

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES INITIATIVES GHANA (RRIG) ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ACTIVITY 1

ENDING OF CHILD AND FORCED LABOUR.

Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana in Collaboration with the Rain Forest Alliance embarked on a project “Ending of child and forced labour” in the Atwima Mponua District. The project was undertaken in fifteen (15) communities in the Atwima Mponua District in the Ashanti Region. The communities are:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Serebuoso | |
| 2. Kotokuom | 9. Ntoboroso |
| 3. Amadaa | 10. Ntuntuma |
| 4. Nkruma | 11. Adobewura |
| 5. Ampenkro | 12. Bontomuruso |
| 6. Adumasa | 13. Nyinawusu |
| 7. Donkoto | 14. Akomfore |
| 8. Aniamoah | 15. Kwanfinfi |

INTRODUCTION

Selected schools in the 15 project communities in the ending child and forced labour in cocoa and mining companies were provided with education of the children’s Act. The purpose of that activity was to contribute to the capacity of the school children that as much as they have rights in the children’s Act 1998, Act 560 they also have responsibilities to ensure that they have full benefits of the rights that they have to enjoy.

OUTPUT; the training was done in the schools, present were some Assembly and Unit Committee members, School Management Committee (SMC) members, School teachers, Head teachers, etc.

LESSONS LEARNT

We learnt that some of the school children were being sent to work during classes. Hence most of the questions asked focused on that.

We encouraged them to support their parents, guardians on household work be it working on the farms or working in the house. They were admonished that as per the children's Act 1998,560 that at age 15, the children's act allows children to do light work.

It was explained to them that according to the children's Act a child is defined as any human being below eighteen[18] years of age.

The education began with welfare principle which underscored the importance of the fact that in all actions concerning children whether by public or private, social welfare institutions counts of law, administrative authorities or legislature, the best interest of the child shall remain paramount. Thus any act or decision that is likely to Jeopardized the future development of the child should be discouraged. The other key principles that is paramount in the children's Act discuss included.

Non-Discrimination, Right to grow up with parents, parental duty and responsibility, Right to education, Right to opinion, protection from exploitative labour, Right to refuse betrothal.

We explained that institutions that protect children include the District Assembly [Department of Social Welfare and Community Development].

PERSONS TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND PROTECTION

Any person with information on child abuse or a child in need of care and protection shall report the matter to Social Welfare.

For local government, such cases shall be referred to the unit committee who must refer such cases to the District Assembly for necessary actions CHRAJ and Traditional Council for necessary cases of contravention of children's rights.

PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENTION

It should be noted that any person who contravenes a provision of the Children's Act commits an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine.

1. Right of the disabled child.

2. PART V -Employment of children

3. Sub part 1 –Child Labour
4. Prohibition of exploitative child labour.
5. Prohibition of child labour at night.
6. Minimum age of child labour.
7. Minimum age for light work.

8. Minimum age for hazardous employment.
9. Section 14. –Right to refuse betrothal and marriage.
10. Minimum age of marriage 18 years to be betrothed.
11. Subject of dowry transaction.

In the Akomfore D/A Basic School, we met the School Improvement Support Officer [SISO], Madam Cynthia Eshun. She reinforced the children's rights and reiterated with the reinforcement of the Code 1963 Act 29, Section 101 Defilement of child under sixteen years of age.

1. Defilement of child under sixteen years of age.
For the purpose of this Act, defilement is the natural or unnatural carnal knowledge of a child under sixteen [16] years of age.
2. A person who naturally or unnaturally carnally knows a child under 16 years of age whether with or without the consent of the child commits a criminal offence and is liable on summary conviction to a term of imprisonment of not less than 7 years and not more than 25 years.

Way forward for the training of the children's Act in selected schools.

Head teachers of the schools will receive electronic copies of the children's Act 1998, Act 560 and the prevention of teenage pregnancy and return to school policy 2018 by the Ghana Education Service.

It is expected that these 2 documents will be acted to strengthen child protection in the entirety.

Part V- Employment of children sub part 1- Child Labour, Sections 87, 88, 89, 90 and 91 which emphasized the prohibition of exploitation labour, prohibition of child labour.

Minimum age of child labour is 15 years.

Minimum age for hazardous employment was defined as 18. Hazardous work was defined as work that is poison or dangerous to health, safety, or morals of a person.

CONCLUSION

It was very clear during the training that child labour is real in the Atwima Mponua District. The pupils, teachers and parents/guardians all agreed that the support by the Rainforest Alliance with Right and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana, SOLIDARIDAD [which is supporting mineral groups with USLA, training of community child protection committee members CPCs] the Government Agencies, Monitors, Cocoa Companies such as Kuapa Cocoa [A labour rights organization] Small Scale Mining companies who provide Social Amenities are all supporting the elimination of tackling the end of child and forced labour by 2025.



Figure 1. A session of students at Kotokuom Islamic Basic, Kotokuom D/A and Kotokuom R/C listening attentively to the presentation By Aba Oppong



Figure 2. A session of students at Serebuoso D/A Listening attentively during the sensitization



Figure 3. A session of students at Adumasa D/A Listening attentively during the sensitization



Figure 4. A session of students at Atuntuma Methodist Primary and D/A JHS listening attentively during the sensitization



Figure 5. A session of students at Ntoboroso R/C Primary and D/A J.H.S during the sensitization

ACTIVITY 2.

SHE LEADS PROJECT

Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana continued with activities of empowering Girls and Young Women in the Bosomtwe and Bosome Freho District from January 2024 to date. In the Bosomtwe District, Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana (RRIG) works in six (6) communities and six (6) in the Bosome Freho District. The communities are:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Kuntanase | 7. Asiwa |
| 2. Toamfom | 8. Bobiam |
| 3. Abono | 9. Nsuaem II |
| 4. Swedru/Abrankese | 10. Anyaaso |
| 5. Petransa | 11. Anyinase |
| 6. Jachie | 12. Dannso |

The SHE Leads project began in the Bosomtwe and Bosome Freho District from January 2021. It is a five (5) year project which is sponsored by Defence for Children International (DCI) Netherlands. Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana is a contacted partner of DCI-Ghana Chapter.

The SHE Leads project focuses on promoting Girls and Young Women's Leadership at the Socio-Cultural, Institutional and Civil Society Domains.

During the period under review Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana has equipped In and Out of School Girls with Assertiveness, economic empowerment and positive attitude skills which will put them in meaningful positions in the field of work, professions, vocations and relevant relationships and appropriate interventions.

