



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

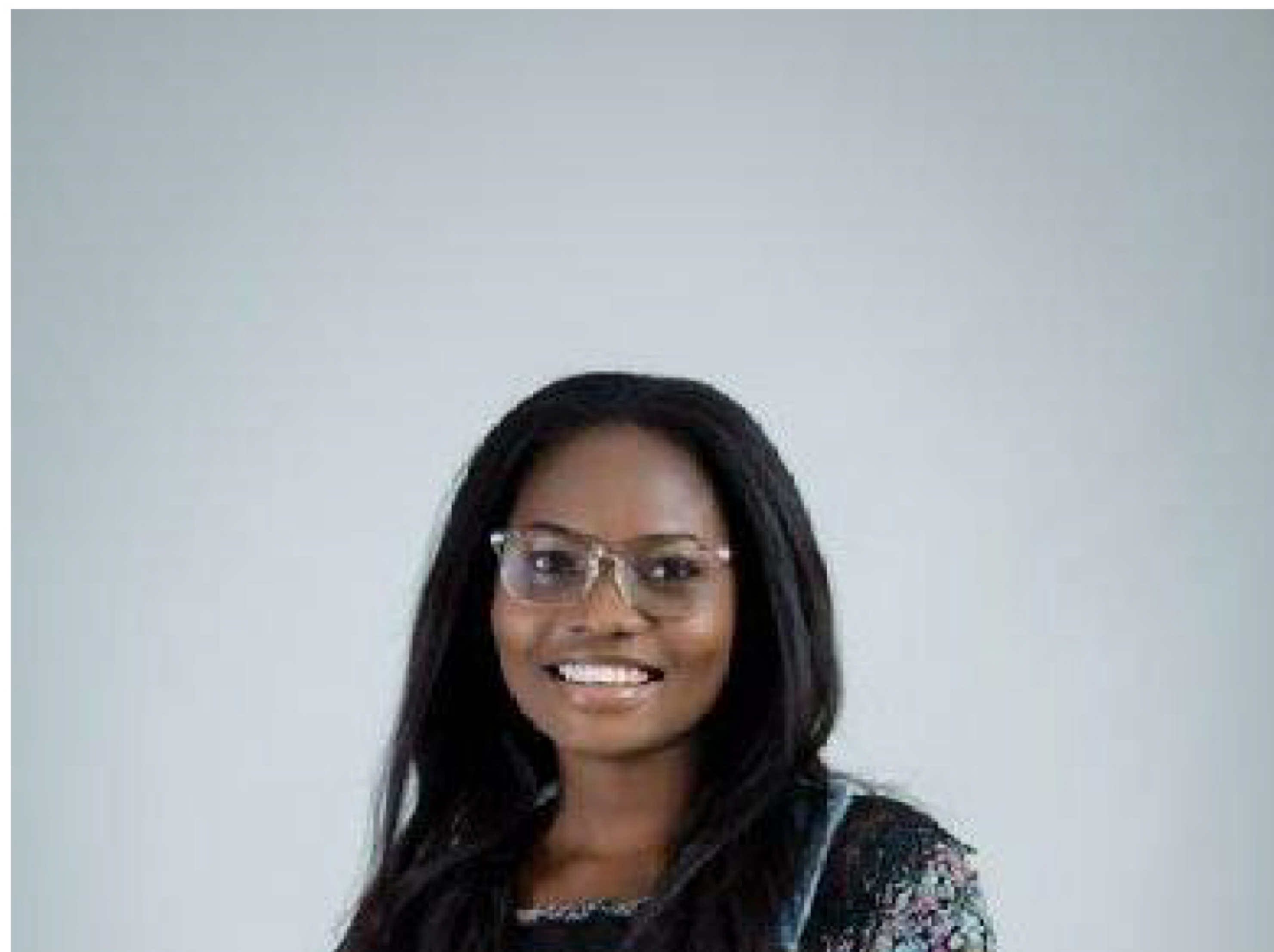
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GHANA SRHR ALLIANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
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FOREWORD



Dorcas Manortey, Executive Secretary

It is with great pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report for the Ghana Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR) Alliance for Young People - GH Alliance.

This report provides brief highlights of our contribution as an Alliance towards the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, most especially Goals 3 & 5 through the diverse programmes and projects implemented over the year.

The year 2022 saw a progressive and dynamic transition of the Alliance into an Independent and functional Secretariat as all

partners envisaged and hoped for, over the past years.

During the year under review, the Secretariat created an independent functional system free from the interference of member organisations, the board, or other external factors.

