



**Development in Friendship**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF GHANA DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020, PRESENTED BY THE**  
**GDCA CHAIRMAN, DR. OSMAN AL-HASSAN, AT THE 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 AT DALUN**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an important event of Ghana Developing Communities Association (GDCA) not only to uphold its commitment to meeting its statutory obligations but more importantly to render account to its stakeholders at the community, district, regional, national and international levels. Over the years the AGM has been one of the important points for demonstrating GDCA's legitimacy by involving its stakeholders including its beneficiaries, chiefs and duty bearers in its decision-making processes.

## **VISION VALUES AND GOALS**

The new vision of GDCA is

**An empowered and happy society**

The mission statement is as follows:

**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.**

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 remained largely favourable during the year under review. The political climate was dynamic with public discourse of many issues emerging during the year under review. Government policies continued to be rolled out. GDCA wishes to remind Government that while these policies and programmes are being rolled out, challenges must be expected. It is the expectation that Government will work with all stakeholders to recognize these challenges and to bring opinions and contributions 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 the MMDAs and the various Departments of the Assemblies, the Northern Region Coordinating Council and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The COVID-19 pandemic characterized aspects of the organizational context, as the organization was not an island. The pandemic had effects and impacts on GDCA and its work. The effects of the pandemic are still here. The result has been the need for adjustments to be made to catch up with planned interventions.

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

The core activities and organizational governance were carried out satisfactorily during the year.

### **4.1 Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting, which is the highest decision-making body of the organisation was held on 18 July 2020. 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 and various Technical Committees and Managements to deal with.

### **4.2 Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee held four meetings during the year 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. 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 implementing units. 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 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Government restrictions were still in place setting limits for the number of participants that could be gathered for a workshop.

## 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/ Funding Agency</b>
Empowerment for Life (E4L)	GDCA SEC, CLIP & SfL	GV/Danida
Empowerment for Life (E4L), Tolon	GDCA SEC, CLIP & SfL	Tzedek
Project to Support Livestock Mobility for Better Access to Resources and Markets in West Africa (PAMOBARMA)	GDCA SEC/CLIP	AFL/AFD, EU
Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM)	GDCA SEC	OXFAM/USAID
Enhancing Participation in Revenue Mobilization (EPREM)	GDCA SEC	STAR Ghana Foundation/EU, DfID, DANIDA
European Volunteers Aid (EVA) Project	GDCA SEC	European Union (EU)
Adaptation Fund Project	CLIP	UNDP
Community Volunteer Teacher Project (CVTP)	SfL	Teach2Teach/DfiD
Teacher Professional Development Project	SfL	GV /Danida
Communities United in Fighting Child Hunger (CUFCH) Project	CLIP	GV/Denmark's Collection
Construction of 3No. Hand-dug wells	CLIP	UG Earth Science Department

## 5.2 Current geographical coverage

<b>Region</b>	<b>Districts</b>
Northern	Savelugu Municipal, Gushegu, Karaga, Saboba, Mion, Kumbungu and Tolon
Savannah	East Gonja Municipal, Central Gonja and North East Gonja
Upper East	Bawku Municipal, Bawku West and Pusiga
Upper West	Nadoli, Nandom and Sisala East

## 5.3 Empowerment for Life Programme

### 5.3.1 Key programme outcomes

The Empowerment for Life (E4L) Program – equity and sustainable development for all started in January 2020 and expected to run until 2023, after successful implementation of three previous phases. The programme envisions a democratic and just Ghana where all citizens have influence on political processes and where resources are distributed more equally between North and South, men and women, old and young, leaving no one behind. To achieve this, the partners of the E4L programme aim to contribute to empowering civil society actors in Ghana contribute to increased equity and sustainable development for all in Ghana.

The E4L programme was launched in February 2020 on the theme: Increasing Civil Society Action for Equity and Sustainable Development in Ghana. Key stakeholders of the E4L programme such as the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), University for Development Studies (UDS), National Youth Authority (NYA), the Millar Open University, Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) among others, participated in the launch. A baseline for the programme was conducted and a report prepared and shared with partners, even though delayed until the last quarter of the year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Coronavirus pandemic slowed down the programme’s activity implementation during the second quarter of the year under review and some planned activities were deferred for 2021. That notwithstanding, numerous results were chalked in 2020. The E4L programme support the RCC, and the five target districts with PPE, radio

sensitizations and community outreach to reduce and contain the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and was commended by the RCC and districts.

