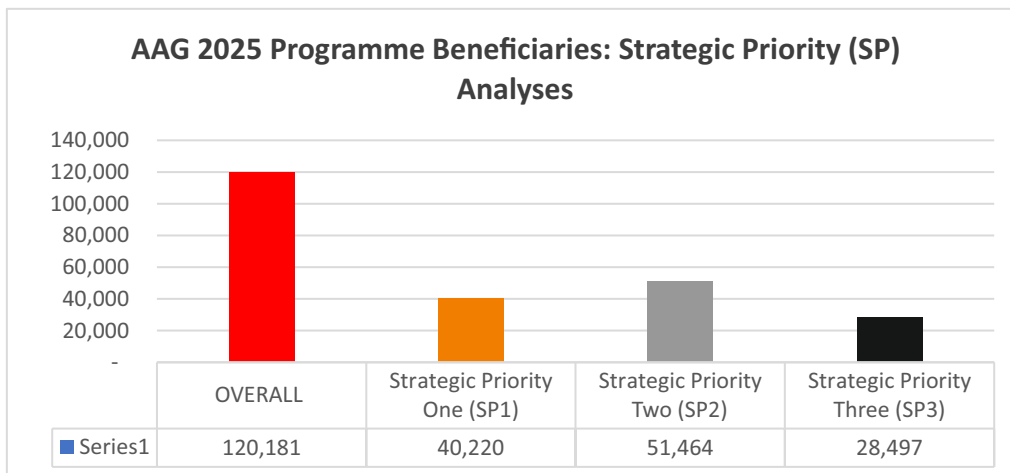


Table 1: Number of People Directly Reached in 2025

SP	FA	NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED									
		Children		Youth		Adults		MP & FA Aggregates			
		Boys	Girls	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Sub-Total	Total
SP 1	FA 1.1	1,200	600	945	1,291	1,782	2,755	3,927	4,646	8,573	40,220
	FA 1.2	-	-	211	2,033	656	518	867	2,551	3,418	
	FA 1.3	166	245	241	1,772	1,446	963	1,853	2,980	4,833	
	FA 1.4	156	163	1,102	1,285	1,154	1,051	2,412	2,499	4,911	
	FA 1.5	1,030	1,021	1,255	1,644	5,694	7,841	7,979	10,506	18,485	
SP2	FA 2.1	1,221	1,702	1,412	4,183	8,285	2,979	10,918	8,864	19,782	51,464
	FA 2.2	237	210	213	302	288	775	738	1,287	2,025	
	FA 2.3	272	303	1,124	2,215	868	2,053	2,264	4,571	6,835	
	FA 2.4	2,987	8,946	3,256	4,481	901	1,137	7,144	14,564	21,708	
	FA 2.5	-	-	325	368	147	274	472	642	1,114	
SP3	FA 3.1	-	-	105	148	202	333	307	481	788	28,497
	FA 3.2	2,249	3,383	1,863	915	1,587	1,448	5,699	5,746	11,445	
	FA 3.3	496	567	2,515	3,140	481	568	3,492	4,275	7,767	
	FA 3.4	370	420	601	622	811	1,023	1,782	2,065	3,847	
	FA 3.5	-	-	1,221	819	1,365	1,245	2,586	2,064	4,650	
SUB-TOTAL		10,384	17,560	6,389	25,218	25,667	24,963	52,440	67,741	120,181	
TOTAL		27,944		41,607		50,630					

The above information is the direct-reached beneficiary data aggregated through face-to-face encounters (community sensitisation and awareness raising durbars, stakeholder engagement meetings, training workshops, etc.). However, the use of traditional media to amplify the sensitisation and campaign actions resulted in over 10

million people being reached, considering the mass coverage associated with community-based radios and national television outlets that were used.

3.3. Key Communications and Media Outreach Strategies and Events

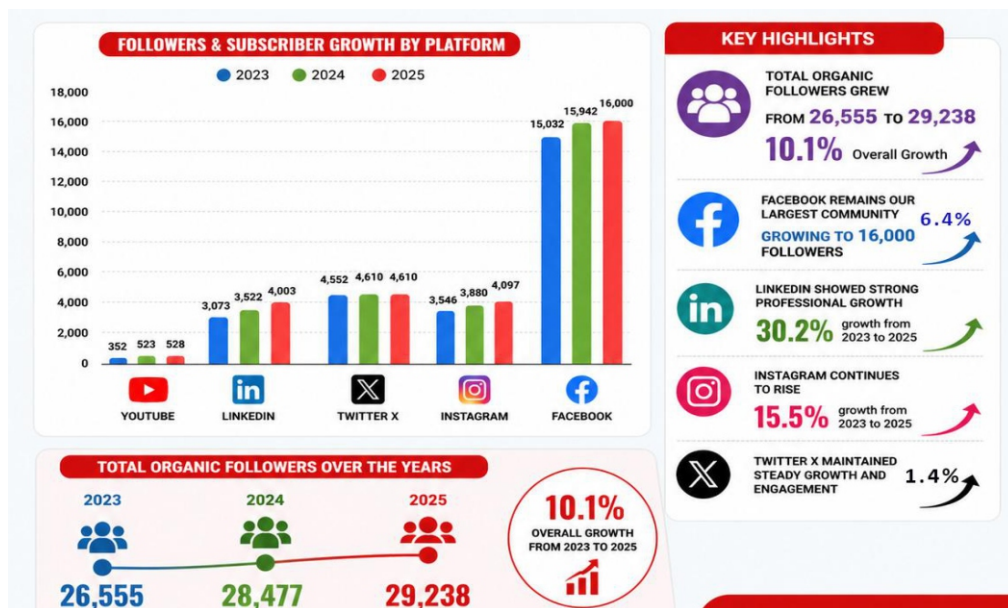
In 2025, ActionAid Ghana's Communications and PR Unit made a decisive shift from visibility-led communications to influence-driven engagement, backed by measurable results and high-value strategic partnerships. This repositioning strengthened institutional credibility, expanded audience reach, and deepened stakeholder trust, while demonstrating clear return on investment for donors and partners.

- **Strategic Positioning and Thought Leadership:** ActionAid Ghana leveraged high-level convenings, including the Anniversary Cocktail and Impact Celebration, to engage senior government officials, donors, and civil society leaders, reinforcing its role as a trusted convener within Ghana's development ecosystem. The production of flagship knowledge products such as the *Gendered Tax Report* and *Gaslighting Report*, alongside curated dialogue platforms, sustained ActionAid's visibility in policy spaces and strengthened its authority as a leading voice on gender justice, governance, and accountability. This consistency in messaging and evidence-based advocacy significantly increased stakeholder confidence and demand for AAG's expertise.
- **Advocacy-Driven Communications with National Reach:** Strategic advocacy campaigns on Affirmative Action, Unpaid Care Work, Climate Justice, and Illicit Financial Flows were amplified through coordinated media engagement and storytelling. By translating complex policy issues into relatable, human-centred narratives, AAG ensured sustained relevance in national discourse. This approach not only increased media uptake but also positioned the organisation as a credible and accessible source of expert insight, reinforcing its influence on public opinion and policy conversations.
- **Proactive Media Engagement and Strategic Partnerships:** AAG institutionalised a relationship-driven media engagement model, resulting in increased earned media visibility and stronger editorial trust. A key milestone under this pillar was the organisation's strategic sponsorship of the Gender Reporting Category at the 2025 Tamale Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) Awards, reinforcing over three decades of partnership with Ghana's media fraternity. This high-impact engagement positioned ActionAid Ghana as a committed ally in advancing social justice communications. By supporting journalistic excellence, AAG contributed to strengthening accountability and inclusive public discourse. The initiative specifically promoted gender-responsive journalism, elevating underreported narratives on women, girls, and marginalised communities, particularly in Northern Ghana.
- **Digital Growth and Measurable Engagement:** AAG's integrated digital strategy delivered strong growth and engagement across platforms, with a



AAG handing over award to Nadra Mohammed of TV3, winner of Gender Reporting Category at the 2025 Tamale Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) Awards.

total online community of 29,354. Performance highlights are captured in the graphics below:



This digital ecosystem extended the lifespan of campaigns, amplified earned media coverage, and enhanced transparency and responsiveness, critical drivers of credibility and donor confidence.

Below are sampled media publications on the key advocacy and campaign actions undertaken by AAG during 2025.

- Stakeholders advocate urgent policy to preserve indigenous seeds | Ghana News Agency
- Focus on green economy for job opportunities - ActionAid Ghana advises the youth - MyJoyOnline
- <https://gna.org.gh/2024/08/appreciate-fshs-our-parents-sold-their-jewels-bono-minister/>
- 2.8 billion people world-wide unable to afford healthy diet — ActionAid Ghana | Ghana News Agency
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/ghana-news-under-representation-of-women-in-leadership-affront-to-rights-actionaid.html>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/revive-existing-sanitation-by-laws-to-protect-the-environment-traditional-leaders-urged.html>

3.4. AAG's Programme Quality Status Assessed and Certified

AAG submitted itself in June 2025 to undergo the Programme Quality Audit/Assessment (PQA) set out by the global federation. The Programme Quality, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PQMEL) officials from the global secretariat joined hands with AAG's Quality and Knowledge Management team to conduct a comprehensive review and self-evaluation. The rationale of the PQA is to maintain and improve the quality of programmes to be in compliance with the ActionAid's 12 Programme Quality Standards (PQS) Guide. The PQA participatory process reviewed all facets of the organisation's operations and involved AAG's staff, local partners, social movement leaders, institutional collaborators and sample of beneficiary communities.

The PQA assessment and score interpretation is set out as follows:

- **No/Very Limited Assurance:** Score of **0** where No Evidence is Available; or **1** where Very Limited Evidence is Available. This is ascribed a **Red** status.
- **Limited Assurance:** Score of **2** where Some Evidence is Available, But More Work is Required; or **3** where Some Evidence is Available and Indicates Progress Towards the Desired Status. This is ascribed a **Amber** status.
- **Satisfactory Assurance:** Score of **4** where Evidence is Available and that the Standard/Measure Has Been Met to the Satisfaction of the Assessment Team; or **5** where Evidence is Available and that the Standard/Measure Has Been Met to the Maximum Extent Possible. This is ascribed a **Green** status.

AAG's overall programme quality assurance score emerged as **4.1**, implying Satisfactory Assurance, while room exists to work towards the highest standards. See detail assessment results below.

