



GDCA ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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"Before attending the beekeeping training, I was running a small shop that due to my limited economical resources, was empty most of the time. Thanks to the beekeeping training I could change my situation. I own several beehives and I am the community member in charge of managing bee-related problems. Now I am financially independent and I feel a valuable community member."- Shakun, PARCS-TVET beneficiary, Karaga.



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The work of any organization will remain unappreciated if it is not documented and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders of the organization. We owe it a duty to let our stakeholders know what we have been doing to contribute to achieve social justice in our society through the interventions all partners under the umbrella have been rolling out.

I am happy in the last year or two, our programmes and projects portfolio have increased significantly, not only in volume but also in the number of partners and donors. This has helped us to reach more beneficiaries, families and communities through innovative methods and approaches we have employed. Of particular significance are the areas of climate change, resilience, youth employment, and financial inclusion for especially women in rural communities.

I take this opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude to our partners and donors for supporting our work not only during this reporting period but for all the time that we have been working together.

The contribution of the Boards of implementing organizations in providing direction and oversight have played a significant role in bringing us this far. The management and staff of the implementing partners have been the key to whatever we achieved.

As we look forward to the coming year, I can only wish everyone the best, and to encourage all our Boards and managements and staff to continue to strive to achieve more, while we continue to count on the cooperation and support of development partners and other stakeholders.

Thank you.



Dr. Osman Al-Hassan



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Presenting information about the organization and its work to its stakeholders is one of the most exciting things to do. Over the years GDCA has explored the best way to inform its stakeholders about its work. This is especially difficult if one considers complexity of interventions and the array of stakeholders ranging from community-based organizations who are key in GDCA's work, other civil society organizations, state agencies such as the MMDAs, RCCs, MDAs, think tanks, and donors and development partners.

GDCA has had a history of projectized reporting, which can make it complex for the reader, and therefore served the needs of insiders, development partners, and donors more than the external publics. It is against this background that a new approach has been used in design and content of this report.

This time round the report takes point of departure from the strategic framework of the organization and connecting the project and programme activities. This helps to see how the overall mission of GDCA is being accomplished and how these are contributing to the vision being realized.

We aim to highlight the impact of our work by providing personal stories of beneficiaries depicting how their situations and lives have changed as a result of taking part in the activities of the organization.

The process of putting the report together has not come without challenges. Putting a report together as umbrella organization presented the challenge of getting together the information from various partners and departments when this has to be done amidst several other activities. Related to this challenge was choosing the most important information from the huge stock of information available.



Alhaji Osman Abdel-Rahman

ABOUT GDCA



GDCA is an umbrella organization that for over 35 years has contributed to bringing positive change in Northern Ghana.

Over the years, GDCA has adapted and developed with the various trends in the development world, while expanding the thematic areas of its portfolio through projects spanning education, empowerment, climate change and governance.

GDCA is operating through 4 main strategic areas:



**Inclusive access to
quality education &
civic education**



**Livelihoods, Food &
Water security &
Climate Change
adaptation**



**Civil Society
Strengthening &
Participatory local
governance**



**Organisational
development,
strategic
positioning &
engagement**

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



VISION

An empowered and
happy society



MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY

TRANSPARENCY

NON-
PARTISANSHIP

HONESTY &
INTEGRITY

EQUITY &
EGALITARIANISM

OUR PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

SECTION SUMMARY

Throughout the year, Ghana Development Community Association (GDCA) and its subsidiary partners, including School for Life, CLIP, Simli Radio, and Dalun Simli Centre, have implemented numerous projects aligned with GDCA's values, mission, and core principles.

GDCA has focused on empowering marginalized communities in Northern Ghana through initiatives such as the Empowerment For Life (E4L), PARCS-TVET, ECSD, FtF RING SS, WE GAIN, Advancing Women Entrepreneurs for Northern Ghana (AWE4NG), and the Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture and Food Security project.

Changing Life in Innovative Partnerships (CLIP) has provided innovative and SMART solutions to enhance economic empowerment and food security in Northern Ghana, bolstering climate change adaptability. Projects under CLIP include PACBAO, DINADANĖ Project, Supporting Agro-Pastoralism to Reinforce Social Cohesion in the Cross-border territories Ghana-Burkina Faso (SAPSOC III), and Go Adapt.

School For Life has dedicated efforts towards ensuring equitable access to relevant quality education in Ghana through projects such as CLEAR, CBE-Second Chance Project, Strengthening Accountability in Ghana Education System-Strengthening Activity (SAGES-SSA), GEOP, WEE-North, and SAGE.

Simli Radio has played a crucial role by producing and broadcasting approximately 2,000 programs annually, providing a platform for community voices to be heard and contributing to national debates. Projects facilitated by Simli Radio include the Accelerating Social and Behaviour Change Project (ASBC), Sustainable Development Goals Project (SDGs), Lively Minds Together, and Kpehi Saha (Shea nuts time).

Dalun Simli Centre serves as a hub for vocational and skills training in areas such as carpentry, masonry, dress-making, metalwork, and agro-processing. It has hosted various training sessions and important meetings, including the Land Commission Public Forum, visits from international groups such as Hald Edge Efterskole-Denmark and nurses from Denmark, courtesy visits from France Volontair, School For Life trainings, and meetings of the Joint Simli Radio and Dalun Simli Centre Technical Committee, among others.

Empowerment for Life (E4L) Program



Empowerment for Life (E4L) program is based on the partnerships between **Ghana Venskab** and four local partners: **GDCA, School for Life (SfL), YEFL Ghana and CLIP**. The program focuses on 4 thematic areas, and each local partner leads the areas of its expertise, GDCA leads in **Governance**, SfL in **Education**, YEFL in **Youth Empowerment** and CLIP in **Climate Change and Resilience**.