Selected members of the Local Government System, which includes Duty Bearers, Assembly members, Unit Committee members, Opinion Leaders, Head of Trade Associations, the Health and Education Sectors have participated and collaborated with Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana with her engagement with partners in Bosomtwe and Bosome Freho Districts. A total of Five

Hundred and Sixty Four (564) persons in the Bosome Freho District have been equipped with laws and policies of Ghana which prevents, protects and promotes the Girl Child in Ghana namely:

1. Children's Act 1998, Act 560
2. Domestic Violence Act 2007, Act 732
3. Return to School Policy GES 2018
4. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation by Actors (PSEA)
5. Cyber security Act 2020 Act 1038
6. Ghana Against Child Abuse
7. Girls Club Manual (Plan Ghana)



Figure 1. A session of GYW in the Bosomtwe District at the RRIG room



Figure 2. A session of GYW in the Bosome Freho District on October 7, 2024



Figure 3. A group photo with GYW at Toamfo, Bosomtwe District on July 30, 2024



Figure 4. A group photo with GYW at Bosome Freho District on October 7, 2024

ACTIVITY 3.

GENDER MODEL FAMILIES

Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana (RRIG) in collaboration with Alliance in Health is undertaken the project “Gender Model Families” in the Bosomtwe District. Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana (RRIG) is working with the Directorate of Health Management Team (DHMT) in the Bosomtwe District to achieve the purpose of the project. The five (5) communities in the Bosomtwe District are:

1. Piase
2. Asisiriwa
3. Mim
4. Pipie
5. Abono

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

1. The purpose of the Gender Model Family [GMF] is to ensure achievement of Good Primary Health care (PHC).
2. That the GMFs would advocate for good PHC practices among the community members where they live.

OUTPUT

After the first phase of the project, Rights and Responsibilities Initiative Ghana (RRIG) together with the Bosomtwe Health Directorate Management Team have been able to select ten (10) Gender Model Families each from all the five (5) communities that we are working in. We are now in the second phase which is data collection led by a Health Team from the ARHR Team.

1. INTRODUCTION

(Overview of activities undertaken including objectives, stakeholders engaged, achievements, challenges, lessons learned – ¼ of a page)

Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana, as a member of Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR), is implementing the "Strengthening the Public Health Coverage System through a Gendered Approach to Improve Health Outcomes for Women and Girls" project sponsored by Co-Impact Fund and ARHR. The project seeks to address the peculiar needs of women and girls through universal health coverage by putting women and children at the centre of primary healthcare delivery in Ghana. A key component is the establishment of model families who will observe the ideal nuclear family structure that is balanced enough to provide every member of the family the care and support for a functional and healthy family life. The Gender Model Families (GMFs), therefore, become example for other community members.

From May 15th, RRIG has been working tirelessly to undertake the two main activities to kickstart the project, namely community conversations and training of selected GMFs including action planning. The project team conferred with the Municipal Director of health to brief him about the project, the objectives and expected outcomes. He assigned one of his officers, Mad. Sabina, to coordinate activities between RRIG and the various clinics/health centres of our operations. As per project requirements, the 5 selected health centres as catchment areas for the project are Parkoso Health Centre, Sepe Health Centre, Asabi Health Centre, Asokore Mampong Health Centre and Boubai Health Centres.

Currently, community conversations and training for GMFs have been conducted in all 5 health centres. Mad. Sabina facilitated the organisation of the meetings and was present at some of them. Meeting places included clinic premises, community centres

and alternative or open spaces. All activities occurred between 16th and 27th May 2024. *See attached the full list of participants.*

- *Objectives for the Activity*

The objectives of the community conversations and training of GMFs are

- Familiarize with project communities and strategize for implementation.
- To introduce the GMF concept to the target communities and audience and set the tone for implementation.
- To identify and recruit 10 GMFs in each activity.
- To ensure that the selected GMFs understand the concept of the project and willing to avail themselves for the project activities.

2. DETAILS OF THE ACTUAL ACTIVITY

(Activities, results, stakeholders, and participants disaggregated by sex and age)

- **Community Conversations**

At Parkoso Heath Centre, where the first meeting was held, the community health nurse, Mad. Doris, took the participants through what primary healthcare is. She said it entails the most basic healthcare needs in society. She continued that the services they obtain from the Parkoso Health Centre are typical examples of primary healthcare such as antenatal, injections for mother and newborns, weighing, vaccinations, as well as minor healthcare needs. She mentioned that GHS has been highlighting the need for men to be involved in seeking primary healthcare for themselves and the family since it takes some burden off the shoulders of the woman and ensures that she has some time to rest as well. She ended by stating that “it is in furtherance of this call that an NGO called

RRIG is in our midst to sensitize you on why it is important to involve the men. This set a good tone for the introduction of the project.

However, in other health centres, particularly Sepe, Asabi, Asokore Mampong and Boubai, the community conversations proceeded straightaway. In all meetings, the Project Officer for RRIG welcomed and thanked all participants for showing up for the meeting. He said the aim of the GMF project is to showcase the ideal and functional model a family should look like. He continued that the aim of today's meeting is to discuss the existing community practices on primary healthcare and gender roles at home and further introduce a new way doing things. He elaborated that the GMF is the ideal/best functional family structure that ensures that primary healthcare is accessible to the family based on need and gender roles are shared to individuals in the family in an equitable and fair manner. The GMF concept is, therefore, built around the nuclear family or household structures. The objective of GMF is to ensure that primary healthcare is accessible to members of the family who need it, especially women, with the support of the other family members. It also ensures that roles and responsibilities are not concentrated on few members of the family which have the tendency to derail their health and general economic life of the family.

Questions and answers focused on the criteria for the selection of the GMFs. Questions centred on the criteria for recruitment of GMFs. Some were of the view that the emphasis on young couple should be reconsidered. Some also called for support for the economic lives of GMFs since most of them are facing economic challenges. Samuel Gariba explained to them the basis for using setting the selection criteria that they are all intended to generate in the expected outcomes. Generally, the participants were excited about the projects and there were high interests among them to join the GMFs.

- **Training and Action Planning for GMFs**

The nurses who acted as focal persons were very instrumental in the identification and recruitment of the GMFs. In the recruitment, we were guided the following...

- Ideally the family should be young with both male and female kids.
- If not, then they can have only child or be childless.
- Or a single mother living with both male and female kids.
- Priority was given those who qualified in point 1 before adding other couples.
- Emphasis was laid that the children may not necessarily be biological to the couple but should be part of their household.

As part of the training, Samuel emphasized that the project does not intend to disrupt their family structure or determine how they should live their daily lives but proposing a model that will make life better for them as couples. Samuel said as couples there is a need to assess their lives and daily routine at home and in the area of primary healthcare. If they reflect on who does what at home or generally in the marriage, they will realize that in most cases that the burden of home care falls on the woman while financial provision falls on the man. In most cases, either the man or the woman may feel overwhelmed performing their roles but may be unable to voice out because of our patriarchal society arranged things to be so. Thus, that imbalance works against not just the well-being of that member of the family who carries the bigger burden, but the rippling effects falls on all members of the family. The economic life that person and issues of stress can generally retard the progress of the family.