To improve government transparency, accountability and performance citizens in the target districts monitored 15 capital projects in 2020 using social accountability tools. Through the monitoring citizens raised 29 issues on the projects and got 45% (13) of those issues addressed by the MMDAs. They also monitored Internal revenue generation by the MMDAs and got 29% (10) of the 35 issues raised concerning the revenue generation addressed by the MMDAs. GDCA developed a compendium of best practices on local taxation, shared with partners and will be promoting this compendium in the ensuing years. GDCA established cooperation with the Northern regional tax justice network, SEND Ghana, ISODEC and GII to advance the work on local taxation, tax justice and anti-corruption. To enhance youth mobilization and enable the Youth Centres (YCs) to function well Karaga and Savelugu YCs are advanced in the process of acquiring spaces for youth mobilization and engagement. The programme intends to support these YCs to make these spaces habitable for youth engagements. A draft social enterprise model is in place for finalization and in 2021 this model will be finalized and used to support the Youth Centres.

To contribute to improved distribution and use of education resources SfL mobilized other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and they pushed for adequate preparations for school reopening and provided recommendations for education authorities at district and regional levels. SfL also introduced supplemental learning (1,739 learners in rural areas benefited) and embarked on a back-to-school campaign to ensure that pupils especially vulnerable girls do not drop out of school when schools resume in January 2021. The networks of PTAs and SMCs were adequately prepared for the tracking of education resources and a model for education resource tracking using social accountability is being developed to facilitate tracking of education resources in 2021. The Teacher Professional Development model (TPD) has been reviewed based on lessons from the pilot phase and the training manual reviewed for use in 2021. This model will be implemented in all E4L target districts in the ensuing years. Ninety-eight (98) non-literate young women gained appreciable literacy and numeracy skills and 89 of them gained entrepreneurial skills in addition with the support of the E4L programme. These young women will be closely monitored and mentored to start/expand and sustain their businesses in 2021 onwards.

In 2020 the programme demonstrated two recommended appropriate resilient strategies in Saboba and Karaga districts on bee-keeping and irrigation respectively after vulnerability assessment. The Farming-systems approach was also developed and demonstrated in five districts. As a result of this demonstration 80 farmers from 10 farmer associations have diversified livelihoods through goat rearing in the communities. Thirty (30) farmer associations demonstrated new skills in organic

compost preparation in their communities by preparing organic compost for their farms which increased their crop yield. Also, 50 youth Community Livestock Workers (CLW) are providing basic veterinary services to livestock owners in their communities and using income expand their farms/businesses and take care of other needs. Through the 2020 Farmer Field Schools, farmers in the five districts are sharing knowledge in good agricultural practices with their colleagues by explaining to them how to do planting in rows, use of improved seeds, spacing and application of fertilizer. Farmer associations (42) demonstrated improved capacity on the farming system approach by identifying and integrating the various components of their respective farming systems.

### 5.3.2 Empowerment for Life programme, Tolon

- 3 CBOs have used the media (Television) to advocate for the construction of their community road.
- Tibomneesim youth association have advocated for the construction of their road
- Gubkatimali Youth Association collaborates with other youth groups to advocate for their roads to be fixed
- Buiyili community have organized a community forum and sent a delegation to the District Chief Executive (DCE).
- The Youth Centre organized a drama on conflict prevention and peace in Yoggu.
- Simli Youth Group have mobilized community members to desilt their community dam and advocated for support
- Buiyili community offer support to contractors extending electricity to their community
- 15 CBOs have developed their own action plans
- Tibomneesim youth association cultivates one acre maize farm
- Maligu Youth Group have purchased new canopy and chairs for renting

## 5.4 School for Life (SfL) Key programme outcomes

### 5.4.1: Community Volunteer Teacher Programme (CVTP)

The Community Volunteer Teacher Programme (CVTP) was jointly developed and implemented by Teach2Teach International and School for Life (SfL). The project recruits and trains talented young Ghanaians to serve as Community Volunteer Teachers (CVTs) in rural and deprived communities of Northern Ghana. The Volunteers are mostly selected from their local communities and provided with a holistic and intensive training in pedagogy, teaching methodologies, Leadership and Safeguarding skills.