Notwithstanding the diverse economic crisis that was encountered in 2022 from global development funding dwindling to Ghana, the Secretariat was successful in facilitating its projects and programme implementation for the period with the little it received.

We hereby extend our sincere appreciation to all donors and development partners that consistently stuck with us through the period. A special mention to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands (through Rutgers, and Norsaac Ghana) for their southern leadership in the roll-out and

implementation of the PtY programme. We also appreciate the new relationships formed with UNFPA Ghana, Maries Stopes International, and KGL Foundation towards addressing young people's reproductive health needs, while harnessing their potential in Ghana.

Recognising that strength lies greatly in the formidability of the partnership, we also commend our Partners, Volunteers and Member Organisations, for their support and commitment towards the mission. Membership of the Alliance remained at six (6), which are Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana,

Curious Minds Ghana, Savana Signatures, Theater for Social Change, Norsaac and Presbyterian Health Innovation Programme.

As we bid a final farewell to 2022, we foresee a new year of growth, productivity and result.

The Secretariat strives to continue with its operation beyond

current trends with the hope to strengthen systems and CSO spaces to address pending adolescents and young people SRHR needs in Ghana. Finally, the Alliance seeks to increase sustainable partnerships to attain growth and relevance among communities and the nation at large.

To conclude, the Secretariat would like to use this medium to express our sincere appreciation to all young people and stakeholders who contributed to making the year a memorable one. The Secretariat is most grateful to the NGB Board Chair, the entire National Governing Board (NGB), the Youth Advisory Body (YAB) of the Alliance, Implementing Partners, and partner Civil Society Organizations. We also appreciate other CSO's that have contributed in various ways to make the 2022 working year a success.

***Wishing you a joyous new year,
2023.***

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SRHR.....	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
PtY.....	Power to Youth
KGL.....	Key Group Limited (KGL) Foundation
CBOs.....	Community Based Organizations
CSOs.....	Civil Society Organizations
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
MoY.....	Movements of Youths
HP.....	Harmful Practices
SGBV.....	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
NGOs.....	Non-Governmental Organizations
SDG's	Sustainable Development Goals
YAG.....	Youth Advocate Ghana
NYA	National Youth Authority

THE GH ALLIANCE

Introduction

The Ghana Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance for young people, known as GH Alliance, is the lead and reference point regarding young people and adolescents' SRHR needs in Ghana. It is an Alliance of six (6) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working together to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all young people between the ages of ten and twenty-four (10-24) years in Ghana.

The GH Alliance has a highly functional perspective on meaningful youth participation and has adequately involved young people in the promotion and championing of their SRHR. With presence across the ten (10) major regions of Ghana by the member organizations' operations, the opportunity of effectively collaborating with other Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Government agencies is being realized, thereby avoiding the situation in which many organizations working in SRHR are still fragmented and working in silos with no opportunities to gain experience from one another and champion a unified and strong advocacy voice.

With a National Secretariat being in Accra. Geographically, member organisations can be located in Greater Accra, Central Region, Volta Region, Ashanti Region, Western Region, Northern Region, North East Region, Savana Region, Upper East Region, and Upper West Region.

◆ *Model*

GH Alliance is modelled as a resilient, sustainable, and self-reliant development organisation to operate at three levels- To convene, coordinate , catalyze the work of actors focused on improving the sexual reproductive health of young people in Ghana. This is done through the direct empowerment of civil society

organisations, communities and individuals through processes such as capacity building, advocacy, institution-strengthening and building linkages with communities, agencies, and actors towards sustainable development processes at the grassroots level and national levels.

◆ *Experience*

Ghana SRHR Alliance is known for its ability to convene, coordinate, and catalyze the work of actors (CSOs, Social and State actors) focused on improving the Sexual Reproductive Health of Young People because of its varying expertise and strength of the member organizations constituting the Alliance.. With these, the Alliance continues to facilitate learning through research, training, capacity building and policy influence to enhance adolescents and young people's reproductive health and rights in Ghana.

In 2022, GH Alliance gathered a wealth of experience in advocacy through diverse interventions which include engagement with parliamentarians, the media, and private and state institutions to influence youth engagement in decision-making and the further redress of issues of gender-based violence in Ghana.

◆ *Operational Environment*

The political environment in 2022 was favourable in a democratic sense. Political leadership remained stable, as the government's will continued to thrive while the important role of civil society organisations continued to gain grounds and support from all sectors of Ghanaian society.

Economically, the later year of 2022 was a challenging one due to depreciation of the Ghana Cedis to the major international currencies. This led to unanticipated operation cost by high transport, hotel, food, material and participants costs as the Alliance operated on fixed budget.