Project to support the strengthening of Social Cohesion in Cross-border Territories (PARCS-TVET)



The "Project to help strengthen social cohesion in strategic cross-border areas (PARCS)" is a project being implemented in cooperation with Acting for Life and Dalun Simli Centre. It is a 3-year project starting from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2025. The Program includes trainings in **Electrical installations (Domestic), Plumbing, Tiling, Plaster paneling, Beekeeping, Organic vegetable production, Organic poultry production, and Agro-processing**.

Empowering Communities through Skills Development (ECSD)



The ECSD initiative is part of the EU Aid Volunteers program. Its objective is to strengthen the capacities of the hosting organisations to **foster resilience within local communities facing distress**. Each volunteer is previously trained to intervene in humanitarian contexts and is then deployed. The project comprises daily support on **organisational management, training sessions and dissemination** events to promote volunteering and international exchanges.

RING Systems Strengthening



Over the next five years, across Northern, Upper West, North East, and Upper East regions of Ghana, RING II will improve the nutritional status and resilience of vulnerable populations by **enhancing local governance systems, optimizing resources** to catalyze greater access to social services, and **transforming the capacities of institutions to scale service delivery.**

Women Entrepreneurs Gain Access to Integrated Services through Agent Networks (WE GAIN)



The initiative sought to promote women's economic empowerment in Northern Ghana through a network of female digital financial services agents and leveraging MTN Ghana's mobile money platform. As one of the partners CSOs, GDCA delivers an **integrated, market based, high-impact package of financial and non-financial information, product, services, and referrals** to women entrepreneurs.

Advancing Women Entrepreneurs for Northern Ghana (AWE4NG)



The Project aims at empowering Women in Northern Ghana and improving their livelihoods through providing them entrepreneurship skills. It aims to enable the VSLAs that have been established by GDCA to record their savings and loans records digitally and share them with a formal financial institution in order to access to credit for business growth.

Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture and Food Security project



In this project, **GDCA** is working closely with small farmers as individuals and organisations to create and promote the use of an **online application to detect crops pests and diseases.** It will enable the farmers of the area to detect early crops diseases and pests; put in place preventive or control measures; gather data on crops diseases and improve their management.

PACBAO



The goal for the PACBAO project is to **develop competitive, regional and inclusive livestock and meat value chains** by enhancing West African pastoral and agropastoral livestock, integrating breeders into these value chains under income-generating conditions and meeting the meat demand of households in the region.

DINADANĚ Project



Through this project called "Dinadanë" which means "let's hear each other" in the Kasséna language, CLIP works with other partners to **strengthen living together between communities** with a view to the **peaceful management of livestock mobility from the Sahel regions to Ghana**. The project improves **access to economic and social infrastructure** adapted to climate change and its sustainable management in its areas of intervention.

Supporting Agro-Pastoralism to Reinforce Social Cohesion in the Cross-border territories Ghana- Burkina Faso (SAPSOC III)



Implemented in collaboration with Acting for Life and funded by UKAid, the project promotes **social cohesion** and provides **economic resilience** for the **agro-pastoral sector and border communities**. The project also collaborates with key stakeholders including the traditional authorities, security agencies and the District Assemblies to **build synergies to resolve issues** that could bring **conflict**.

GO ADAPT



This project is implemented by **CLIP**, in partnership with YEFL Ghana and Ghana Venskab. The purpose of the intervention is to support an **inclusive climate adaptation planning process** from community level to district level, and to **strengthen the adaptive capacity and resilience of smallholder farmers** in vulnerable communities in Northern Ghana.

CLIP

Citizen-led Education Accountability and Responsiveness Project (CLEAR)



CLEAR is a consortium project led by School for Life with YefL Ghana and GDCA as implementing partners. The project seeks to contribute to **equitable access to quality basic education** for children in deprived areas of Ghana by strengthening **transparency and accountability**.

CBE-Second Chance Project



Complementary Basic Education (CBE) is **School for Life's flagship** program. The program is aimed at giving out of school children beyond school starting age an opportunity to attain **basic literacy and numeracy** in their mother tongue. Community based classes held over nine months, teach basic functional literacy and numeracy skills in the mother tongue of students.

Strengthening Accountability in Ghana Education System-Strengthening Activity (SAGES-SSA)



SAGES-SSA is a project funded by USAID that aims to improve primary education service delivery through **institutionalizing accountability in the primary education system**. Its activities are meant to **strengthen educational accountability**; and to **increase the performance** of education system actors and of their **interactions** with each other.

Ghana Education Outcomes Project (GEOP)



The program aims to strengthen support for schools and out-of-School-Children through education outcomes funding. In the next four years, **School for Life** will work to offer an **alternative learning programme** to 18,000 out-of-school children in the Northern and Oti regions and transition them into mainstream schools.

WEE-North Project



The Women's Economic Empowerment through Industrial Trades Training in northern Ghana project (WEE-North) helps women **break into this traditionally male-dominated workforce by training them as welders, plumbers, carpenters, bricklayers, and electricians.** To allow them to have **access to decent work.** To overcome gender stereotypes, WEE-North uses approaches that **engage men** in creating change in gender relations.

Strategic Actions for Girls Education Project (SAGE)



The project, implemented by **School For Life**, seeks to embark on strategic actions and policy advocacy to support the creation of enabling **environment** particularly for **girls transitioning from the CBE programme** through engaging with and advocating the local authorities and the central government for CBE.

