



USAID | GHANA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ANNUAL REPORT

Fostering Sustainable and Productive Partnerships
Fiscal Year 2016



OUR MISSION

We partner to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity.

OUR APPROACH

Partner to advance our Mission. Work as one Team. Model our Core Values. Innovate Continuously. Deliver Results.

OUR CORE VALUES

PASSION FOR MISSION

We come to work to foster sustainable development and advance human dignity globally.

EXCELLENCE

We strive for efficiency, effectiveness, and meaningful results across our work.

INTEGRITY

We are honest and transparent, accountable for our efforts, and maintain a consistently high moral standard.

RESPECT

We demonstrate respect for one another, our partners, and the people we serve in communities around the world.

EMPOWERMENT

We elevate all voices striving for global economic, environmental, and social progress.

INCLUSION

We value our differences and draw strength from diversity.

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

We seek to improve ourselves and our work continually through reflection and evaluation.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the United States Agency for International Development in Ghana (USAID/Ghana), I am pleased to present our fiscal year 2016 Annual Report, which highlights our activities and achievements during the period from October 2015 through September 2016.

We work in four areas: Economic Growth; Health, Population, and Nutrition; Education; and Democracy, Rights and Governance. Our activities in these areas further the objectives set out in our Country Development Cooperation Strategy. This strategy articulates our vision, and provides a blueprint for achieving the shared goals of the Government of Ghana, development partners, civil society, and more. It has one overarching goal: accelerating Ghana's transition to established middle income status.

2016 was truly a landmark year for Ghana. We spent much of the year working with our partners to ensure the December general election was free, fair, and peaceful. We partnered with the Electoral Commission of Ghana to improve its communication with voters and overall effectiveness. We collaborated with civil society to ensure the elections were inclusive—and to support a robust election observation program. And we worked with religious leaders, traditional leaders, and communities to promote peaceful conflict resolution. I was privileged to witness the election and ensuing peaceful transition of power between political parties last December. This cemented Ghana's status as a role model of peaceful democracy.

In 2016, I was proud to see our partnerships make a real impact on communities. We helped more than 69,000 farmers raise their incomes by more than 50 percent. We facilitated more than \$115 million in private sector investment in Ghana's agriculture sector, and helped bring 192 megawatts of electricity generation projects to financial close. Over 10,000 people have gained access to improved sanitation—more than a five-fold increase from fiscal year 2015. And together with the Ministry of Education, we ramped up our efforts to get all Ghanaian children reading—so every child has a fair chance to thrive.

Partnerships are central to all of the work we do, and the key to sustainable development. We partner with the Ghanaian government at the national, regional and district levels, as well as with Ghanaian civil society and communities—with a focus on building their capacity, so they can drive development for the long term. We also partner with other governments and donors, universities and research institutions, and the private sector. This includes both Ghanaian and American entities.

During my time here, I have been wholly inspired by the partners I have met. I met chiefs who are spurring their communities to build latrines and stamp out open defecation. I met female farmers learning new techniques to help other women increase their yields. I met brave people with disabilities fighting to topple prejudices. I met communities banding together to hold their leaders accountable. I met school teachers, headmasters, and other educators working to improve school management and ensure every pupil gets a quality education. These people are the key to Ghana's future.

This report will profile some of these people, and discuss our activities and results. It will also give some information about our partnerships. To all our partners, I urge you to read this report with an eye to best practices we can continue, and ways to make our partnerships even more effective. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you to support empowered communities and foster broad-based inclusive development and growth in Ghana for the long term that leaves no one behind. Ayekoo!



Andrew Karas
Mission Director
USAID/Ghana



HISTORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO GHANA

U.S. - Ghana technical cooperation dates back to the year of Ghana's independence from colonial rule. On June 3, 1957, Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, and Peter Rutter, Charge d'Affaires of the United States to Ghana, signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement establishing cooperation and exchange of technical knowledge and skills between the two countries. Throughout the years we have established strategic partnerships with the private sector; encouraged innovation to unlock development constraints, and strengthened Ghanaian institutions. Today, USAID is one of the largest development partners in Ghana, and works to strengthen inclusive, democratic governance; spur sustainable and broadly shared economic growth; increase educational outcomes; and improve health and wellbeing. Throughout the years, USAID has helped improve the lives of millions of Ghanaians.




OUR COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY (CDCS)

Our programs help increase agricultural production, employment opportunities, and incomes for the poor; improve the quality of health services and education; and strengthen local government institutions. We work in partnership with the Government of Ghana, civil society, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations and communities to reach these goals.


OUR WORK

Democracy, Human Rights and Governance



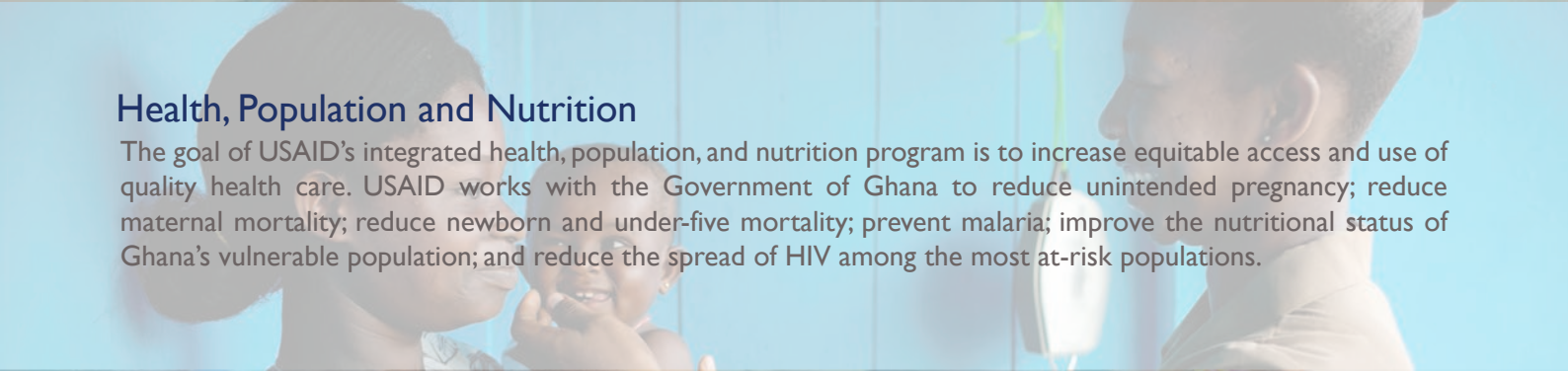
USAID's Democracy, Rights, and Governance program works to strengthen local governance, boost accountability, fight corruption, increase the capacity of civil society organizations to advocate on behalf of citizens, ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections, and support the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in political processes.