The policy environment in Ghana remained favourable to adolescents and young people, particularly because of the strong emphasis on reducing inequity that ran through social sector policies and strategies. The National Youth Policy

stresses the empowerment and participation of young people at all stages of policy development, implementation, monitoring and revision. In 2022, we witnessed the launch of the National Youth Policy, a guiding tool for CSO's and state actors on the mission and action focused on youth development, especially their young people's reproductive health and rights and other GBV-related issues. Additionally, the existence of other visionary health policies backed by the NYP was the National Health Insurance Scheme, a Revised Safe Legal Abortion guideline and policy, the Mental Health Act, HIV AIDS and STI policy, Ghana Adolescent Reproductive Policy, Ghana Health Service Adolescent Health Development Programme, Gender Policy, Ghana Costed Implementation Plan for Family Planning, the Disability Act and the Domestic Violence Act, etc. Finally, the environment and policies for the expansion of technologies for the advancement of young people's SRHR needs in Ghana remain favourable. With this, there exist numerous digital interventions and innovations in the reproductive health space among which include the You Must Know App (YMK) by the Ghana health service, integrated with the Wawa Aba web-based platform which response to adolescents' reproductive health needs through online information and services access. Also, the Orange Support Center, the Yekasa toll-free numbers and the Agoos Sexual Health Education plus (SHE+), among others focus on creating the needed safe spaces to address SGBV in Ghana.

◆ *Growth*

GH Alliance can boast of tremendous growth, resulting from a paradigm change of action from organisational support to an independent operating Secretariat and youth leadership. The Alliance currently has a recognised National Secretariat in Accra, that coordinates and facilitates national interventions and advocacy works.

The financial growth and sustainability of the Alliance for the year 2022 have been at a steady rate, considering the heavy reliance on donor support which keeps reducing on yearly basis. One of the key reasons for the decrease in funding

can be attributed to the shift of priority of development partners. As Ghana continues to grow as a middle-income nation, development partners see a need to build capacities of government structures/institutions to support government-funded projects - health, agriculture, education etc. This shift in paradigm continues to affect civil society organizations and is likely to affect their ability to hold the government to account as many organizations continue to fold up due to a lack of funding. Government support for project activities has also stalled. Further, the government's new agenda of Ghana Beyond AID has brought about a change in the organisation's economic and growth status.

◆ *Funding*

For the year 2022, the Secretariat relied solely on donor funding, as well as the annual subscription of member organisations.

With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Power to Youth Consortium received funding support for the implementation of a five years programme towards addressing the key reproductive health issues, SGBV and harmful practices that adolescent girls and young women are subjected to in Ghana. Additionally, through the KGL Foundation TASODECOG PARTNERS programme, the Alliance supported deprived and vulnerable adolescents and teen mothers with SRHR information and services in the North Tongu district in the Volta Region of Ghana.

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Power to Youth (PtY) Programme

Power to You(th) is a five-year (2021-2025) programme implemented in seven countries by local consortium partners in Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Uganda, with technical support from a global consortium comprising of Amref Flying Doctors, Rutgers, and Sonke Gender Justice (Sonke) and financial backing from Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The overall strategic programme objective of the Power to You(th) is to contribute to more adolescent girls and young women from underserved communities being meaningfully included in all decision-making regarding PtY's three key issues (harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies). The Consortium fosters the principle of southern-led leadership in the implementation of the programme. Consequently, Power to You(th) is implemented in Ghana by a consortium led by Norsaac, Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG), Ghana SRHR Alliance for Young People (GH-Alliance), and Songtaba.

Within the PtY consortium, the GH Alliance is responsible for the implementation of pathway II, which is to strengthen CSOs, harness government institutions, and amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space.

Programme Approach and Methodology

◆ Round Table Dialogues and Face- to Face Advocacy



Proven to be effective, and generally result-oriented, GH Alliance leveraged face-to-face and round table approach to its advocacy. Engagements with Parliamentarians employed discussions, presentations and open forums on key

thematic adolescent reproductive health issues related to the PtY programme- Meaningful youth participation, GTA and the inclusion of AGYW in decisions.

during these engagements, members of parliaments (MP's) present attested to



the heightened cases of unplanned pregnancies, SGBV and other harmful practices within their various constituencies, however, they lack the needed expertise to address them. They, therefore committed to making themselves available and to further support CSOs

at all levels to address the pending SRHR issues, most especially unplanned pregnancies, SGBV and child marriage in their district and the nation at large.