Accelerating Social and Behaviour Change Project(ASBC)



As part of the **Ghana Community Radio Network**, Dalun Simli Radio implement the ASBC Project, founded by USAID. The ASBC activity focuses particularly on increasing the adoption of priority gateway behaviors in the areas of **maternal, newborn and child health; sexual and reproductive health; malaria; COVID-19; and WASH.**

Sustainable Development Goals Project (SDGs)



Funded by Crossing Borders in Denmark through Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN), the SDGs project seek to **localize the Sustainable Development Goals** in the communities, the believe here is that, SDGs maybe **not be understood properly** by community members and this **affected their achievement.**

Lively Minds Together



Lively Minds Together is a project sponsored by Lively Minds and sees Dalun Simli Radio as one of its implementing partners. The project started in response to the covid 19, its episodes are run in 16 local languages and cover a range of ECD topics **to assist parents to support the development of their children, ensuring they become school ready.**

Kpehi Saha(Shea nuts time)



The project is founded by SOLIDARIDAD and started in 2022. It educates listeners on safety measures in the collecting and **processing of shea nuts, the importance of the shea tree, the risks of deforestation, and other issues affecting the supply chain.**

Over the year, Dalun Simli Centre hosted several important and crucial events and trainings that contributed achieving out goals.

Land Commission Public Forum



On 26th January 2024, the centre hosted the land commission public forum on **DSC lands lease acquisition**

Hald Ege Efterskole - Denmark



The centre hosted **30 students** of Hald Ege Efterskole-Denmark for 5 days

Nurses from Denmark



The centre hosted **12 Danish volunteers** for three days. These volunteers were **trained nurses to be dispatched to Malshegu** as the host community.

France Volontaires Courtesy Visit



A France Public Voluntary Organization called France Volontair paid a courtesy visit to DSC.

DALUN SIMLI CENTRE
P. O. BOX. 764 TAMALE

School For Life Training



The centre hosted a total of **150** School For Life trainees for **8 days** training workshop.

Join SR/DSC TC Meeting



The centre hosted the **join technical committee meeting** between Simli Radio and Dalun Simli Centre

PARCS TVET Trainings



The centre was used as venue for **vocational and skills trainings** as well as **events** such as the trainees **graduation**. It was crucial in making the implementation of the project feasible.

DALUN SIMLI CENTRE

OUR IMPACT

Our achievements and programs/projects implementation have been guided by our 4 strategic goals, as showed in the picture below



SECTION SUMMARY

Guided by its four strategic goals, GDCA has successfully made a significant impact in the communities where it operates through the implementation of various projects and programs. This impact spans across diverse fields and interventions.

GDCA has fostered a resilient and empowered society by collaborating with other CSOs to promote inclusive development. This achievement is evidenced by several outcomes: enhancing the capacity of CSOs to mobilize and take action, fostering peace and social harmony, promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity, establishing partnerships with other CSOs, and building climate change resilient communities.

Furthermore, GDCA has effectively enhanced equity in resource distribution at local, national, and global levels. This was accomplished through advocacy efforts in partnership with networks at various levels and by promoting socio-political and economic accountability.

In the realm of humanitarianism, our NGO has been actively engaged in humanitarian services and emergency response, emphasizing voluntary participation. Particularly noteworthy is the ECSD program, which enabled GDCA to host both local and international volunteers.

In conclusion, through its project interventions, GDCA is emerging as a center of excellence in community engagement and mobilization practices. It has also strengthened its institutional capacity to advocate for the interests and rights of citizens, thereby influencing development in Ghana.

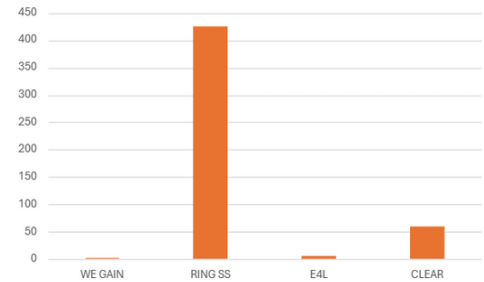
The following section outlines in detail how each project has contributed quantitatively and qualitatively to achieving the strategic goals, utilizing numbers and graphs to highlight the comprehensive impact of the NGO and the specific contributions of each project and program.

1

BUILD RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED SOCIETY AND WORK WITH OTHER CSOS FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (CSO CAPACITY)

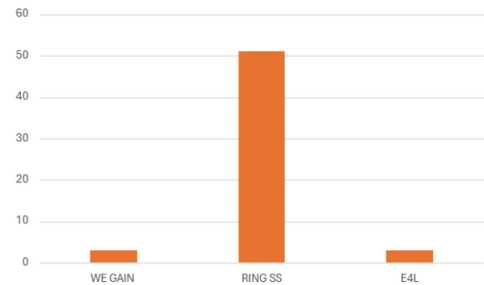
493

CSOs took actions on community issues



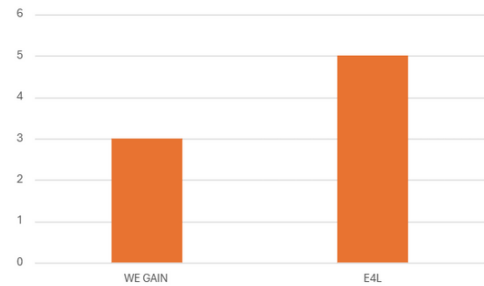
57

Communities issues were addressed by CSOs



8

CSOs have formalized their operations



100%

of the CBOs involved through WE-GAIN increased their organizational capacity to mobilize and take action



STORIES OF IMPACT

"After the plumbing training, I acquired the knowledge to be able to work by my own. I am currently working an average of four days a week as an electrician and this new profession changed my life."- Salam, PARCS-TVET