In terms of the kids, what are their daily routine? Who does what and who carries the burden of house chores and home care? The fact that house chores mostly fall on female kids means that they will have less time to rest the girls, be stressed and have less time for studies and subsequently perform poor academically.

In the question-and-answer sessions, concerns were raised on couples who were not living together and near-absentee fathers due to their work schedules. In such cases, in the development of the actions plans, tasks were assigned to suit the schedules of the couples. Where the woman was not going to be available, the man makes time to carry family duties and where the man carries more burden or unavailable, the woman works to support the man. In the terms of the children, the action plan indicated children sharing house chores between boys and girls, especially by alternating the roles. *See attached composite action plans.*

- **Results from the Activity**

1. Community conversations have been undertaken in 5 catchment areas: Parkoso, Sepe, Asabi, Asokore Mampong and Boubai.
2. Training have been conducted for GMFs in all 5 catchment areas of operations.
3. Action plans have been done for GMFs in all 5 catchment areas of operations.

- **Participants**

A total of about 500 participants have been reached so far including the GMFs. Over 70% of them are females who are mostly nursing mothers.

3. PICTURES

(Action-based pictures relevant to the activities including links to any social media posts)



Figure 1: Sample photo of community conversation at Parkoso Health Centre



Figure 2: Sample photo of community conversation at Sepe Health Centre



Figure 1: Sample photo of community conversation at Boubai Health Centre



Figure 2: Sample photo of community conversation at Boubai Health Centre



Figure 4: Sample photo of GMF training at Parkoso.



Figure 3: Sample photo of GMF training at Sepe.

4. CHALLENGES

(Discuss any implementation-related challenges)

- Mobilization in the district, which is a typical urban area, is challenging since they are busy people fending for themselves on daily basis.
- The cultural environment of Asokore Mampong is overwhelmingly patriarchal. Hence some of the potential GMFs are reluctant due to fear of not being accepted by their husbands/male partners.
- There is a seeming expectation from the GMFs that the project should support them financially. Most of them kept talking about their deplorable economic conditions and called for support.

5. LESSON LEARNT

(Reflection on lessons learned and implication for project implementation and PHC)

- Due to the demography of the project operational areas, we will engage diverse stakeholders to mobilize participants for our meetings.
- We have to put in additional efforts to ensure adequate male participation in the GMF activities.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(Recommendation for future activities)

The project has begun well in the Asokore Mampong municipality with the expectation of challenges and high expectation of successes. The support of the Municipal Health Directorate has been very good, and we expect to have a smooth collaboration. The two activities undertaken in the health centres have given us useful insights to navigate through the rest of the activities.

- Due to the exigencies of the Asokore Mampong, we will need dispensation to work at the most convenient times of the clinics to ensure maximum participation, especially the males. For this reason, we believe the following recommendations will help the next phase of the project.
- If possible, we will have a male-exclusive session for the men to under the GMF concept for their maximum cooperation.



Figure 1. A session of Gender Model Families at Mim community in the Bsomtwe District



Figure 2. A session of Gender Model Families at Abono during the sensitization meeting



Figure 3. A group picture with Gender Model Families at Asisiriwa

ACTIVITY 4

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 2024.



Theme: Girls' Vision for the Future.

Venue: Presbyterian Basic School, Asiwa Bosome Freho

Date: October 15, 2024.

Time: 10:00am

INTRODUCTION

The International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated every year on October 11. It was instituted by the United Nations in 2012 as part of the SHE Leads project in Bosomtwe. The 2024 commemoration was held at the Presbyterian Basic School at Asiwa in the Bosome Freho District.

The head master of the JHS, Mr Dampare introduced the Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana staff to the girls. Please see appendix 1 for the presentation for the day.

OUTPUT

A total of 65 Girls from Basic 4 to Basic 9 participated in the celebration. In attendance were 8 female teachers, out of which Erica Yeboah is a SHE Leads Patron for the school, while 3 men, 2 were the head teachers of the Basic and Junior High School and a male SHE Leads Patron of the Presbyterian Basic School.

The pupils were asked some of the challenges that prevents them from enjoying the vision they have in future. There were 3 responses:

1. Early Sexual Encounters leading to Teenage Pregnancy
2. School Drop Out
3. Child Labour

To ensure that Girls achieve the importance of the Theme: Girls' Vision for the Future. The Girls were encouraged to address inequalities they may face in future due to the challenges they mentioned above. Some of them mention that, they needed to select good role models and mentors to guide their future dreams and ambitions.

5 flash cards which aimed to promote positive, efficient and effective bright future for them were discussed. They included:

1. Protect your dream male
2. Protect your dream female
3. I will seek to support parents of children with special needs
4. Gender equality
5. Teach Girls to be bold and assertive

CONCLUSION

Some of the girls reiterated their desire to rise above the challenges of adolescence and focus on their education to achieve their optimum academic and professional potential in future.



Figure 1. A photo of Aba Oppong showing a flash card to students during the presentation



Figure 2. A female students reading what is on one of the flash cards



Figure 3. A session of students listening attentively



Figure 4. A group photo of Aba Oppong, students and teachers during the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child

APPENDIX 1

PRESENTATION FOR THE DAY

The international Day of the Girl Child is an International observance day declared by the United Nations. It is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of the Girl.

This celebration/observation makes available more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls and all over the world based on their Gender roles.

The inequality includes areas such as unequal access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care and protection from stigmatization and discrimination, violence against women, teenage pregnancy and school drop- out. In Ghana, there are legislation to promote girls successful careers. The legislation and policies include:

8. Children's Act 1998, Act 560
9. Domestic Violence Act 2007, Act 732
10. Return to School Policy GES 2018
11. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation by Actors (PSEA) poster by Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
12. Cyber security Act 2020 Act 1038
13. Ghana Against Child Abuse (GACA)
14. Girls Club Manual (Plan Ghana)

This day is also used to celebrate successful Girls and Women who have broken gender discrimination and are trail brazers in the field of medicine, science, research, education, development policy, politics and development education.

As we stand on this great grounds of the Presbyterian Basic School, we wish Girls all over Bosome Freho, Ashanti, Ghana and the world. Happy International Day of the Girl Child 2024!

CONCLUSION: May you achieve your hearts desires through hard work and mutual respect, may the laws, policies and legal frameworks enacted in our dear Country protect you to avoid Teenage Pregnancy. May you enjoy full participation as active citizens in every situation you find yourselves. May you also lift others girls with you on your successful journey.

Long live Asiwa Presby! Long live Bosome Freho! Long live Ghana!

ACTIVITY 5

REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD.

