



**Development in Friendship**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF GHANA DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021, PRESENTED BY THE**  
**GDCA CHAIRMAN, DR. OSMAN AL-HASSAN, AT THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT DALUN**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF GHANA DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021, PRESENTED BY THE  
GDCA CHAIRMAN, DR. OSMAN AL-HASSAN, AT THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT DALUN**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of the regulations governing the Non-profit sector, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) has become an important event of Ghana Developing Communities Association (GDCA), not only to uphold our commitments to meeting our statutory obligations, but more importantly to give account to our community, district, regional, national and international stakeholders. In this regard, the organization will ensure that measures are taken to fulfil this commitment. This is even so for us in the face of the current difficulties we are going through as a country. It calls for sacrifices on the part of everybody, so that we can help the government and other arms of state to wither the storm. Consequently, the AGM for this year is being held in a modest way.

## **VISION VALUES AND GOALS**

The vision of GDCA remains **“An empowered and happy society”**.

The mission statement also remains

**Working to build resilient communities and work in partnerships with other CSOs, government and the private sector in Ghana and globally to influence inclusive development.**

GDCA is being guided by the following values in fulfilling its mission.

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Equity and egalitarianism
- Honesty and integrity
- Non-partisanship

## **3. ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT**

The political, economic and social context in Ghana during the year under review was fairly stable. The political climate was dynamic with public discourse of many issues emerging during the year under review. Government continued to roll out various policies, especially pro-poor policies including the free Senior High School policy, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), the National Health Insurance Scheme and many others. GDCA calls Government’s attention to the fact that, while these policies and programmes are being rolled

out, challenges must be expected. It is hoped that Government will work with all stakeholders to recognize these challenges and to take the opinions and contributions of everyone to make the programmes and interventions better.

GDCA continued to enjoy good support and collaboration with communities, traditional authorities, and other stakeholders during the year under review. There was good collaboration and support from various state agencies including the MMDAs and the various Departments of the Assemblies, the Region Coordinating Councils of northern Ghana, and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). However, the long delay in the appointment of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives affected the performance of the Assemblies, as no resources were made available to them from central government. This affected the execution of some of GDCA's programmes, which depended on functionality of the MMDAs.

Upon the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic, government removed most restrictions introduced during the heat of the pandemic. The road to recovery began during the year under review.

#### **4. ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND CORE ACTIVITIES**

GDCA's core activities and organizational governance were carried out satisfactorily during the year under review.

##### **4.1 Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting, which is the highest decision-making body of the organisation was held on 29th October 2021. The AGM received the Chairman's report presenting the major achievements as well as the reports of the external auditors of the accounts of various programmes and projects. The reports were approved and discussed by the AGM and passed on to the Steering Committee, the various Technical Committees, and Managements to consider.

##### **4.2 Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee held four meetings during the period under review; thus, meeting the minimum requirement of SC meetings in a year. The SC deliberated and took decisions on various matters brought before it by Management. These included approval of new partnerships and projects, review and approval of policies.

##### **4.3 Technical Committees**

Technical Committees (TCs) performed their supervisory functions over the various units under the GDCA umbrella. Some TCs were able to meet quarterly as required, while others could not do so for various reasons. The TCs performed their roles of overseeing the work of management and giving direction to the management teams.

## 4.4 Denmark Seminar

The Denmark Seminar for 2021 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though many Government restrictions were reduced caution was still upheld not to relapse in the pandemic. The situation was enhanced by the COVID-19 vaccination campaigns undertaken by Government and civil society organizations.

## 5.0 PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

The core mandate of GDCA is realized through the implementation of various programmes and projects by its subsidiary units. This section presents the programmes and project implemented by various units during the period between January and December 2020. Key activities, key outcomes and key challenges are captured in the reports of the various units.