76

Communities took action on peace promotion

18

Peacebuilding actions undertaken in collaboration with relevant stakeholders

39

Support structures created

5

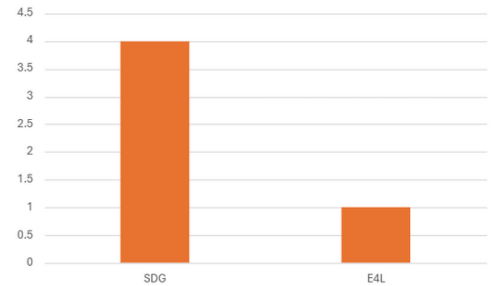
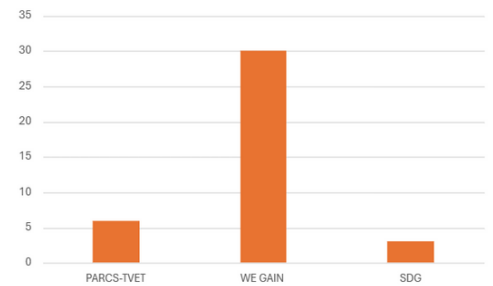
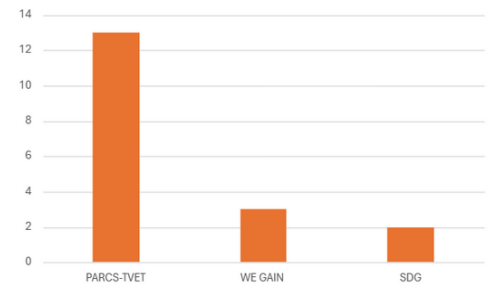
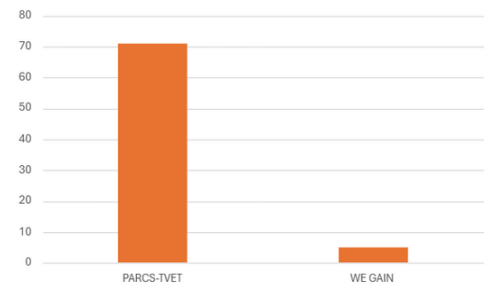
Projects undertook financial inclusion for women groups

120

Women improved their livelihood as a result of financial inclusion through the E4L Program

100%

Project of SDG and Lively Minds Together Program targeted minority groups



STORIES OF IMPACT

As stated by Mr. Yahaya Abu Wustazu, the TPDP model enhanced his teaching competences and fostered positive learning outcomes, preparing him for his successful promotion interview. His experience underscores the benefits of the TPDP in elevating teaching quality. Yahaya Abu Wustazu-Nabogu R/C Primary School

9

Projects gave women access to productive resources

25

Partnerships have been established

15

CSOs have been involved

2763

Communities reached in climate change

152

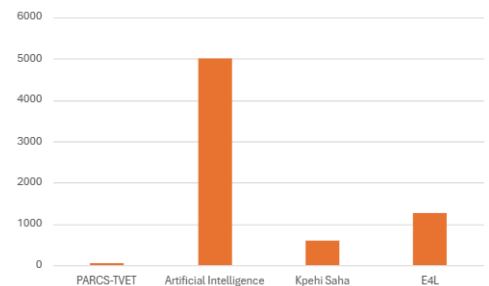
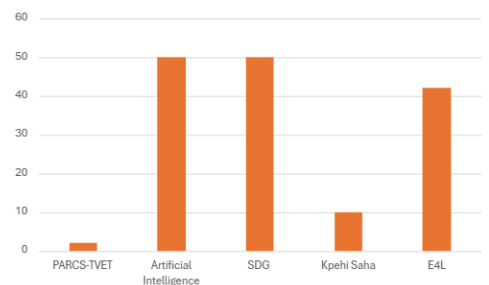
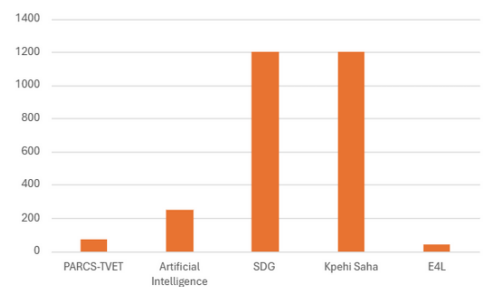
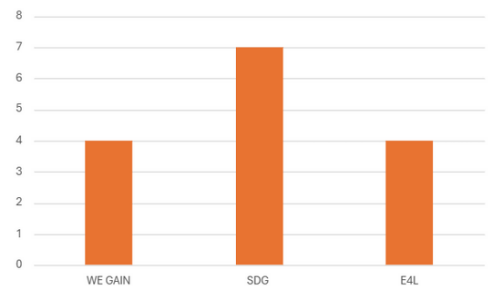
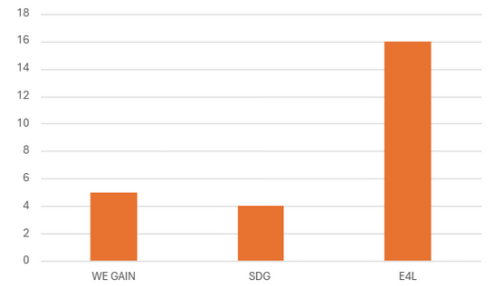
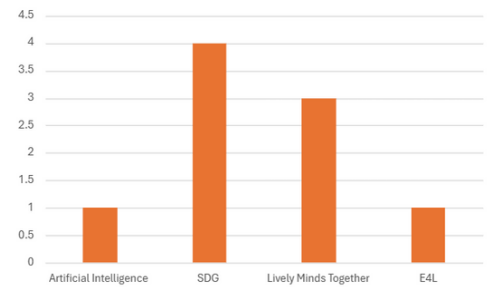
Groups involved in climate change