The date for the celebration of the Day of the African Child [DAC] is celebrated on June 16, 2024. This year the day fell on a Sunday, hence the celebration was rescheduled for the following week. The celebration in Bosomtwe was held at the ST. George Catholic Basic School in Kuntanase. The Whole student body participated in the celebration. There were 238 pupils from the primary school 128 were males and 118 were females. There were 10 teachers. Out of the 10 were 5 males and 5 females. The presentation focused on the history of the Day of the African Child which is the commemoration of the uprising of school on June 16, 1976. Please see appendix 1 for full details of presentation. The theme for the 2024 celebration is "Education for all Children in Africa." The Time is now. We then followed up with 10 important responsibilities of children in school. The 10 responsibilities discussed with the children included:

- Respect their parents / guardians
- Respect their teachers
- Mutual respect between all children
- Avoid child labour
- Be regular in school
- Eat nutritious meals provided them by their families / guardians
- Avoid early sexual encounters
- Write examinations as when necessary
- Avoid negative social norms that prevent them from achieving academic potential
- Avoid alcohol, smoking and use of hard drugs

After the responsibilities of children in school, we did explain to the children the importance of preventing child labour, as child labour destroys a child's future. The children were then asked 4 questions that could make attending school a pleasure, interesting and fulfilling.

1. How can duty bearers, parents / guardians, religious and traditional leaders, civil society organizations listen to voices of children and protect their future.
2. How can the stakeholders above prioritize access to safe, quality, gender responsive and inclusive education?
3. How can the stakeholders above and children ensure that Girls stay in school?
4. How can the stakeholders implement actions that protect children from child labour?

For question:

1. The children responded that they would appreciate it if all their logistical needs for school were provided.
2. They responded the school facilities were inadequate and needed the District Assembly to complete the new building which had been stalled for more than 10 years
3. The children responded that the girls should stay at home after school and not take up negative social norms like smoking, early sexual encounters, child labour and school drop out
4. This question elicited the response that the stakeholders should uphold all the laws that protect the rights of the children especially the children's Act 1998, Act 560

CONCLUSION: the school children were encouraged to uphold their right to education through living responsible lives with positive values such as accountability, transparency, hard work and respect for themselves and all other people around them.



Figure 1. A session of St. George R/C Basic students listening attentively to the presentation by Aba Oppong



Figure 2. A session of St. George R/C Basic students listening attentively to the presentation by Aba Oppong



Figure 3. A session of St. George R/C Basic students listening attentively to the presentation by Aba Oppong

ACTIVITY 6

AFRICAN UNION ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY CELEBRATION

Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana in collaboration with the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition celebrated the African Union Anti-Corruption Day Celebration in the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly. The theme for the Day was “Youth Against Corruption”. It was celebrated with two senior High Schools in the Kumasi Metropolis and they are:

1. Opoku Ware Senior High School
2. Kumasi Anglican Senior High School

Methodology Used: participatory methodologies were used. They included

- Brainstorming session
- Lectures
- Stop-start (Theatre for a Change Strategy)
- Skits

Two activities were held for the celebration of the African Union Anti-Corruption Day in the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly. On July 19, 2024 instead of the celebration day of July 11.

The first activity was held at the Opoku Ware Senior High School (OWASS) in the morning. The LANet members and the Senior High School Schedule officer of the KMA Educational Directorate paid a courtesy call on the Headmaster of OWASS Fr. Stephen Owusu Sekyere and Assistant Headmaster Academic Mr Oduro Boateng. After that we met the student body at the Assembly Hall of the school. The total number of the students (all male) were 2,849.

Mr Oduro Boateng gave the opening remarks encouraging the students to pay attention to the discussion because electoral malpractices have to be avoided at any times. He was particularly happy that the focus of this year’s celebration was on the youth.

Madam Dinah Kyeremateng then called on the students to uphold the values of accountability, honesty and integrity. She charged them not to bring the name of their school, their families and themselves into disrepute by engaging in anti- electoral fraud. She explained that, if a student is found foul of any offence relating to elections, the person may not achieve his academic and developmental potential due to the conviction.

Madam Pamela Laourou read the speech of the Executive Secretary of GACC, Madam Beauty Emefa Nartey. In her opening remarks, she reiterated that the 2024 African Union (AU) Anti-corruption Day calls for sober reflection of the commitment of ‘Ghana’ to fight against corruption.

The Trade Association Representative on the KMA LANet Rita Osei used strategies for Theatre for Change (TOC) to engage the students to understand the need to prevent themselves from getting into problems regarding Anti-Corruption practices particularly with regards to election 2024.

Aba Oppong the LANet Chair for KMA spoke on the theme of the 2024 celebration. She asked a student to define the meaning of whistle blowing. She then encouraged the students present to avoid:

- Bribery
- Vote Tampering
- Fraud
- Under age voting
- electoral corruption and the negative consequences of damage to future reputation

If one engages in any of the above. She shared the ‘see something wrong? Report it; Toll free number with the students 0800-000-700 and website: www.osp.gov.gh.

Behaviour change communication materials were distributed to the schools. In OWASS they were presented to the Assistant Headmaster Academic whiles in KASS they were presented to the Senior House Master.



Figure 1. A group photo of LANet members with the Headmaster of Opoku Ware Senior High School Father Stephen Owusu Sekyere and Madam Dinah Kyeremateng the Senior High School officer at the KMA Educational Directorate.



Fig 2. Madam Rita Osei the representative of Trade Association of the KMA LANet using Theatre for a change strategy to reinforce the importance of eschewing Anti-Corruption practices in the December 7th election as most of the corruption may lead to a fine or imprisonment.



Fig 3. A group photo of a session of the OWASS students with facilitators of the selection of the African Union Anti-Corruption Day 2024.



Fig 4. A session of the students of Opoku Ware School listening attentively during the celebration of African Union Anti-corruption Day 2024.



Figure 5. A group photo of participating schools with facilitators on the African Union Anti-Corruption Day 2024 at KASSS.

