

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

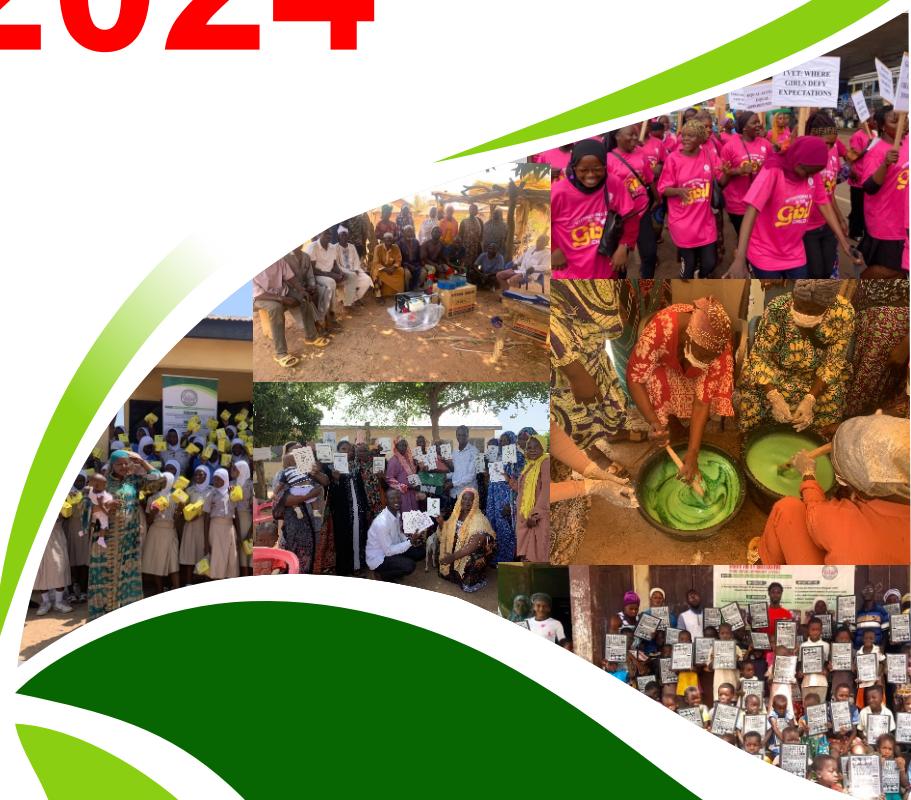


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1.1 Introduction

The Fifty Fifty Initiative for Development (FFID) is a non-profit organization registered with the Registrar General's Department and the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection as required by the statutes of Ghana. The organization exist to improve the wellbeing of marginalized populations through Education, Skills Development and Advocacy in Ghana. FFID implements programs in five thematic areas: Inclusive Governance Program (IGP), Livelihood and Economic Development (LED) Girl-Child Education Program (GiCEP) Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WASHH) and Women in Peace-building (WIP). The organization collaborates with private and public sector actors to achieve this goal.

Since its inception, FFID has supported over 2,500 smallholder farmers to increase productivity through the provision of extension services, inputs and financial services. Over 13 communities and rural-based schools have also been supported to access safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. More importantly, gender equality promotion initiatives that has been undertaken over the years

has contributed to increased visibility of women and girls in private and public spaces within the operational regions and communities.

This report seeks to highlights key achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the 2024 fiscal year and plans for the upcoming year.

2.1 Livelihood and Economic Development (LED)

This program aims at improving food security of smallholder farmers and financial inclusion of vulnerable population especially women. The program seeks to increase crop yields and incomes of smallholder farmers, agribusiness and petty traders. To achieve these aspirations, FFID facilitates access to knowledge and skills on sustainable agricultural practices, financial services and vocational skills training among others. The key achievements of the LED program during the 2024 fiscal year are summarized below:

2.2 Achievements

1. Strengthening of farmer-based organizations (FBOs): FBOs are the conduit through which program activities are implemented. Five FBOs with a total membership of 103 were established at Zua, Kparigu and Boamasa communities in the West Mamprusi Municipality and supported to develop

constitutions to guide the conduct of members. The leadership of the various FBOs successfully organized their members to participate in various trainings and events organized by organization. Through the FBOs leadership, peer learning was fostered and unity of purpose developed and sustained throughout the 2024 farming season

2. Established farmer field school

(FFS): FFID's commitment in ensuring that farmers acquired relevant knowledge and skills on good agronomic and sustainable agriculture practices established two farmer field schools (FFS) at Zua and Kparigu communities in the West Mamprusi Municipal (WMM). At the FFS, hand-on trainings on improved farming techniques were carried out. Over 1,500 farmers participated in FFS days throughout the farming season.