6920

Citizens involved in climate change

STORIES OF IMPACT

With the Intervention of Simli Radio SDGs project, together with the trained CYTT members from the community, Faandu now has a primary school for their kids. Since 1992 till date, Faandu which close to Zangbalung and Kumbungu had no single class room structure before but with the support of the project. The community was able to secure and use an old mosque(Masjid) structure as a start up building for the school.- SDG Project



2

ENHANCE EQUITY IN RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION AT LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

25

Policy advocacy actions have been undertaken

20

Partnerships/coalitions have been established to facilitate policy advocacy

19

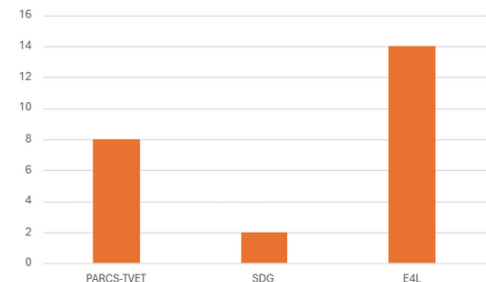
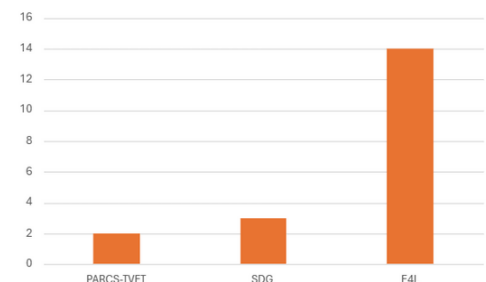
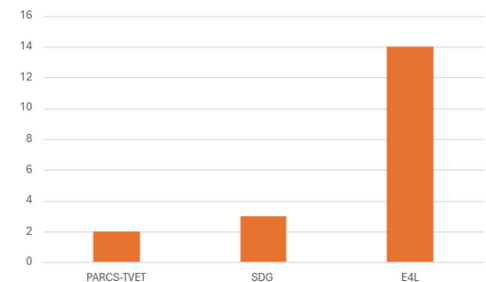
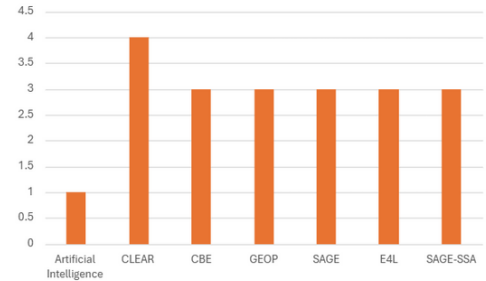
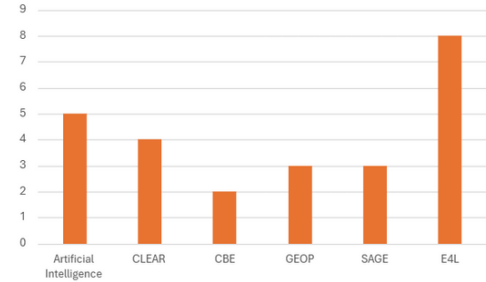
Accountability platforms have been created for engagement

19

Accountability platforms are functional

24

Accountability engagements have been undertaken





STORIES OF IMPACT

"My financial gains from the sales of the vegetables have been substantial, I earn Gh¢90.00 on good market days. It became a lifeline for my family, covering medical bills, buying cooking ingredients, and securing essential school items for my children"- Nkuteen Tasemi, Boagbalm Community-Saboba

Nkuteen Tasemi and many other farmers are faced with challenges in rain-fed crop production due to climate change, provided with resources (i.e. chain link fencing and a water pump), Nkuteen diversified her livelihood and started selling dry-season vegetables. Her story shows the power of sustainable agricultural practices.

STORIES OF IMPACT

"The CBE has helped me a lot. It broke the poor perception I had of myself that I could not teach. It took away the low self-esteem I had of myself and shyness away. It built my confidence, especially the stamina to stand in front of people to talk or do a presentation"- Mariam Dauda, CBE-Second Chance Project



Through diligent saving of her monthly stipend and community contributions, she saved to purchase a Teacher Training Form last year and gained admission into the teacher training college. Currently, Mariam is pursuing a Bachelor of Education (B.ED) at the Agogo Presbyterian Women's College of Education.

STORIES OF IMPACT

"I had always harbored the dream of coming a journalist, but my dream came true after the E4L programme trained me as a citizen journalist where I could advocated for accountability in the generation and utilization of district IGF. I later got admitted into the Institute of Business Management and Journalism school in Tamale and pursue my dreams of becoming a journalists."