Regional level activities for 2024

1. Refresher training for selected GYW groups and Champions of Change on Re-entry policy for Teenage Mothers, Time Diary and Community Scorecards tools to collect data for evidence-based advocacy to promote GYW rights and meaningful inclusion in leadership and decision-making process
 - a. Sharing of impact stories and testimonies from Girls and Young Women Advocates/ Social Movement members on She Leads project
 - b. Media segment with selected GYW advocates on gender transformative messages centered around; Passage of the AA bill, Equitable distribution of household chores, Children registering for voters' ID cards towards elections and How Young Women can protect themselves during election periods (before, during and after elections)
 - c. Training on prevention of teenage pregnancy and re-entry to school policy
 - d. Training on Financial reporting and Book keeping (GYW & CoC resourcing pilot)
 - e. Training on Community Scorecards/ Time Diary data collection
2. Media advocacy in commemoration of the 2024 Menstrual Hygiene Day
3. Commemoration of the 2024 World Menstrual Hygiene Day
 - a. Intergeneration dialogue with female leaders on their leadership journey so far
 - b. Advocacy messages / Call to action by GYW and Social Movement on issues affecting them
 - c. Intergenerational dialogue with young female leaders in tertiary institutions on GYW representation and inclusion in decision making
 - d. Training on menstrual hygiene
 - e. Orientation of social movement leaders and members on their role and responsibilities
 - f. Training on GYW activism and how to mobilise members for a collective action
 - g. Election of new members for the Social Movement
4. Joint sub-regional webinar to commemorate the Day of the African Child (DAC) to promote quality and inclusive education for all children in Africa

ACTIVITY 7

GIRLS RIGHTS GENDER EQUALITY

PRESENTATION ON AWARENESS RAISING FOR GYW TO HAVE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER EQUALITY AND BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE TO CHALLENGE NEGATIVE NORMS AND GAIN SOCIETAL SUPPORT ON GENDER EQUALITY IN BEPOSO SENIOR HIGH TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

SENSITIZATION MEETING AT ST. GEORGE SENIOR HIGH TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

The objective of the sensitization meeting was to promote the understanding of Gender Equality and building the confidence to challenge negative norms and gain societal support on Gender Equality.

OUTPUT: The headmaster had asked that we include the boys to enable them understand Gender Equality and also learn to protect their future. Hence the first part of the sensitization included the boys but later the boys left and we were left alone with the girls.

The program began with the definition of Gender, Equality and then Gender Equality.

Gender was defined as a social construction that changed from place to place and over time in the same place. This was followed by Gender Equality which states that, Gender equality implies that the interest, needs and priorities of both boys and girls are taken into consideration, thereby recognizing the diversity of different groups of boys and girls. Gender Equality is not a women's issue but should be a concern and fully engage boys / men as well as girls / women.

After this we discuss the 10 rights of girls that is:

- The right to live free from violence and discrimination
- To enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- To be educated
- To own property
- To vote
- To earn an equal wage
- Definition by amnesty international on girl's rights
- Right to bodily integrity and autonomy free from sexual violence, to hold public, to enter into legal contracts.

- To have equal rights in family law
- To work to have reproductive rights.

After this was followed by the 20 issues that poses challenge to girls and women

1. Unequal pay
2. Racial injustice
3. Gender based violence
4. Inadequate health care
5. Threats to reproductive rights
6. Lack of education
7. Food insecurity
8. Climate change
9. Unequal political representation
10. Discrimination in social institutions
11. Human trafficking
12. Limited freedom of movement
13. Threats during migration
14. Discrimination based on disability
15. Poor mental health
16. The digital divide
17. Online harassment
18. Unpaid labour
19. Inadequate maternal health care
20. Misinformation about contraception, fear of side effects and access remaining.



Figure 1. A session of ST. George Catholic Senior High School Students listening attentively to the presentation by Aba Oppong



Figure 2. A session of ST. George Catholic Senior High School Students listening attentively

ACTIVITY 8

KMA/BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION FUND MICROGRANT PROJECT IN THE KUMASI ANGLICAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (KASS) AND KUMASI TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (KTI) IN THE KUMASI METROPLITAN ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION

Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana received a grant to undertake the Youth Climate Action Micro Grant Fund in the Kumasi Anglican Senior High School (KASS) and Kumasi Technical Institute (KTI) on August 7, 2024. The grant was for two (2) months August to September 2024.

The objectives of the project are:

1. Ensure plastic free environment through schools and plastic removal clean-up exercise in two months.
2. Create awareness on the effects of climate change to local environments and the reduction of post-consumer plastic waste to improve climate adaptation and mitigation.
3. Increase the interest of students in benefits in separating post-consumer plastic waste from organic materials.
4. The benefits of using waste organic materials for compost/manure on school farms to improve soil nutrients and promote healthy plants for consumption.

A total of ten activities were undertaken during the period under review.

S/N	ACTIVITIES	DATE	OUTPUT
1.	Signing of contract	7/8/2024	Contract duly Signed at the KMA Conference Room

2.	Visit to KASS and KTI for Reconnaissance survey	8/8/2024	Rights and Responsibilities was well received by both KASS and KTI. Entry protocols for work to begin in the 2 schools were observed
3.	Launch of Project	15/8/2024	21 Key Stakeholders Present, KMA, Students, Ghana Education Service Representatives, KMA Staff, CSOs and Media. Please see appendix 1 for full list of participants
4.	Status of Post-Consumer Plastic Waste Spread in KASS and KTI	19/8/2024	Wide Spread Littering of Post-Consumer Plastic Waste all around the School Campus. Relevant areas of excessive littering identified and documented (see attached photos)
5.	Sensitization Meeting with the Students of KASS	22/8/2024	A total of 1,012 students participated in the sensitization and 2 teachers Some students Showed Interest in becoming members of the Enviro Green Club

6.	Sensitization Meeting with the Students of KTI	23/8/2024	A total of 1,020 students participated and 8 teachers participated in the training. KTI already has an Enviro Green Club in place with the permission from KMA Planning Officer, this Club was adopted by the Youth Climate Action Micro Grant Fund Project upon consultation with the KMA Project Lead
7.	Training of Environ Green Club by Waste Management Expert at KASS	29/8/2024	33 students availed themselves as Club members Males 14, female 19
8.	Training of Environ Green Club by Waste Management Expert at KTI	30/8/2024	62 students availed themselves as Club Members: 29 were males and 23 were females
9	Handing over of bins for recycling and compost at KASS	29/08/2024	KMA added 2 bins to the 4 Rights and Responsibilities donated
10.	Handing over of bins for recycling and compost at KTI	30/08/2024	Rights and Responsibilities donated 4 bins for recycling and compost

It should be noted that only SHS 2 were in school; the rest were on vacation during the period under review

OUTPUT

- Sensitization of students of KASS and KTI on the Youth Climate Action Micro Grant

Date: 22nd and 23rd August, 2024

Two (2) sensitization meetings were held: the first was held at the Kumasi Anglican Senior High School. A total number of 1012 students participated and a total number of 1020 students participated at Kumasi Technical Institute.

Stakeholders present at the meeting were the school administrations and Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana staff. Mary Baafi, a project officer led the facilitation. She focused on the definitions of climate, what is climate change, the importance of protecting the home, school and the community in general from littering of post- consumer plastic waste.

The second part of her presentation focused on the four (4) uses of post-consumer plastic waste which includes Reuse, Recycling, reduce and Recovery.

She encouraged the students to use compost to improve plants to grow healthier and stronger.