In 2020, the first cohort of 40 (23 females and 17 males) Volunteer Teachers were deployed to 20 schools in the Kumbungu and Tolon districts in communities with unbalanced pupil-teacher ratio, and general poor learning outcomes. These efforts complemented the work of the regular classroom teaching and learning. Through the child-centred teaching methodology and leadership skills, the CVTs provided dedicated service and friendly teaching and learning atmosphere that generated the interest and admiration for the project from parents, pupils, headteachers, and GES officials.

Within the short period of implementation, the Programme has proven to be very relevant in the communities where it is being implemented as community members and headteachers continue to provide positive feedback about its impact. In the first five months of implementation, literacy and numeracy rates amongst students in the beneficiary schools increased by 19% and 5% respectively.

With the support of Book Aid International, over 6000 age-appropriate books were distributed to the communities through which the CVTs facilitated reading clubs. This further ensured positive reading habits among the pupils in the beneficiary communities at the crucial period when schools were closed. Also, after a year in the programme implementation, the CVTs reported a phenomenal increase in their levels of confidence as teachers and leaders. A total of 13 CVTs (7 females and 6 males) gained admission to further their education in various tertiary institutions such as the University for Development Studies, The Tamale Technical University College and the University Colleges of Education among others.

#### **5.4.2: Supplemental Learning Classes Initiative:**

In 2020, School for Life, with support from Ghana Friends (GV) in Denmark implemented Supplemental learning classes as an alternative measure to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 and the resultant school closures on learning outcomes. The Supplemental Learning Classes were rolled out to provide ongoing tuition for selected vulnerable children in deprived and remote communities in the Empowerment for Life (E4L) districts. This was primarily meant to keep them engaged and to make up for the lost time due to school closures occasioned by the Covid-19 Pandemic. A total of 2,750 children (1469 boys and 1281 girls) benefitted from this across 55 communities (an average of 50 learners per a community). The classes contributed in sustaining the interest of children in school during the school closures. It also contributed in reducing potential drop-out of the children from school. Children especially girls who had planned to travel down south for 'Kayaye' as a result of the school closures, decided to stay in the communities to participate in the classes. Testimonies from the community members showed that, the intervention was timely and impactful. The



facilitators of the Supplemental Learning Classes with the support of the PTAs and SMCs, continuously engaged parents to ensure that, they support the return of their children especially girls to school.

#### **5.4.3: The Young Women in Literacy Project:**

In 2020, in partnership with YEFL Ghana and with support from Ghana Friends, a sub-project, 'The Young Women in Literacy Project' was rolled out under the E4L Programme. The project is aimed at supporting non-literate young women to achieve basic literacy, numeracy and entrepreneurship skills to enable them conduct businesses in a functional and professional manner. The project sought to improve the quality of life of young women through training and self-employment. Under this initiative, a total of 100 non-literate young women in four Programme District- Karaga, Savelugu, Kumbungu and Mion participated. They took part in six months of literacy and numeracy classes and a boot camp in entrepreneurial and leadership skills. Within the one year of implementation, most of the beneficiaries are now able to write and read simple texts, write their names and do simple arithmetic.

#### **5.4.4: The Teacher Professional Development Project (TPDP):**

After a successful pilot of the Teacher Professional Development Project in the Mion district, the project is now being mainstreamed into the E4L Programme to expand the coverage. In 2020, the programme was planned to reach out to 2 additional districts (Kumbungu and Karaga) under the E4L programme. However, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the planned activities under the initiative could not be implemented in 2020. It was thus postponed to 2021. The project mainly worked to contribute to enhance relational competence of teachers and to encourage reflective teaching practice in the beneficiary schools.

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

#### **5.5.1 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.

There has also been increase household income level of farmers. The livelihoods as well as the income of the farmers' household have increased through the sale of the tilapia fish harvested. The average weight of the tilapia fish was between 800g and 1kg and sold for

GH¢10 on average. Adaboya community recorded an amount of GH¢3,585 after selling 380kg of tilapia fish harvested from 1 cage fish farm.

Another result of the project has been the improved household dietary intake and protein supplement. With the availability of fish in the community, protein dietary intake supplement has improved. This is expected to improve the nutritional and health status of households, especially children, nursing mothers and pregnant women.

### **5.5.2 Sang Soya Beans factory**

The Sang factory began and continued processing of soya beans into “Tom Brown” and “weani-mix”. However, the factory has been challenged with marketing of the products. Management is considering changing the products being processed from the factory.

