



**Development in Friendship**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF GHANA DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022, PRESENTED BY THE**  
**GDCA CHAIRMAN, DR. OSMAN AL-HASSAN, AT THE 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**GENERAL MEETING HELD ON AT DALUN**

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## **INTRODUCTION AND COUNTRY CONTEXT**

The year 2022 has been difficult in terms of economic stability in Ghana as a whole and for our communities in particular. There was drastic depreciation of the Ghana Cedi coupled with skyrocketing inflation, resulting in rising prices of general goods and services, especially fuel and food prices and transport fares. These were largely attributed to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The year also saw protests over the mobile money transaction levy introduced to rake in more revenue for government. Government's attempts to raise revenue by the introduction of taxes such as the electronic transactions levy did not yield the desired results. Consequently, with mounting of both internal and external public debts, Government decided to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In this regard, the Government went on to undertake debt restructuring, including the debts of domestic bond holders, in order to conclude the IMF programme.

Ghana is one of the few countries often praised for achieving impressive reductions in hunger. The 2022 Global Hunger Index report reveals Ghana's hunger score has declined by more than 50 percent since the year 2000. Stakeholders have credited the country's flagship School Feeding Programme and Planting for Food and Jobs initiative for the compelling impacts on hunger reduction. However, what these assertions have failed to emphasize is the uneven geographical distribution of hunger beyond the national statistics. The northern part of Ghana has the highest prevalence of food insecurity, at 23-49%, compared to 4-10% in the southernmost regions.

Many policies and programmes were introduced by Government during the period under review including the electronic transactions levy (e-levy), which was set at 1.5% after a protracted process.

The contraction of civic space is of a great concern, with the growing intolerance of Government and some state functionaries towards free speech and media freedom as guaranteed by the 1992 Constitution. While the murder of the investigative journalist, Ahmed Suale, remains an unresolved mystery, today media houses and citizens are being attacked for expressing their independent opinions. It is not surprising that our country continues to drop in the Press Freedom Index. The passage of the Right to Information Act, 2019, Act 989, marked an important achievement in ensuring that the civic space is protected. This is the reason GDCA is focusing attention on in raising awareness and supporting the implementation of the Act.

Our education system continues to revolve. The controversy on the change of the pre-secondary school academic calendar from termly basis to semester system was resisted by various stakeholders, resulting in Government backing down on the initiative. The disruption of the academic calendar by the COVID-19 pandemic remained to be resolved. The supply of textbooks to basic schools remains a problem and teachers do not have guided resource textbooks for use, apart from the teachers' pack. This is making it difficult for teachers to choose content for teaching.

The government restricted the export from the country of maize and soya beans, two important commodities in the poultry sub-sector. It is part of measures to ensure food security and increase local poultry and livestock production. Climate change impacts still hampers efforts of the farmers in becoming food secured. This is due the erratic rainfall pattern, which led to inconsistent yields of various crops.

## **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**

Conditions in the operating environment of GDCA have remained stable. The organization has not been spared of the general socio-economic climate in Ghana and beyond.

Various stakeholders including state agencies such as the MMDAs and the various Departments of the Assembly, the Region Coordinating Councils of northern Ghana, and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other stakeholders continue to play their roles. Traditional authorities and other community leaders have continued to provide the needed support. However, the functionality of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies have been affected by the delay and the reduction in the release of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) resulting in decline in the performance of the Assemblies in carrying out development projects and delivering the needed services. Many

capital projects have stalled, while service delivery has been hampered due to the inadequacy of basic resources. Consequently, the delivery of GDCA's programmes that depend on the MMDAs having complementary resources have been difficult to realize.

## **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 30th November 2022. The AGM received the Chairman's report presenting the major achievements as well as the reports of the external audits of the accounts of the organization and 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. The SC deliberated on policy and strategy and related issues 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 2022 was on volunteerism. The seminar brought to light the importance of volunteerism in development.

## **5.0 PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS**

The vision and mission of GDCA are realized through the implementation of various programmes and projects interventions.

## **5.1 Summary of Programmes and Projects**

### **5.2 Empowerment for Life Programme**

#### **5.2.1 Key programme outcomes**

The E4L programme is on track towards achieving the governance outcome: civil society engagement improves government transparency, accountability, and performance. Citizens monitoring of capital projects and the delivery of services of MMDAs is contributing to improving transparency, accountability, and performance of the target MMDAs. Capital project monitored under the programme included school buildings, Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds, health centers, students dining halls, MMDA staff bungalows among others. The citizens' monitoring of physical projects and service delivery have resulted in high quality project execution as well as better services and responsiveness from MMDAs and service providers.