Programme Quality Standards	Average Score
PQS 1 – Understanding of and relevance to operating environment	4.5
PQS 2 – Programme coherence across levels	4.0
PQS 3 – Programme contributes to change, and shifts in visible, invisible and hidden power	4.1
PQS 4 – Women's and girls' rights and engagement at all stages of programme cycle	4.1
PQS 5 – Young people's rights and engagement at all stages of programme cycle	4.0
PQS 6 – Engagement of and accountability to people living in poverty	4.0
PQS 7 – Monitoring, evaluation and learning	4.1
PQS 8 – Demonstrable impacts on children	4.3
PQS 9 – Partnerships & working with movements	4.0
PQS 10 – SHEA & safeguarding	4.1
PQS 11 – Capacity to support and manage programme quality	3.9
PQS 12 – Project management and financial resources	4.2
Overall Score (average of the PQS scores):	4.1

4.0

THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL CHANGE

4.1. Strategic Priority One (1): Green Economy and Resilient Livelihoods

4.1.1. CAP Project Story

4.1.2. Nurturing Climate-Resilient Schools – EcoVista Clubs Deepen Student-Led Environmental Stewardship

In the Bono and Ahafo Regions of Ghana, ActionAid Ghana's EcoVista School Clubs are catalysing a new generation of climate-conscious leaders, translating awareness into tangible, community-level action. Through sustained sensitisation, mentorship, and practical capacity-building interventions, the initiative is equipping Junior High School students with the knowledge, skills, and agency to champion environmental sustainability within their schools and beyond.

Implemented in partnership with the Centre for Climate Change and Gender Studies at the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), the EcoVista approach integrates climate education with hands-on adaptation practices, fostering resilience at the grassroots. The programme not only enhances environmental literacy but also strengthens ownership and accountability among young people as frontline actors in climate action.



Tasnim watering a plant in School

At Mmeredane Junior High School, 15-year-old Tasnim Elyass Abdullah, Girls' Prefect and an active EcoVista member, embodies this shift from awareness to leadership. As a proud member of the 651 members in Bono, she shares her achievement in nurturing seeds to combat climate change in her school:

“ Before I joined the EcoVista Club, I didn't really understand climate change or think it had anything to do with young people like me. But after the sensitisation programme, my mindset changed. Now, I'm proud to lead environmental activities in my school and encourage my friends to take care of our environment. In 2024, we planted 50 seedlings with support from ActionAid and UENR, but only 15 survived. In 2025, we applied what we learned, protecting 65 new seedlings with wire mesh and working together to care for them, and now they are thriving. I feel proud to be part of this change in my school, and I'm grateful to ActionAid Ghana for supporting us.”

Tasnim's story illustrates the programme's growing impact: moving beyond one-off activities to sustain behavioural change, improved climate adaptation practices, and measurable environmental outcomes. The marked improvement in seedling survival rates demonstrates how targeted knowledge transfer and community participation can significantly enhance resilience efforts at the micro level.

ActionAid Ghana remains steadfast in its commitment to scaling grassroots climate action through youth engagement. To date, over 100 EcoVista clubs have been established across 11 operational regions, engaging approximately 1,500 students as active agents of change. These young leaders are not only safeguarding their immediate environments but are also influencing broader community attitudes and practices towards climate resilience. This model underscores the value of investing in youth-led, locally grounded solutions as a critical pathway to achieving sustainable, climate-resilient communities.

4.1.3. Agroecology Boosts Yields and Restores Farmer Confidence "Harvest of Hope", the Story of Linda Zury

Under ActionAid Ghana's Green Economy and Resilient Livelihoods programme, about **1,630** smallholder farmers across **150** communities have been equipped with sustainable agriculture practices to strengthen food security and incomes. Among them is Linda Zury, whose journey reflects the transformative potential of agroecology.

Like many farmers, Linda previously struggled with poor soil fertility and erratic weather, leading to low yields and abandoned farmland. Through the intervention, she received training in compost production, strip cropping, and soil conservation, alongside support with drought-resistant sorghum and soya seeds, as well as organic fertiliser to restore soil health and productivity.

Linda preparing to work on her farm with organic compost.



Linda has this to say when her field was monitored during green field day



I'm truly grateful for the support I received. This agroecology intervention has completely changed how I see farming. I used to believe that in my community, you couldn't farm successfully without chemical fertilisers. But seeing my sorghum and soya fields now, green, healthy, and thriving, has changed my mind set and given me real confidence. From a half-acre plot that used to give me only half a bag of sorghum, I harvested 3 bags of sorghum and 1 bag of soya. This has shown me, and other farmers, that even land we thought was unproductive can yield good results with the right approach. In our community, many people avoided sorghum because they believed it wouldn't do well, but this has proven otherwise. I've already sold two bags of sorghum and earned GH¢600, while keeping some for my family. Now, I am confident that my children will have food to eat and their school needs will be met. I am committed to sharing this knowledge with others because I want to see more farmers succeed, more families fed, and more communities thriving."



4.1.4. My Economic Empowerment Journey Has Just Started: Felicia, the Determined Rabbit Farmer in Upper West Region

Madam Felicia Kyaraapo is a 35-year-old married farmer and seamstress with four children from Pina in the Lambussie District of the Upper West Region of Ghana. She is a shining example of resilience, commitment, and determination. Madam Felicia was among ten women selected and supported by AAG and its partner JIFAN to participate in a rabbit rearing training programme that focused on housing, disease control, and feeding practices.

Through the programme, each participating woman received support to construct rabbit housing and was provided with five rabbits each—four females and one male. For Madam Felicia, this marked the beginning of a new chapter in diversifying her income sources and improve household nutrition.



Madam Felicia Kyaraapo caring for her rabbits in the Karni community of the Lambussie District.

“ *This intervention has given me more than a livelihood—it has brought peace and unity into my home. My husband now supports me every day in caring for the rabbits, and there is more happiness in our family than before. I have also started sharing the benefits by giving two rabbits to another woman for breeding at no cost, and I plan to sell more at affordable prices so others in my community can benefit. In the future, I hope to establish a large rabbit farm here in the Lambussie District to supply other communities. I am truly grateful to ActionAid Ghana and the Jirapa Farmers Network for believing in me, and I am determined to make the most of this opportunity.*”

4.1.5. Investing in Resilience – How VSLA is Transforming the Livelihoods of Women Farmers in Tain and Banda

Across the Tain and Banda Districts of the Bono Region, ActionAid Ghana, in partnership with SODIA, is advancing women’s economic empowerment through the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) model. Since 2020, **15 VSLA groups with 783 members** have provided rural women with access to flexible financing, enabling them to diversify livelihoods and build resilience against climate shocks.



Rose Fofie is sharing her experience with guests during a visit to her goat pen.

“ *As a smallholder woman farmer and household head, I was overwhelmed by the effects of climate change. I realised I could not rely on farming alone. Through the VSLA, I accessed a GHC 2,000 loan and invested in goat rearing. I bought three goats to add to the two I already had. By December 2025, my herd had grown to nine through careful management. I later sold two goats for GHC 3,250 to support my daughter's education at the teacher training college. Today, I am no longer solely dependent on farming. I am a small business owner, making informed financial decisions and securing a better future for my children—all thanks to ActionAid Ghana.”*

Madam Rose Fofie, a single mother from Njau, exemplifies this impact. Previously reliant on climate-sensitive farming, she accessed a **GHC 2,000 VSLA loan** through the *Nyame Be Ye Women's Group* and invested in goat rearing, creating a more stable income stream and supporting her daughter's education. Her story reflects a broader shift across the districts, where women are leveraging VSLA platforms to invest in small businesses, strengthen household incomes, and reduce vulnerability. The intervention underscores the power of community-based finance in transforming climate risk into sustainable economic opportunity.

4.1.6. From Struggle to Stability: The Change Story of Madam Marcelina Kanboyel, Lambusie District

Madam Marcelina Kanboyel is a 46-year-old married woman and mother of three, two girls and one boy—living in Karni community under the Lambusie District. She is also a mother of a sponsored child. One of 25 mothers of sponsored children who benefitted from livelihood skills training in pastries and soap making. She acquired skills in pastries with start-up items provided to all 25 beneficiaries.

Prior to the intervention, Marcelina and her husband depended mainly on peasant farming for survival, an occupation that provided unstable and insufficient income to meet the growing needs of the household.



Marcelina preparing to set off with her food and pastries for hawking.



Before this support, life was very difficult for us. My husband and I depended on farming, but the income was not stable, and it was never enough to take care of the children. There were often misunderstandings in the home because of money problems, school fees, hospital bills, even basic needs were a struggle. Sometimes my husband would ask me for money, and if I didn't have any, it would create tension and there was no real peace in the house. Everything changed when I was selected for the training in pastries and received start-up support from ActionAid Ghana. I chose to focus on pastries and committed myself to learning the skill.

Today, I can earn my own income and support my family. The pressure has reduced, and there is more understanding and peace in our home. Now I contribute to household needs, and my husband also supports me by helping with transportation of my supplies. Even our relationship has improved because we both bring something to the table. I am also able to support my children's education, and I have even employed two women who are learning and working with me.

This opportunity has changed my life. My dream now is to have my own shop where I can grow this business and also help other women gain skills so they can support their families too."

4.1.7. Breaking Structural Barriers for Improved Social Cohesion and Integration: The Story of Ayisheitu Issah Abinyari, a Fulbe Woman from Zabugu, Bawku - Local Rights Programme (LRP 12)

Historically, ethnic minority groups such as the Fulbe have often been marginalized and perceived as inferior in many communities within the region. These structural barriers have limited their participation and inclusion in community development processes, undermining social cohesion and equitable development outcomes. Addressing such exclusion remains central to the participatory development approach promoted by BEWDA and ActionAid Ghana.

As part of efforts to address this challenge, the 2025 BEWDA/ActionAid Ghana programming implemented livelihood interventions targeting vulnerable and marginalised groups, including Fulbe communities within LRP 12. The initiative aimed to strengthen social integration, promote inclusion, and enhance economic resilience among excluded groups. One of the key interventions was a rice parboiling livelihood support programme, through which beneficiaries received training in basic business principles, including customer relations, marketing, branding, and business management. Ayisheitu Issah Abinyari, a Fulbe woman from Zabugu, was among the selected beneficiaries. During the handing-over ceremony of livelihood items, she shared her experience and the transformation the programme had brought to her life:



Ayisheitu and her colleague trainees showcasing their products after the livelihood training



I was so excited to raise my hand to shake the Queen Mother of Zabugu during the handing-over of items for the livelihood project, of which I am a beneficiary. It was a great milestone in my lifetime. For me, this project is not only helping me improve my income, but it has given me the opportunity to interact and integrate with other women in the community and to be seen as part of them. I now feel I am part of the community and no longer an alien. Some people do not want to associate with us because we are Fulbes, but you can see how happy my colleagues from other ethnic groups are with me, particularly the Kusasis who are the majority in this community.”