Economic Growth and Trade




USAID's Economic Growth program works to realize sustainable and broadly shared economic growth in Ghana by increasing agricultural productivity, boosting access to markets, supporting macroeconomic policy reform, improving access to technology, capital, and information, and improving natural resource management.

Health, Population and Nutrition



The goal of USAID's integrated health, population, and nutrition program is to increase equitable access and use of quality health care. USAID works with the Government of Ghana to reduce unintended pregnancy; reduce maternal mortality; reduce newborn and under-five mortality; prevent malaria; improve the nutritional status of Ghana's vulnerable population; and reduce the spread of HIV among the most at-risk populations.

Education



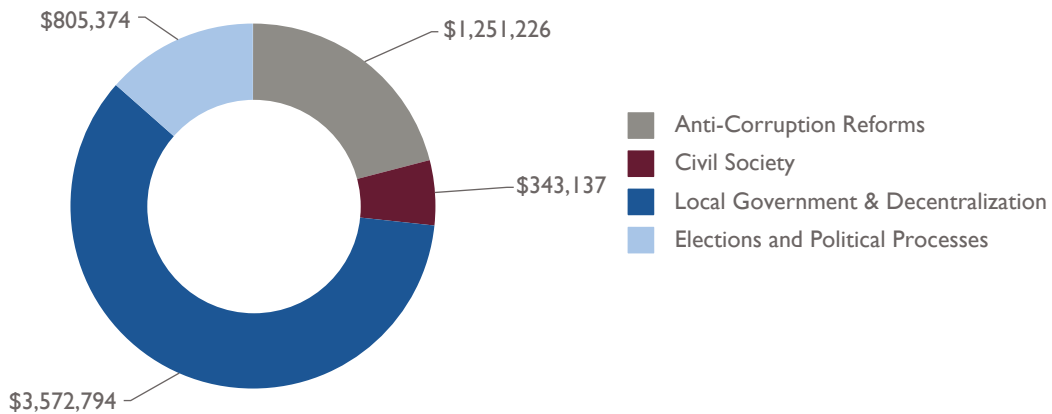
Among the largest development partners in Ghana's education sector, USAID's Education program works in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service to increase access to and improve the quality of basic education, with an emphasis on improving reading performance in public primary schools.

USAID FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO

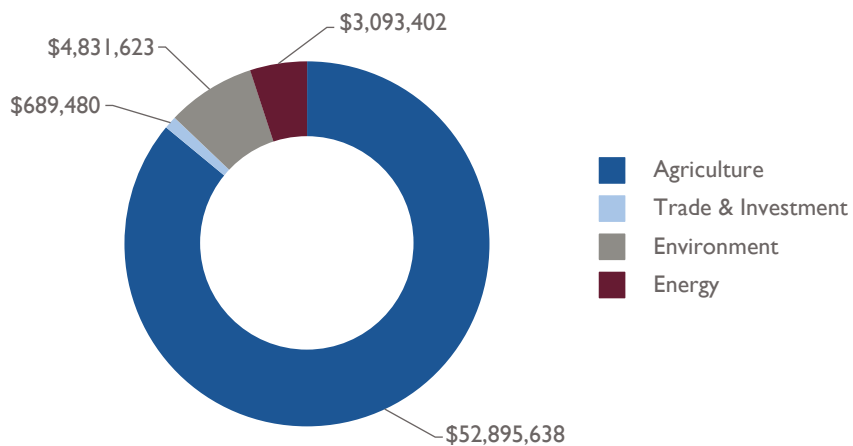
FY 2016 Disbursements

*Representing Funding from FY 2016 and Prior Years

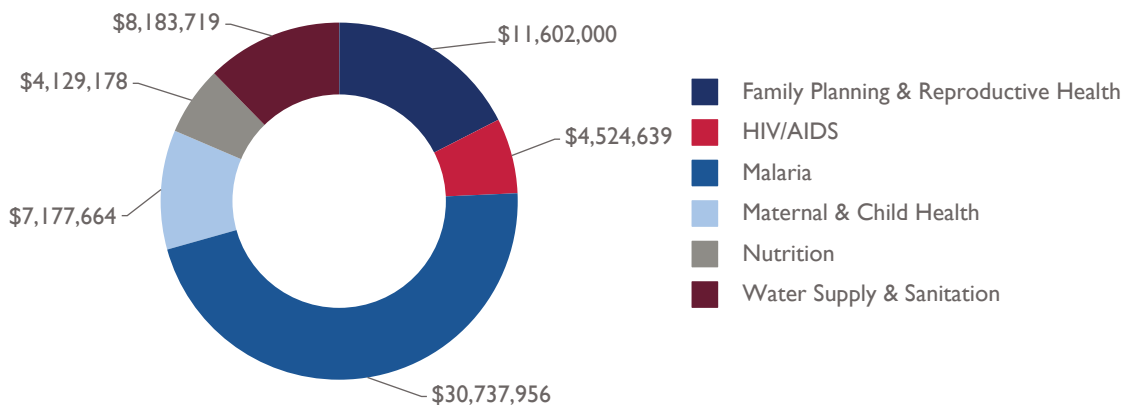
Democracy & Rights



Economic Growth



Health

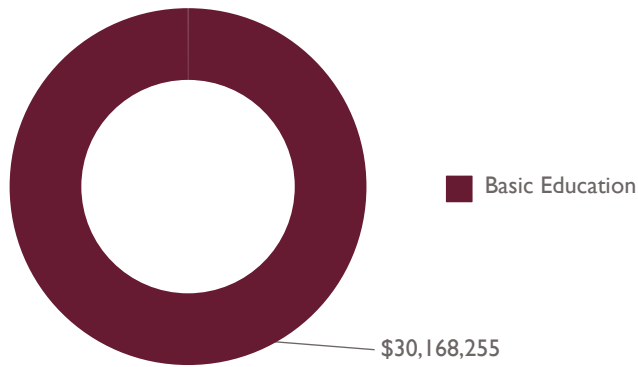


USAID FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO

FY 2016 Disbursements

*Representing Funding from FY 2016 and Prior Years

Education





DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

USAID/Ghana’s Democracy, Rights, and Governance Program works to increase government accountability and transparency and reduce corruption. It does so in partnership with the Government of Ghana, district assemblies and civil society. All activities support the inclusion of women, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups in political processes.