Among the key education outcomes of the programme is the provision of relevant information and data for engagement with duty bearers at the district, regional and national levels, resulting from educational resource tracking. It also presented concrete evidence for CSO alliance and networks to embark on advocacy to enhance equity in education delivery. As part of the issues presented at the town hall meetings in all program districts, duty bearers were able to institute pragmatic pathways aimed at resolving some of the issues identified in the tracking process.

In the programme 42 farmer associations adopted various climate resilient strategies/technologies to improve their livelihoods to reduce vulnerabilities. These technologies included dry-season irrigation for vegetable production, sheep rearing, bee-keeping, cage fish farming and climate multi-stakeholder platform. The technologies have proven to be very effective in building farmers resilience to the climate crisis. The best outcomes were realized with sheep rearing, followed by dry-season irrigation for vegetable production, and beekeeping.

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

Our partners on this project, Tzedek reached out to us indicating they would be winding up. They got another partner, World Jewish Relief, to take over the project who willingly did so and provided funding for the rest of the project period.

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

#### **5.3.1: CLEAR Project**

Year 1 activities of the project were successfully implemented. Beneficiary schools in all 60 communities have improved capacities to engage education authorities for improved service delivery. Consequently, the implementation of Year 2 activities were initiated. The partners have indicated the possibility of an extension of the project beyond 2024, for which preparations have also begun.

### **5.3.2: Ghana Education Outcomes Project**

School for Life is the implementing organization for two regions of the Ghana Education Outcomes Project being funded by the World Bank and Government of Ghana. These are Oti and Northern Regions. SfL is implementing the project in 170 schools and 240 communities with a target to reach 9,000 out-of-school children over the three-year project period.

### **5.3.3: CBE/Second Chace Project:**

The first cycle of the project ended successfully by the end of the year under review, and the plan for the second cycle was in place. Under the project, 1,000 out-of-school children from 40 communities are being targeted in the Sekyere Afram Plains and Asante Akyem North districts of the Ashanti Region.

### **5.3.4: SAGE Project**

The first year of the project being funded by the STAR Ghana Foundation was successfully executed. Preparations for the second year implementation had been completed by the end of the reporting period..

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

### **5.4.1 Support Project for Strengthening Social Cohesion in Strategic Cross-border Territories (PARCS)**

CLIP signed the PARCS project agreement with Acting For Life, on the Agro-pastoral component of the project, being funded by the French Development Agency. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen social cohesion in strategic cross-border areas. The key results of the project include facilitating the development of territories through diversified training offers, strengthened informed governance, and strengthened multi-stakeholder governance of territories.

### **5.4.2 Supporting Agro-pastoralism to Reinforce Social Cohesion in Cross-border Territories (SAPSOC)**

The second phase of the project being implemented in cooperation with Acting for Life and funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The project aimed at strengthening the capacities of targeted state actors and selected communities in the cross-border Agro-pastoral territories between Burkina Faso and Ghana to respond to violent extremism and terrorism.

### **5.4.3 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) being implemented in the Northern, Savannah and Upper East Regions through its subsidiary unit, Changing Lives in Innovative Partnerships (CLIP) came to an end in September 2022. is the project was part of the West Africa sub-regional project, PREDIP,

implemented in seven other countries: Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast. The project had the global objective of protecting the mobility of herds and their access to the pastoral resources and markets in West Africa. Under the project more than 20 items of various types of agro-pastoral infrastructure were 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 GDCA Secretariat: Key programme outcomes**

### **5.5. Sang Rice Processing Mill**

One year after the rice milling equipment have been successfully installed the Sang Cooperative Union has made tremendous progress. With some training and management support, the cooperative union has managed the facility on their own, and have been doing so since the installation. The quality of the produce is so high that the union is beating market competition. The good management practices have resulted the high patronage of the mill. Consequently, the union has been able meet the operations and maintenance costs, and met their loan obligations, leaving extra funds for the operations of the union. This is a clear example of how success can be achieved with the right choice of enterprise and determination. Kudus to the Sang Cooperative Credit Union.

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

The GSAM project came to an end in September 2022 after seven years of implementation with CARE International in Ghana. The project results include strengthened capacities of communities to monitor the construction capital projects as well as the quality of service delivery in their communities. Consequently, communities generated information t MMDAs, GES, GHS, and other service providers. These have resulted in high quality of project implementation and improved service delivery in response to communities and citizens demands.

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

GDCA received in total three EU Aid Volunteers under the SHARE Project and the volunteers worked to support VSLAs to assess their viability, development of fundraising strategy and human resource management. The volunteers' work impacted positively on the VSLAs with the introduction of a global standard assessment tool that was used to assess the viability of the VSLAs, as well as GDCA fundraising strategy and human resource management..