◆ *Training and Capacity Strengthening*

Engagements with key state actors including CSO were done using training, Colloquiums, Seminars and Open dialogues. A major highlight for the Alliance was that these approaches paved way for state institutions,

CSO and MOY to dialogue and share knowledge on the best ways to work together to address the key SRHR issues in Ghana.



Colloquiums, Seminars, and open dialogues also created the opportunity for state institutions to highlight some of the challenges they face as institutions and suggest possible opportunities that could be mutually beneficial to the work of CSOs and state institutions in better

addressing the issues of unplanned pregnancies, SGBV and harmful practices in Ghana. It further created the enabling opportunity for young people's voices to be heard, strengthen their capacities, and explore further existing opportunities that could be leveraged for their inclusion.



◆ **MEDIA ADVOCACY**

The Alliance leveraged new trends and technological platforms such as Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and WhatsApp, Radio, and Television to communicate its activities and advocacy campaign to project the work to the global front.



Leveraging both English-speaking and local language radio platforms, increasing the audience was not one-sided. Over 200,000 people were reached with the campaign messages public audiences were reached through radio engagements as well as a Twitter storm.



◆ COMMUNITY OUTREACHES AND STREET CAMPAIGNS

In partnership with the Ghana Health Service, Ministry of Gender and the Department of Social Welfare, Volunteers and Community-based advocates, a series of SRHR outreaches and SGBV campaigns were held over the years under review.

Through these activities, women and girls, boys and men and persons living with disabilities were screened and provided with free healthcare services which include general



body checks
of human
vital signs
(BP, weight,
body mass
index),
Blood
Glucose
Tests, HB
testing,
Malaria

Testing, HIV Testing, STI screening, and Covid-19 Vaccinations.

KEY OUTCOMES & RESULTS HARVEST



10 CSO learning Hubs established within the 40 implementing districts of the power to youth programme to facilitate learning towards addressing the key PtY issues.



50 CSOs and Movements of Youth (MoY's) capacitated to address key SRHR-related issues in Ghana.

KEY OUTCOMES



Over 200,000 people were reached with the campaign and advocacy messages on unplanned pregnancies, SGBV, and other harmful practices such as child marriage.

15 Parliamentarians trained on MYPE, AGYW inclusion, and positive gender transformative approach for progressive social norms.



I Choose ... My Choice, My Right.



The GH Alliance in partnership with its member organizations is implementing a 12 month project in the North Tongu district with funding support from the KGL Foundation. The project seeks to Improve young people & Adolescent mothers' access to friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services in Ghana and to further enhance their lives economically through the provision of livelihood skills to teen mothers. In addressing these issues, the 'I Choose' project seeks to improve access by young people & Adolescent Mothers to friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services, increase their knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS and further empower them economically through skills training and capacity building.

At the end of the project implementation, it is expected that young people of ages 10 to 24 years would have improved access to youth-friendly SRH information, Services and acquired income-earning skills.



International Engagements

Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop by the Inter-Agency Working Group on ASRH in Emergencies



With support from the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG) the GH Alliance and some candidates for the Africa region participated in a five days residential training on adolescent

sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) in humanitarian settings. The training of trainers (TOT) workshop which took place from September 19-23, 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was actively participated by the Executive Secretary, **Dorcas Manortey**.

Side Event - High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals

GH Alliance was represented on a Panel at the Side Event of the High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals. The event was to disseminate findings from case studies of youth-led and youth-driven

organizations which showcase the vast efforts by young people in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals which includes challenges and innovative measures adopted and opportunities. This event was organised by the Youth Advocate Ghana (YAG) with support from the UNFPA Ghana and the NDPC. As a youth-focused organisation, the Executive Secretive participate and made a statement on ‘What is the future of the SDGs for the Ghanaian youth? The side event was held on 6th July 2022, Virtually via zoom.

Overall Challenges



overcoming some of the challenges in the coming year.

→ Limited funding and budgetary cuts by donors limited the extent to which planned ASRHR response programmes reach adolescent girls and young women in the most deprived and vulnerable situations. To address this, the Alliance continues to foster partnerships and increase resources mobilizing (proposal writing etc.) with the hope of helping in

Overall, Lessons Learned

Fostering strategic partnerships and being creative in resource mobilization were pivotal in achieving more with less. Leveraging Digital and innovative platforms to implement some of our activities was resourceful as they essentially aided in reaching our target with more results, and fewer resources.

PARTNERS

The Secretariat would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to partner organizations particularly, Curious Minds Ghana, Presbyterian Health and Innovation Programmes, Theatre for Social Change, and Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana for their tremendous support and partnership in the implementation of the various programmes, most especially the implementation of the Power to Youth Programme activities within the various districts and regions.