Overview

Ghana is a vibrant democracy with active political parties, a history of peaceful political transitions, and freedom of speech and association. The last presidential election, in December 2016, was rated free and fair by international observers, and culminated in a peaceful transfer of power between parties. However, national and local governance systems are weak and need to be more accountable to citizens. Ghana’s efforts to reduce poverty depend on having a government that is accessible, responsive, and accountable at the local and national levels. In 2016, we achieved the following:



Strengthened Local Governance

USAID works with local government institutions to increase their responsiveness to the needs of citizens, and to help them generate more revenue, and to improve service delivery.

- Supported decentralization and improved service delivery by building the capacity of district assemblies to effectively collect revenue;
- Supported target district assemblies, regional agriculture development units, and regional coordinating councils to improve agricultural governance.

Increased Government Accountability & Combatting Corruption

USAID works to strengthen government accountability for improved development outcomes.

- Partnered with the Ghana Audit Service to conduct performance audits of capital development projects;
- Supported the Public Accounts Committee of Ghana’s Parliament and citizen associations to reduce corruption, strengthen incentives and improve accountability;
- Trained civil society organizations to advocate for legislative change and report corruption;
- Established an electronic platform for citizens to report corruption.

Strengthened Election Institutions And Processes

USAID works to strengthen electoral institutions and processes.

- Supported the Electoral Commission to institute reforms, improve communication with citizens, and train more than 100,000 political party polling agents ahead of the 2016 election;
- Mobilized civil society to advocate for electoral reform and educate voters on electoral processes;
- Supported the deployment of 4,000 domestic election observers, and a parallel vote tabulation to independently verify results of the 2016 general election;
- Mobilized clerics, traditional leaders, and other influential community members into early warning groups that responded to potential electoral violence;
- Supported multi-media campaign promoting peace around the 2016 elections.

Empowered Vulnerable Populations

USAID works to safeguard the rights and promote the inclusion and participation of vulnerable populations, especially women and persons with disabilities.

- Engaged 165 women's associations to advocate for improved agricultural development opportunities for women in Ghana;
- Supported the Ghana Federation of Disabilities Organizations to build the capacity of 7 national, 10 regional, and 30 grassroots disabled persons' organizations;
- Supported civic education for women, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented voters in Ghana's 2016 general election.





FY 2016 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Democracy, Rights and Governance



Increased Government Accountability

Conducted **50** performance audits of district assemblies on infrastructural projects

3,476 citizens participated for the first time in town hall meetings to review reports held by district assemblies



Strengthened Election Processes

Supported the deployment of **7,855** domestic election observers, jointly with the Embassy of the Netherlands for Ghana's 2016 Elections

Provided civic and voter education to **115,054** individuals in the 2016 elections



Combatted Corruption

Provided **205** government officials with anticorruption training

GHANA DECIDES: A LOOK INTO USAID'S SUPPORT FOR GHANA'S ELECTIONS



“It is a blessing to have a country that chooses its leaders through ballot, not bullet.”

- Ghanaian Twitter User: @Tuffour

GHANA DECIDES

Throughout Ghana last December, thousands of Ghanaians sang, danced, and cheered in the streets. Ostensibly they were celebrating New Patriotic Party (NPP) candidate Nana Akufo-Addo's victory over National Democratic Congress (NDC) candidate and incumbent President John Mahama in its December 7, 2016 general election, but the victory went deeper than that. Ghanaians of all political persuasions were jubilant that their elections were free, fair, transparent, inclusive and peaceful—and that they resulted in the peaceful transition of power from the NDC to the NPP.

NDC supporter Eric Nortey told GhanaWeb, "This victory should not only be for NPP, we all won the elections together." Ghanaian twitter user @Tuffour summed up the sentiment in Ghana when he tweeted, "It is a blessing to have a country that chooses its leaders through ballot, not bullet. Congrats to both @NAkufoAddo and @JDMahama #Ghanawins".

A Burgeoning Democracy

Ghana, the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from colonial rule in 1957, is widely considered to be a beacon of democracy and stability in the region. In light of this, it can be hard to believe Ghana only became a multi-party democracy in 1992—the previous years were marked by political instability, with several military coups taking place.

"Ghana has shown remarkable progress in the past 25 years. The December 2016 election was the seventh consecutive election that was largely free, fair, and peaceful," said USAID/Ghana Mission Director Andrew Karas. Mr. Karas said USAID/Ghana took advantage of its broad and deep partnerships to support Ghanaians in administering this successful election. "For more than 50 years, USAID has been working with the Ghanaian government, civil society, and other partners to strengthen democratic processes, and these partnerships were a great asset in the December 2016 elections," he said.

Partnering for Transparency

Ahead of the election, a primary goal was increasing trust in the Electoral Commission, the official body responsible for the administration of Ghanaian elections.

Although the last presidential election in 2012 was deemed largely free and fair by observers, it was beset by several logistical issues and irregularities. President Mahama's NDC party won that election with 50.7 percent of the vote—just a few thousand votes over the threshold to preclude a run-off election. The NPP subsequently sued the Electoral Commission in a case that went to the Supreme Court.

Trust in the Electoral Commission plummeted. In a poll conducted by independent Ghanaian NGO and USAID partner the Center for Democratic Development half a year before the election, only 58 percent said they felt the Commission was prepared to administer the elections fairly and impartially.

USAID partnered with the Electoral Commission to boost its credibility. First, it worked with civil society and the Commission to facilitate reforms. Second, it supported the Commission to develop a new communications strategy to help it inform voters and publicize its reforms.

The Electoral Commission threw its weight behind the strategy. "The communication strategy is the blueprint of how we intend to effectively communicate in order to deliver on our core electoral mandate," said Electoral Commission chair Charlotte Osei at the strategy's launch. "It comes at a time when we have purposed to improve our relationship with our key stakeholders and reposition the commission as a lawful, transparent and responsive institution."

USAID supported the Commission to train more than 600 officials on the strategy's implementation and more than 100,000 political party polling agents to improve transparency and accountability. In addition, it helped it to launch a redesigned website, which received more than 20,000 hits the day it went live. The Commission even produced a television show, #AskTheEC, in which they answered voter questions on live television.

These efforts paid off. Two months before the election, more than 73 percent of Ghanaians surveyed in a second Center for Democratic Development poll said they felt the Commission was prepared to administer the elections fairly—an increase of more than 25 percent. Public opinion of the Electoral Commission soared even higher after the election. Ghanaian celebrities, clerics, and influencers heaped praise upon the Electoral Commission. Ms. Osei, the first female Electoral Commission Chair, has emerged as a national feminist icon.

Mobilizing for Peace

Many Ghanaians and international observers alike feared election-related violence—the elections were competitive and the stakes were high. A pre-election survey showed that the vast majority of Ghanaians valued peace even higher than fair elections.