Agric. officer given training on CA at kparigu community west mamprusi municipal

3. Provision of tractor services:

FFID facilitated the ploughing of one acre of land for 103 members of the newly formed FBOs in three

communities. The timely provision of the services enabled farmers to plant their seeds on time. The farmers were also provided with improved seeds, such as cowpea and soya beans, along with insecticides to enhance their farming activities. These initiatives aimed to boost agricultural productivity, reduce extreme hunger and improve the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.



Supervision of ploughing for FBOs at zoa in west mamprusi municipal

4. Training and adoption of sustainable agriculture: FFID promotes Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) in order to improve soil health and increase crop yields. At least 1,500 farmers were trained on the importance of zero or less tillage, crop rotation, cover cropping, row planting, and integrated pest management. The monitoring visits reports shows that at least 45% of the participants have adopted more than three CA and Good Agronomic (GA) practices they learned from the training. With the progressive adoption rate, it is hoped that the yields of farmers would increase sustainably over time.



FBOs sowing in Rows at Boamasa in west mamprusi municipal

5. Increased crop yields. An assessment of the yields of farmers were conducted at the end of the 2024 farming season to ascertain the level of production following the adopting of CA and GAP. The exercise which took place at Zuo revealed that on average, farmers cultivated four and half bags of cowpea (4 ½) per acre as compared to two bags in previous seasons and prior to FFID's support.



District Coordinator FBOs Farms at Boamasa in west mamprusi municipal

6. Support to off-season farming: Kparigu and Boamasa are among the few notable communities where dry season farming of vegetables such as onions, lettuce, cabbage, pepper, and okra takes place in the WMM. Limited access to irrigation facilities has however impeded their activities over the years. In response, FFID donated two (2) water pump machines,

improved vegetable seeds to over 61 farmers. The farmers were also trained on the production calendar of various vegetables and the relevant techniques therein. The support has enhanced efficiency, improved crop performance and earnings from vegetable production.



Handing over of water pump machines to Dry season farmers at Kparigu community

7. Skills Development: FFID remains committed to empowering vulnerable women by providing them with the skills and resources needed to achieve financial independence. This initiative, aimed at supporting women in the Sagnarigu Municipal area, has produced significant results, enabling participants to gain both valuable knowledge and the means to start their own businesses. Twenty (20) women from various Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in the Sagnarigu Municipal area were trained on the production of liquid soap, antiseptics, and bleach. Madam Balila Shaibu, a seasoned professional was engaged to conduct the training. The participants were given certificates and start-up kits to help launch and boost their businesses. Follow-up visits have shown that 15 of the women are now successfully operating their soap-

making businesses, generating a steady incomes.



Vulnerable women Trained on liquid soap making at Katariga community

8. Disbursement of FIP Loans. To ensure adequate access to affordable financial services by petty traders and women farmers, FFID disbursed an amount of GHS 20,000 through the financial inclusion program (FIP) to two (2) VSLA to augment the funds in the saving boxes. This innovative approach has increased loan funds to VSLA members and boosted their respective businesses and profits.

9. Formation of new VSLA groups: Staff of FFID sensitized and formed new VSLA groups at Sagnarigu Kukuo under Sagnarigu municipal and Gumo in the Kumbungu district. The groups were made up of 50 members consisting of 42 females and eight males. The groups were sensitized on appropriate VSLA management and were supported with VSLA start-up kits consisting of passbooks, bowls, money box, padlocks, stamp and stamp pads etc. The groups expressed their excitement and assured the organization of their readiness to support and cooperate with FFID to achieve mutual goals.