Ayisheitu’s testimony reflects a significant shift in attitudes and social relations within the community. Beyond improving her economic wellbeing, the intervention has strengthened her sense of belonging, dignity, and social acceptance. The programme also contributed to changing negative perceptions about Fulbe communities, fostering mutual respect and collaboration among different ethnic groups.

This positive transformation was further demonstrated during the end-of-training product exhibition, where participants from diverse ethnic backgrounds worked together and expressed excitement in showcasing their products. The interactions and solidarity observed among participants indicate growing social cohesion and improved integration of minority groups within the community. Ayisheitu’s story illustrates how inclusive livelihood interventions can address structural inequalities, transform mindsets, and promote peaceful coexistence. It demonstrates that empowering marginalized groups economically while creating opportunities for social interaction can significantly contribute to building inclusive and cohesive communities.

4.2. Strategic Priority Two (2): Women Rights and Decent Work

4.2.1. Amplifying for the Recognition, Redistribution and Reduction of the Burden of Care Work (UCW): Cornard Tanie leading the campaign in his communities.

Over the past 36 years, ActionAid Ghana has been at the forefront of campaigns promoting the recognition, redistribution, and reduction of unpaid care and domestic work burden across its 11 operational regions. Through sustained community engagement and transformative approaches such as the Gender Model Family concept, the organisation continues to advance more equitable household relationships and shared responsibilities.

Within this broader effort, Mr. and Mrs. Tanie have emerged as a notable example of change in their community in the Jirapa Municipality of the Upper West Region. They are widely recognised for living out these principles in practice, serving as a reference point

for other households on how shared care responsibilities can strengthen family wellbeing.



Mr Tanie supporting with chores at his house and shop, demonstrating our campaign on redistribution and reduction of burden of care work.

“ Before, my husband spent most of his time with his friends, and I was left to handle almost everything at home. It was overwhelming, and it even affected my health because I rarely had time to rest. But things began to change when our community was introduced to the Gender Model Family concept. He volunteered for us to be part of it, and through the training we received from ActionAid Ghana and JIFAN, our home started to transform. That was when I truly began to feel his support. He now helps with almost everything: sweeping, fetching water, washing, cooking, and even going to the farm to bring firewood home on his motorbike. These were things he once said he could never do because of how he was raised. Now, people often ask me what I did to change my husband. I tell them it is the 'charms' of ActionAid Ghana. Every morning, he lights the fire, prepares water for the children, takes them to school, and supports me throughout the day. I am really grateful. He has become more loving, caring, and supportive.”

4.2.2. Promoting Decent Work in Formal and Informal Workplaces: Built to Thrive, the story of Adama Fuseini's resilient journey from Skills Training to Entrepreneurship

“My name is Adama Fuseini, and my journey into shoemaking began through ActionAid Ghana's Young Urban Women (YUW) initiative. What started as a learning opportunity in 2022 as part of the post-COVID economic empowerment initiative of ActionAid Ghana has now become a sustainable source of income and independence. Just like all the 35 beneficiaries of the shoemaking training, I was also provided with start-up capital worth GHS 1,500. Right after the training, I gathered an amount of GHS 800 from friends and family to start the first production. Starting with GHS 2,300, I have now grown to over GHS 7,000, and I earn about GHS 400–GHS 700 in profits monthly from the business. 3Soles is now an international product, and I am excited to take on the world with my masterpiece. I am happy I was given the opportunity by ActionAid Ghana and the Young Urban Women's Movement.”



Adama working at her shop to serve customers of 3soles sandals

Investing in young women's skills and economic empowerment is a proven pathway to advancing decent work and inclusive growth. Through ActionAid Ghana's Young Urban Women (YUW) initiative, 131 Ladies were selected from Greater Accra and Volta Region for a Post-Covid Empowerment programme in Batik making, soap making and leather shoe making. This training young women are gaining access to market -relevant skills,

challenging restrictive gender norms, and transitioning into sustainable livelihoods within both formal and informal economies.

With hands-on training in design, cutting, assembly, and finishing, Adama gained both technical competence and the confidence to pursue her own path. After completing the programme, she established her business, *3Soles by Adama*, producing and selling handmade footwear. What started as a learning opportunity has now become a sustainable source of income and independence. Her participation in the YUW Global Convening in Malawi further expanded her exposure, where she showcased and sold her products to an international audience, reinforcing the value of her work beyond local markets.

Today, Adama's story reflects the impact of ActionAid Ghana's investment in young women: building skills, breaking gender barriers, and enabling women to create dignified, self-driven livelihoods while contributing to their communities.

4.2.3. Thriving through Self-Determination. Strength and Social Support Systems: Paulina's Journey of Resilience and Hope

Paulina Sobryaga is a 20-year-old out of school sponsored young woman from Piina Community in the Lambussie District of the Upper West Region. She is the eldest among six siblings—one brother and four sisters—born to parents who are peasant farmers and rely largely on subsistence farming for their family's livelihood. Growing up in a low-income household, Paulina faced limited opportunities and early responsibility for supporting her family.

“ I completed Junior High School, but my academic results were not strong enough to allow me to progress to Senior High School. With no formal education pathway and few livelihood options available in my community, my future prospects were uncertain, placing me at risk of long-term poverty and dependency.”

In 2024, ActionAid Ghana, and its local partner JIFAN, implemented a vocational skills training initiative targeting out-of-school sponsored children. The programme aimed to empower vulnerable young people with employable skills of their choice and provide start-up materials to enable them to generate sustainable income and live with dignity. Paulina was selected as one of the beneficiaries of this initiative. Following her interest, she was attached to a master trainer to learn local cloth weaving. From the beginning of the apprenticeship, Paulina demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm. Her trainer, Madam Prospera Soyiri, described her as hardworking and focused, noting that she was quick to learn and consistent in her attendance. This was further affirmed by the Chairperson of the Weavers' Association, Madam Philomina, who testified that Paulina was a serious apprentice who carried out her assignments diligently.

From Setback to Strength: Paulina's Journey of Resilience and Hope



Despite an unexpected pregnancy, Paulina returned to her vocational training, determined to complete her training and provide for her baby girl.

One month into the training, however, Paulina's progress was interrupted when she became pregnant by a young man in her community. She subsequently moved in with him and paused her training until she gave birth to a baby girl. In Piina Community, such situations often lead to young women permanently dropping out of skills training, reinforcing cycles of poverty and dependency.

Determined not to allow this setback to define my future, and with constant follow-ups and encouragement from Actionaid and JIFAN staff, I made the courageous decision to return to my master trainer to continue my apprenticeship shortly after childbirth. During ActionAid's monitoring visit, Paulina was actively participating in the training while caring for her two-month-old baby.

Reflecting on her experience, Paulina shared:

“ This experience has taught me a hard lesson. I am now more focused than ever on my training because I want to be able to take care of my child and support myself. I don't want to depend on anyone again.”

Today, Paulina's renewed determination has made her a role model among her peers in the programme. Her experience has served as a learning point for other apprentices, who now demonstrate increased awareness and caution in their personal choices while pursuing their skills training. Paulina's story highlights the transformative impact of ActionAid's investment in vocational skills development for vulnerable young women. Beyond skills acquisition, the intervention has strengthened Paulina's resilience, restored her confidence, and reinforced positive peer learning within the group. Through this programme, ActionAid and JIFAN are contributing to breaking cycles of poverty and empowering young women to reclaim control over their lives—even in the face of adversity.

4.2.4. Creating Safe Spaces for Girls in Schools through Young Female Platforms (YFPs): Linda in the Mentorship Driving Seat

The Young Female Platforms is one of ActionAid Ghana successful initiatives targeted at empowering young females in Ghana. Over the past 36 years, AAG and partners have driven this goal with a steady and result-oriented approach. Starting as just a single platform and growing from the Girls and Boys camps initiatives introduced in the early 2000s, the YFP platforms are spread across many 11 out of the 16 operational regions of ActionAid Ghana with about 10,000 membership populations of vibrant girls leading change.

AAG and partners are currently managing about 200 clubs, with the Upper East Region having 38, with 76 facilitators. Linda Aku Atobila is one of our very successful facilitators, and we cannot hold back all the significant milestones she has achieved in the Upper East Region. One of the many she shares in this account;



Linda at a YFP event in the Upper East Region

My name is Linda Aku Atobila, and since October 2019 I have served as a Young Female Platform (YFP) mentor at Bawku Senior High Technical School under ActionAid. When I first started, I was passionate about supporting girls, but I was still learning how to truly guide them through the challenges they face. Through ActionAid's continuous training, I was equipped with knowledge on gender rights, leadership, sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, and how to handle sensitive issues with care and empathy. Over time, the YFP became more than a programme, it became a safe space where girls could speak freely and

be heard. I learned to listen differently, to respond with understanding, and to support girls to find their voice and confidence. I have seen shy students grow into bold young leaders who now understand their rights and are willing to speak up against harmful practices. One experience I will never forget was a young girl who was being taken from her village under the promise of schooling but was instead being exploited. With the support of authorities, I was able to intervene and ensure she was returned to education. Moments like this remind me why this work matters.

Through radio engagements and community education supported by ActionAid, we have also reached wider audiences on issues like menstrual hygiene, consent, and bodily integrity. The impact goes beyond the school walls. Today, I have been appointed as a Safe Space Focal Person in my school—a responsibility I hold with great pride. I see it as a reflection of the trust built through this journey. ActionAid has not only trained me to mentor others; it has shaped me into a stronger advocate, a better listener, and a defender of girls' rights. I am truly grateful to ActionAid. This is not just a programme, it is a ripple of change that continues to grow in schools, homes, and communities, and I am proud to be part of it."

4.2.5. From a passive beneficiary into an active advocate – Rafia the SRHR Champion

At 20 years old, Rafia Yakubu, a hairdressing apprentice in the Terago community of the Pusiga District, represents a new wave of confident, informed young women transforming their communities. Before participating in BEWDA/AAG's capacity-building training on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Rafia knew very little about her rights or how to protect herself from sexual exploitation and early marriage.

The training was a turning point. Through interactive sessions, Rafia learned about prevention of unwanted pregnancies, consent, bodily integrity, gender-based violence, and the dangers of female genital mutilation (FGM). She also discovered the power of her voice in promoting change among her peers and clients.

Today, Rafia uses her hairdressing salon as a platform for SRHR advocacy. As she braids and styles the hair of young women and girls, she engages them in conversations about bodily autonomy, protection from forced marriage, and how to access health services. Her salon has become a safe space and a preferred salon where young women discuss their concerns without judgment.

Rafia has since become an “SRHR Champion” in her community guiding girls on their sexual lives. She now collaborates with local women’s groups and health professionals to spread awareness, especially among girls who have dropped out of school.