### 5.1 Summary of Programmes and Projects

<b>Name of Programme/Project</b>	<b>Implementing Unit(s)</b>	<b>Partners/ Agency</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Empowerment for Life (E4L)	GDCA, CLIP & SfL	GV/Danida	
Empowerment for Life (E4L), Tolon	GDCA, CLIP & SfL	Tzedek, UK	
Project to Support Livestock Mobility for Better Access to Resources and Markets in West Africa (PAMOBARMA)	GDCA /CLIP	AFL/AFD, EU	
Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM)	GDCA	OXFAM/USAID	
Baobab Initiative on Social Accountability on Government's COVID-19 Response/Partnership Beyond Aid	GDCA	STAR Ghana Foundation/FCDO of UK	
European Volunteers Aid (EVA) Project	GDCA	European Union (EU)	
Adaptation Fund Project	CLIP	UNDP	
GV Climate Fund Projects	CLIP	GV and partners	
Community Volunteer Teacher Project (CVTP)	SfL	Teach2Teach/DfID	
Teacher Professional Development Project	SfL	GV /Danida	
Education Out Loud project	SfL	Oxfam/Global Partnership for Education	
Communities United in Fighting Child Hunger (CUFCH) Project	CLIP	GV/Denmark's Collection	

## **5.2 Empowerment for Life Programme**

### **5.2.1 Key programme outcomes**

Under governance in the E4L program citizens monitored capital development projects, internal revenue generation and corruption issues to improve government transparency, accountability and performance. Citizens in the target districts were successful in getting 14 of 23 issues raised from the monitoring of 17 capital development projects addressed by the District Assemblies in the five target districts in 2021. Sixty (60) accountability reflection sessions were held on revenue generation and utilization in 2021 in which issues of revenue generation and utilization were discussed and raised with the MMDAs. Ten forums were held in the five districts in which issues of tax injustices were highlighted.

SMC networks and PTA networks in the five target districts monitored educational resources provided to their schools using the scorecard methodology. This was to ensure that school governance has become more inclusive, transparent, and accountable; and education resources are used more effectively. Education authorities have begun addressing issues that were raised during the monitoring of education resources in the various districts. Availability of teaching and learning materials had the poorest score of 35.7% whilst teacher deployment scored the highest, 66.4%.

E4L program demonstrated four (4) recommended appropriate climate change resilient strategies in Savelugu Municipal, Karaga, Saboba, Mion and Kumbungu Districts on beekeeping, cage fish farming, dry season vegetable production, and production and sale of small ruminants after a vulnerability assessment in 2020. In 2021, 160 farmers from 20 farmer associations have diversified livelihoods through goat rearing in the five target districts. Forty-two (42) farmer Associations have identified and integrating the various components of the farming systems approach in their respective farming systems. Additionally, 100 Community Livestock Workers (CLW) are providing basic veterinary services to livestock owners in their communities and using income earned to expand their farms/businesses and take care of other socio-economic needs.

### **5.2.2 Empowerment for Life programme, Tolon**

During the period under review, Tzedek was able to provide only about one half of the annual budget for the third year of the programme, which started from July 2021 to June, 2022. The Tzedek project has faced difficulties as a result of the inability to raise enough funds following the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is still commitment roll out the project amidst uncertainties in the fundraising efforts. Management has however been informed that Tzedek has folded up. However, they have connected the project with another partner, World Jewish Relief, who have accepted to continue the project until it comes to an end in June 2023.

## **5.3 School for Life (SfL) Key programme outcomes**

### **5.3.1: Community Volunteer Teacher Programme (CVTP)**

The Community Volunteer Teacher Programme (CVTP) was jointly developed and implemented by Teach2Teach International and School for Life (SfL). In the first phase the first cohort of 40 (23 females and 17 males) Volunteer Teachers were deployed to 20 schools in the Kumbungu and Tolon districts. The project showed good outcomes. In the first five months of implementation, literacy and numeracy rates amongst students in the beneficiary schools increased by 19% and 5% respectively. Unfortunately, however, the second phase of the project planned to have started in April 2021 was cancelled by the donor, FCDO of UK, largely because of COVID-19.