- Alhassan Iddrisu, Gbullung

3

STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION AS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN THE PRACTICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND MOBILIZATION

2

Relevant strategies have been developed

10

Capacity trainings organized for the Staff in relevant capacity areas

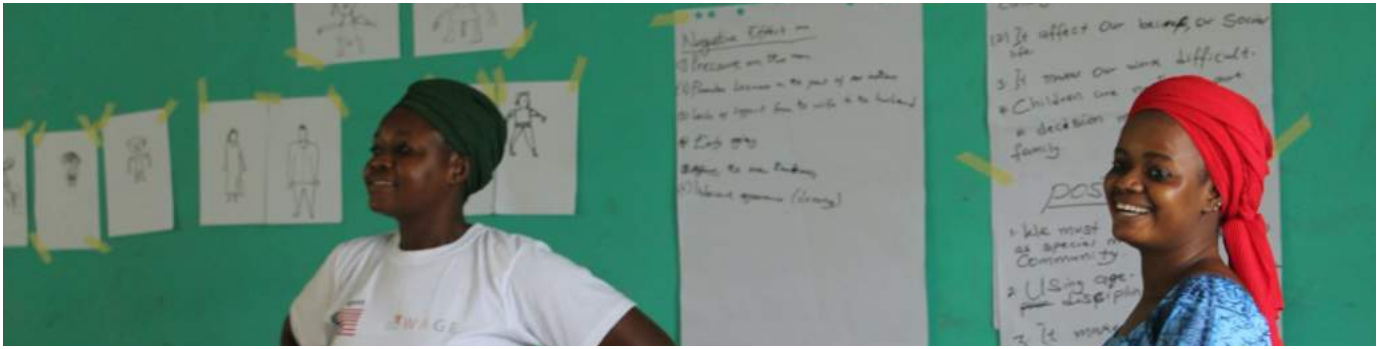
1

Functional knowledge management system in place

4

Board Meetings held





1

AGM organized

4

Coordination meetings have been held

100%

of compliance with the statutory requirements



4

UNDERTAKE HUMANITARIAN SERVICES AND RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES

3

International volunteers hosted

ECSD
100%

11

Local volunteers hosted

ECSD
100%

13

Volunteer services undertaken

ECSD
100%

100%

Presence of a volunteering strategy

ECSD
100%



School for Life

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

SIMLI RADIO

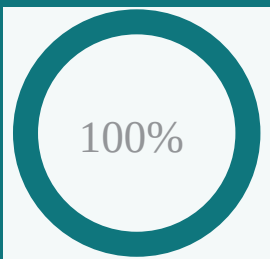


Ghana Friends



Northern Regional Co-ordinating Council

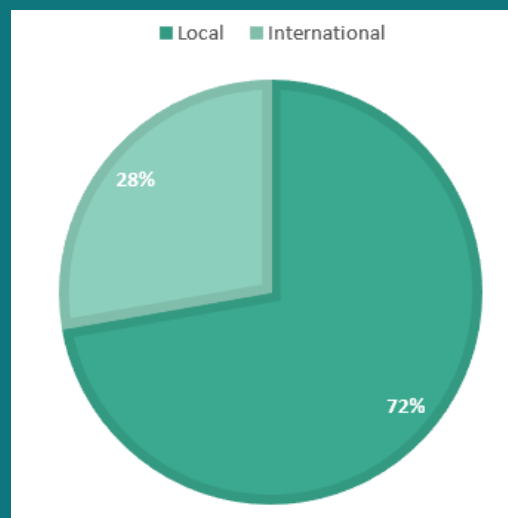




100% of our projects are developed in partnership with other NGO, both local and international.

13 LOCAL PARTNERS

5 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



GDCA believes in the power of partnerships to achieve higher impact results, as collaborating with other NGOs allows them to share knowledge, experience and resources, increasing the sustainability of programmes. GDCA believes in collaborations based on mutual trust, equality and learning, building on the strengths and expertise of the several stakeholders.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
Danida

DONORS AND FUNDERS



CISU CIVIL SOCIETY IN
DEVELOPMENT



European
Commission

**ACTING
FOR LIFE**



AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT



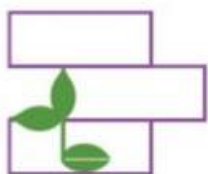
ADICE
COOPÉRATION ET
MOBILITÉS INTERNATIONALES



GRAMEEN®
FOUNDATION



Ghana Friends



ASPEM
ASSOCIAZIONE SOLIDARIETÀ PAESI EMERGENTI
ASOCIACION SOLIDARIDAD PAISES EMERGENTES

SECTION SUMMARY

The total annual turnover represents the entire income or revenue generated by the NGO over the course of a fiscal year.

In the section below, it is showed how the different project and program contributed to GDCA's turnover for 2023.

- E4L Phase IV: This program contributes the highest percentage to the annual turnover, accounting for 75.09% of the total. This indicates that E4L Phase IV is the primary revenue-generating initiative for the NGO.
- RING II: This project contributes 10.9% to the turnover.
- PARCS: Contributes 8.4% to the turnover, indicating it is another substantial contributor to the NGO's income.
- PACBAO: This project contributes 3.6% to the turnover, representing a moderate but noticeable portion.
- ECSD Project, E4L Tolon, WE GAIN, DSG4NG: These projects each contribute smaller percentages (ranging from 0.4% to 0.6%) to the turnover. Collectively they represent diversified sources of funding for the NGO.