USAID worked with a number of partners to flood the airwaves with messages promoting peace and train community leaders and journalists on peace messaging. These radio, television, and social media messages featured songs, cartoons, and heartfelt testimonials from youth, celebrities, traditional leaders and members of the clergy on why a peaceful Ghana was so important.

Bishop James Kwaku Saah, a member of Ghana's National Peace Council, an autonomous body that mediates conflicts between villages, individuals, and others, said in one video, "I encourage every man, every woman, every boy, every girl, to participate in elections with a heart of peace in the greater interest of our nation." In another testimonial, Sarafina Kini, a student, said simply, "Let's put Ghana first because we only have one Ghana."

To further curb election violence, USAID teamed up with the West African Network for Peacebuilding to employ a network of civil society and community members to monitor potential triggers before, on, and after election day, and report them through a country-wide early warning system.

USAID and its partners helped form early warning and response groups to respond to these threats. In addition to one national group, presided over by National Peace Council Director Most Reverend Professor Emmanuel Asante, 10 regional-level groups were formed. The groups included influential community members with the credibility to mediate conflicts, including traditional chiefs and queen mothers; priests, imams, and other members of the clergy; scholars; and other influential community members.

A critical moment for the peace movement took place one week before the election, when the leaders of each political party got together with the National Peace Council, the House of Chiefs, and other stakeholders in a Peace Summit. Presidential candidates, including those from the two leading parties, signed a document at this summit committing themselves to peaceful elections and the judicial resolution of election disputes.

Most Rev. Prof. Asante said USAID's support was critical to the peaceful elections. "This is the first time that the National Peace Council of Ghana worked together with civil society and state institutions to jointly develop a strategic approach that mitigated electoral violence triggers and supported the political environment to ensure peace before, during, and after the 2016 elections," he said. "The efforts of these groups contributed immensely not only to the success of the general election in Ghana but also to the peaceful transition of power from the ruling party to the opposition."



Election Day and Beyond

All these preparations led up to one critical day: December 7, election day. Prior to that day, USAID partnered with Ghanaian NGO the Center for Democratic Development to mobilize a wide network of civil society groups to launch a voter and civic education campaign. It employed trainings, mass media, and social media to share information about the candidates and democratic process with voters. It also worked with civil society organizations to get out the vote, especially among underrepresented groups including women, youth, people with disabilities. On election day, USAID and the Embassy of the Netherlands supported the deployment of more than 7,000 domestic observers to selected polling stations in Ghana, in partnership with the Ghana Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO). These observers were recruited from a number of Ghanaian organizations, including religious institutions, universities, and civil society. In addition, the U.S. Embassy deployed 50 teams of international observers to polling stations throughout the country.

Finally, USAID supported CODEO to conduct a parallel vote tabulation, in which they counted the votes at each polling station independently from the Electoral Commission, in order to authenticate the final tally. This exercise was a success, with CODEO's final tally matching almost exactly with that of the Electoral Commission. Joy Searcie, Director of USAID/Ghana's Office of Democracy, Rights, and Governance Office and a member of one of the international observer teams, said it was gratifying to see the fruits of USAID's work on election day. "It was a long night, but on December 7, I witnessed a turning point in Ghana's history. The people elected a new president and rose above any prediction of violence, by heading to the polls in peace and participating in a free, fair and transparent process," she said. "I was so grateful for the opportunity to witness firsthand the impact of our work to facilitate a successful democratic transition."





ECONOMIC GROWTH

The goal of USAID's Economic Growth program is to realize sustainable and broadly shared economic growth in Ghana.

Overview

Ghana faces significant challenges that pose a threat to its long-term economic growth. These include insufficient and unreliable supply of power, low access to credit and high borrowing costs, low agricultural productivity, weaknesses in the business climate that undermine private sector growth, regional income disparities, and constraints in regional trade. In 2016, we achieved the following:



Increased Agricultural Competitiveness

Ghana is a focus country under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's agriculture and food security initiative. USAID's Economic Growth Program focuses on boosting the productivity of rice, maize, and soy in northern Ghana, which is the poorest and most vulnerable region in Ghana. The program also engages women and strives to address the effects of climate change on food production.

- Introduced more than 100,000 farmers to improved seeds and technologies to plant more than 80,000 hectares of maize, rice, and soybean;
- Maize profits increased 81 percent, rice profits increased over 73 percent, and soy profits increased over 700 percent amongst beneficiaries in FY2015

Stimulated Private Sector Growth

USAID supports macroeconomic policy reform, facilitates public-private dialogue on policy and regulation, helps farmers access markets and supports access to credit by guaranteeing bank loans.

- The Partnership for Growth facilitated the establishment of the Ghana Alternative Exchange (GAX) for small and medium enterprises to access alternative sources of finance;
- Facilitated \$38 million of financing to over 500 private sector businesses.

Expanded Trade and Facilitating Access to Markets

USAID helps the private sector to access and supply domestic, regional and international markets, and links smallholder farmers to domestic, regional, and international markets. In addition, USAID works with companies to improve market information, meet required food safety and health standards, and improve their technology and environmental practices.

- Linked more than 180 outgrower businesses to markets;
- Launched the Trade Africa Initiative to focus on trade facilitation, improvement of sanitary standards, and promote policies to attract regional trade and investment.
- Developed an African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Strategy with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to help Ghanaian businesses take advantage of AGOA preferences.

Increased Capacity And Electricity Access

Through the U.S. Government Power Africa Initiative, USAID works with the Government of Ghana to increase its generation capacity and electricity access, and define and implement institutional, regulatory, financial and commercial strategies in the development of the oil, gas, and power sectors.

- Supported transactions to add 192 MW to Ghana's grid, extending electricity access to about 400,000 new customers;
- Assisted the Government of Ghana to improve planning, pricing, and efficiency of power sector, and natural resource management for reduced environmental impact;
- Supported the Government of Ghana in to develop and supply gas for thermal generation.

Rebuilt Fish Stocks and Improved Natural Resource Management

USAID works with local communities and district governments to protect ecosystems and fisheries in the Western Region in order to protect incomes and prevent the depletion of fish stocks.

- Supported the implementation of Ghana's National Marine Fisheries Management Plan, which contains initiatives that will reduce the strain on fish stocks such as capping of fleet sizes and establishing a closed season;
- Supported the establishment of the Centre for Coastal Management at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, which is pioneering demand-driven research and community services for building more resilient coastal communities
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by over 4 million metric tons through the preservation of mangroves





FY 2016 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Economic Growth

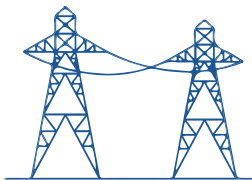


Increased Agricultural Competitiveness

Trained **183,681** individuals to increase agricultural productivity

Leveraged more than **\$16.2** million private sector capital investment in the agriculture sector

155,000 farmers adopted improved technologies or management practices



Power Sector Development

Helped bring **192** megawatts of electricity generation projects to financial close



Supported Natural Resources Management

Supported the protection of the mangroves reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over **4,500,000** metric tons





FROM AMERICAN TRACTORS TO GHANAIAN TABLES

“Access to the John Deere tractor has been a relief to me and smallholder farmers in the area.”