### **5.3.2: Education Out Loud**

After submitting a concept, SfL was successfully selected to participate in the project being sponsored by Global Partnership for Education and managed by Oxfam. SfL was supported by an assigned Regional Management Unit (RMU) to go through what was called the Year Zero period. This was the main proposal development period and it lasted for six months (from April to September, 2021). The full proposal was submitted on 30th September 2021. SfL was able to submit the proposal and successfully went through to receive funding for the full proposal. The project is being implemented by SfL in consortium with GDCA and YEFL Ghana with Oxfam leading.

### **5.3.3: Parental Learning for Uninterrupted Schooling (PLUS) Project:**

In March 2021, SfL submitted an application to the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), one of the Commonwealth Agencies that is focused on education for sustainable development. The application has been successful. Through a Contribution agreement, COL supported School for Life to implement the project in two districts (Kumbungu and Nanton) in the Northern Region targeting 40 communities in total over a 3-year period. The project was expected to benefit an estimated total of about 3,600 parents and 7,315 learners (4,459 boys and 2,856 girls) in upper primary and junior secondary school level.

### **5.3.4: Supplemental Learning Classes**

The second cohort of the supplemental learning classes ended in April 2021. Monitoring reports revealed that, the GES and community members found it very relevant and a crucial intervention that was contributing in making up for the learning losses occasioned by Covid-19 and also sustaining the interest of children in school. A total of 2,750 children (1469 boys and 1281 girls) benefitted from the first and second cohort of the classes across 55 communities (an average of 50 learners per community). A third cohort of 1,000 was started in July. Engagement with District GES officials had been done, beneficiary communities and facilitators for the classes had been identified and trained.

## **5.4 Changing Lives in Innovative Partnerships (CLIP)**

### **5.4.1 Adaptation Fund**

The Adaption fund project, which was funded by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, has ended. The end of project report has been prepared and submitted to UNDP. Under the project eight dams were constructed out of a target of nine. The project was largely successful. A total of 180 farmers have demonstrated increased capacity in the establishment, management and operations of cage fish farming in 9 communities. The farmers have showed improved capacity in handling fingerlings, fixing of nets (inner, outer and cover nets) and maintenance of the nets. Similarly, the farmers are able to do stocking, feeding, taking of water temperature and detect diseases.

### **5.4.2 GV Climate Change Fund**

The **GV Climate Change Group (CCG)** approved for GV to access funds from the *GV Climate Change Fund* to support CLIP implement activities in dry season vegetable production in three communities. The communities were selected from the current E4L operational districts to complement what the programme is already doing in the communities. The objective was to support-farming families diversify their livelihood options as a cushion against the effects of climate change. The activities in the three communities will be a pilot for possible upscale in future. GV is also supporting CLIP to access other climate change projects.

### **5.4.3 Sang Soya Beans factory**

The Sang factory began and continued processing of soya beans into “Tom Brown” and “weani-mix”. However, the factory had been challenged with marketing of the products. Together with Management the Cooperative Union has been provided with some funding from GV and a pre-financing amount from GDCA to purchase and install a rice processing machine in the factory. The machine has been successfully installed and has become operational. The cooperative union has been trained to manage the facility on their own, and have been doing so since installation.

## **5.5 GDCA Secretariat: Key programme outcomes**

### **5.5.1 PAMOBARMA**

In cooperation with GDCA’s French partners, Acting for Life, the “Project to Support Livestock Mobility for Better Access to Resources and Markets in West Africa (PAMOBARMA) is being implemented in the Northern, Savannah and Upper East Regions through its subsidiary unit, Changing Lives in Innovative Partnerships (CLIP). The project is being funded by the European Union (EU) and French Agency for Development (AFD). PAMOBARMA is part of the West Africa sub-regional project, PREDIP, being implemented in seven other countries: Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast. The project has the global objective of protecting the mobility of herds and their access to the pastoral resources and markets in West Africa. Under the project various types of agro-pastoral infrastructure are being provided, including the construction livestock markets in Gushegu and Buipe, water points,

grazing reserves, loading ramps, and campsites in Tamale Metro, Bawku West, Karaga, and East Mamprusi Districts.

### **5.5.2 Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) Project**

The GSAM project implementation continued in the East Gonja Municipality and the North-East Gonja District Assembly. During the period under review, the project introduced a new strategy in the monitoring of service delivery in education, health, and water & sanitation. This was meant to put more meaning into citizen's oversight of capital development projects and to improve service delivery.