- Training of Environ Green Club Members

At the Kumasi Anglican Senior High School and Kumasi Technical Institute. The training was facilitated by Robert Wilson Boahin of the Waste Management Department of the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly.

33 students: 19 females and 14 males in KASS and 29 males and 23 females in KTI participated in the training.

The facilitator began by defining climate change, the causes of climate change and the effects of climate change. He concluded by explaining that, positive waste management maintains a thriving environment while negative (irresponsible) waste management breeds to environmental challenges.

He confirmed the positive ways of post-consumer plastic waste, through the 4 R's which are

1. Reduce
2. Reuse

3. Recycle
4. Recovery or Repair.

He concluded by emphasizing that, disposal should be the last resort and the least favored.

Please see appendix 4 for the full report.

Observation of school activities at the Sensitization

Plastic Spread: KTI there were 19 places where in KASS there were 20.

The Environ Green Club members were excited and enthusiastic about the positive (responsible) waste management and were keen on improving the environment by being active members of the Enviro Green Club. See appendix 4 for full report on the training.

Students in both KASS and KTI who participated in the sensitization meeting received the importance of proper disposal of post-consumer plastic waste to improve the fertility of the soil.

They also appreciated that the lessons learnt on appropriate disposal and reversal of negative climate change could be applied at home. The linkage between irresponsible waste disposal and malaria and dengue fever were understood as they become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. See appendix 3 for full presentation

Lessons Learnt

Climate change affects everyone in the community. We need to work together to ameliorate environmental degradation.

Call to Action

All facilitators called on the students to reuse waste, save resources and help fight climate change. She also reiterated that conserving energy also supports a circular economy. She reminded them that if plastic waste is not managed efficiently it could lead to dengue fever and malaria as they become breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Please see appendix 3 for full presentation.

Conclusion

Little acts of proper disposal of plastics at all times by all cohorts will improve the health of students, families, teachers and communities overtime.

Proper management of organic waste/compost would also promote food growth through maintaining nutrients in the soil.

The funds accrued from sale of post-consumer plastic waste will be used as a fund to purchase more bins to increase the number of bins in the school through addition of new bins and replacement of initial 4 bins.

The monitoring schedule in place will ensure the sustainability of the project through accountability and transparency of the judicious financial management of the funds accrued through the sale of the plastic waste.

The opportunity to use the organic waste from the school as compost will also promote reliable manure.



Figure 1: participants at the Launch of the project



Figure 2: Training of Environ Green members on the management of the Bins



Figure 3: Handing Over of Bins and other cleaning Equipment to KASS



Figure 4: Handing Over of Bins and other cleaning Equipment to KASS

ACTIVITY 9

THE YOUTH VOICE: ACTIVATING FIRST-TIME VOTERS FOR GHANA'S GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024.

VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS.

INTRODUCTION

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition in collaboration with the U.S Embassy Ghana and Hewlett Foundation through the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly LANet ruled out the The Youth Voice: Activating First-Time Voters for Ghana's 2024 General Elections in the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly and selected surrounding Districts, specifically in the Bosomtwe and Bekwai Municipal Assemblies. The activities were led by Aba Oppong, Executive Director for Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana, who is the Chair of KMA Local Accountability Network (LANet).

Facilitators of the project included the Heads of Educational Institutions, Religious Institutions, college Institutions, National Commission and Civic Education (NCCE), The Electoral Commission, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) and KMA LANet. KMA LANet collaborated with the Ghana Education Directorate of KMA, The Church Secretary of St. Peters Basilica Church and the Principals of St. Michael Catholic Nursing and Midwifery Training College and Kokofu Nursing and Midwifery Training College.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) in collaboration with Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) with support from the Hewlett Foundation, seeks to empower First-Time voters with the requisite knowledge and tools to participate meaningfully and make informed decisions during Ghana's 2024 election.

The KMA LANet therefore mobilized First-Time voters in 9 institutions, which included second Cycle Schools, Nurses and Midwifery Training Colleges and Religious Institutions namely:

1. Islamic Senior High School, KMA
2. Kumasi Technical Institute, KMA
3. Serwaa Nyarko Girls Senoir High School, KMA

4. Kumasi Girls Senior High School, KMA
5. Kumasi Senoir High Technical School, KMA
6. St. Michael Catholic Nursing and Midwifery Training College, Pramso, Bosomtwe District
7. Kokofu Nursing and Midwifery Training College, Kokofu, Bekwai Municipal
8. St. Peters Basilica Youth Church, Roman Hill, KMA
9. The Church of Pentecost, Feyiase, Bosomtwe District

GACC in Collaboration with the Local Accountability Network of the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly educates First Time Voters in the selected public Second Cycle Institutions, 2 Nursing and Midwifery Training Colleges and 2 Religious Institutions.

The Local Accountability Network (LANet) is a network of CSOs working in good Governance in the Kumasi Metropolitan Trade Associations, Religious Institutions and Youth Groups sponsored by the United States, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) and Ghana Integrity Initiatives.

Aba Oppong KMA LANet Chair, explained to the students present the purpose of the sensitization. She reiterated that, the purpose of the meeting was to educate First Time Voters on appropriate steps for Elections, before, during and after Elections. She explained that as first time voters they need to up hold peaceful Election Principles and procedures and avoid Electoral fraud. She admonished them to vote with integrity and avoid electoral fraud activities such as;

1. Vote buying
2. Vote tampering
3. Bribery
4. Underage voting
5. Violence
6. Stirring strife among other Electoral fraud mechanisms.

DETAILS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Article 45 (d) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana enjoins the Electoral Commission to educate the electorate on the electoral process and its purpose. This function places an arduous task on the Commission to put mechanisms in place to reach out to the voting public by way of educating them on how to vote. This is because the most critical stakeholder in election administration is the voter **particularly (the First Time Voters)**, without whom elections will not be organized in the first place.

WHO IS A FIRST-TIME VOTER?

A first-time voter is a Citizen of Ghana who is 18 years old and above and duly registered and have his/her name and details in the Voters register of the Electoral Commission but has never voted before.

SOME RIGHTS OF THE GHANAIAAN 1ST TIME VOTER

Per article 42 (d) of the 1992 Constitution, every citizen of Ghana of 18 years of age or above and of sound mind has the right to vote and is entitled to be registered as a voter for the purpose of public election and referenda.

As a first time voter, you are entitled to:

1. The right to register. The right to ask election officials about registration procedures.
2. The right to an orderly and peaceful election, conducted in accordance with established procedures.
3. The right to know the candidates and their position on issues.
4. The right to participate in political rallies and campaign.
5. The right to cast a secret ballot without intimidation.
6. The right to vote according to your conscience.
7. The right to access information about election, including timing, date, and procedures.
8. The right to Vote free from intimidation by any person.
9. The right to be given a replacement ballot if you make a mistake prior to casting the ballot.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRST-TIME VOTER ON - ELECTION DAY

On Election Day, voters are expected to fulfil the following responsibilities:

1. Go to the polling station as early as possible.
2. Bring the Voter ID Card for identification purposes.
3. Do not bring any parties paraphernalia into the polling station.