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

### **5.6.1 PAMOBARMA**

Ghana Developing Communities Association (GDCA) has entered into partnership with Acting for Life (AFL) to implement the “*Project to Support Livestock Mobility for Better Access to Resources and Markets in West Africa (PAMOBARMA)*” 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 PAMOBARMA project is a follow-up to the PARSAO project with the global objective of protecting the mobility of herds and their access to the pastoral resources and markets in West Africa.

### **Key outcomes**

#### Informed Debates

The Informed Debates conducted in Northern and Upper East Regions increased participants knowledge in livestock production and off-take, how the values chain operates as well as the critical challenges facing

livestock trading in West Africa. The debates also contributed to change in perception and misconception on the activities of herders.

### Debates Impact monitoring

The project team during impact monitoring met and interacted with 57 selected participants from the three operational regions. Participants during the interaction indicated how they have utilized the knowledge of the informed debate to improved their animal's husbandry practices. Some of the participants stated how they sensitized the community people on the have peaceful relations with herders in the communities.

### Trained agropastoral management committees

- Participants have acquired basic skills in how to develop their committees' constitution
- Participants have acquired relevant knowledge on how organize and conduct a successful meeting and implement decisions taken
- Participants have acquired basic knowledge in leadership skills
- Participants have gained knowledge in basic records keeping to monitor the activities of transhumance on the corridor
- Participants have acquired relevant skills in analyzing farmer-herder conflicts, resolution
- and management

### Community Sensitization on the additional 30 km corridor creation and other agropastoral infrastructure

- A total of 5 communities (Googo, Kobore, Yarigu, Timonde and Tanga) along corridor had indepth knowledge on the PAMOBARMA project objectives and the nature of the its intervention.
- The community Traditional Authorities (Chiefs/Landowners) and other stakeholders in the communities pledged to support the project activities to achieve its objectives.
- A total of 5 corridor management, 3 water point, 2 grazing area and 3 campsite management committees formed in Northern, Savanna and Upper East Regions.

### Develop and sign MoU and Social Agreements for the construction of agropastoral infrastructure

- Signed of MoU and social agreements District Assemblies, Managements Committees and Traditional Authorities. The MoUs and social agreements served as legal document bidding the construction and management of the agropastoral infrastructures in the various Districts and communities. market infrastructure in the two Districts.
- Copies of the signed MoUs and social agreements summited to GDCA, the Assemblies, Traditional Authorities and the Management Committees.

### Tender processing and award contract for the construction of agropastoral infrastructure

- The tender processes were done and contractors selected. For Northern and Savanna Regions, YENNE PANGA Enterprise was selected to execute 2 water points, 3 campsites and 2 grazing reserves with a contract sum of **GHC 380284.43**. These facilities are to be executed Jankpihi and Takalgu communities in the Karaga District and Gberigi community in the Central Gonja District. Again, BUDA Enterprise was also selected to demarcate 50 km corridor, construct 1 water point (dugout), 1 campsite in Bawku West District and 1 loading ramp in Pusiga District with a contract sum of **GHC 295002.63**.
- Introduction of contractors and site handing ceremonies were conducted to officially commence the construction of the facilities in the three regions.

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

This section presents key activities and outcomes during the sixth year of the Ghana Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project implementation in the East Gonja Municipality and the North-East Gonja District Assembly. The project sought to strengthen citizen's oversight of Capital Development Projects and improve local government transparency, accountability, and performance during the period.

#### **Key activities**

During the period, GSAM in collaboration with Ghana Audit Service and the EGMA organized a Town Hall Meeting (THM) to disseminate the results of the GAS

assessment of two capital project namely: Construction of 3-Unit Classroom Block at Imamiya Islamic Primary and Construction of 10-Unit Hostel facility at TI Ahmaddiya Training School. This has enabled citizens to address their concerns on these projects and other related issues. The MCE, the MCD and the MPO participated and responded to questions bordering citizens' infrastructural needs. A second Town Hall Meeting was organized to disseminate the results of monitoring by Community Development Monitors (CDMs) on selected capital development projects. This enabled citizens to address their concerns on these projects and other related issues.