### **5.5.3 EU Aid Volunteer Project**

GDCA received its first EU Volunteer under the SHARE Project in the person of Liam Thorne. Liam stayed for one year-period. This was made possible with extension of the SHARE project period. The volunteer was based mostly in Savelugu Municipal and Kumbungu District and worked mainly with VSLAs to understudy their activities. Liam's work impacted positively on the VSLAs as well as GDCA with the introduction of a global standard assessment tool that was used to assess the viability of the VSLAs. GDCA subsequently received two more volunteers whose term are also expiring at the end of November 2022.

### **5.5.4 WE GAIN Project**

GDCA found a new partner, Grameen Foundation of USA, during the period under review. GDCA was subawarded a grant, as part of a consortium, to implement a Digital Financial Services (DFS+) project with activities aimed at providing digital financial services to VSLAs through mobile money agents. Accompanying activities are aimed at preventing gender-based violence. A total of 30 female mobile money agents have selected and trained in the project to provide these services. The intervention is filling a great need in the target communities, whose members now have access to the services at their doorstep. The project has a two-year period expected to end in April 2023.

### **5.5.5 The PACBAO Project**

GDCA is benefiting under an ECOWAS subregional project being sponsored by ECOWAS agriculture policy unit, the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF). The project is being implemented in the Bawku and Gushegu Municipalities. The project is aimed at increasing the availability of and access to quality animal feed at lower cost, increasing the productivity and profitability of livestock farmers as well as increasing the supply of animals with high meat production potential. It is however, to be noted that the implementation of the project has stalled without much communication from RAAF.



## 5.6 Dalun Simli Centre (DSC)

The Centre was able to keep its head above waters in the light of the continued negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Significant users were the Lagim Tehi Tuma 2021 (LTT) fellowship programme with seven UDS students and six American students of Bryn Mawry College on virtual programme from the United State of America for a period of two months.

Other users were YEFL Ghana who held their Annual General Meeting and Youth Opportunity Partnership Programme (YOPP) who also successfully held the YOPP Sports Caravan.

## 5.7 Simli Radio (SR)

Simli Radio continues to work with partners to inform, educate and entertain its audience. With the Ghana Community Radio Network Simli Radio ran two Community engagement projects with the DWA in Germany and Crossing Borders in Denmark. The projects were implemented with all 21 Community Radio Stations in Ghana. The CR-CB project is a two-and-a-half-year project expected to span from June 2021 to December 2023. All other programmes being implement with GCRN have been completed successfully.

Sponsored programmes from other partners including GDCA-E4L, Right to Play, Vector Link and others went well during the period other review.

Social programmes including Ramadan Tafsiirs were successfully covered and broadcast. Simli Radio was able to cover some parts of the Eastern corridor through collaboration with Zoyayili Radio in Sang.

## 6. PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS PORTFOLIO

The programmes and projects portfolio during the year under review for GDCA is summarized below.

### GDCA Programmes/projects portfolio – 2021

Project/Programme	Duration	Total project estim. value GHS	USD equiv.	2021 budget GHS	Percentage 2021
			6.121		
GSAM	2015 - 2022	450,000.00	73,517.40	67,000.00	1%
E4L	2020 -2023	25,972,370.00	4,243,157.98	7,013,145.00	74%
SHARE/EU Volunteers	2020 -2022	159,115.40	25,995.00	80,000.00	1%
PAMO	2018 - 2022	5,236,000.00	855,415.78	936,000.00	10%
E4L Tzedek	2019 - 2023	1,486,200.00	242,803.46	332,434.00	4%
STAR GH FDN	2021 - 2022	131,583.00	21,496.98	90,000.00	1%
PACBAO	2021 - 2023	1,223,471.60	199,881.00	600,000.00	6%