4. Check your ballot paper for the Commission's validating stamp before casting your vote.

REJECTED BALLOTS

A ballot that was not properly executed by the voter and therefore declared invalid during counting of votes.

EXAMPLES OF REJECTED BALLOT

1. No official mark/stamp
2. Voting for more than one candidate
3. No thumb print (no choice at all)
4. Mark or writing which the voter could be identified.

1. Before Elections

- i. Demarcations are done to promote access to all citizens for Voter registration.
- ii. Voter Registration
- iii. Limited registration is done in the office when the EC declares from the National secretariat.
- iv. Requirement for registration includes, name, photocopy of Electricity bill
- v. Exhibition at Polling stations
- vi. The purpose of Exhibition is to right the wrongs in the voter register.

It is always important know your exhibition centre to know your polling station, check details and make any corrections if there is the need.

2. During Elections

As first time voter, you may be anxious (Deal with the Anxiety calmly)

- I. Join the queue, jumping line will bring chaos.
- ii. Go through the process desk clerk
- iii. Vote Once for presidential and once for the parliamentary candidate
- iv. Your vote is your secret. Don't take a photo of your vote.
- v. Don't go with any political party's Paraphernalia such as T-shirt, Cap, bangle etc
- vi. Abstain from Bribery and undue influence

Vii. During the process, the name reference list officer will check and verify your bio data.

3. After Elections

- i. Go home
- ii. Come back at 5:00pm
- iii. When is time for counting and declaration of the votes
- iv. The Returning officer will announce the results

At the end of the Project, KMA LANet were able to reach out to 20,997 of First-Time voters who took part in the education which will help them to know what to do before, during and after election. They have been imbibed with relevant strategies to avoid Election Fraud and embrace voting with integrity and also to uphold their civic rights and responsibilities responsibly.

Copies of posters were posted at all the institutions the sensitization were done. To be a constant reminder of the need to vote with integrity and defend democracy.

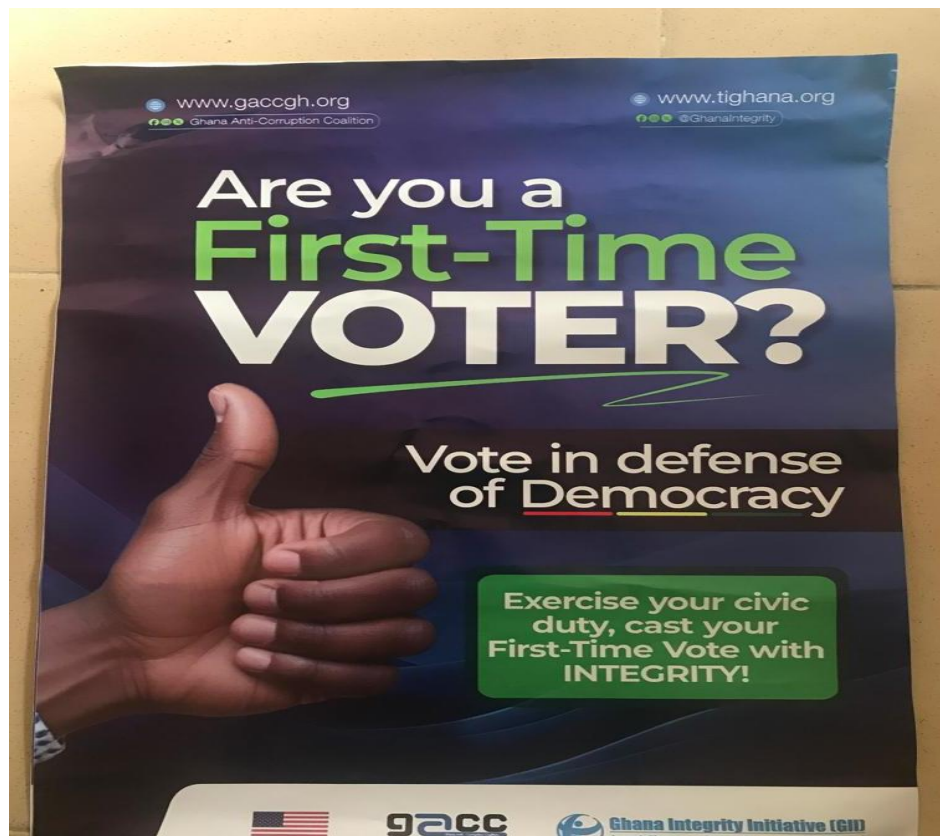


figure 1.

Demonstration of the processes during election day at the polling station by the Director of Electoral Commission, Madam Evelyn Kattah, Bosomtwe District.



figure 2.

A brief about the project.

YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION


Stand Against Electoral Corruption !

DID YOU KNOW...?

- **Bribery:** Money or gifts for votes is illegal. (Leads to fines and imprisonment)
- **Vote Tampering:** Messing with ballots is a crime. (Punishable by law with severe consequences)
- **Fraud:** Fake registrations or multiple voting is serious. (Carries heavy fines and potential jail time)
- **Underage Voting:** Minors voting is illegal. (Results in legal repercussions)
- **Electoral Corruption:** Engaging in any form of electoral corruption is a crime. (Can lead to criminal charges and a tarnished record)
- **Future Impact:** A criminal record can harm your reputation, job prospects, and future opportunities.

BE A WHISTLEBLOWER

- Report Any Forms of Electoral Corruption.




Make Your Vote Count !


See Something Wrong? Report It!

Call: 0800-000-700 Visit: www.osp.gov.gh

Your Vote Matters. Protect It. Make Your Vote Count. Speak Up Against Corruption!



GACC
Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition



WILLIAM & FLORA
Hewlett
Foundation

Contact GACC for further enquiries

gaccgh.org
info@gaccgh.org
[gacc_ghana](https://twitter.com/gacc_ghana)
[ghanaanti-corruptioncoalition](https://www.facebook.com/ghanaanti-corruptioncoalition)
 0302 230483

figure 3.



Figure 4. A section of students of Kumasi Girls Senior High School, listening attentively to the presentation by Aba Oppong looking on is the School Counsellor Victoria Hammond.

ACTIVITY 10

CELEBRATION OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY.

PRESENTATION BY ABA OPPONG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Venue: Bobiam D/ A Basic School
Bobiam Bosome Freho
Date: Monday, May 27, 2024.

Chair: Representative of District Health Directorate, Bosome Freho, Asiwa

Theme: Together for a# period friendly world. In a# period friendly world the stigma and taboos surrounding mensuration are history.