### **5.5.4 WE GAIN and Silverman Foundation Projects**

Under the partnership with Grameen Foundation of USA, GDCA implemented two projects, namely Digital Financial Services (DFS+) (WE GAIN) project with activities aimed at providing digital financial services to VSLAs through mobile money agents, and the Digitizing Savings Groups for Northern Ghana (DSG4NG) project. Accompanying activities are aimed at preventing gender-based violence. A total of 30 female mobile money agents have been

selected and trained in the project to provide digital financial services as well as preventing gender-based violence. Under the DSG4NG project, 100 VSLAs are being profiled and supported to access funding from a financial service provider. The interventions are filling a great need in the target communities, whose members now have access to the services at their doorstep.

### **5.5.5 The PACBAO Project**

After a considerable delay in the release of funds, project activities finally got underway to implement the rest of the activities. The delivery of fattening animals, training of livestock feed producers and marketers were successfully accomplished during the period. The delivery of breeding animals to beneficiaries was expected to be completed in the middle of 2023. The beneficiaries have been doing well with the management of their stock. Of the 45 beneficiaries of fattening stock, 60% were females.

### **5.5.6 Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening (RING II) Project**

After a period of waiting for nearly one year, Abt Associates of USA informed GDCA of the success of the bid submitted by the consortium to USAID for the RING II project. Consequently, GDCA was awarded a subcontract to carry out citizens capacity building and social accountability and related activities in the 17 Zones-of-Influence in northern Ghana. The project is expected to run for four-and-a-half years from July 2022 to March 2027.

### **5.6 Dalun Simli Centre (DSC)**

The activities at the Centre continue to gear up. GDCA, School for Life, and the E4L programme have used the Centre for various training activities and events. External partners who used the Centre include Danish volunteers, Hald Edge Efterskole, Vector Link, YEFL-Ghana, and YOPP. Rehabilitation of the structures has been embarked upon to improve the training halls and hostels.

### **5.7 Simli Radio (SR)**

Simli Radio continued to work with various partners to inform, entertain, and educate audience. With the Ghana Community Radio Network, Simli Radio carried out projects including the Accelerated Social and Behavior Change (ASBC) project being funded by USAID, and the Community Radion Crossing Borders – Localizing SDGs project.

Sponsored programmes from other partners including GDCA-E4L, Right to Play, Vector Link and others went well during the period other review. Others include Lively Minds, Solidaridad, and Teach-2-Teach International

Social programmes including thw Women’s magazine programme “Pag-sung saha,” news broadcast, sports and entertainment were successfully delivered.



## 5.8 Zoyayili Radio (ZR), Sang

Zoyayili Radio at Sang continues to broadcast with support from GCRN, GDCA-E4L, and a few other partners. GCRN programmes are the Community Youth Tax Team for localizing SDGs involving youth campaigns and the Accelerated Social and Behavior Change (ASBC) project being funded by USAID. The station is still pursuing the regularization of its frequency.