GDCA facilitated the dissemination of the Ghana Audit Service (GAS) Scorecard in selected communities in East Gonja Municipal Assembly (EGMA) and the North East Gonja District Assembly (NEGDA). The purpose of the activity was to disseminate the performance scorecards through community interface meetings (community durbars) in 25 communities across the two districts in the Savannah region. To a large extent, citizens were sensitized on the local governance concept, and how to demand for accountability from duty bearers in their respective district assemblies, with regards to capital development projects. Citizens were taken through the Ghana Audit Service findings on the two capital projects. Citizens were also encouraged to demand accountability from DAs whenever they're executing capital projects, to ensure quality and value for money. From the dissemination exercise, Citizens now understand that they are partners in decision making process in their respective district assemblies. Citizens can now press upon their demand for accountability from duty bearers without fear.

The GAS scorecard was also disseminated in six alternative space meetings. The objective was to disseminate the GAS performance Audit Scorecards to citizen groups using alternative platforms. To a greater extent, members of selected citizens groups, associations and faith-based organizations were further sensitized on the local governance concept, using the Ghana Audit Service Score Card results as a basis for how to demand accountability from duty bearers in their respective district assemblies with regards to capital development projects. Six different alternative space meetings were held with different relevant stakeholder groups. The Citizens understood from the dissemination exercise that they are partners in decision making process in their respective district assemblies.

GDCA facilitated the formation of Community Development Monitors (CDMs) in fifteen projects communities to monitor capital development projects under the GSAM interventions. The purpose of this activity was to form and train the members on how to monitor capital projects in their various communities in their respective district assemblies. The CDMs were subsequently trained on their roles and responsibilities. At the end of the training, the participants gained knowledge on their

rights to participate in local governance, the various steps that MMDAs follow to plan and deliver capital projects, the roles they are expected to play as CDMs and how they are expected to conduct themselves, also, the various activities or steps to take to monitor and assess District Assemblies' capital projects as well as the various channels they can utilize to get their concerns heard and addressed by their respective assemblies were achieved as part of the training. The training sessions were facilitated by staff of EGMA, NEGDA and GDCA.

## **Key outcomes**

### **Improved responsiveness of DA in capital project delivery**

The East Gonja Municipal Assembly and the North East Gonja District Assembly have become very responsive to community concerns and make conscious efforts to address issues the communities raise. In the past, the Assemblies were reluctant to disclose contract sums to community members but this is now a thing of the past since the advent of GSAM project. The Assembly persons are always given copies of award letters of contracts and other relevant information.

### **Increased citizen and CSO knowledge and capacity in capital project monitoring and social accountability**

The awareness created amongst community citizens in respect of the capital project monitoring by the GAS report cannot be over emphasized. Citizens have been emboldened to question whatever goes on around them in terms of construction of capital development projects in the two Assemblies. Community citizens have been encouraged to take photos of on-going projects in their communities and use the photos to engage the EGDA using WhatsApp platform and other means. This is a very good sustainability strategy for the GSAM project.

### **Increased citizen oversight of capital projects and participation in the DA development process**

In addition, the monitoring of capital projects by the citizens and the supervision by the technical staff of the two Assemblies have become more frequent and adequate compared to previous years. Inadequate supervision of capital development projects by technical staff of the DAs in the past had been a recipe for delays and poor quality in project execution by contractors. This development has seen great improvement in term of the frequency of visits to project sites by technical staff.

Finally, the success of the GSAM Project in the East Gonja Municipal and the North East Gonja District Assemblies has been tremendous because citizens' attitude towards capital projects implementation has taken positive trajectory. Citizens have now become very confident in demanding their rights from duty bearers.

### **5.6.3 People's Choice Project**

The People's Choice Project (PCP) sought to bridge a development gap in elections where party candidates have not elected based on informed choices but merely on party colours. Therefore, the overall outcome of the project was to see inclusive and issues-based elections in five administrative districts". The project was designed for a fifteen-month project period but had to implemented within six months due to funding challenges. A mixture of strategies and activities were deployed since its implementation. Even though not much was undertaken in terms of activity implementation within the short project period due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, implementation of the media related activities overall, raised the interest of citizens in the affairs of the political parties and their Parliamentary Candidates, especially on their campaign promises and how these promises can impact on their development aspirations. This resulted in increased interest of citizens who were yearning to vote based on issues and not on party colours. For example, through the radio programmes in the target districts, citizens continued to express the need to change the status quo by making sure that through the project, voters would be well informed on the benefits of voting based on issues and not on party colours.