INTRODUCTION

It is a world where everyone can access the products, period education and period friendly infrastructure they need. During your period you should not be shy, speak about it.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

Menstrual Hygiene Management [MHM] is an essential aspect of hygiene for women and adolescent girls between menarche and menopause despite being an important issue concerning women and girls. It is often overlooked in post-disaster response.

METHODS

Menstrual Hygiene materials are the products used to catch menstrual flow such as: pads, cloths tampons, body and laundry soaps, under wears and pain relief items guide to menstrual hygiene materials.

5 HYGIENIC PRACTICES DURING MENSTRUATION

- Change the sanitary pad, or tampon from time to time.
- Keep the vagina clean.
- Avoid using chemical products.
- Dispose of the sanitary pads or tampon properly.
- Don't forget to take a shower.
- Try to avoid a pad rash.

IMPORTANCE OF PROPER MANAGEMENT OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE.

- Good menstrual health can prevent infection.
- Reduce odors and help you stay comfortable.
- During your period, wash your hands before using and after using the wash room and before using a menstrual product.

REDUCING RISKS

Using the sanitary pads and washing the general area are essential hygiene.

Poor menstrual hygiene may lead to itching or rashes in the vaginal region.

Pelvic inflammatory disease and toxic shock syndrome.

Use 3 to 6 pads per day.

PROBLEMS WITH MENSURATION

- Dysmenorrhea
- Premenstrual syndromes

- Menorrhagia in heavy bleeding including prolonged menstrual periods or excessive bleeding in a normal length period.

Girls and young Women [GYW] should seek help from the adolescent health corner in a health facility.

Call to action to ensure positive menstrual hygiene

- The government should remove the tax on sanitary towels to make the cost of sanitary towels within the reach of all families. This campaign is led by a CSO consortium
- Taboos about mensuration should be removed
- Washing facilities should be available in all public facilities: schools, markets, religious institutions, lorry stations etc.

CONCLUSION

Mensuration is a natural process of woman hood, it should not be taxed act as a barrier to education and other socio-economic activities. Let us all stand for positive menstrual hygiene every day and everywhere and not only on the Annual Menstrual Day celebration on May 28th of every year.

Thank you.



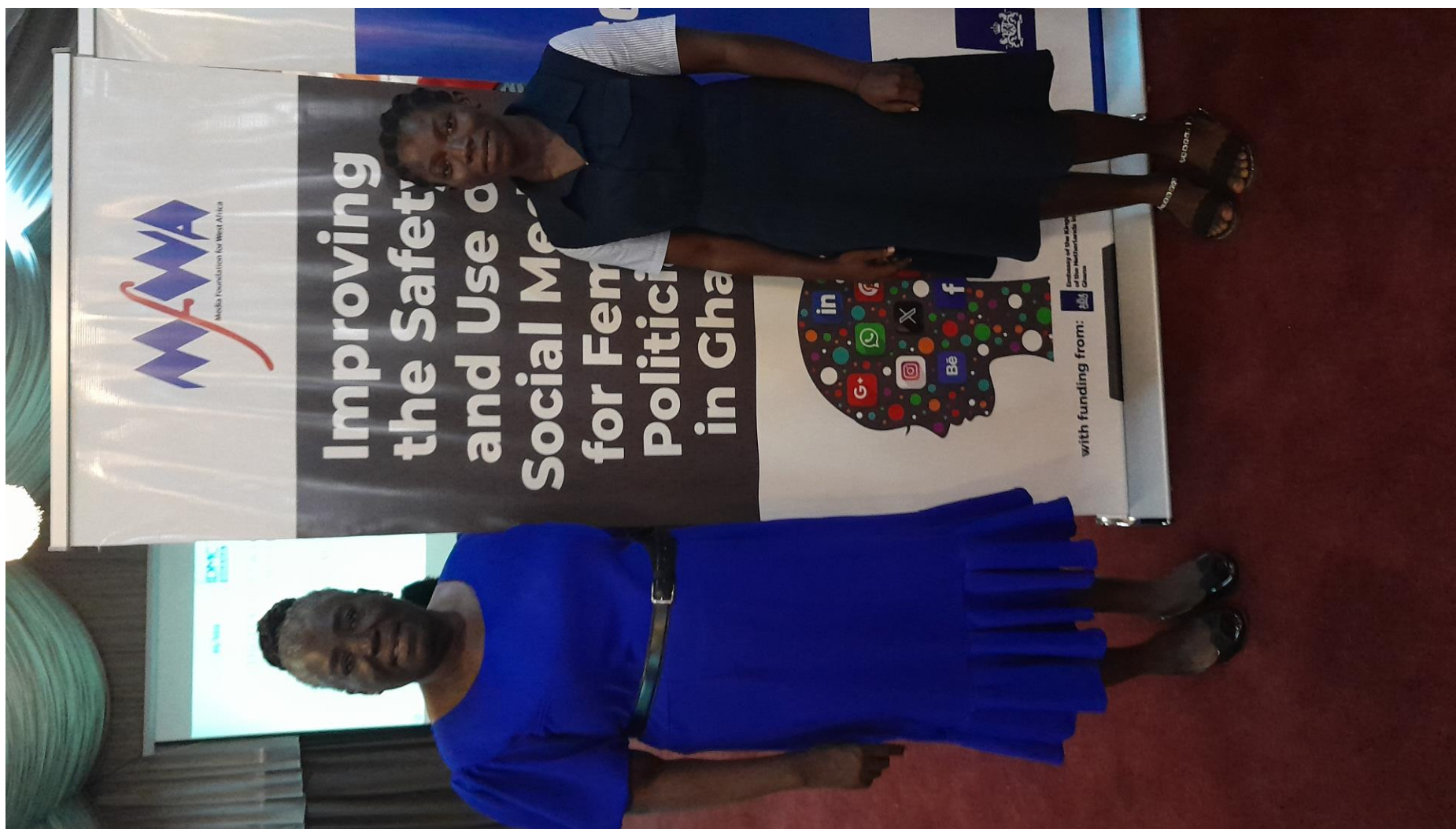
Figure 1. A picture of a female Madam demonstrating how to use sanitary pads



Figure 2. A session of Bobiam D/A students listening attentively during the sensitization



Figure 3. A session of Bobiam D/A students listening attentively during the sensitization
GALLERY



Aba Oppong, Executive Director and Elizabeth Nti Dapaah, Project Officer of Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana at Media Foundation for West Africa sponsored Training at Golden Bean Hotel, Kumasi on Monday and Tuesday, November 4 and 5, 2024



Madam Aba Oppong, Executive Director of RRIG observing the 2024 General Election at Kuntenanse D/A JSS (F15010)

CONCLUSION