Provision of VSLA start up kits at sagnerigu Kukuo community

3.1 Girl-Child Education and Protection (GiCEP):

The GiCEP program seeks to motivate parents, and guardians to give equal opportunities to boys and girls by eliminating all forms of impediments to formal education of girls. The key objectives of the program are; to increase enrolment, retention and completion of girls in schools and to reduce gender-based violence. The key achievements of this program during the 2024 fiscal year are:

3.2 Achievements

1. Provision of Teaching and Learning Materials: Students in rural-based schools often lack access to essential teaching and learning materials, which contributes to low academic performance. In response, FFID provided slates, exercise books, pens, and other materials to over 277 pupils across various schools in the WMM area, including kindergarten, lower, and upper primary levels. The support provided has contributed to noticeable improvement in the pupils' reading and writing skills.



Provision of TLMs to students at Tauhidya Primary school

2. Promotion of Science and Mathematics Education: Students performance in science and mathematics has generally been low in the target regions and communities. Many students have developed some fear towards studying these subjects. To curb this anxiety and re-orient the psyche of students towards Science and Mathematics education, FFID organized termly quiz competitions in these subjects at the Walewale Girls Model School and Zugu R/C School in the WMM and Kumbungu district respectively. The participants in the competitions were awarded exercise books, mathematical sets, sanitary pads, pencils and pens.



Ongoing quiz competition at Zugu J.H.S.

3. Empowerment of Girl's: Girl's education is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone to social, economic and cultural development. However, thousands of girls around the country face significant barriers to accessing quality education due to systematic discrimination, societal norms and other challenges. Girls' clubs have been formed in several beneficiary schools and these Clubs has raised awareness of girl's rights and the dangers associated to their education. The girls' clubs have also been used as a medium to sensitize them on the importance of female education and available structures or establishment to which issues of gender related violence can be channeled in order to reduce or curb gender-based violence in schools.

4. Promotion of Girl Child Education: As part of the organization efforts in promoting girl child education, the organization collaborated with the cultural unit of the GES in the WMM and produced a very well organized and educative drama centered on bad peer influence, early marriage and teenage pregnancy as well as importance of educating the girl child. The drama was telecast at Yama R/C School with the presence of parents, students and teachers. Many lessons were shared among students, parents, teachers and staff of the organization. Madam Dahamatu-Board member of FFID who is a retired educationist also took the opportunity to counsel the audience on issues pertaining to girls' education.

5. Promoting maintenance culture: To ensure sustainability of its interventions, regular visits are made to communities and target schools. It was revealed during the visit that some of the dual desk supplied the Yama R/C school last year were broken. FFID collaborated with the management of the school to hire a local carpenter to repair the broken furniture. Going forward, FFID will work with the school authorities to agree on a maintenance schedule and how to fund it.

4.1 Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WASHH)

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation has been a major challenge for many rural communities. Majority of rural communities in the operational areas draw water from unprotected wells, streams, rivers and dug outs. Many water borne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery and cholera are pervasive as a result. Rural schools are not spared from the scarcity of safe drinking water thereby compelling students and learners to absent from schools. Contact hours or duration of teaching and learning are severely impeded when water is hard to come by within the vicinity of the schools. FFID seeks to reverse this trend by improving access of rural communities and schools to safely managed water, sanitation

and hygiene services in tandem with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6). The key achievement of this program during the 2024 fiscal years are summarized below:

4.2 Achievements

1. Three communities were supported to rehabilitate water wells and hand pumps in the operational communities in the WMM. This has increased access to safe drinking water to over 2,370 inhabitants.

2. Sensitization on Menstrual Hygiene Management: Female students in Katariga Junior High School in the Saganaigu municipality were sensitized on menstrual Hygiene management and were given sanitary pads as well as the school for to cater for emergency case.

3. Provision of sanitary facilities: To ensure safely managed sanitation, three of the operational communities were supplied with dust bins and garbage containers. The communities were also sensitized on safe disposal of liquid and solid waste within their respective communities.



5.1 Inclusive Governance Program (IGP)

The goal of this program is to promote equitable representation of women in decision-making processes in local governance. Though women and girls constitute majority of the Ghanaian population 50.7% they are woefully under represented in local and national government structures where policies and decisions pertaining to the allocation and use of resources are taken. In addition, the voices of women in household decision making processes and resource utilization are undermined by socio-cultural norms.

The IGP program is aimed at reversing all forms of discrimination against women and girls by building the social capital of women to actively participate in decision making process at all level of society. It also aims at supporting local government structures to initiate, adopt and roll out policies and programs that benefit people of all genders. The key achievements of the program are summarized below:

5.2 Achievements

1. Support to Women Network: The women network was supported with funds and logistics to mobilize their members and to hold regular meetings. Action plans were developed and rolled out. Key

activities of the network included gender education and peaceful co-existence. The network members conducted outreach on the need for peaceful election and this has contributed in no small way for a peaceful and non-violence election during the December 7th presidential and parliamentary elections in the operational areas.

2. Gender Sensitization: As a gender sensitive organization, FFID staff conducted regular gender education through community durbars and radio. They sensitization focused in the need to give equal opportunity to all irrespective of sex. Communities were also sensitized on the need for the involvement and participation of women in household and community decision making processes. Through this platforms communities are beginning to appreciate the value of gender equality in all aspect of life.



FFID staff and various women Leaders at Walewale town

6.1 Organizational Development

A number of organizational development initiatives were undertaken during the year to improve the efficiency of the organization. Key among them are:

1. Staff capacity development: The organization has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen its operations. A field-based officer was recruited and posted to the north-east office. This has improved the frequency of interactions with FBOs and other stakeholders in the region. The Finance Officer also received training on financial management systems and this has improved efficiency in data management and financial reporting.

2. Communication and visibility: To ensure that we communicate effectively the impact of our work to external audience through our website, we enlisted an IT professional to provide training on website management, how to upload relevant content and maintain the organization's online presence. The training has empowered staff with the requisite skills to collate, vet and upload information on the organization's website more frequently than before.

3. Resource mobilization: Recognizing the importance of financial stability for the continuation and expansion of its

programs, the organization has intensified its search for diverse funding sources. This includes approaching potential donors, applying for grants, and exploring partnerships with both local and international organizations. Two potential donors were identified last during the year and proposal submitted to them for funding consideration.

4. Logistics and office space: Mobility has been a challenge for the organization due to the wide geographic spread of our operational areas. To address this, we acquired additional motorbike which has enabled us to visit the target communities more frequently. Additionally, one laptop was procured to enhance productivity. Last but not the least, FFID has commenced the construction of an office space in Tamale to host the headquarters of the organization. The cost of renting office space is becoming extremely high. The construction of its own office space will reduce operational cost, enhance legitimacy and promote sustainability of the organization in the long run.

5. Collaboration and networking: FFID recognizes that its success in driving meaningful change cannot be achieved in isolation. As an organization committed to sustainable development, FFID actively collaborates and partners

with various government agencies (Ghana Education Service, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of health, Technical and Vocational Educational Training -TVET etc) to enhance the effectiveness and reach out its interventions. These partnerships allowed for the pooling of resources, expertise and knowledge, and ensuring that FFID's interventions are well-coordinated and aligned with national development goals to achieve the desired impact



Celebration of international day of girl child at Tamale

Partnership Director (RPD) of VVF has helped shape the manner in which resources were given to beneficiaries without concrete commitment and contributions.

1. Monitoring Visits: Regular monitoring visits were conducted to project site to interact with farmers to address their concerns and give feedback to improve their activities. The interactions between the organizations and beneficiaries' has bolstered relationship and trust among them. Besides, the feedback obtained from the Regional

7.1 Challenges

1. Funding constraint:

Availability of funds to roll out certain program initiatives and also few farmers were supported during this year.

2. Socio-cultural beliefs: Some parents still believe that the kitchen is the place for the girl child and for that matter do not find it necessary to give them equal opportunities as boys. Through community sensitization and use of role models communities are beginning to

appreciate the worth of women and girls in the socio-economic development of households, communities and nation as a whole.