Citizen groups used social media such as WhatsApp Platforms to engage in debates and assessment of district development needs and gaps with political parties and their representatives. This created awareness on the minds of the people on the need for the electorate to vote based on issues and not merely on political party colours during the upcoming December 2020 Elections. Citizens demand for improvement in, and request for accountable electoral processes during the period is also a reflection of the results of the project. These a promoted free and fair elections and promoted peaceful election in the project area as a consequence.

Finally, the project influenced changes in the behaviours of citizens towards the need for tolerance as a requirement for free, fair and peaceful elections. During the project inception and orientation meeting in Kumbungu District, a participant questioned the high level of involvement of traditional leaders in party politics contrary to the provisions in the 1992 constitution of Ghana. He noted that such involvement was likely to promote voting based on party colours rather than on issues. The participant explained that the experience in the general elections in December 2016 was very

distasteful in the district. The participants at the inception meeting therefore called on Chiefs to respect the provisions of the 1992 Constitution to allow citizens to vote independently based on issues and not on party colours. It became increasingly clear from participants across the different districts that the project's ideas and design were very relevant, because experience of voting in previous elections had hardly been based on issues as expected.

One big lesson of the project during the short period was that strengthening citizens' access to information on election management processes promotes their participation in the general election activities. Notwithstanding these modest gains, some activities of the project could not be implemented due to the imposition of restrictions on social gatherings as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **5.6.4 EU Aid Volunteer Project**

GDCA entered into a two-year deployment phase under the SHARE arrangement of the EU Aid Volunteer Project after having gone through an assessment and was granted accreditation by the EU to become a hosting organization for EU Aid volunteers. Consequently, GDCA worked with its European Partners, ASPeM in Italy and ADICE in France to design projects, advertised the projects and selected Volunteers to support in various aspects of the work of GDCA. However, the deployment was not realized due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which plagued the entire World in 2020.

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

#### **5.7.1 Key activities during the period**

- With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, things have begun to turn around for the Centre.
- The virtual engagement between UDS students and their US counterparts has ended.
- SfL is training a number of participants at the Centre.
- A total of 244 participants have been received during the period.
- Covid-19 protocols have been properly observed.
- The Centre has been disinfected with chlorine.

### **5.8 Simli Radio (SR)**

#### **5.8.1 Key activities during the period**

Simli Radio undertook several sensitization programmes and advertisement on Covid-19 on preventive measures as part of their social corporate responsibility. Other organizations



are partnering with the Station to undertake work on Covid-19. MOUs have been signed and this has improved the financial situation of the station. This includes an MoU signed with the Media Foundation for West Africa and Savelugu Municipal Assembly to broadcast programmes on Covid-19.

The Station continues to collaborate with the Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN). The station has been working on two projects in collaboration with GCRN: Sustainable Development Goals and Children and Youth Wellbeing amidst COVID-19.

Other partners collaborating with SR on various radio programmes include Right to Play, the E4L Tolon programme, Lively Minds Ghana, CAMFED and Ghana Red Cross Society.

## **6. MAIN CHALLENGES**

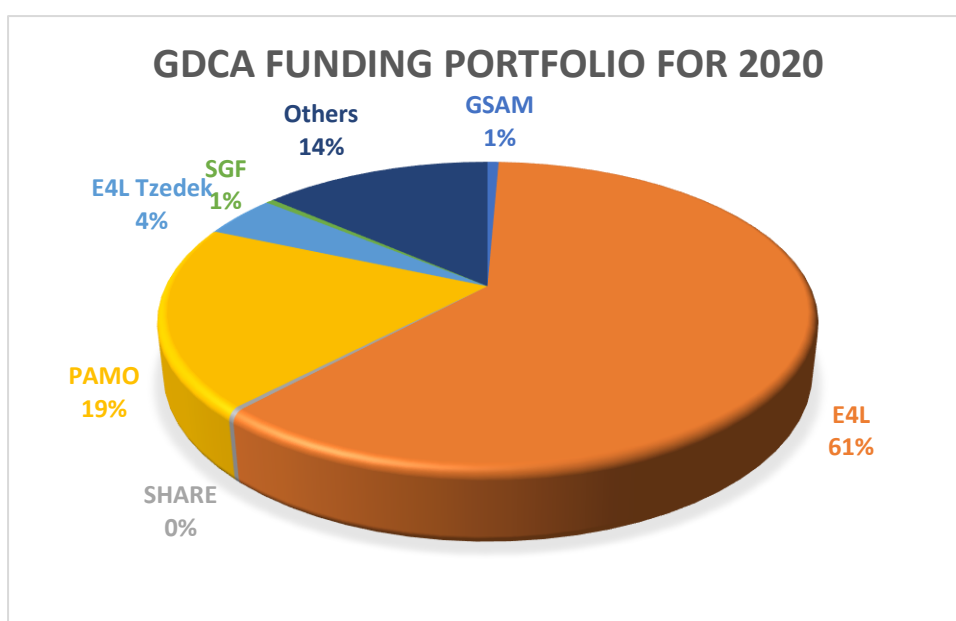
The challenges faced during the period under review as an organization were varied. However, we will mention a few of them.