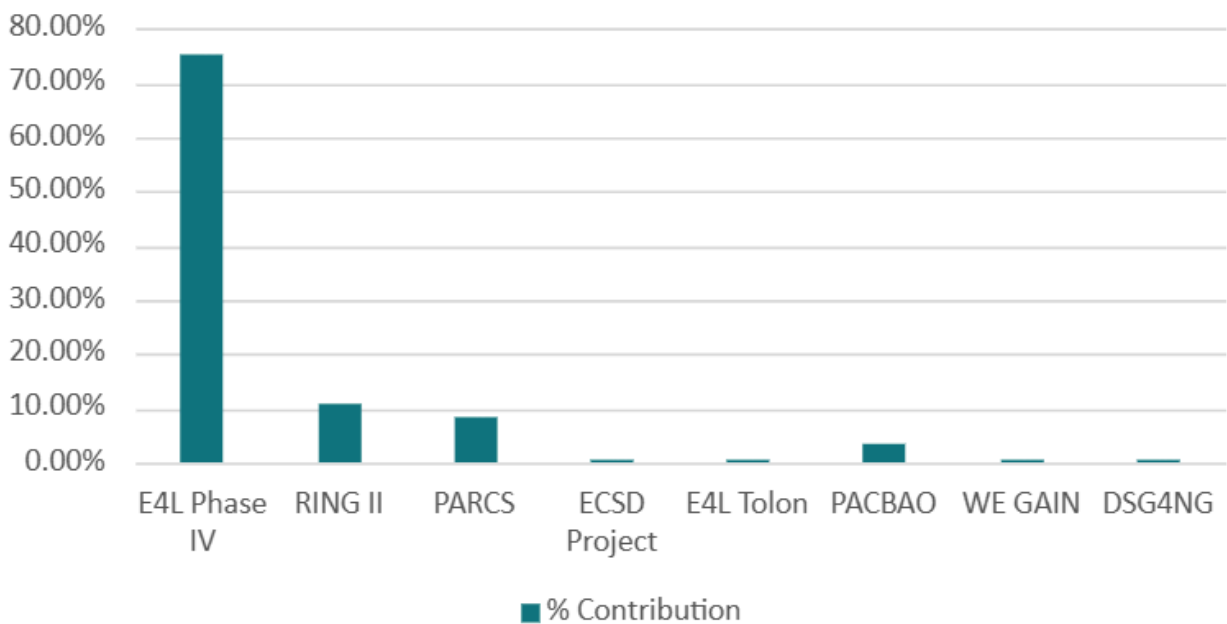
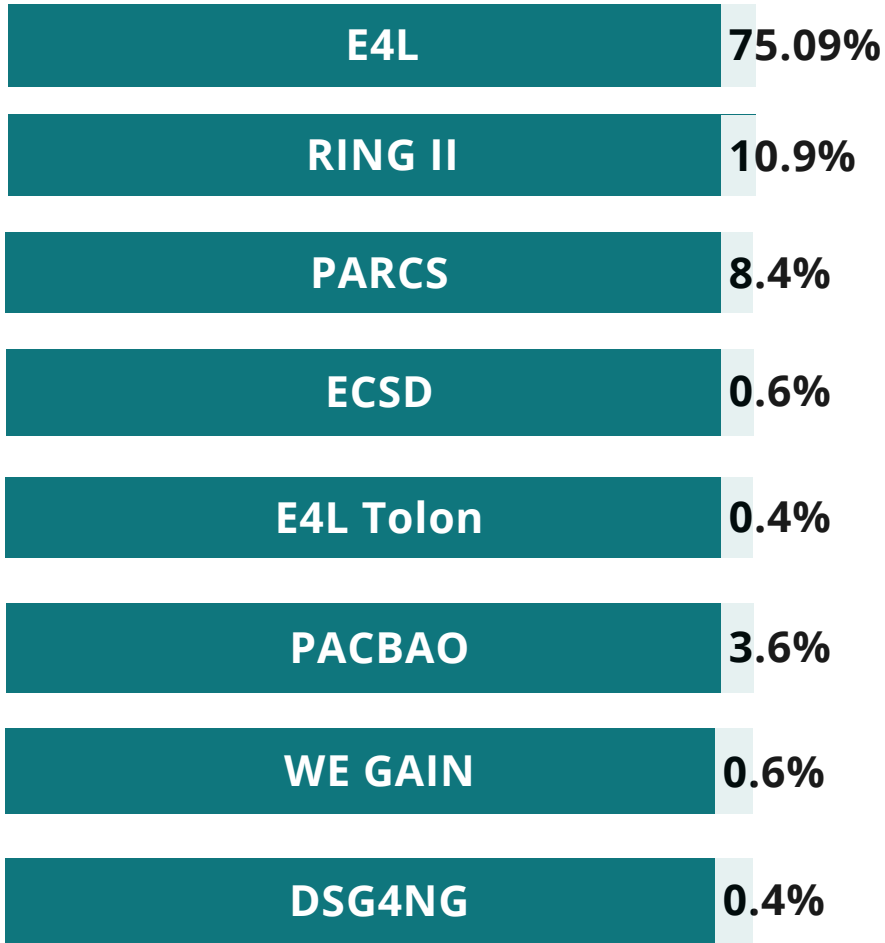
Moreover, the GDCA Programmes Portfolio reveals a strategic investment distribution across various projects. E4L PHASE IV dominates with 66.4%, highlighting its central importance. Other notable allocations include PARCS (10.0%) and Core Funding (7.8%), reflecting significant commitments to specific initiatives and foundational support. Smaller allocations are directed towards projects such as RING II Systems Strengthening (6.7%), PACBAO (5.9%), and several others, indicating a balanced approach to portfolio management with varied focuses on innovation, development, and operational support.

Through this report GDCA aims at sharing this breakdown with stakeholders (donors, board members, partners) to enhance transparency and accountability, and to demonstrate how funds are utilized across different programs to achieve the NGO's mission.