3. Capacity development: Limited access to professional development due to high cost of professional training programs amidst limited available funding. FFID will explore sourcing organizational strengthening support from its donors moving forward.

8.1 Plans for Incoming Year - 2025

1. Expand access to girls' education: FFID intends to partner with stakeholders to reduce barriers to Girls education and advocate for policies that favors education for all.
2. Expand the coverage of the FIP to cover two additional VSLAs.
3. Expand the food security program to cover two FBOs.
4. Invest in staff professional and capacity development and operations.
5. Build an effective monitoring and evaluation scheme to track changes and impact etc.

9.1 Conclusion:

The 2024 general elections generated a cloud of uncertainties and anxieties among many citizens. In spite of these fears, the organization managed to achieve significant milestones. Over 95% of the planned activities were satisfactorily achieved. The Financial inclusion and Agriculture programs were expanded to put smiles in the faces of many vulnerable populations in northern

Ghana. The procurement of essential logistic including motor-bike and laptops enhanced the performance of staff. More importantly, the effective collaboration with diverse public and private sectors ensured program harmonization and efficiency.

We look forward to collaborating with you as individuals, groups and organizations in the coming year. Happy New Year!

APPENDIXES

SUCCESS AND IMPACT STORIES

FFID has achieved numerous success stories across its interventions this year. For the purpose of the annual report, the organization will highlight only two stories.

STORY 1:

ACQUISITION OF EMPLOYABLE SKILLS AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE. THE STORY OF SURAIYA ABDULAI.

Abdulai Suraiya, a participant in the liquid soap-making program located at Katariga in the Sagnarigu Municipal, has experienced a significant transformation in her life since completing the training organized by the Fifty Fifty Initiative for Development (FFID). Prior to this initiative, Suraiya struggled to afford basic necessities, often finding it difficult to purchase food and unable to save money in her Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). After acquiring the skills necessary for soap production, Suraiya has not only become proficient in making liquid soap, but is also reaping the benefits of her new found abilities. She now generates a steady income that allows her to meet her daily needs and contribute to her savings. Suraiya highlighted that the soap she produces is invaluable, as it serves multiple purposes in her household, including washing clothes and cleaning her living space. This has alleviated some of the financial stress she previously faced.

Suraiya expressed her gratitude to FFID, stating, “Thank you FFID for the support given to me; I can now feed myself and save money in my VSLA for future use.” Her story exemplifies how skill development programs like this, can empower individuals, enabling them to achieve financial independence and improve their quality of life.

STORY 2:

CLIMATE CHANGE ADOPTION- A TOOL TO FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY-THE STORY OF ISSAHAKU SEIDU.

Issahaku Seidu, a smallholder farmer from the Zua Community in the West Mamprusi municipality of Ghana, faced significant challenges in providing for his family due to low yields and productivity. For years, his soya beans and cowpea crops yielded barely enough to sustain his household or generate income due to poor soils, low-quality seeds, difficulty in access timely ploughing services etc.

A turning point in Seidu's life came when he received support from the Fifty Fifty Initiative for Development. This program provided him with high-quality and drought resistant seeds, organic fertilizers, and ploughing services. Additionally, Seidu underwent training in conservation agricultural practices, including cover cropping and crop diversification.

With these resources and knowledge, he planted his crops anew. The results were remarkable: Seidu's soya bean harvest tripled from 2 bags to 6 bags per acre. This increase not only improved his family's food security—providing them with enough food year-round—but also allowed him to sell surplus produce at the local market, generating sufficient income to send his children to school.

Reflecting on his transformation, Seidu remarked, “I never imagined my farm could produce so much. With the right support, I have not only fed my family but also built a future for my children.” His experience highlights the profound impact that empowering smallholder farmers with essential resources can have on their lives and communities. Today, Seidu serves as an inspiration to fellow farmers, encouraging them to adopt modern agricultural techniques for a sustainable future.

MOTTO:

Gender Equality, Foundation For Community Development

VISION

A Society Where People Of All Genders Have Equal Access And Opportunities To Resources And Power

MISSION

To Champion Gender Equality Initiatives Through Education, Skills Development And Advocacy In Ghana

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