- Abdulaziz Munkaila, Managing Director of AA Ataqwaah Enterprise

Abdulaziz Munkaila is the managing director of AA Ataqaah Enterprise, a thriving Ghanaian agribusiness that helps smallholder farmers in Zabzugu district in northern Ghana prepare their lands for planting and helps them finance agro-inputs. His business is booming now, but back in 2011, it almost went under after his tractor broke down before the harvesting season and he was forced to cease his work with smallholder farmers.

Failures of local agribusiness like these are all too common in Ghana's Northern Region. This region has developed at a slower pace than the rest of the country due to its remote location, sparse population, limited resources, and the frequency of droughts, bushfires, and other climate events. These factors, coupled with a lack of accessible credit and prohibitive interest rates – sometimes topping 30 percent – mean that northern agribusinesses lack resiliency. When businesses like AA Ataqaah Enterprise falter or fail, it has a ripple effect throughout the region. It is particularly calamitous for smallholder farmers, who depend on these businesses for inputs and services.

The U.S. government Feed the Future Initiative works to increase the food security and nutrition of farmers in this vulnerable region. One Feed the Future project, the USAID Financing Ghanaian Agriculture (USAID-FinGAP) project, works to address the issue of the fragile business climate in northern Ghana through strategic partnerships. Launched in 2013, the project aims to mobilize \$75 million in private capital to agribusinesses working in the rice, maize, and soy value chains and to link at least 120,000 smallholder farmers to finance.

For Abdulaziz, one USAID-FinGAP partnership has been particularly transformative. This was a partnership that the project negotiated between the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the USAID Development Credit Authority-backed Ghanaian microfinance institution Sinapi Abba Savings and Loans, and the American tractor company John Deere.



Through this partnership, DANIDA provided a guarantee-backed sum of capital worth \$3 million for Sinapi Abba Savings and Loans to provide highly competitive agricultural loans focused on land preparation services. The project linked the microfinance institution with the local John Deere dealer to enable tractor equipment loans for agriculture service providers like Abdulaziz. To make the financing attractive and feasible, John Deere covers four percentage points of the interest charged by the microfinance lender and offers training and equipment warranties for loan recipients. The Ghanaian John Deere dealer subsequently saw sales increase by 20 percent.

The partnership has energized Ghanaian agriculture. Sinapi Abba Savings and Loans has made 15 tractor loans to date worth almost \$450,000. As a result, agricultural service providers like AA Ataqaah are better able to provide land preparation services to local farmers and are solvent enough to provide smallholder farmers with small loans. Today, Abdulaziz is the proud owner of both a shiny new John Deere tractor and a constantly growing agribusiness. “Access to the John Deere tractor has been a relief to me and smallholder farmers in the area,” he said. “I plan to assist between 110 and 120 smallholders in rice and maize during the upcoming season.”

Across the North, smallholder farmers are seeing their yields increase due to the improved equipment and inputs. “We used to prepare our farms manually for nearly six to eight days per acre,” said smallholder farmer Hamida Iddrisu. With state-of-the-art tractor services, he reports that he can now prepare his land in less than a day, save money, and most importantly, better feed his family.



VICTIMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING SPEAK OUT

“My experience should be an example for all who want to practice child labor.”

- Kojo, Former Child Labor and Trafficking Victim

Kojo was only a young boy of 12, he was trafficked from Ghana's Central Region to Monrovia, Liberia and forced into hard labor. Not in school, a middle man came to his community in Moree and found him loitering on the beaches. He was able to convince Kojo and his parents that for a little bit of work mending fishing nets, he would be able to go to school and send money home to his family. Kojo went with the man, but soon realized, "The promises that were made to me were not what they seemed."

Just like Kojo, many children along Ghana's coast, are unjustly trafficked abroad and put to work, suffering mental and physical abuse, kept from attending school and deprived of their childhood. In Ghana, tens of thousands of children are trafficked at the early age of four. USAID, through the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), is working to curb child labor and trafficking in Ghana's fishing communities. Additionally, SFMP works to rebuild targeted marine fish stocks that have seen major declines in over the last decade.

The Feed the Future Initiative targets vulnerable households and persons in extreme poverty through community advocates trained by the program. Advocates are able to identify risks, navigate difficult discussions and in some cases, directly intervene to stop child labor and trafficking practices.

The population of children in Ghana is 8.7 million ranging between the ages of five to 17 years and over 15,000 are involved in fishing. Through SFMP, 40 Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking Advocates and 38 Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) members have been trained on Child Protection Strategies, Concept of Child Labor and Trafficking, the Children's Act and Conventions on the Rights of the Child

"My experience should be an example for all who want to practice child labor. After pleading that I was too sick to work, I was still forced to go fishing with a crew. Angry with my performance, my master pushed me overboard on the high seas at 3:00 am. I saw another canoe heading toward me and I joined the canoe and was fortunate to arrive on land."

Kojo's story has turned many families in the community away from the false promises of Child Labor and Trafficking. Currently, three children who were trafficked to Ivory Coast have been returned to their families due to these interventions. They have also helped to convince four sets of parents, who had previously made plans to send their children away, to change their minds.







HEALTH, POPULATION & NUTRITION

The goal of USAID's integrated health, population and nutrition program is to promote equitable improvements in the health status of Ghanaians.

Overview

Ghana has made significant but uneven progress in improving health. Despite economic growth, Ghana has a poor healthcare delivery system and Ghanaians are vulnerable to diseases. Child and maternal mortality are high: 41/1,000 infants die before their first birthday, 60/1,000 children die before their fifth birthday and 350/100,000 mothers die due to childbirth-related issues. USAID's health activities provide focused technical assistance to the Government of Ghana to ensure high quality services are broadly accessible and supported by efficient and accountable systems, and that there are appropriate national-level policies and protocols. USAID provides a significant portion of the health commodities in Ghana. In fiscal year 2016 we achieved the following:



Malaria

USAID leads the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), which aims to reduce the burden of malaria in Ghana. PMI works to scale up four proven malaria prevention and treatment measures: insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, accurate diagnosis and prompt treatment with artemisinin-based combination therapies, and intermittent preventive treatment of pregnant women.