Her story is proof that empowerment begins with knowledge. Through BEWDA/ActionAid's intervention, Rafia has transformed from a passive beneficiary into an active advocate, protecting, informing, and inspiring others to make healthier life choices.



I used to think topics like sex and marriage were not for girls like me to talk about. Now I know that knowing my sexual rights protects me — and I help other girls to know theirs too.” — Rafia Yakubu, SRHR Champion, Terago Community

4.2.6. Empowering Girls to Speak Up and Stand Up for Rights Protection

In its commitment to adolescent empowerment and sexual rights awareness, ActionAid Ghana’s Young Female Platform (YFP) at Bolgatanga Senior High School participated in a series of seminars, debates, and quizzes on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). These activities were designed to educate students on bodily autonomy, consent, and gender-based violence while creating safe spaces for open discussion and peer support.

Following these sessions, a female student who had been sexually abused by a male teacher found the courage to share her experience. The conversations on consent and sexual abuse, coupled with the solidarity from her peers and mentors, emboldened her to open up and report the abuse to the mentor who liaised with the school authorities to seek justice.

With support from the YFP mentor, Safe Spaces Focal person, school authorities, and ActionAid’s, the case was reported to the Police (DOVVSU). The alleged perpetrator was arrested and processed for court, marking a significant step toward accountability and justice. The survivor has since been given psychosocial support services and continues her education in a safe environment.

This story underscores the transformative power of rights -based education in building girls' confidence to challenge abuse and claim their rights. It also highlights the critical role of youth-led platforms and safe spaces in fostering dialogue, protection , and collective action against sexual violence in schools.

“ I knew that many girls were suffering in silence, but I never knew that teaching girls about consent and bodily integrity could have such a powerful impact. Now, I have seen how knowledge can protect and empower young girls to stand up for themselves. The survivor has demonstrated the empowerment acquired through the YFP, and I know other girls are inspired by this, to report cases of sexual abuse”. Christiana Awuni – YFP mentor Northern region.

4.3 Strategic Priority three (3): Active Citizenship, Accountability and Gender Responsive Public Services

4.3.1 Fostering Gender Inclusive Community School Governance – Sakina Fuseini is the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Chairperson Leading the Quest for Quality Education in Pusiga in the Upper East Region

Leadership in its various forms are left in the purview of men in almost all existing executive and governance structures within the LRP 12 area. The acceptance of this trend provides more room for denial and abuse of the rights of women to leadership positions. To change the narrative, Mrs. Sakina Fuseini, a dedicated mother and community member, nominated and elected the Chairperson of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) of Pusiga Girls Model School. Sakina's election to the position of the Chair was a source of motivation to sustain the Girls Modelschool concept.

There were many factors that accounted for Sakina's nomination and elections and key amongst them are the gender sensitive advocacy interventions/engagements implemented by BEWDA and AAG in the area particularly strengthening capacity of Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) on their roles and responsibilities for good governance of basic schools within in the LRP 12.

Before BEWDA/AAG intervention, many parents were unaware of their rights and responsibilities in school governance. The engagement sessions empowered parents, especially mothers with the knowledge and confidence to participate actively in school decision-making. It was during one of these engagements that Sakina's leadership potential was recognized by fellow parents.



Sekina and Colleague PTA members engaging during a meeting.

Since assuming office, I have been a tireless advocate for the school and its students. One of the most notable contributions has been the initiative to raise funds to ensure the school remains lit and safe by consistently paying the electricity bills. This has not only created a conducive learning environment but also improved security of the school at night.

Her leadership extends beyond infrastructure support. I have also initiated regular PTA meetings to strengthen collaboration between parents and teachers. She has also advocated for the enrollment of more girls in school and encouraged the involvement of mothers in their daughters' education.

These efforts have yielded remarkable results: increased student attendance, improved academic performance, and a stronger sense of community ownership of the school. My story is an inspiring example of how empowered women can transform education systems and break down longstanding barriers.



Today, Mrs. Sakina Fuseini is not just a PTA Chairperson, she is a role model, a change-maker, and a living testament to the power of inclusive and participatory school governance. Her journey underscores the vital role of sensitization and community engagement in driving sustainable educational change.



Mrs. Sakina Fuseini is a true leader and a shining example of dedication and commitment. Her work as PTA Chairperson has been instrumental in supporting our school's growth and development”.

4.3.2 Inspiring girls for leadership: Isis Nshyira Osakwe Kokay, the first girl to become school Prefect of Adaklu Senior High School

Strengthening women's and girls' participation in leadership and decision-making is central to building inclusive and equitable communities. Through ActionAid Ghana's social movements—GAVORP, YFP, GEAP, and smallholder women's groups — conscious efforts are being made to challenge entrenched gender norms and expand opportunities for women and girls to take up leadership and representation roles at community and institutional levels. In Adaklu Senior High School, where leadership had long been viewed as the preserve of male students, Isis Nshyira Osakwe Kokayi is helping to rewrite that narrative.



Isis Nshyira engaging fellow students during a YFP meeting in school



Before I joined the Young Female Platform, I often found myself second-guessing my abilities. I had so many ideas, but I stayed quiet because I didn't believe my voice mattered. Being part of YFP changed everything for me. Through the training sessions on leadership, gender equality, and advocacy, I started to find confidence. I learned that as a young woman, my voice is valuable and deserves to be heard. With that newfound belief in myself, I made the brave choice to contest my male classmates for School Prefect in the 2024/2025 Academic year. It was a bold step, especially in a community where female leadership was rare. I focused my campaign on bringing everyone together, promoting discipline and unity, and showing that true leadership is about serving others, not about gender. Being the first female School Prefect is not just about me. It is about opening the door for other girls to believe that they can also take up leadership positions. I am excited about this new journey and just like how ActionAid Ghana built my confidence, I want to do same for other girls in my school."



Isis interacting with fellow prefects after her official induction ceremony in school.

4.3.3 Bringing Digital Learning Closer to Children



My name is Zurera in JHS 3 at the Hobor Basic School. The teaching and learning of ICT has been a challenge in our school ever since I joined this school until ActionAid provided us with these computers. Initially it was so hard to imagine what the ICT teacher is talking about. Personally, I was always confused about the difference between a task bar, a menu bar, toolbar and all of that, but now it's very clear to me because I use them on a "real" computer. This ICT lab has helped improve my academic performance especially in ICT and Science. Just the previous term before the computer were set in our school, I had 30 % in ICT end of term exams but now I had 75%. My understanding in ICT has improved. And also, my science has improved as well. Some topics in science are taught with picture from our textbooks which make it difficult to understand but now when we visit the ICT lab, we google some of the topics and YouTube videos explaining it more to us. I want to say a big thank you to ActionAid for the provision of these computers to us. It has really improved our academic performance"



Pupils of beneficiary schools in Ga South and Tamale utilising the ICT equipment and laboratory donated by AAG.

In 2025, ActionAid Ghana, through its regional programme, donated five computers and three UPS units to Hobor Basic School in the Ga South Municipality, marking the school's first-ever access to ICT facilities since its establishment. The intervention forms part of ActionAid Ghana's commitment to bridging the digital divide and promoting quality, gender-responsive education in underserved communities.

Similar ICT support has been extended to schools such as Sagnarigu Girls Basic School to strengthen digital learning and empower girls through technology.

At Hobor Basic School, the new computer lab is enhancing teaching and learning, improving pupils' digital literacy, and expanding access to online educational resources. The initiative is also expected to improve enrollment and retention, particularly among girls, as families recognise the value of 21st-century skills.

For pupils like Zurera Wetori Awenia, the intervention has made learning more engaging and meaningful, strengthening her interest in schooling and academic performance.

In a related development, Sagnarigu Community Primary School is also one such beneficiary and here is a testimony from one of the students.



My name is Maltiti and I am 12 years old in primary 6. I attend the Sagnarigu Community Primary school. I used to sit quietly at the back of her classroom, watching as my teacher drew diagrams of a computer on the blackboard. I memorized the parts, the monitor, the keyboard, the mouse and the rest but I never touched one.

Everything changed the day ActionAid supported my school with a fully equipped ICT centre and provided computers and other equipment. At first, I was nervous. The computers looked delicate and not familiar, and I did not even want to touch the keyboard, afraid that I might break something. But with encouragement from my teachers, I slowly began to learn more about using the computer. The first time I typed my name and saw it appear on the screen; I smiled and did not believe what I was seeing.

Gradually, ICT lessons are no longer about memorizing definitions, but they have become interactive, exciting, and real. I learned how to type, search for information and even browse educational content online. For the first time, I could see the world beyond my community. What made the biggest difference was how the ICT centre created a safe and encouraging space for girls. Before, ActionAid came to support us with the centre, many of us believed technology was for boys but now, I do not think and feel the same.

I want to create solutions that will help my community and inspire other girls. The ICT centre did more than provide computers, it also built confidence and changed the mindset of many girls like me. Today, my dream of becoming a software engineer seem closer and real”



4.3.4 Promoting menstrual health among girls; Young Urban Women's Movement (YUWM) donates sanitary pad dispensers to schools

Frema Dorothy, a 14-year-old Girls' Prefect at Nkrankrom Junior High School, reflects on this transformative initiative:



I can't describe how much this has improved our school experience. Before the sanitary pad dispensers, we were always worried during that time of the month or even during emergency period. Many of us, including myself, found it difficult to stay in class because we didn't always have enough pads, and sometimes we even forgot to bring extra. Now, we can stay in class without those worries. Since the dispensers were installed, girls have been more punctual and absenteeism has reduced. Those who used to stay home out of fear or because they couldn't afford pads are now always in school, confident to learn and participating in school activities. Through our girls' club, we are also empowered and encouraged to understand and stand up for our rights as girls. Period-related embarrassment is no longer a big issue for us, all thanks to the sanitary pad dispensers and the Young Urban Women's Movement."

In many schools across Sunyani, a girl's school day can be unexpectedly interrupted by her period. Without immediate access to sanitary products, what should be a normal biological experience often becomes a source of stress, embarrassment, and lost learning time.

The Young Urban Women's Movement (YUWM) of ActionAid Ghana is responding with a practical, school-based solution. Through the installation of five sanitary pad dispensers in selected Junior High Schools in the Bono region, girls can now access sanitary pads at the point of need—within a safe and familiar environment. Managed by student leaders, including Girls' Prefects, and supported by teachers, the system is designed to be both discreet and sustainable. So far, the initiative has reached 624 girls, with 52 boxes, equivalent to 1,248 packs of sanitary pads distributed. Since July 2025, many girls have

been able to remain in class during their periods, avoiding unnecessary absences and staying engaged to their lessons.

Beyond meeting an immediate need, the initiative is contributing to a broader shift in attitudes. It is helping to normalise conversations around menstruation, reduce stigma, and reinforce a simple but critical message: no girl's education should be disrupted because of her period. For girls like Frema Dorothy, a 14-year-old Girls' Prefect at Nkrankrom Junior High School, the impact goes beyond convenience, it is deeply personal.

4.3.5 Inspiring Community-Led Actions for Addressing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) challenges in Schools



“My name is Ubeida and I am 14 years old. I live in a community in the Sagnarigu Municipality of Northern Region. Before, going to school was very hard for me since every day was a full of worries until ActionAid came to support my school with a urinal and a mechanized borehole.

We did not have good urinals, clean water, or a place to wash our hands. Sometimes I woke up happy to learn, but by the middle of the day, I felt uncomfortable, thirsty, and could not focus. For girls like me, it was even harder. During my monthly period, I often stayed at home. There was no private place at school to manage it safely and with dignity. I missed lessons, fell behind in class, and sometimes felt like giving up altogether. Some of my friends dropped out completely but everything changed when ActionAid came to our aid”.

They built clean urinals for boys, girls, and for teachers, one for males and females too and also provided a mechanized borehole with a polytank. At first, it felt like a dream. For the first time, I could go through a full school day without worrying about where to find water or how to stay clean. Now, I come to school every day, confident, comfortable and ready to learn. I no longer miss classes during my period because there is a safe and private space for me and I can focus on my lessons instead of my discomfort. My teachers say I participate more, and my grades have improved. I even help lead my school's Girls' Empowerment and Advocacy Platform as the president, educating my colleague girls and the other younger pupils the importance of washing their hands and keeping our environment clean. But the biggest change is how I see myself. Before, attending school regularly was a challenge to me. Now, I feel comfortable and I believe I can become a nurse one day and help others in my community stay healthy.

"This WASH facility did more than bring water and urinals to my school only, - it gave me dignity, confidence, and a future.



Monica fetching water at the newly installed borehole

Restoring Dignity for Women Through Safe Water Access — Monica's Story of Change

"This borehole is a saviour for us. We used to walk long distances to Kalsegre-Tangpuor just to fetch water, and it was especially difficult after returning from the farm in the evenings.

At times, we simply couldn't make the journey, and that meant we had no water for cooking and other household needs. Now, with this facility in our community, we can access safe water with ease after work.

It has restored our dignity, reduced our burden, and given us real relief.

We are truly grateful to ActionAid Ghana and GIZ for this support."



The GIZ sponsored Community Action Plans (CAPs) recorded significant progress in 2025, delivering tangible, community-led solutions that are transforming lives in vulnerable communities. A key milestone under the intervention has been the provision of sustainable water facilities to improve access to safe and reliable water for women and girls.

For years, access to clean water remained a daily challenge for households in Kalsegr - Gyanvuur in the Lawra Municipality of Ghana's Upper West Region. Women and girls were compelled to walk long distances to neighbouring communities in search of water — an exhausting and time-consuming burden that constrained livelihoods, disrupted education, and deepened the strain of unpaid care responsibilities within households. Through the Community Action Plans (CAPs) intervention under the EU -REACH-funded project, ActionAid Ghana, with support from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and funding from the European Union and the German Government under the European Union Ghana Agricultural Programme (EUGAP), provided mechanised boreholes and water systems to vulnerable communities to improve access to potable water and strengthen climate resilience.

One of the beneficiaries whose life has been significantly transformed is Madam Monica Putiewiir of Kalsegr-Gyanvuur. Before the intervention, Monica and other women in the community had no option but to walk to Kalsegre-Tangpuor, a distant community, to fetch water for their households. The journey became even more difficult after long hours of farming, especially during the evenings when families still needed water for cooking, cleaning, and other domestic activities.



AAG Board and Partners handing over boreholes to beneficiary communities of the CAPs Project.

For Monica, the mechanised borehole represents more than just access to water; it signifies dignity, safety, convenience, and hope for women in the community. The intervention has reduced the physical burden placed on women and girls, while creating opportunities for them to invest more time in productive economic activities, family care, and personal wellbeing.

The water facility also demonstrates the power of community-led development. Under the CAPs approach, communities identify their own priority needs, ensuring that interventions directly respond to local realities and challenges. To promote sustainability and long-term ownership, ActionAid Ghana supported the formation and training of Water and Sanitation Management Committees (WSMCs) to oversee the maintenance and functionality of the facilities.

Overall, the Community Action Plans (CAPs) implementation supported the construction of 5 dams, 5 canal small irrigation systems, 60 boreholes (7 solar mechanized and 53 hand-pump), 15 forest restoration, 22 agroforestry and 28 sustainable agriculture demonstrations, all delivered at full scale.

4.4 National Campaigns and Policy Influencing Actions

Throughout the year, our national campaigns focused on protecting women rights including the continuous push for legislative action to proscribe witchcraft accusations, supporting young people to speak up and organise, promoting climate justice, and questioning economic policies that deepen inequality. We strengthened our collaborations with civil society organisations, youth networks, traditional leaders, media partners, and government institutions, including Parliament, CHRAJ, and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.



Among the key interventions pursued were as follows

- **Ending Violence Against Women : The** advocacy on witchcraft accusations helped move conversations from silence and stigma to justice and accountability. Survivors were supported in sharing their stories, engaging policymakers, and demanding protection. The 5th Anniversary of Akua Denteh's murder was commemorated with a memorial march from Christ the King Catholic Church to Afrikiko, passing Jubilee House. The march brought together survivors, traditional leaders, Queen Mothers, CHRAJ, the Minister for Gender, and civil society actors. A joint visit was also undertaken by the Coalition Against Witchcraft Accusations (CAWA) Members with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Human Rights to the three Alleged-Witches Camps in Northern Region. These are the Gambaga Camp in East Mamprusi, Ngani Camp in Yendi and Kukuo in Nanumba South District. The Members of Parliament (MPs) expressed strong revulsion at the living conditions of the vulnerable women emanating from cruel and inhumane culture. They committed to using the facts gathered to revise and strengthen the development of the anti -witchcraft bill for reconsideration by the current parliament and to push for its assent by the President.
- **Youth Leadership and Climate Justice :** Young people, especially young women, moved from being observers to active participants in climate and governance debates. Through research and mobilisation, they gained confidence and credibility.
- **Economic Justice and Accountability :** Through sustained engagement on investment and financing policies, the Unit contributed to a growing civil society movement questioning unfair economic structures.
- **Strengthening movement led engagements:** In 2025, YUWM remained a safe and empowering space for young women to learn, organise, and lead. Members researched Adolescent-Friendly Health Centres, documenting the challenges



Members of the Coalition Against Witchcraft Accusations (CAWA) and the Human Rights Committee of Parliament sharing moments with traditional leaders and survivors at the Gani Chief's Palace and alleged camp in the Northern Region.

young people face when seeking sexual and reproductive health services. The research strengthened young women's confidence and enabled them to engage with health authorities with evidence. YUWM members also played visible roles in climate justice campaigns and storytelling.

- **Other notable policy influencing campaigns:** AAG also convened two strategic stakeholder conferences on gaslighting and financing for development.



Activists from Activista Ghana, Young Urban Women, EcoVista and Young Female Platforms participating in the Riding for Just Transition campaign held in the northern region.

5.0

COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL MOVEMENT BUILDING

One of the core principles of ActionAid's programming approaches is working with social movements, peoples' organisations and allies. As clearly spelled out in Strategy Implementation Framework (SIF 3), AAG and its core partners are called upon to be intentional and courageous in building a movement mindset and a clear orientation towards nurturing and supporting movements-led actions. The approaches for doing this partly depends on contextual considerations including the political space and the state of civil society activism. But it is generally acknowledged that system change can only happen when people work together across geographies (local, national and international) and in an inter-sectional manner. To this end, the federation developed and published a social movement engagement guidance framework in 2024 and subsequently taken steps to reorient and strengthen capacities of staff on movement building mindset.

ActionAid Ghana (AAG) fully aligns with and recognises that we are part of a global movement fighting against poverty, injustices and inequalities. While strategic relationships have been maintained by AAG with core partners over the years to lead grassroots programmes implementation, conscious efforts have been made to progressively mobilise and nurture social movements to take center stage in the advocacy and campaign actions being pursued. The quest to transition to working with social movements is not to suggest an abrupt end to the existing strategic partnerships established over the years with community-based organisations (CBOs) and local non-governmental organisations (LNGOs). The Quality and Knowledge Management (QKM) Manager along with the Head of Programmes, Campaign and Innovation (HoPCI) for AAG benefitted from one such training conducted in February 2025 at the MS-TCDC in Arusha-Tanzania. Subsequent to that, various platforms have been utilised to downstream the knowledge, skills and re-orientation of mindsets towards movements-led programming. The Board of Directors (BoD) and staff were engaged in this regard. The underlying objective is to place social movements as the rallying point and force around which change agents and activists can organise and mobilise to pursue various advocacy and campaign actions.

5.1 The Grassroot Social Movements and Peoples' Organisations Being Nurtured

- Smallholder Women Farmers Movement (SHWFM),
- Female Extension Volunteers (FEVs) Networks,
- Young Female Platforms (YFPs),
- Young Urban Women Movement (YUWM),
- Girls Empowerment and Advocacy Platforms (GEAPs),
- Activista (Youth Activists Network),
- Ecovista Movement (Climate Change and Environmental Clubs in Schools),
- Community-Based Anti-Violence Teams (COMBATs) Networks,
- Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) Networks,
- Children's Parliament.

5.2 The Coalitions and Alliances with Which AAG Pursues its Joint Advocacy and Campaigns

- Tax Justice Coalition (TJC),
- Climate Justice Network,
- Ghana Agroecology Movement,
- Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC),
- Northern Network on Education Development (NNED),
- Ghana Anti-Witcraft Coalition,
- Domestic Violence Coalition,
- Affirmative Action Coalition,
- Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT)
- Labour Unions such as Trade Unions Congress (TUC) and Ghana Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU).



6.0

CHILD SPONSORSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL FUNDRAISING

AAG funding is derived from three streams namely Child Sponsorship (CS) also referred to Regular Giving, Institutional Partnership raised through project proposals to donor organisations and High-Value Donations raised from individual philanthropists.

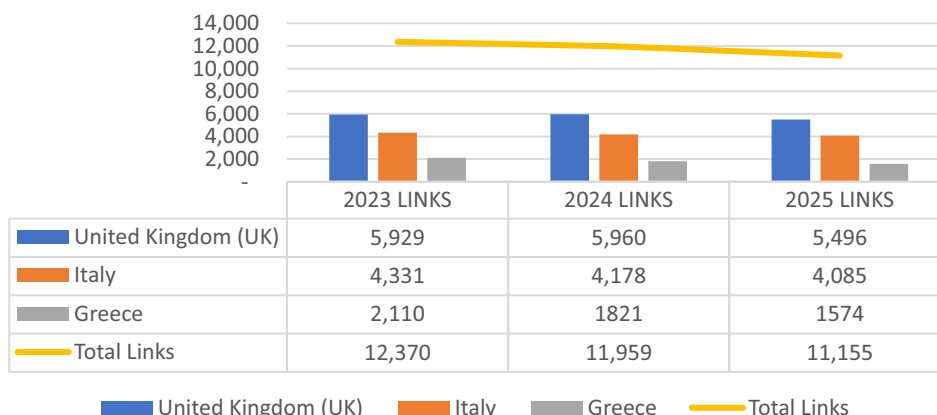
6.1 Regular Giving (Child Sponsorship and Next Step)

The regular giving funding portfolio forms a critical component of ActionAid Ghana (AAG) traditional income mobilisation. This is connected to profiles and media collections with children in AAG's operational communities for linkage with individual philanthropies in United Kingdom, (UK), Italy and Greece, upon which commitment is secured to join and support the ActionAid's income mobilisation scheme. The other related dimension is what is termed as Next Step funding which is not connected to child linkages.

By close of December 2025, the total number of sponsorship links was 11,155, constituting both child and non-child-(Next-Step). In view of the fact that 11,959 links were transitioned from 2024, this represents a net attrition of 804 sponsors (i.e. 6.7% drop).

Analysing the links by funding affiliates, the UK links were 5,496 (comprising 3,896 child and 1,600 non-child) constituting 49%. However, it posted a net loss of 332 links (i.e. 5.6% attrition) from the 5,960 transitioned from 2024. The links from Italy were 4,085 representing 37%, as it also experienced a 93 links drop (i.e. 2.2% attrition) from the 4,178 carried forward from 2024. The Greece links stood at 1,574 representing 14% and also recorded 247 links loss (i.e. 13.6% attrition) from the 1,821 carried forward from 2024.

Trend Analyses of AAG Sponsorship Links (2023, 2024 & 2025)



Essentially, the Italian scheme witnessed some level of stability, as against UK which recorded some appreciable drop while the already weak Greece scheme continue to experience greater attrition. It also worth noting that the child links experience higher attrition as it accounted for 754 (6.3%) of the 2025 drop, compared to non-child links loss of 50 (3%).

It must be noted that AAG is relentlessly committed to sustaining the child sponsorship fundraising portfolio. Indeed, AAG continues to demonstrate strong performance within this space and is widely recognized for maintaining high standards in supporter engagement, timely delivery of child profiles, and the production of quality and impactful reports. Despite the observable downturns, the efforts have positioned AAG as high performing country contributing to best practices in child sponsorship management. In 2025 for instance, a successful transfer of 1,436 children was made (1,029 for Italy and 407 for Greece) in connection with children whose ages exceeded the sponsorship threshold. These children were withdrawn, and new child profiles collected and submitted to the Funding Affiliates (FAs) for replacement.

It is anticipated that the Greece situation may witness improvement in 2026 following the strategic decision taken to create space for 40 Greece Supporters along with three ActionAid Hellas staff to embark on a solidarity visit to Ghana in July 2025. They visited Volta and Oti Regions which provided a splendid opportunity for them to have a profound immersion experience. They gained greater appreciation of the realities of deprivation and vulnerabilities that AAG, its partners and collaborators have been seeking to tackle. The team engaged in a balanced mix of community project work, stakeholder engagement, and cultural exchange, which fostered a deeper understanding of the local development context. Among the key stakeholders

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white tank top with a colorful patterned neckline and bright green cargo pants, is smiling and balancing a large, shallow, light-colored bowl filled with dark brown soil on her head. She is holding the bowl with both hands. She has a green lanyard around her neck with a small green ID card that says "SOTIRIA". In the background, several children in orange and brown uniforms are standing, and a man in a striped shirt is visible on the left. The setting appears to be a rural area with trees and a dirt path.

A member of the
AA Greece Child
Sponsorship Team
leading communal
labour to support
the construction of
the Todome Basic
School in the Volta
Region

(DCE). A visit was also made to Todome community to support the community initiative to put up a 3-unit classroom block for its Junior High School. The team also visited other communities and interacted multi-sectoral actors such as traditional leaders, Parent-Teacher Association (PTAs), School Management Committees (SMCs), Community Based Anti-violence Teams (COMBATs), women livelihood groups and school pupils with particular interest on girl-child education concerns. The visit was concluded with a tourism trip to the Wli Falls, which provided a moment of relaxation and appreciation for Ghana's beautiful sceneries and adorable natural ecosystem.



A member of the women's group and the AA Greece Sponsorship Team participating in communal labour to support the construction of the Todome Basic School.

6.2 Institutional Partnerships and High Value Funding

AAG has maintained an aggressive fundraising drive through an all-hands-on-deck approach. Apart from the normative identification of donor calls where concept notes and proposals are submitted, the fundraising strategies include donor cultivation and engagements through seeking appointments, sharing AAG's programming profile and pitching potential project interventions of mutual alignments. Among the institutional donors engaged during the year were Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Australian High Commission and The Dutch Embassy.

AAG also sustained its close collaboration with the fundraising outfits of our global secretariate and the funding affiliates to drive institutional partnership and high-value funding opportunities. AAG's senior management and finance staff benefited from a one-week training on cost recovery in September 2025, facilitated by the Grants Compliance and Cost Recovery Advisor and the Africa 1 Finance Advisor from the Global Secretariate (GS). Following sustained engagements with ActionAid United Kingdom (AAUK), £100,000 in grant funding was secured to implement a pilot project titled "Advancing Rights and Combatting Child Labour in Cocoa Value Chains". The project implementation scope covers four (4) districts located in two (2) regions namely Dormaa Central and Dormaa West Districts in the Bono Region and Asutifi North and Asutifi South Districts in the Ahafo Region. The implementation of the project is scheduled to commence in 2026. The funding sources consist of £60,000 from the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) Foundation and £40,000 from the Postcode Lottery (PL) of United Kingdom (UK).

ActionAid Ghana (AAG) also completed a revised fundraising strategy to reflect current dynamics. The strategy was developed with the support of a consultant and subjected to a rigorous management review process, validated by the Country Leadership Team (CLT) and approved by the Board of Directors (BoD). The current fundraising strategy provides clear direction for the organisation's revenue mobilisation agenda. The strategy serves as a practical guide for diversifying funding sources, strengthening donor engagement, improving fundraising systems and capacities, and ensuring alignment between programmes and fundraising efforts. It is expected to enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and coordination of fundraising initiatives, thereby supporting the achievement of AAG strategic priorities and long-term financial sustainability.

7.0

FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE PERFORMANCE

7.1 Income

Total income received for the 2025 reporting year was £2,646,000, which was £240,000 higher than planned income for the year, translating into a 10% positive variance. In comparing the actual income to 2024 income, this year recorded an increase in income of about 41%. This can be attributed to increase in partnership, philanthropy, and institutional income. One major project secured during the year was the sub-grant from Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) under the project titled “Improved Resilience of Coastal Communities in Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana” and being funded by the Adaptation Fund. However, some of the partnerships, philanthropy and institutional income were deferred from the previous year.

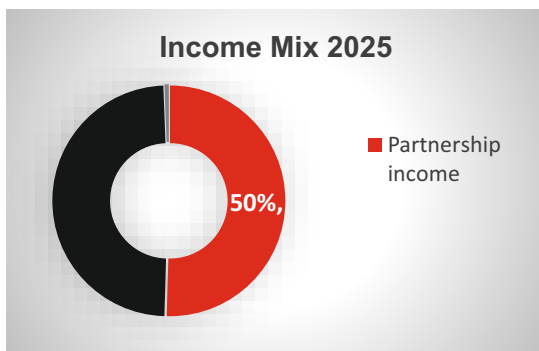
Table 1: Income Analysis for 2025

Income Source	Actual £'000	Plan £'000	Forecast £'000	Var £'000	%	2024	% Change
Individual Giving	1,338	1,483	1,320	-145	-10%	1,392	-4%
Other Products	-	-	-	-	0%	0	0%
Net transfers	-43	-30	-30	-13	43%	-21	
Partnership-Affiliates	291	95	160	196	206%	242	20%
Partnership-Local	1044	808	950	236	29%	214	388%
Other Income	16	50	20	34	68%	43	-63%
Total	2,646	2,406	1,943	240	10%	1,870	41%

From Table 1 above, partnership income received from affiliates recorded a positive variance of 206% against planned and represents 20% increase over 2024 while partnership local also produced positive variance of 29% against planned and represents 388% significant jump over 2024. On the other hand, individual/regular giving income performance yielded a negative variance of 10% compared to planned

for the year and further represents 4% decrease compared to that of 2024. The planned income could not be achieved due to sponsor withdrawals and overgrown children. Most of the withdrawals and overgrown children's links could not be replaced with new links because few links were allocated to AAG during the year. The same reason is attributable to the reduction in individual giving income compared to that of 2024.

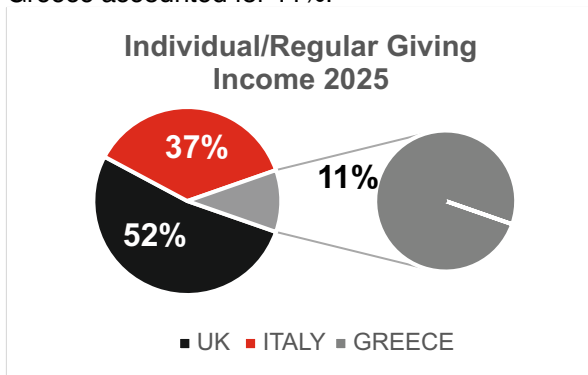
7.2 Income Mix



The income mix analyses shows that 51% of our total income for 2025 came from projects (contracts, donations, and grants) mainly from partnership, philanthropy and institutional sources. On the other hand, individual giving income accounted for 49% of the country's income mix for 2025.

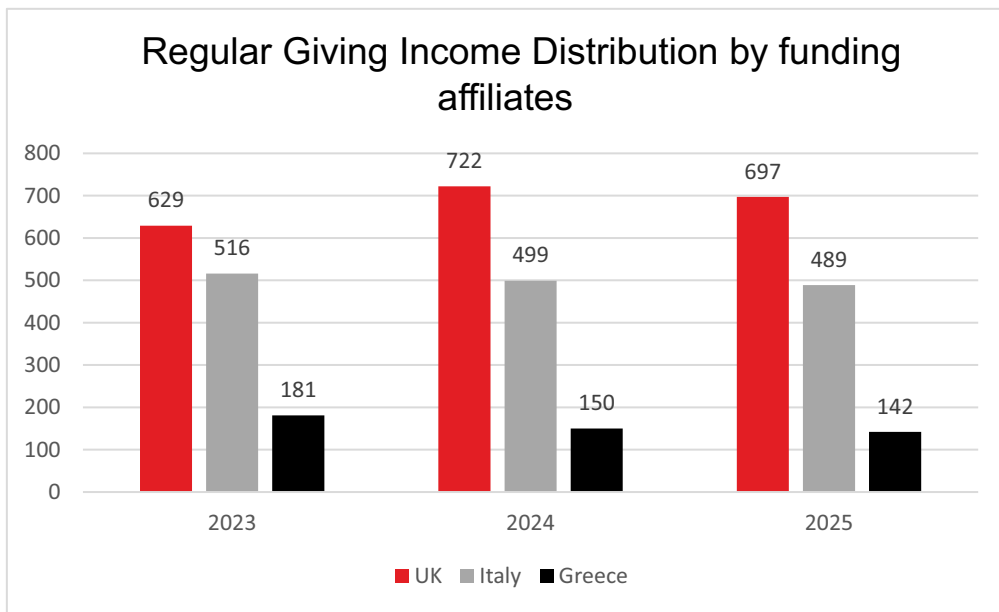
7.3 Individual/Regular Giving Income Analyses

As noted earlier, individual/regular giving income was 49% of the country's income mix for 2025. A review of the performance of the individual/regular giving streams shows that UK's contribution was 52% and Italy's contribution was 37% while income from Greece accounted for 11%.



The chart below provides the three-year (2023 – 2025) historical analyses of the regular giving contributions by the funding affiliates. The United Kingdom (UK) has consistently been the highest funding affiliate followed by Italy and then Greece. Notably, the UK sponsors three (3) Local Right Programmes (LRPs) namely Bawku East, Tamale Peri-Urban and Jirapa. Italy sponsors four (4)

LRPs namely Tain, Asutifi, Nanumba and Tamale Urban while the Greece also sponsors four (4) LRPs namely Bolga, Ga, Kadjebi, and Sissala.



7.4 Partnership Income

As noted above, partnership income received from affiliates recorded a positive variance of 206% against planned by achieving an excess of £196,000. This is due to the addition of deferred income from 2024 in addition to some other small grants such as the Solidarity Fund, Financing for development, Value Women's Work, among others that were received. Regarding local partnership income, the income received was also higher than planned by £236,000 representing 29% over-achievement of the target. This was partly due to the addition of deferred income from the previous year. Two major projects contributed greatly to this performance. One is the sub-grant secured under Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) for implementation of the project being funded by Adaptation Fund titled "Improved Resilience of Coastal Communities in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana". The other project is the Community Adaptation Plans (CAPs) sub-grant from GIZ REACH Project funded by EUGAP.

Table 2 below shows the specific projects' income received and implemented during the year with their corresponding donors and location of implementation including the deferred income. Project Income received but not expensed at the end of the year is treated as Deferred income. Deferred income computed at the end of every year is recognized as income for subsequent years only when it is utilized and matched against the corresponding expense.

Table 2: Partnership Income Sources

PROJECT NAME	DONOR	LOCATION	AAI	LOCAL	TOTAL
			(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
THE DONKEY WELFARE PROJECT	THE DONKEY SANCTUARY	UW		35.00	35.00
YOUNG URBAN WOMENS PROJECT	HEWLETT PACKARD	NR, UE, BA, GA,VR, ER & UW	156.00		156.00
AA DKK-GP	DENMARK	H/O, NR, UE, BA, GA,VR,ER & UW	66.00		66.00
THE HILLS PROJECT	HILLS AND COOKES	GA, NATIONAL	16.00		16.00
COMMUNITY ADAPTATION PLANS (CAPs)	GIZ	UW	-	703	703.00
IMPROVE RESILIENCE OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES	ADAPTATION FUND THROUGH HFHI	VR, GA		245.00	245.00
GASLIGHTING, F4D, CS FORA		NATIONAL		53.00	53.00
SOLIDARITY TRIP	AA HELLAS	OTI	14.00	-	14.00
UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE	UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE-NETHERLANDS	H/O, ACCRA		46.00	46.00
TOTAL			596.00	738.00	1,334.00

7.5 Expenditure Summary

Total expenditure for the year 2025 was £2,874,000. This was 114% utilization of the annual budget; however, it was £1,047,000 higher compared to the previous year's expenditure of £1,827,000. There was an increase in total expenditure by 57% comparing the 2025 to 2024.

Table 3 below shows the analysis of expenditure utilization and associated variances based on the Natural Costs Analysis for the year under review.

Table 3: Natural Cost Analysis (GBP'000)

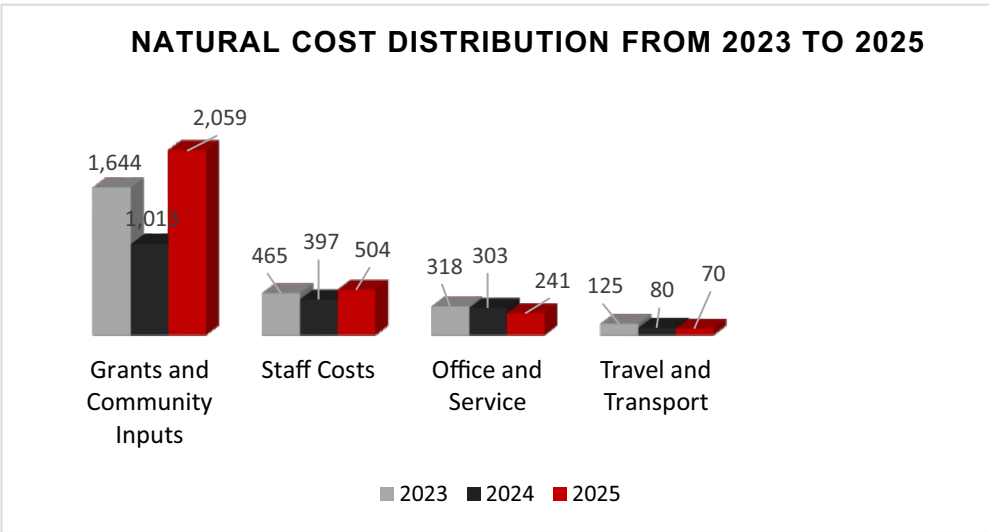
Natural Costs	Actual	Plan	Forecast	Var	Util %	Prop	2024	% Chge
	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)			(£'000)	
Grants and Comm'ty Inputs	2,059	1,790	1,898	-269	115%	72%	1,013	103%
Staff Cost	504	403	438	-101	125%	18%	397	-27%
Travel and Transport	70	97	36	27	72%	2%	80	13%
Office and Service	194	207	161	13	94%	7%	303	36%
Capital/Others	47	30	91	-17	157%	2%	34	-38%
Total	2,874	2,527	2,624	-347	114%	100%	1,827	-57%

Grants and Community inputs expenditure of £2,059,000 accounted for 72% of total expenditure. This represents 103% increase in expenditure compared to last year as indicated in the table above. Total expenditure was £347,000 higher than planned for the year. The higher utilization during the year, especially regarding the grants and community inputs was heavily influenced by the two major projects that started implementation during the year. These projects are the Community Adaptation Plas (CAPs) project and the Improved Resilience of Coastal Communities (IRCC) in Cote D' Ivoire and Ghana project. Both projects were capital intensive especially the CAPs project which was supposed to be completed within the year. The 72% grants and community inputs achieved is 12% higher than the KPI of 60%.

Staff cost expenditure was £504,000 for the reporting year. This represents 18% of total expenditure for the year, but 27% higher than prior year's expenditure of £397,000. Staff cost was higher by £101,000 compared to planned expenditure and £107,000 higher than expenditure for last year. The increase in staff costs was as a result of the cost of the five (5) new staff who were engaged purposely for the two (2) projects. Apart from the salary increment based on staff performance appraisal which averaged 6%, there was also staff motivational allowance of one month salary per staff which was paid in December.

Travel and transportation expenditure was £70,000, indicating 72% utilization. This was, however, lower than the 2024 expenditure by 13%. The reduction in travel cost is due to the decrease in fuel prices as a result of the appreciation of the Ghana Cedi against the USD.

Office and Service Cost for the reporting year was £194,000. This was £13,000 lower than planned and £109,000 (36%) lower than that of expenditure for 2024. The reduction in expenditure for the year was also due to reduction in general prices of



goods and services as well as management's deliberate efforts that were targeted at managing and saving costs.

Table 4: Statutory cost Analysis (GBP'000)

Statutory Costs	Actual	Plan	Forecast	Var	Util %	Prop	2024	% Change
Programme>65	2,200	1,946	2,122	- 254	113%	77%	1,265	-74%
Fundraising<10	222	148	188	-74	150%	8%	128	-73%
Governance	66	48	53	-18	138%	2%	27	-144%
Support<15	386	385	261	-1	100%	13%	407	5%
Total	2,874	2,527	2,624	- 347	114%	100%	1,827	-57%

From table 4 above, programme cost was 77% of total expenditure which is 12% percentage points above the Global Secretariate's Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of 65%, while support and governance cost ratio was exactly 15%. Support cost was just within the KPI of 15% whereas Governance costs was 2% both making the maximum KPI of 15% for support. Support cost was quite reasonable because of the reduction in inflation due to the appreciation of the Ghana Cedis. Also, the huge programme expenditure for the CAPs and IRCC projects proportionately affected the KPI on support costs. Besides, there was not any major office expenditure such as painting or renovation.

Fundraising cost, on the other hand, accounted for 8% of total expenditure. Compared to 2024 expenditure, fundraising cost increased by 73%. Management incurred more fundraising costs especially on consultancy services and staff capacity building.

Governance cost increased by 144% compared to 2024. The increase in governance costs can be attributed to the increase in expenditure on Board and General Assembly meetings, field visits and AAI Board meetings. Also, there was increase in the expenditure on the Internal Audit unit as the new Internal Auditor was about to settle in her role.

7.6 Exchange Rate Movements

Planned exchange rate for the reporting year was £1.00 to GH¢20.00. Average exchange rate for the year was £1.00 to GHS16.5568. The year exchange rate deviation from the plan was **(-17%)** and the variance between the opening and year closing rate was about **(-20%)**. Unlike previous years, the Ghana Cedi appreciated against the GBP and the other major foreign currencies. This is the reason why the variance between the estimated exchange rate and the average exchange rate is negative showing how the exchange rate reduced from 20.00 to **16.5568 (-17%)**

Huge exchange losses were incurred during the year due to the appreciation of the Ghana Cedis against the GBP, the USD and the Euro.