PROJECTS PORTFOLIO

PROGRAM

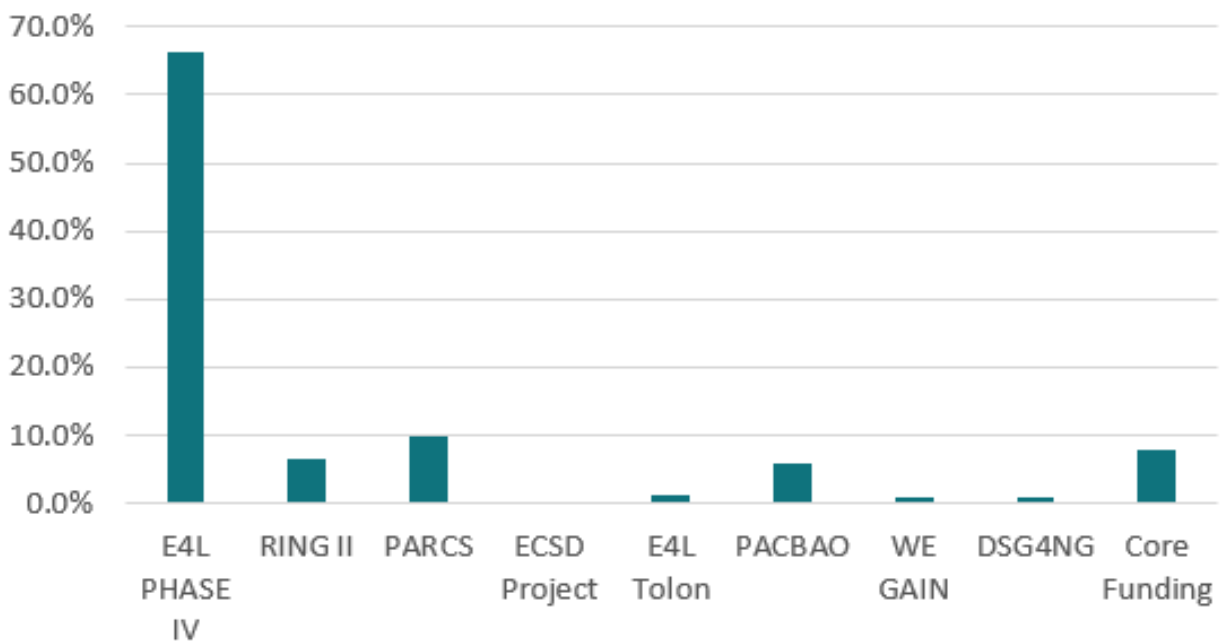
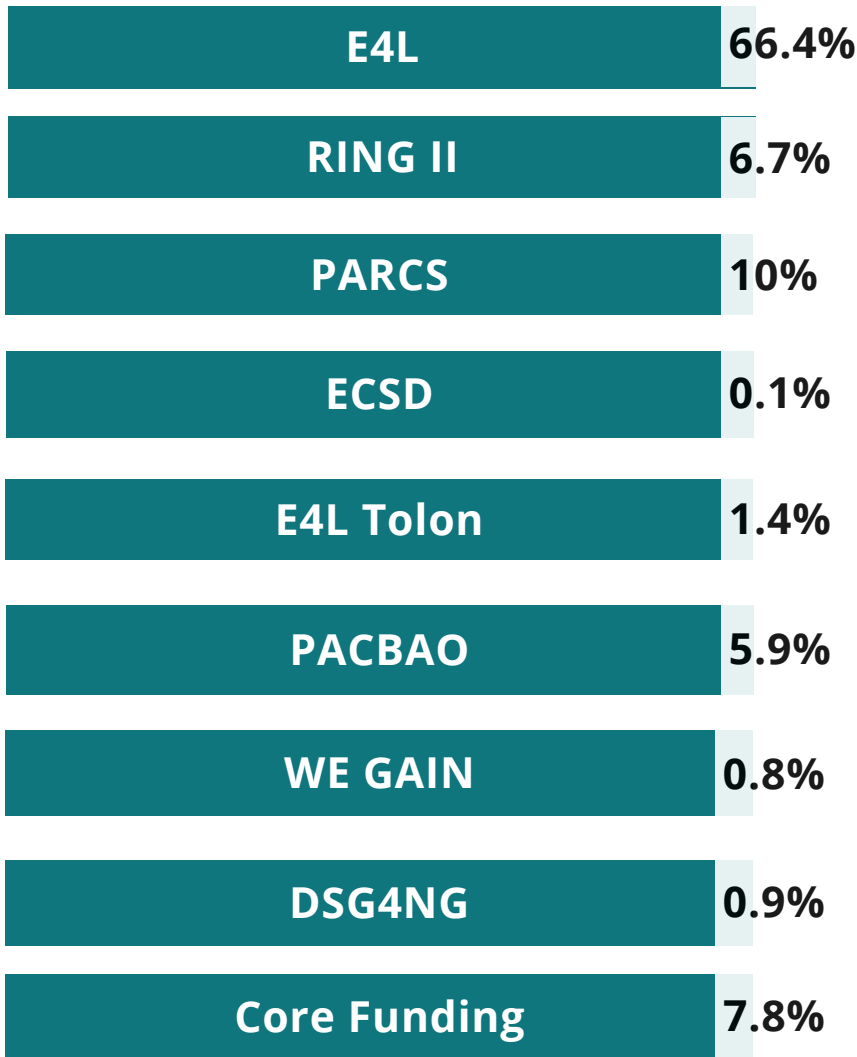
CONTRIBUTION



ANNUAL TURNOVER

PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTION



MAIN DONORS

FUNDING SOURCE

FUNDING FOR 2023 APPROX

**DANIDA through Ghana
Venskab**

APPROX. USD 1 MILLION

EU/ ASPEm, Mondo, Adice

EUR 23,035

Acting for Life (AFL)/EU/Afd

APPROX. EUR 50,634.75

USAID-Abts Associate

USD 87,280.20

Grameen Foundation

USD 34,955.35

GDCA acknowledges the generosity and commitment of donors to our cause and their vital role in supporting the mission of your organisation.

We express our gratitude for the ongoing and essential support.

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