Family Planning & Reproductive Health

USAID's interventions increase understanding about and access to a range of contraceptive methods. Activities include promoting access to and use of family planning and reproductive health services at the facility and community levels; strengthening competencies for social and behavior change communication; and strengthening family planning services through the private sector and the scale-up of social marketing. USAID also focuses on creating an enabling environment for commodity security and purchased nearly \$2.5 million in family planning commodities in 2016.

Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health

USAID focuses on improving maternal, newborn and child health services. Activities integrate provision of maternal services with treatment and prevention of childhood diseases, with a focus on providing necessary healthcare equipment and training healthcare service providers.

Nutrition

As part of the U.S. Government's Global Health and Feed the Future Initiatives, USAID works with the Government of Ghana to improve the nutritional status of women and young children. Activities include improving community services to treat and prevent severe acute malnutrition and teaching individuals and communities about infant feeding practices and care, dietary diversity, and other nutrition-related behaviors.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

USAID works to increase access to safe drinking water and access to sanitation facilities. In addition, USAID encourages individuals and communities to adopt positive WASH behaviors and teaches them the skills to plan, manage and sustain WASH programs on their own.

HIV/AIDS

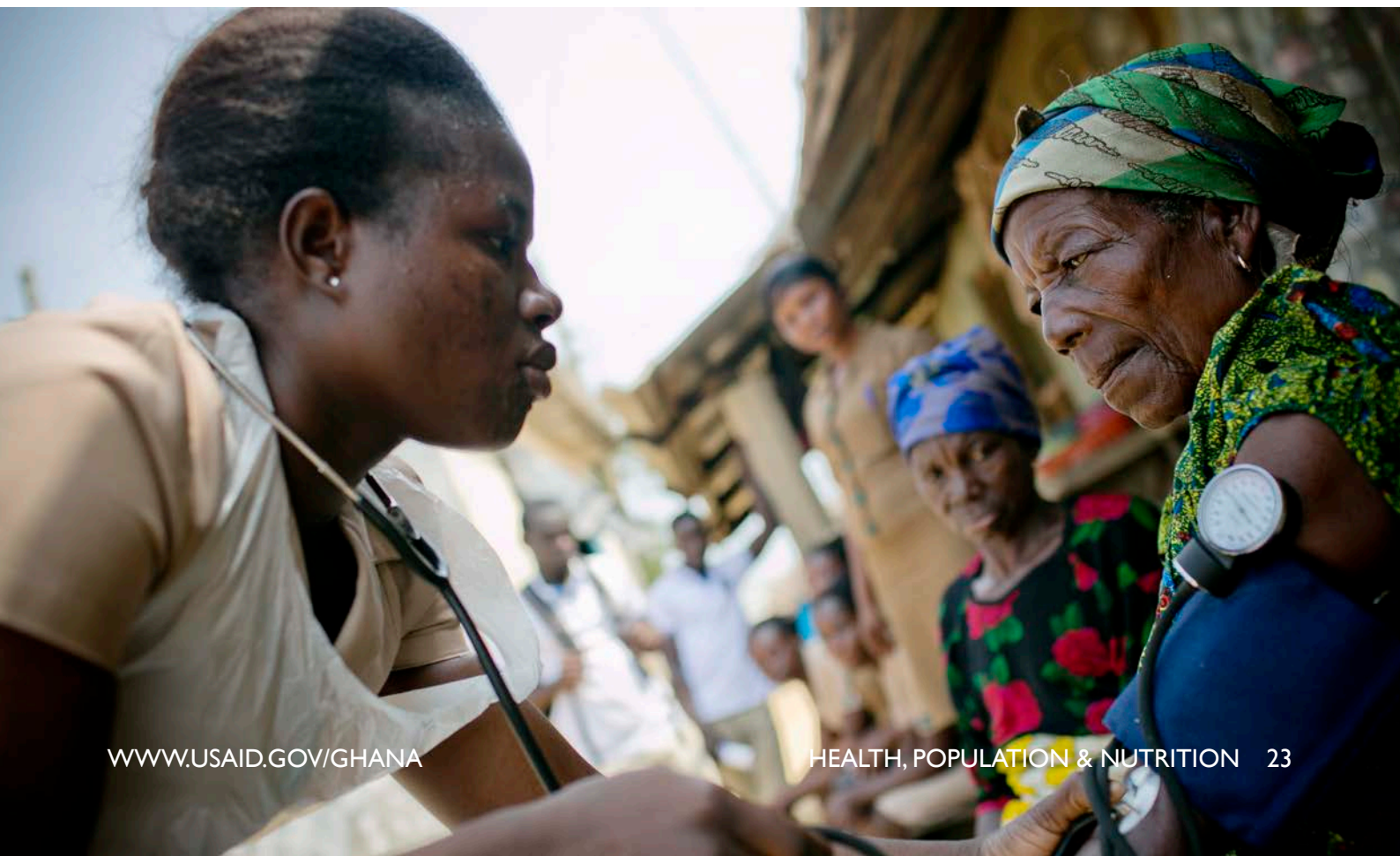
The U.S. Government President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) initiative in Ghana provides leadership and advisory support to the national HIV/AIDS response. USAID's activities under PEPFAR support policies and services for prevention, care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS and key populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. USAID supports innovative and evidence-based interventions to reduce new HIV infections, which is critical to the long-term sustainability of HIV/AIDS program.

Health Systems Strengthening

USAID supports the Ghana Health Service in its efforts to strengthen the overall national health care system and the national policy environment and supports sustainable supervision structures to ensure a high quality of care is provided at all levels of the health system. USAID provides assistance in health financing, operations research and data for decision making, leadership development, supply chain reform and financial and management support systems at decentralized levels of the Ghana health sector. In addition, USAID supports the National Health Insurance Authority to strengthen and improve the efficiency of Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme.

Social Protection

In 2015, USAID started focusing on social protection programming because of its positive impact on nutrition and health status. The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty 1000 program (LEAP 1000) is a GOG social cash transfer program aimed at reducing poverty and stunting. It targets 6,000 poor households with pregnant women and women with infants. It aims to improve the nutrition of infants in the crucial first 1,000 days of life, when the consequences of malnutrition are particularly severe and often irreversible.