WE GAIN	2021 -2023	200,781.04	32,802.00	80,000.00	1%
EOL - Year Zero	2021	230,000.00	39,924.00	230,000.00	2%
PLUS Project (38,525 Canadian Dollars)	Sept 2021 to Aug 2022	178,142.00	30,074.00		
CBE-Luminos Fund	Dec 2021/ Nov 2022	925,729.47	156,282.00		
Total		36,193,392.51	5,921,349.60	9,428,579.00	

**Table 1: GDCA Funding portfolio for 2021.**

The total value of GDCA's programmes and projects portfolio amounted to more than GH¢ 9.4m during the year under review. GDCA's partnership with its Danish partners, Ghana Friends, continues to bring the largest contribution to the organization's portfolio. The E4L programme contributed about 74%, followed by the PAMOBARMA programme with 10%, PACBAO 6%, Tzedek 4%, EOL 2%, and the rest of the projects contributing about 1% each.

## 7. MAIN CHALLENGES

The challenges faced during the period under review as an organization were varied. However, we will mention a few of them.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the work of GDCA. Though restrictions and other measures imposed by Government were significantly relaxed or removed, the full potential of activities, especially at the Dalun Simli Centre, have not returned. Funding for some projects have either reduced significantly or cancelled altogether.

The government's Planting for Food and Jobs policy faced challenges with the reduction in the amount of subsidies coupled with the scarcity of agricultural inputs. Consequently, the expected outputs from farm enterprises could not be fully realized. The annual floods continue to be a challenge for communities, especially those located along the major rivers and low-lying areas. The annual spillage of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso is a perennial feature that affects communities along the pathway of the flood waters. This results in human displacements, crop losses and mobility challenges. The insecurity in the region appears not to abate, affecting the work of GDCA. Staff and beneficiaries live under constant fear, especially when travelling in some parts of the operational area, and while travelling in the field on official duty.

Over the years, the late Dalun-Lana advocated for the tarring of the Tamale Nawuni road. Truly, in his lifetime he saw the tarring of the road. Unfortunately, however, it appears to have been a nine-day wonder, as the condition of the road has quickly deteriorated. May our father, the Dalun Lana, rest in perfect peace.

## **8. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD**

GDCA has been able to accomplish its mission to a very large extent during the 2021 year. This is in spite of the daunting challenges that confronted the family. The staff, Management and governing bodies managed to wither the storm to get things going. The various project activities yielded the desired outcomes. It is our hope that in the coming year, the activities will be further strengthened to make up for the lost opportunities. It is also hoped that we will all continue to work together to ameliorate the challenges we may face. We call on the agencies of state in charge of our safety and security not to rest on their oars to ensure that citizens can go about their affairs without so much fear. We all need to contribute our quota. We should remember that none of us is safe until everyone is safe.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Several stakeholders have contributed immensely for us achieve the results presented in this report. It is not possible to mention everyone who has contributed to a successful year. However, I will like to express our most sincere gratitude to our donors. Our Danish partners GV have been on our side for more than four decades now. We thank you, GV, for your continued support. To our French partners, Acting for Life and the funding agencies, the EU and the French Agency for Development, we say thank you. We cannot forget Grameen Foundation of USA, Tzedek, Teach2Teach, STAR Ghana Foundation, ASPeM, and ADICE; we are very grateful. Our sincere gratitude also goes to UNDP, OXFAM in Ghana, CARE International in Ghana, and USAID for the support GDCA has enjoyed.

To our Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, we say thank you. The Regional Coordinating Councils, Ministries, Departments and Agencies who provided the policy framework and exercise oversight at the local and national levels have provided invaluable support for us to success. Thank you.

To our chiefs, opinion leaders and religious leaders, we counted on your support over the years for the prosperity of GDCA and its interventions. This is not the time to stop. Thank you very much.

To our external partners, auditors, consultants, and other CSOs, we are very grateful. To our Steering Committee and Technical Committees, CBOs and networks, and volunteers, our work would not have been possible without your sacrifices. Thank you.

We send our sincere gratitude to the managements and staff who are the movers and implementers of the organization's interventions. It is my hope that you will not relent in your efforts to keep the name of GDCA family burning.

Thank you and may God bless us all.

Signature

**Dr. Osman Al-Hassan**  
**GDCA Chairman**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_