1. The work of GDCA during the year under review was severely constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions and other measures imposed by Government to help stem the pandemic meant that many outdoor and group activities could not be carried out. In addition, it was necessary to protect staff and beneficiaries against the pandemic. The organization was partially shut down as a consequence. In this regard, many activities had to be delayed, and others cancelled altogether. One project was brought to an abrupt end as a result of change in donors' priorities to address the pandemic. The functioning of Dalun Simli Centre has been severely affected by the pandemic.
2. The challenge with the fall army worm infestation persisted during the year under review, causing losses in crop production. A lasting solution needs to be found by the Ministry of food and Agriculture to stop the annual recurrence of the infestation.
3. Floods have also been a challenge for communities, especially those located along the major rivers and low-lying areas.
4. The growing insecurity in the region is affecting the work of GDCA. During the period under review staff members came to face two attacks while travelling in the field on official duty. In one incident the staff were accosted by armed robbers who confiscated all cash on them as well as mobile phones. In the second incident, armed robbers fired gunshots onto the vehicle in which the staff were travelling. Fortunately, the staff escaped unharmed.

## **7. PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS PORTFOLIO**

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

Programme/ Project	Partners/Funders	Income	
		USD	Equiv. GHS
E4L	GV/CISU/DANIDA	1,034,684.00	6,052,901.40
GSAM	CARE/USAID	11,164.00	65,309.40
SHARE	ADICE/ASPEm/EU	5,000.00	29,250.00
PAMO	AFL/EU/AFD	327,685.30	1,916,959.00
E4L Tolon	Tzedek UK	74,638.52	436,635.33
Peoples' Choice	STAR Ghana Foundation	8,000.00	46,800.00
Others		229,636.58	1,343,374.00
Total		1,690,808.4	9,825,919.73



**Figure 1: GDCA Funding portfolio for 2020.**

The total value of GDCA's programmes and projects portfolio amounted to more than GH¢ 9.8m 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 61%, followed by the PAMOBARMA programme with 19%, Tzedek 4%, GSAM and STAR Ghana projects contributing about 1% each, SHARE project less than 1%, and rent and other incomes contributing 14%.

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

The activities of GDCA were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the staff, Management and governing bodies managed to adjust and as a result, the activities yielded the desired outcomes. In the coming year, the activities will be further strengthened to make up for the lost opportunities. It is also hoped that

everyone will collaborate to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through keeping the protocols and getting out to receive the COVID-19 vaccines. The security situation in the regions need to improve to guarantee the safety of the population. Everyone needs to contribute their part. No one is safe until everyone is safe.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many stakeholders have contributed in immense ways to enable GDCA achieve the results presented in this report. First, I will like to express our most sincere gratitude to our donors. Our Danish partners have been standing by our side for nearly four decades now. We thank you, GV, for your continued support. To our French partners, Acting for Life and the funders the EU and the French Agency for Development, we say “*Merci beaucoup*”. To Tzedek, Teach2Teach, STAR Ghana Foundation, ASPEm, and ADICE, we are very grateful. Our sincere gratitude also goes to UNDP, OXFAM in Ghana, CARE International and USAID for the support GDCA has enjoyed.

To our Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies who form the bedrock of our interventions, we cannot thank you enough. The Regional Coordinating Councils, Ministries, Departments and Agencies who provide the policy framework and exercise oversight at the national level have provided invaluable support for the work of GDCA 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, without whose collaboration GDCA could not have succeeded, we are very grateful.

To our Steering Committee and Technical Committees, CBOs, and volunteers, our work would not have been possible without your sacrifices. Thank you.

To our managements and staff who are the direct implementers of the organization’s interventions, we are grateful.

Thank you and may God bless us all.

Signature

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

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