FY 2016 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Health, Population and Nutrition



Water & Sanitation

10,096 people gained access to improved sanitation facilities (including small town water schemes, mechanical and manual borehole drilling, and rehabilitation of broken systems)



Maternal Health

Skilled birth attendants, supported by the U.S. government attended **305,877** deliveries



Newborn Care

Supported delivery of **323,397** newborns, through improvements in provider skills, facility deliveries, and basic emergency obstetric and newborn care coverage



Nutrition

Worked with **12,160** farmers in **17** districts to improve quality and/or yield in cultivating soybeans, orange fleshed sweet potatoes, leafy green vegetables, and groundnuts, to encourage dietary diversity



Malaria

78 percent of pregnant women now use Intermittent Preventative Treatment, the highest among all Presidents' Malaria Initiative focus countries



Family Planning

Provided nearly **\$2.5** million in family planning commodities



WHEN THE SWEET POTATO GOES VIRAL: A NEW APPROACH TO NUTRITION PROGRAMMING IN NORTHERN GHANA

“The yield this year is massive, we never thought we will get this much.”

- Jemaima George, women farmer in Ghana's Northern Region

Until recently, most people living in the Northern Region of Ghana had never seen an orange-fleshed sweet potato. Now, this brightly colored vegetable may be on its way to becoming the region's most popular crop.

This variety of potato was recently introduced to communities in Northern Ghana through the USAID-funded Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) Project. The villagers lovingly call it “Alafie Wuljo,” which means “healthy potato” in the local language of Dagbani.

Philippe LeMay, RING's Chief of Party, was present at one community's first harvest celebration. He recalls how government officials and community leaders came to learn how to use the new crop. There were several cooking demonstrations, but the sweet potato fries were a hit among schoolchildren. “Now everyone wants to grow orange-fleshed sweet potatoes,” says LeMay.

RING is a five-year project funded by USAID and implemented by the Government of Ghana with technical support from Global Communities. It is currently operating in 17 districts in Ghana's Northern Region and actively supported by its government-to-government partner, the Northern Regional Coordinating Council. This region has developed at a much slower pace than the rest of the country because of its remote location, limited resources, sparse population, and inhospitable climate. More than a third of children under 5 in these districts suffer from stunted growth, a result of poor nutrition.

The project targets the region's most vulnerable population: women of reproductive age with at least one child under 5 in households identified by their communities as poorest of the poor. RING is working to reach 42,000 households, which is more than 300,000 people. It is supported by Feed the Future and furthers its strategy for Ghana, which aims to decrease child stunting by 20 percent and to double the incomes of targeted vulnerable households in the North.

RING integrates different sectors into its nutritional programming in an innovative government-to-government approach. This means that USAID and local government officials plan how best to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable households and communities and RING provides training, technical assistance, and tools to build the capacity of local governments to implement these plans



The result has been more capable and responsive local governments. “We have been proud to see how the Government of Ghana has demonstrated leadership and initiative in taking additional steps to promote this work for the long term,” said USAID/Ghana Mission Director Andrew Karas. Notably, RING is one of only a handful of USAID local solutions efforts that engage governments at the sub-regional levels.

RING's integrated approach to nutrition programming aligns with USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, which outlines the Agency's efforts to address malnutrition across sectors in over 20 countries for the next 10 years. As part of the roll-out of this Strategy, USAID is hosting four regional Global Learning and Evidence Exchanges (GLEEs). The first GLEE took place on January 19-21 in Accra, Ghana, where representatives from RING shared their experiences. At this GLEE, participants talked about how difficult it can be for different sectors to work together on multi-sectoral projects. RING successfully works across five development sectors: smallholder agriculture; savings and livelihoods; governance; nutrition; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Karas said that this multi-sectoral collaboration is already paying dividends. “You can see the impacts of our collaboration all over the North. We have repaired dozens of boreholes and trained community water and sanitation committees. We are training farmers to grow new, more nutritious vegetables and helping women access markets and boost their incomes,” he said. “With these and other efforts we are saving hundreds of thousands of children under five from stunting.” Each of RING’s integrated activities increase vulnerable families’ resilience to the inevitable shocks inherent to living in northern Ghana.

The multi-sectoral approach amplifies the effectiveness of RING’s activities. In one district, for example, women’s groups experimented with small-scale irrigation systems that conserved resources and boosted yields of nutritious, local, and core-cultural leafy greens, which they then sold on the local market. They have already seen increased sales, and their communities now have more access to nutritious food like the orange-fleshed sweet potato. We can expect many more positive results by the time this project wraps up in June 2019.





EDUCATION

The goal of USAID’s education program is to increase the number of Ghanaian children who are able to read with fluency and comprehension in the early grades of primary school.

Overview

According to the 2015 Early Grade Reading Assessment, just 2 percent of grade 2 pupils in Ghana are able to read with fluency and comprehension. USAID’s activities in Ghana improve the quality of reading instruction; strengthen the management of educational institutions; improve accountability and transparency among parents, schools and local government; and help communities contribute to improved learning achievement. USAID’s approach emphasizes working with the Government of Ghana to strengthen the delivery of education services directly related to improving reading achievement in the early grades of primary school. In 2016 we achieved the following:



Improved Education Infrastructure and Technology

USAID works with the Ministry of Education to improve education infrastructure in order to improve educational access in rural areas and eliminate double-shift schooling. USAID also supports the Ministry of Education to use technology to address data, financial, and human resource management issues and to improve instruction. Notable outcomes include:

- Built over 150 classrooms, sanitation facilities, and District Education Offices
- Supported the Ministry of Education to enhance its information management systems

Strengthened Children’s Ability to Read

USAID is working with the Government of Ghana to boost the percentage of Ghanaian primary school pupils who can read with fluency and comprehension. USAID supports teacher training, rigorous student assessment, and the provision of quality textbooks and learning materials. Some notable outcomes include:

- Supported early grade reading and math assessments to provide data on student performance in the early grades. Such data informs policy makers, education practitioners, and the public on learning achievement in Ghana’s education system.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service to improve education service delivery.
- Developed a phonics program that significantly improved reading achievement in Yendi Municipality.

Partnership and Donor Coordination

USAID promotes aid effectiveness and coordination with education sector development partners and government counterparts.

- USAID and UNICEF worked together to improve education for children with disabilities.
- USAID and UKAID partnered to improve the Ministry of Education's Complementary Basic Education (CBE) program, which is expected to decrease the percentage of out-of-school children in Ghana.





FY 2016 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Education



Promoting all Ghanaian Children Reading

Distributed **4.7** million books throughout all 10 regions of Ghana, representing the single largest provision of supplemental reading materials in Ghana's recent history

In collaboration with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID), supported the Ministry of Education's Complementary Basic Education Program, which is expected to reduce the number of out-of-school children in northern Ghana by **15%**

Over **50,000** children completed a one-year accelerated learning program, and were mainstreamed into primary school



Strengthening Education

Supported the Ministry of Education to administer the National Education Assessment which tested more than **40,000** grade four and six students in reading, listening comprehension, and math skills



Improving Education Infrastructure

Trained over **7,200** school management committees and parent-teacher associations on school oversight

Constructed **48** Kindergarten classrooms

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is holding a silver microphone in his right hand and an open book in his left. He appears to be reading aloud. The background is blurred, showing what looks like a school setting with other children. The t-shirt has some text on it, including "READING" and "STAY". The book he is holding has a yellow cover with the word "Primary" written vertically in pink and "English" written horizontally in white. There are also some illustrations on the book's pages.