## 6. PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS PORTFOLIO

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

### GDCA Annual Turnover 2022

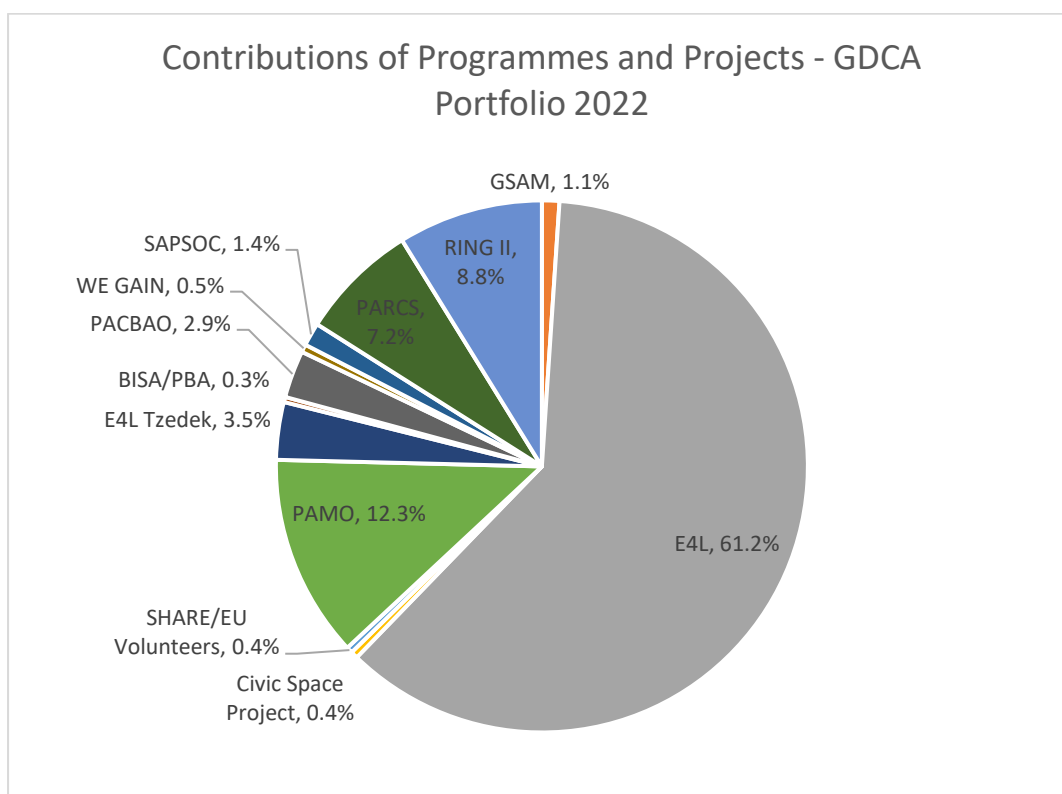
Source	Amount in GHS	Approx USD	%
<b>E4L Prog.</b>	8,237,630.00	825,413.83	80.96%
GSAM	8,986	900.40	0.09%
SHARE Project	142,000.00	14,228.46	1.40%
E4L Tzedek	470,000.00	47,094.19	4.62%
STAR Gh Found.	103,000.00	10,320.64	1.01%
PACBAO	800,000.00	80,160.32	7.86%
PAMO Overheads	31,543	3,160.62	0.31%
WE GAIN	150,000.00	15,030.06	1.47%
SAPSOC	32,304.00	3,236.87	0.32%
RING II	150,000.00	15,030.06	1.47%
Silverman Foundation	50,000.00	5,000.00	0.49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,175,463.00</b>	<b>1,019,575.45</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The value of GDCA's turnover for programmes and projects amounted to nearly GH¢ 10.2m during the year under review. GDCA's partnership with its Danish partners, Ghana Friends, continues to bring the largest contribution to the organization's turnover. The E4L programme contributed nearly 81%, followed by the PACBAO programme with 7.9%, E4L Tzedek 4.6%, WEGAIN, and RING II 1.5 each%.

### Programmes/projects portfolio

The cumulative portfolio of GDCA's programmes and projects during the year under review is as follows:

Project/Programme	Partner/Donor	Duration	USD value approximation	Total project estim. value GHS	Percent
GSAM	Care International/ USAID	2015 - 2022	73,517.40	450,000.00	1.1%
E4L	GV/CISU	2020 -2023	4,243,157.98	25,972,370.00	61.2%
Civic Space Project	GV/CISU	Jan – Dec. 2022	30,000	230,000	0.4%
SHARE/EU Volunteers	ASPEm/ADICE/EU	2020 -2022	25,995.00	159,115.40	0.4%
PAMO	AfL/EU/AFD	2018 - 2022	855,415.78	5,236,000.00	12.3%
E4L Tzedek	Tzedek	2019 - 2023	242,803.46	1,486,200.00	3.5%
BISA/PBA	STAR GH FDN	2021 - 2022	21,496.98	131,583.00	0.3%
PACBAO	ECOWAS/ARAA	2021 - 2023	199,881.00	1,223,471.60	2.9%
WE GAIN	Grameen Foundation	2021 -2023	32,802.00	200,781.04	0.5%
SAPSOC	FCDO of UK	Jan – Mar 2022	98,000	760,000.00	1.4%
PARCS	AfL	Dec. 2022 – Nov 2025	500,000	5,500,000.00	7.2%
RING II	Abt Assoc./USAID	Jul 2022 – Mar 2027	611,000	6,721,000.00	8.8%
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,934,069.60</b>	<b>47,620,521.04</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



The total value of GDCA’s programmes and projects portfolio amounted to nearly USD 7 m. GDCA’s partnership with its Danish partners, Ghana Friends, continues to be the largest

contributor to the organization's portfolio. The E4L programme contributed more than 61.2%, followed by the PAMOBARMA project with 12.3%, RING II, 8.8% and PARCS 7.2%.

## **7. MAIN CHALLENGES**

The annual floods continue to be a challenge for communities, especially those located along the White Volta and its tributaries 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.

Insecurity in the region appears to persist, 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.

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

GDCA was able to realize its purpose of existence and to work to build resilient communities to a very large extent, in spite of the challenges that confronted the organisation and its partners. Communities and citizens groups have undertaken interventions to improve their conditions and have been able to influence authorities to act positively in their favour. 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.

## **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, Abt Associates of USA, Tzedek UK, 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:** \_\_\_\_\_