

World Vision®



# VISION TIMES

A WORLD VISION GHANA PUBLICATION

**“Every child deserves clean water”**

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Newsletter 2014



## 35TH Anniversary Celebrations

On 27th May, 2014, World Vision Ghana launched a programme of activities at the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons in Accra to mark 35 years of transformational development in Ghana. The event was graced by partners, staff, former staff, government officials and most importantly, children. Also present were some past and present members of the Advisory Council.

Mr. N.A. Ofoe Amegatcher, President of the Ghana Bar Association and immediate past Chairperson of the Advisory Council, chaired the function. The event also brought together former National Directors and Advisory Council members. Also in attendance were two Ministers of State, Hon. Alhaji Collins Dauda, Minister of Water Resources, Works and Housing and Hon. Benita Okity-Dua, Deputy Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection. Their presence, along with several District Chief Executives, underlined World Vision's strong partnership with the government in pursuit of life in all its fullness for every child.

In his statement Mr. Hubert Charles, the National Director, paid tribute to WV's partners. He said, "over the past 35 years, we have established and maintained strong relationships with the Government. We shall continue to build strong bonds with government institutions with a view to ensuring the well-being of our children."

The programme was jointly moderated by Mrs. Efua Ghartey, an Advisory Council member and Ms. Amanda Achaab, a Young Ambassador of World Vision Ghana. Another highlight of the event was the launch of the 35th Anniversary Fundraising Drive in an effort to generate funds locally. There was a rousing praise session led by the effervescent Dansoman Youth Choir, getting everyone on their feet to praise God for 35 years of World Vision in Ghana.



Children and dignitaries at the Launch of the 35th Anniversary celebrations



Past and present members of WV's Advisory Council fraternizing at the service.

## 35TH Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

On the 29th of June, 2014, World Vision Ghana continued celebrating 35 years in Ghana. This time, it was in the form of a Thanksgiving Service held at the Tesano Baptist Church. One of the six core values of World Vision is *WE ARE CHRISTIAN* and consistent with that value, it was imperative to thank God for WV's 35 prosperous years in Ghana, pursuing the vision of life in all its fullness for every child.

The event was also an opportunity for the organization to honour 6 long serving and influential figures in its history. The six men honored were former National Directors Dr. Joseph W. De-Graft Johnson River-

son, Mr. Bismark Nerquaye-Tetteh, Mr. Samuel Asare and former Advisory Council chairpersons Rev. Prof. Seth Andrew Ayithey, Rev. Dr. T.B. Dankwa and Mr. Nene A.O. Amegatcher. They were presented with plaques and citations as a gesture of appreciation for the immense work they did during their tenure with the organization.

## West Africa Regional Leader and Partnership Leader, Field Operations Visit World Vision Ghana



**BETWEEN** 8th - 12th September, 2014, World Vision Ghana had the pleasure of hosting the West Africa Regional Leader, Mrs. Esther Lehmann-Sow and the Partnership Leader, Field Operations, Mr. Dirk Booy. The pair visited Talensi, Bongo and Kassena Nankana operational areas located in the Upper East Region.

They visited three communities during their trip, Yameriga in Talensi District, Atosali in Kassena Nankana District and Bongo Soe in Bongo District. In Yameriga, they interacted with the community on the the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project being implemented there, in Soe, they interacted with the women of the Bongo Soe Shea Butter Co-operative and in Atosali they spent time with the community listening to their stories on how their community has become open defecation free.

They spent time with Christian Leaders, finding out how World Vision works with them and how to further strengthen the partnership. They also spent time with staff, commended them for their commitment and encouraged them to achieve even more in the coming year.

# GIFT-IN-KIND DONATIONS



- Total Donation: US\$ 2,176,700
- Donor Countries: USA, Canada

Gifts-in-kind (GIK) are non-monetary donations made to World Vision by private and institutional donors. These donations come in many forms such as medical supplies, educational materials, and clothing. They are critical for World Vision's work and allow WV to provide ready-to-use materials to people and communities who need them the most.

In fiscal year 14 (1 October, 2013 - 30 September, 2014), World Vision Ghana received nine GIK donations totaling US\$2,176,700. These GIK items were disbursed to over 20 districts.

Special donations were also made by World Vision Ghana in the wake of the Ebola crisis in West Africa. This donation consisted of approximately 405,000 pieces of Ebola Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials valued at 457,000 Ghana Cedis. These were donated to the Ghana



Health Service, with whom World Vision is partnering in Ebola education and sensitization. This donation was made at a press conference at the Head Office of Ghana Health Service and was attended by government officials as well as members of the local media.

Through donations like this, World Vision Ghana hopes to make an immediate, lasting and positive change in the lives of children and the communities in which they live. Our vision for every child is life in all its fullness and these GIKs are another tool in achieving this vision.

## WORLD VISION GHANA SUPPORTS EBOLA PREPAREDNESS AND TRAINING



World Vision recognizes the effort the government, through the Ministry of Health and other partners, is making to improve maternal and child health in particular and the health of citizens in general, especially those in the rural communities of the country. Government's policies on maternal and child health have resulted in declining child and maternal mortality rates since year 1990.

Since 1981, World Vision Ghana has responded to over 19 different

types of emergencies in Ghana. These include the Asuoyaa rail disaster, drought and famine in northern Ghana, upkeep of Togolese refugees at the Klikor camp, the 1994 Northern conflict, CSM outbreak in the three northern regions in 1996/97, and the Ivorian refugees in among others. On the whole, WVG spent over One Million Dollars (\$1million) on these responses which were in the form of food assistance and other non-food items like drugs, tents, blankets, buckets as well as provision of potable water and disinfection of boreholes, among others.

In furtherance of our long standing partnership with the Government, World Vision Ghana is supporting the launch of the campaign against the Ebola Virus Disease by the Government of Ghana. World Vision Ghana's initial support amounting to 661, 250 Ghana Cedis is in support of government and partners' efforts aimed at prevention and management interventions being put in place to contain the disease.

World Vision has a long term commitment to working with the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, and civil society coalitions on health, hygiene, water, sanitation, nutrition and child protection to leverage our experience and expertise to collectively address the treat of Ebola and other health care challenges confronting Ghana. World Vision Ghana is therefore committed to supporting the people and government of Ghana towards an improved health status of children and their families.

# HUMAN IMPACT STORY

**“We don’t see our children falling sick all the time.”**



“I am proud of my community because we are now hailed countrywide as a clean community,” Atampure said, beaming with joy. This was not always the case for the small farming community of Atosali in the Upper East Region. Atosali was once the embodiment of poor hygiene practice.

“We used to ease ourselves in our fields, the same place where we planted our crops in the rainy season. It was worse during the dry season because without the cover of our crops, we used to ease ourselves anywhere convenient,” confessed Atampure. Atampure is a mother of five and a prominent member of the community. “There was no dignity for anyone in the community. We used to see ourselves defecating almost every day and that wasn’t the worst of it.”

**“There was no dignity for anyone in the community.”**

Due to their poor hygiene practice, community members, especially the children, were falling sick at an alarming rate. This problem was exacerbated by the lack of water in the community. “We used to walk two kilometers to a neighbouring community to fetch water. On days that they had none, it was an arduous five kilometer walk to a dam to fetch dirty water,” Adongo, another female community leader chimed in.

Diarrhoea and vomiting were rampant and they had no way of cleaning their contaminated crops. Washing dirty crops with dirty water was the only option. “Our hygiene practices were very poor,” Adongo



added, “we didn’t even have suck-aways in our bathrooms, leaving water to stagnate and breed mosquitoes right at our doorsteps.” Faced with a plethora of health problems, a lack of clean water and close to no concept of proper hygiene practices, the people of Atosali grew accustomed to a life of poor health.

In October, 2012, the community approached World Vision’s Kassena Nankana Area Development Programme (ADP). During the ADP’s baseline survey in the district, World Vision staff visited the community and recognized the enormous needs in the community. Expediently, the community was identified as a priority and a needs assessment was done. Based on the analysis, provisions were made to site a borehole in the community to provide them with clean water. As a result of the integrated water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) approach of World Vision, the community also received extensive education and sensitisation on the importance of sanitation and hygiene. Realising the importance of this education and the transformation it could bring to their community, the people of Atosali took advantage of the opportunity.

Today, Atosali is a paradigm of sanitation and hygiene, not only in the Upper East Region, but in the country. “We decided as a community, after the education we received, to implement the initiatives and suggestions World Vision brought us,” Atampure said humbly, “and we made sure we adhered to a ‘no latrine, no water’ bye-law. We were trained building our own latrines and because the materials were available locally no household had an excuse for not building theirs”

**“No latrine,  
no water”**

“The elders of the community approved and enforced the bye-laws and those who violated them were sanctioned,” added Samson, a community leader and member of the community’s WASH committee.

“So much has changed in our community. Everyone keeps their homes, and the community as a whole, clean. We even go to neighboring communities to help them clean their environment and educate them on hygiene and sanitation practices,” Atampure said elatedly. “We don’t see our children falling sick all the time anymore. I am proud of my community because we are now hailed countrywide as a clean community, an open-defecation free (ODF) community.”





# Child Health Now Campaign

## World Vision Ghana Launches CHN Campaign

World Vision Ghana’s Child Health Now campaign was officially launched on January 28, 2014. The ceremony attracted over 300 participants across the length and breadth of the country including, Ministers of State, Parliamentarians, Divisional Heads of Departments, Municipal and District Chief Executives, Civil Society Organizations, World Vision Ghana’s Advisory Council members, children, faith based organisations and religious leaders.

The campaign was launched by the then Minister of Health, Hon. Sherry Ayittey. In her keynote address, delivered on behalf of the First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, H.E Lordina Mahama, she stated the Min-



CHN Coordinator, Micah Olad, at the launch of the campaign

istry’s commitment and efforts to reduce maternal and child deaths. She commended WVG for its contributions as a major development partner in the country. She announced government’s unflinching support for the campaign saying “We welcome the implementation of Child Health Now Campaign, by the campaign’s definition, it is a collective call by all to save lives.” The launch in Ghana has been adjudged one of the best due to its close collaboration and partnership with various ministries and legislature.

**SURVIVE  
5!**

## Highlights of CHN Global Week of Action



Children participate in Global Week of Action Health Walk

This year’s Global Week of Action (GWA) celebration witnessed over 732,000 people mobilized for the survival of children under five. This in-

cluded mothers, staff, churches, children and civil



CHN Coordinator, Micah Olad and Health Specialist, Raymond Owusu, take the campaign to national television

society groups in various WVG operational areas and online campaigners on social media took a stand to fight maternal and child deaths to mark the celebration. In addition, a television discussion

on Maternal and Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) was conducted on Multi TV with a target audience of 16 million viewers as well as a radio phone-in talk show in Saboba District. One of the exciting activity was the collaboration with Christian Council of Ghana to pray for vulnerable children and mothers.

### CHN Meets Parliamentarians

World Vision Ghana's (WVG) Child Health Now Campaign including the Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH), Action Aid Ghana, Ghana Registered Midwives Association, Project Fives Alive and Faith Based Organizations met with members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health (PSCH) to present a position paper which called on government to increase the health budget and commit adequate resources to maternal and child health in line with the Abuja Declaration of April, 2001.

The Vice Chairman of PSCH, Hon. Wisdom



Mr. Hubert Charles, National Director, presenting the position paper to Members of Parliament

Gidisu who received the position paper in the presence of other 19 other parliamentarians, acknowledged that Ghana has not yet attained the 2015 MDG and that government was working relentlessly to address issues of maternal and child health. A communiqué was issued to the Presidency including the Ministries of Finance and Health to ensure that issues of maternal and child health are addressed in the FY15 budget planning exercise.



A Young Ambassador presents her argument during debate on the rights of the child

### World Vision Ghana Celebrate National Children's Day 2014

National Children's Day is an annual event celebrated to commemorate the rights of the child. World Vision Ghana, being a child-focused organization, collaborated with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to hold a national durbar in Tamale from 15th to 19th September, 2014. The theme of the celebration was "Quality

Education, Every Child's Right" and the Guest of Honor was Hon. Dela Sowah, Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

Over 250 children participated in various activities during the celebration. Among these were cultural displays, discussions on keeping children safe online, debate on the rights of the child, radio discussions on contemporary children's issues on Savanna and Kesmi Radio and presentation of a communique developed by the children as an advocacy tool.

At the end of the durbar, the children highlighted many action points for the promotion of child rights. Chief among these are enforcement of child protection laws, expansion of school feeding programme and promoting inclusive education to cater for the needs of children with disability. At the end of the day, the children felt empowered and resolved to take forward the issues they have raised with the local authorities.

# Face of World Vision Ghana



Past and present Advisory Council members cut the 35th Anniversary cake



A girl washes her hands the proper way with clean running water and soap



Mr. Hubert Charles, the National Director, counsels and encourages child parliamentarians after their session.



Mrs. Efua Gharthey, an Advisory Council member, joins a child in a traditional dance, 'adowa', to the delight of all.



A child plays with a hacky sack with some sponsors from Giving-in-Motion.



Prof. Lorna Renner, an Advisory Council member, shares a moment with some children.



A young boy pumps water out a newly inaugurated borehole in his community.



Mr. Hubert Charles makes a donation of medical supplies to the then Minister of Health, Hon. Sherry Ayittey.



Mrs. Lehmann-Sow, West Africa Regional Leader, shares a moment with a nursing mother



Children take a group photo with visitors from World Vision Spain.



Mr. Dirk Booy examines water purification tablets with WV Ghana staff at the GI-WASH office.



Dr. (Mrs.) Gloria Quansah and Mrs. Girty Appiah examine Ebola IEC materials after the presentation ceremony at the Ghana Health Service, Head Office.

**“OUR VISION FOR EVERY CHILD, LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS;  
OUR PRAYER FOR EVERY HEART, THE WILL TO MAKE IT SO”**

## World Vision Ghana Annual Staff Spiritual Retreat



Rev. Dr. Joyce Aryee delivered a powerful message to staff.

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 staff of World Vision Ghana converged at the Church of Pentecost Convention Centre in Kasoa, for a one-week spiritual retreat. The theme for the retreat was “**EXCELLING IN SERVICE TO HUMANITY AND AS UNTO CHRIST**” key messages were delivered by Rev Fr. Prof Anthony Afful-Broni and Rev. Dr. Joyce Aryee.

The speakers emphasized the importance of staff spiritual formation and growth as a driver to ensure the well-being of children. They urged staff to see themselves as playing leadership roles and to take strength from the example of Jesus.

Sporting activities, such as football and volleyball, and presentation of service awards, wrapped up the event.



### CONTACT US

**ADDRESS:** #3 Kotei Robertson Street, North Industrial Area,  
Kaneshie, Accra, Ghana. PMB, Accra North, Ghana

**TEL:** +233 302 227216 / 232603

**FAX:** +233 302 232602

**E-MAIL:** [ghana@wvi.org](mailto:ghana@wvi.org)

**WEBSITE:** [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

**FACEBOOK:** World Vision Ghana

**TWITTER:** WorldVisionGH