A NEW KIND OF FESTIVAL INSPIRES GHANA'S YOUNGEST READERS

“I will not forget what we are doing today, I will always read my books.”

- Mottey Bless, A Pupil at Bame Evangelical Presbyterian Primary School

Scores of festivals take place in Ghana each year. They are colorful affairs that celebrate everything from historical events to farming tools with drums and dance. But recently, thousands of Ghanaians around the country were galvanized by a new kind of festival—the reading festival.

These festivals captivated the national imagination, and were eagerly chronicled on television, radio, newspapers, and social media. In many ways, they were much like other Ghanaian festivals, with ample drumming and dancing and local luminaries like traditional chiefs and queen mothers in attendance. But unlike other festivals, the reading festivals included spoken word performances, poetry readings, film screenings, seminars about the best ways to teach children to read, storytelling sessions and spelling bees held in Ghana’s national languages and English.

Interspersed around each reading festival’s grounds were reading pavilions and roving library buses containing children’s books to stimulate imaginations and get pupils excited about reading. These books will soon be delivered to bookshelves in primary school and kindergarten classrooms and libraries in every district of the country. “I will not forget what we are doing today, I will always read my books,” said Mottey Bless, a pupil at Bame Evangelical Presbyterian Primary School, while he browsed through books at the Volta Region reading festival.

More than 5,000 people attended the reading festivals, which took place in all 10 regions of Ghana in November and December of 2015 and were organized through the USAID Partnership for Education: Learning. The five-year partnership between the Government of Ghana and USAID supports the government’s goal to turn 80 percent of children in the early grades of primary school into readers.

This partnership could not be more needed. A 2013 reading assessment administered throughout the country showed that only 2 percent of Ghanaian primary school pupils could read at grade level with fluency and comprehension. It was a call to action for education stakeholders throughout the country to effect change and get children reading.

The Government of Ghana is now working closely with USAID to launch the Ghana Reading Action Plan, review its educational policies and dramatically increase the number of children in the early grades who can read.

The reading festivals may be the public face of the partnership, but the effort tackles the issues from several angles behind the scenes. It consists of a suite of activities targeting teacher training, pupil assessment, management and monitoring and evaluation systems, and other factors that contribute to improved literacy.

The activities include training 27,000 teachers in reading instruction, strengthening government education systems at the local and national levels, supporting special needs education, and engaging parents and communities. The overall aim is to improve the reading skills of 1 million Ghanaian primary school pupils.

The reading festivals are all about introducing more books to schools. Moreover, they help foster a culture of reading by inspiring students, teachers, parents and local and national leaders to prioritize reading and literacy. The Government of Ghana has plans to make the festivals an annual event.

“The reading festivals are designed to mobilize communities and advocate for the importance of reading,” said Adama Jehanfo, Senior Education Program Management Specialist at USAID’s mission in Ghana. “We also want to show pupils and communities how much fun reading can be.” According to Ms. Jehanfo, the festivals are playing a crucial role in addressing some of the main factors that contribute to the low child literacy rates in Ghana.



These factors are many. A lot of schools lack even the most basic text books and more than a quarter of primary and kindergarten school teachers lack training. Even those who have been trained have often not been trained on teaching reading. But perhaps most importantly, most parts of Ghana lack a culture of reading, and only about a quarter of primary school children are read to at home on a regular basis.

If the Partnership for Education is successful in addressing these underlying causes through the festivals and other initiatives, the dividends could be enormous. Adults who read are more likely to earn more money and be socially and politically engaged. These benefits directly impact the next generation: A child born to a mother who can read is 50 times more likely to live past five years old than one born to an illiterate mother.

There is reason to be optimistic. The first round of festivals led a number of prominent community members to pledge their support. Chief Osabarima Ansah Sasraku II of Mamfe village in Ghana's Eastern Region said, "This is a laudable idea which needs the support of all and sundry. I will encourage people to assist children, especially those in the early grades, to read, since this forms the foundation of their future, and Ghana will ultimately benefit from a literate society."

Eastern Regional Director of Education Rosetta Addison-Sackey said communities were already paying attention to the importance of literacy. "The community now appreciates what is done in the classroom because the classroom has been brought to them," she said.

Now that the festivals are over, teachers are eagerly awaiting the influx of diverse new reading materials to inspire their pupils. But no one is more excited than the children.


Gbordzi Xoesse Mawuli, a primary school pupil who attended the Volta Region reading festival said, "I am happy today. We can learn how to read and become great people in the future."


With more than 4 million books from the festivals now being distributed to more than 28,000 schools throughout Ghana, his dream is on its way to coming true.



CONTACT US

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

 accraaidghanadocs-dl@usaid.gov.

 @USEmbassyGhana

 US Embassy Ghana

Visit us at: www.usaid.gov/ghana

Need more data?

- Our Financial Reporting: <http://explorer.usaid.gov/country-detail.html#ghana>
- Our Development Data Library: www.usaid.gov/data
- Our Technical and Project Materials: <https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/home/>

CREDITS

Cover page (first and fourth photo), page 1 (square photo), page 3 (first and fourth photo), pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20, 22 (round photo), 24-27 (round photo), 28 (round photo), 29, 30 and 34 by Yooku Ata-Bedu, USAID/Ghana

Cover page (third photo), page 3 (third photo), and 21, 22 (square photo) and 23 by Kate Holt, Jhpiego/MCSP
Pages 9 by U.S. Embassy

Cover page (second photo), page 3 (second photo), page 13 (round photo) 15 and 17 by Elisa Walton, USAID/Ghana

Page 1 (bottom photo) and page 28 (square photo) by Archibald Sackey, U.S. Embassy

Page 2 (bottom photo) by John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum (website)

Page 5, 16 and closing photo by Priscilla Addison, USAID/Ghana

Page 13 (square photo) by Alda Kauffeld, USAID/Ghana

Pages 18, 22 and 27 photos by USAID

Pages 25 and 26 photos by Ceilia Zeilberger, USAID/Ghana

Page 31 photo by Daniel Abban

Pages 32 and 33 photos by Nana Osei Akumia

Information Graphics by George S. N. Neequaye, USAID Monitoring Evaluation and Technical Support Services Project

Designed by George S. N. Neequaye and Priscilla Addison



USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE