



Organization: BasicNeeds-Ghana

Location: Savelugu, Kumbungu, Talensi and West Mamprusi, Ghana

Solution: Promoting resilient organic farming and livestock rearing among marginalized groups

Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months)



Session on resilient organic farming and livestock for community members in Ghana @Basicneeds

People with psychosocial disabilities, epilepsy and widows are among the most poor and marginalized groups in Northern Ghana. They are often denied opportunities to work and lead dignified lives in their communities. This initiative seeks to improve and secure the livelihoods of 200 people (of which 70% are women) with psychosocial disabilities or epilepsy, primary caregivers and vulnerable widows. The solution supports vulnerable groups to use climate-smart agricultural practices for organic vegetable farming and goat and sheep rearing, to improve productivity, household diets and income, while helping to adapt to the impact of climate change.



Key achievements

- 10 vegetable gardens (10 acres) established with collaborating communities
- 202 community members (63% women) enabled to gain self-employment and enhanced incomes through vegetable farming, improving their socio-economic wellbeing and family support
- Community equipped with sustainable agronomic practices and climate-smart agriculture, increasing crop yields
- 200+ community leaders and members consulted, securing buy-in
- Comprehensive survey conducted to support data-driven interventions



Social impact

- Providing occupational therapy for individuals with mental health conditions, in the form of farming activities
- Enhanced visibility of vulnerable individuals and their contributions to the community
- Reduced stigma and discrimination towards people with mental illness or epilepsy and vulnerable widows, fostering societal acceptance and integration
- Increased production of organic vegetables to generate income and diversify household diets



Adaptation benefits

- Prevention of air and water contamination through biopesticides
- Protecting beneficial species in the ecosystem
- Improved soil health through the use of local high-yield, nitrogen fixing bean-leaf crops
- Increased plant growth with higher quality, nitrogen-dense soil



Innovation

- Integrating occupational therapy with income generating activities to create livelihoods for marginalized individuals who typically face challenges in finding dignified work



Replication potential

- Evidence-based approach can be scaled and replicated to other areas effectively
- Replication enabled by use of traditional and social media for knowledge capture and sharing



Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US\$125,000 (initial grant)

Investability

Revenue per year	Estimated \$83,333 of value created from the initiative's produce, which is firstly consumed at household level, with excess sold.
Sustaining criteria	Operations are sustained by grantee overheads costs, which are built into a grant project proposal to cater for staff, administration and related recurrent cost.
Financial innovation	Operates purely as a not-for-profit and does not charge or earn revenues