Year	£	GH¢
Rate at 1st January 2024	1	18.4571
Planned rate for 2024	1	20.00
Average rate for January to December 2024	1	16.5568
Rate as at 31st December 2024	1	14.7363
Planned rate versus Average rate variance	-17%	
Variance between opening and closing rates	-20%	

7.7 Systems and Process Improvement

We continue to use the SUN 6.4 from the Global Finance System. We have also been using the Procurement Model (Direct Invoicing) since December 2019. The use of the Procure to Pay model was however, stopped completely at the beginning of the year due to rising cost of the budget-holder-user fees. We currently use only the direct invoicing process of the SUN system.

Several reporting templates linked to the system have also been developed to facilitate reporting and the work of the finance team. An interactive management account dashboard has been designed for producing year management accounts. The dashboard is user-friendly and provides insightful information to non-finance staff. Monthly and quarterly management accounts have been produced for senior management within the year. The dashboard has significantly reduced the time spent by the finance team in generating management accounts. All finance staff have gone through annual refresher training on the SUN system and the other templates that are used along side the SUN system.



8.0

HUMAN RESOURCE AND ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (HROE)

This segment of the report presents the staffing information and other major activities implemented under the Human Resources and Organisational Effectiveness (HROE) unit.

ActionAid Ghana staff strength as of 31st December 2025 was 46, comprising 30 male staff and 16 female staff representing 64% and 36% respectively. Amid the turbulence in the development landscape, ActionAid Ghana remains resolute, focused, and committed to delivering on its mandate. Staff retention measures, including management's focus on staff well-being, have delivered positive results, as reflected in only one resignation during the reporting year.

In February 2025, AAG held its biennial staff durbar on the theme “Empowering the Workforce Through Transformational Leadership, Healthy Teams, and Staff Re-orientation,” in February 2025. The durbar provided a platform for engaging discussions, insightful sessions, experience sharing and relaxation aimed at fostering growth and alignment within the organization. The retreat was graced by former ActionAiders and the board chair who shared valuable insights and experiences with the team.

The celebration of the 35th anniversary of AAG under theme Celebrating 35 Years of Gender Equality and Social Justice in Ghana highlighted ActionAid Ghana's achievements and impact over the past three and a half decades in Ghana development landscape. The climax of the events was graced by dignitaries and the Honorable Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Naa Momo Lartey who delivered the keynote address.

Seven (7) long-serving staff members were also recognized and given citations for their immense contribution to the vision of AAG.

The team remains committed to working with passion in support of the most vulnerable in our society.



Special Guest of Honor, Honorable Dr Agnes Naa Momo Larrey, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection delivering keynote speech at AAG 35TH Anniversary Celebration





Special Guest of Honor, Honorable Dr Agnes Naa Momo Larrey awarding AAG long-serving staff at the 35th Anniversary Celebration



AAG Board members and Country Director presenting a citation plaque to the outgoing Board Chair, Nana Yaw Okyere-Aduachie, at the 35th Anniversary and Impact Celebration held in Accra.

9.0

MAJOR CHALLENGES, REFLECTIONS AND LEARNINGS

Undeniably, the implementation of the interventions and the achievement of the modest results came with associated challenges and key learnings that have been documented through routine review and reflection processes. The Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) is ActionAid's core mechanism through which progress is tracked and outcomes of programme interventions harvested. Feedback is also received on the efficacy of our programme implementation approaches and suggestions provided on the strategic actions that should be prioritised for implementation during the ensuing year. These processes strengthen rights-based programming, build solidarity and empowerment, and nurture ownership for advocacy and campaign actions.

The major challenges and key learnings documented for 2025 are as follows.

- Victims of drug and substance abuse mostly shy away from participating in the community-wide sensitisation activities due to stigmatization. Some others, especially the wee (marijuana) smokers, also run away from the targeted approach to reach them at their convening spots, for fear of facing arrest. But the involvement of survivors of drug and substance abuse at both radio and community level sensitization brought hope to victims and parents of drug addiction to present themselves and support recovery process.
- The effectiveness of COMBATs is largely dependent on effective collaboration between the teams and law enforcement agencies, particularly the Police and the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU). The COMBATs laments not getting the support needed from stakeholders, especially DoVSSU in seeking timely redress for cases referred to them. On the other hand, the law enforcement institutions also tend to complain about and blame their inactions on the logistical and resource constraints which makes it challenging to pick up the cases and do the necessary follow-ups, contributing to delays in making arrest and prosecuting the cases. Reference can be made to a child marriage case in Sissala East which took strenuous efforts and pressure including AAG's local partner by name Action for Sustainable Development (ASUDEV) to step in to offer its vehicle and provide fuel support at other occasions to enable DOVVSU to act on the case to rescue the girl.

- Some school authorities associate and justify some bullying cases against indiscipline; hence the victims are not confident to step forward to report the excesses emanating from the line of being punished. A survey with 941 students from selected schools in Northern region in 2025 assessed the prevalence, forms, and drivers of bullying with responses. The findings revealed that 64% of students reported being bullied, 73% witnessed physical fighting, 75% witnessed verbal harassment, 36% witnessed social exclusion and 20% witnessed cyber bullying. Overall, 27% of students reported feeling unsafe in school and common locations where the bullying occurs are in classroom (55%), during break hours (53%), and at dining hall (49%). Engagement fora were subsequently held with school authorities on the findings including Ghana Education Service (GES). The emerging issues were discussed and strategies identified to improve safer school environment. The evidence generated is also being used for continuous advocacy and campaigns towards creating safer and violence-free schools.
- The tree plantation endeavours achieved some appreciable level of success recording survival rates around 70% for most communities while some performed poorly. The poor survival is due to inability to water the transplanted seedlings at the onset of the dry season coupled with lack of protective fencing which exposed the seedlings to destruction by livestock. These practical barriers underscore the need for complementary support, such as watering solutions and basic tree guards using wire mesh, to enhance the survival rate of the planted trees.
- Regrettably, some community members in the Upper West Region resist implementation of by-laws on commercial logging by chain saw operators and rosewood harvesters. Such persons argue that the land belongs to them and they have the right to use it as they wish. This challenge is due to the fact that the land ownership is vested in family hands, thereby making key opinion leaders like chiefs to become only ceremonial personalities while landlords also merely lead the performance of traditional and spiritual rituals. As such, community leaders wield no authority to dictate communal land use rules.
- The execution of the dam and irrigation system interventions under the GIZ REACH funded CAPs Project was slowed down upon the onset of the rains and it took tremendous ingenuity and technical maneuverings to manage the construction process to achieve timely completion even within the no-cost extension timeframe. It is therefore crucial to initiate such interventions in good time, most suitably between November and July for the northern zone.
- The child sponsorship attrition is still a worrisome phenomenon considering that it constitutes an essential funding component of AAG's longstanding operations in deprived communities across the country. An overall 804 links lost in 2025 are almost double the rate of attrition rate for 2024 which recorded 411 links loss. The attrition is largely connected to the child links which accounted for 754 (6.3%), as non-child links loss was 50 (3%). It must be noted that Ghana benefited from a

sponsorship links transfer/re-allocation around 2022/2023 which pushed the total links up from 10,752 as at January 2023 to 12,370 by December 2023 and the numbers scaling down again. Though the attrition syndrome has been a longstanding concern, continuous efforts must be made to reduce the rate of attrition. However, it also points to the necessity to intensify institutional fundraising drive, while still making strenuous efforts to maintain the sponsorship income as an operational anchor.

- The exchange rate calculation approach need to be re-examined with some level of precaution against exchange rate loss potential which tend to pose serious budgetary constraints for programmes and projects delivery. AAG's general operations in 2025 suffered this effect and presented a challenging scenario in particularly navigating through the CAPs project funded by GIZ. Notably, huge exchange losses were incurred during the year due to the appreciation of the Ghana Cedis against the GBP, the USD and the Euro. Planned exchange rate for the reporting year was £1.00 to GH¢20.00. Average exchange rate for the year was £1.00 to GHS16.5568.



AAG IN PICTURES



AAG Country Director and Regional Programme staff donating desks to a basic school in the Upper East Region.



AAG Movement group, YUWM leading radio engagement as part of the 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM campaigns in the Bono Region.



AAG and Partners from BothEnds, and Somo International engaging during a stakeholder forum held in Accra, Ghana.



Women groups engaging at Water and Climate Exhibition organised in partnership with Foto4Change in Kpene in the northern region.



AAG and partners engaging smallholder women farmers groups and other participants of the Agroecology Food Fair organised to commemorate World Food Day in the Bono Region.



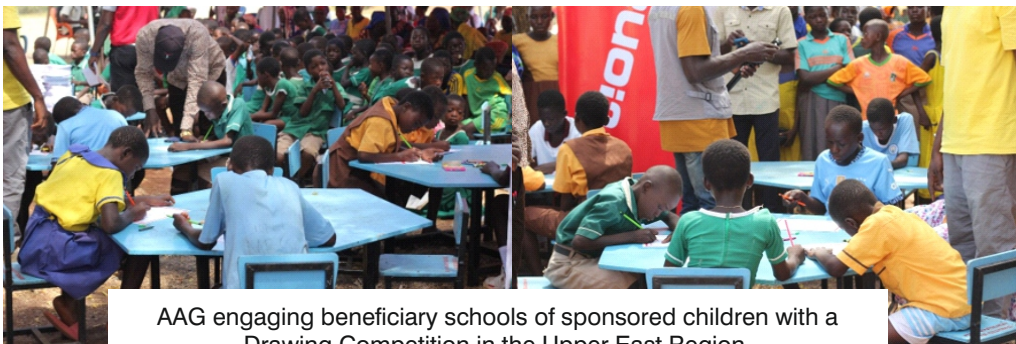
AAG and movement groups from Activista, smallholder women farmers, and the Young Urban Women's Movement leading a basin march as part of the 16 Days of Activism advocacy activities in the Upper East Region.



AAG Country Director and guests engaging students at Exhibition stands of Girls Empowerment and Advocacy Platform(GEAP) 2025 Conference held in Tamale.



Youth Activists from YUWM, Activista and Young Female Platforms(YPF) leading the RIDING FOR JUST TRANSITION Campaign held in Tamale.



AAG engaging beneficiary schools of sponsored children with a Drawing Competition in the Upper East Region.



AAG and Partners during a side event session at the 2026 Future of Energy Conference held by ACEP in Accra



AAG and YUWM Movement group lead discussion on Youth Development interventions as part of International Youth Day Celebration.



AAG and Partners marching at the Flagstaff House, as part of their advocacy and campaigns on women's rights and the call for Anti-Witchcraft Bill passage.



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