◆ *Core partners of GH Alliance during the year 2022*

As the consortium leader of the Power to Youth Programme, **NORSAAC** provides coordination and focal point role. As team Leader and Chair of the Country Management Team (CMT) of the programme, and leads the implementation of Pathway 4. As a member of the GH Alliance, Norsaac is working to empower women and young people. Its focus in SRHR is to reduce maternal, neonatal, and child mortality and morbidity through improved and informed practices, increase safe sexual practices through increased knowledge of sexual and reproductive health rights, especially for young people, enhance enabling environment and greater respect for sexual and reproductive health rights of young people.

Youth Advocate Ghana (YAG) is a youth-led civil society organization (with 35 cut-off age limit) that works to transform the lives of children and young people, especially girls and young women, in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), education, livelihood programmes, governance and youth engagement. YAG's vision is “a Ghanaian society where children and youth influence decisions that affect their lives, enjoy their rights, and assume their responsibilities as full citizens”. As a consortium member of the PtY Programme,

YAG leads the implementation of pathway 1 which seeks to ‘Advice and guide on MYPE in the programme’

Songtaba is a women-led organization that works with a vision to see “a society free from inequality and injustice in which women and other vulnerable groups enjoy their fundamental rights”. The organization has a mission to work with gender-minded human rights organizations and individuals to advocate for gender equality. Under the PtY programme, Songtaba leads in the implementation of Pathway 3: Implementation of Social Actors’ learning agenda. The work of Songtaba can be seen on the below online platforms; www.songtaba.org and Facebook: Songtaba

KGL Foundation is the corporate social responsibility arm of the KGL Group, with the aim to innovate the current system of philanthropy. In partnership with KGL, one thousand (1060) teen mothers, are benefiting from a KGL-funded project ‘I Choose’ in the north Tongu District. The project is providing receiving free SRHR information and services from 1000

◆ *Member Organisations of the Alliance*

As an Alliance, the GH Alliance worked closely with its member organisations in implementing the diverse programmes and projects for the year 2022. This was done by leveraging the unique competencies and abilities of each partner while sustaining resources and building synergies.

Savana Signatures is a Ghanaian Non-Governmental Organisation that recognises the important role of technology in development, thus, adopts ICT tools innovatively to promote girls, women, youth, and marginalized groups. The organization has a mission to initiate positive change among youth, women and vulnerable populations of Ghana using ICT solutions to facilitate access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Quality Education and Skills

Development. Savana Signatures currently works in three programme areas: Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Quality Education and Skills Development.

Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) has over the past five (5) decades served as a premium capacity-building hub for health service providers and other health functionaries in reproductive health. In addition, the association has trained an estimated 10,000 health service providers, community health assistants, and related health-linked stakeholders (particularly from state agencies, and community-based entities) in various reproductive health issues including youth-friendly services.

Theatre for Social Change (TfSC), formerly Theatre for a Change Ghana, was established in 2003 as an innovative Ghanaian not-for-profit organisation in response to the HIV epidemic and the need of having a sustainable social behaviour change and communication (SBCC) to promote positive and healthy attitudinal and behavioural changes for the desirable future wellbeing of people. TfSC focuses on promoting sustainable transformation in Social Behaviour Change Communication in areas that have a direct impact on people, especially marginalised and vulnerable groups including women, girls, children, and people with disabilities. TfSC uses interactive theatre and other participatory approaches to promote attitudinal and behavioural change by allowing people to examine their own attitudes, practices, socio-cultural environment, and behaviour patterns of other people around them.

Presbyterian Health Innovations Programmes - North (PHIP) is part of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana Health Service. PHSN has been operating in Northern Ghana for about sixty years now and currently supervises one Hospital; three Primary Health Care Programs (5 Health Centers, 7 Clinics); and orthopaedic and Eye Care Programmes. In the last five years, the PHSN has pioneered Social Accountability programs in Health in Ghana. The GH Alliance is

a great opportunity to work with other organisations to achieve more for young people and PHSN is a proud member of this Alliance.

The Children and Youth in Broadcasting - Curious Minds is a youth-led organisation working on adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health as one of its key thematic focuses. As a media-based organisation, Curious Minds leverages the power of the media to create awareness of SRHR issues and advocate for policies and programmes that favour adolescent and youth development. The Organisation works to ensure that all children and young people are well-informed and meaningfully participate in decision-making that affects their lives by advocating, generating knowledge, sharing information, building partnerships and training young activists at local, national, and international levels.

MEDIA, PHOTOS AND GALLERY

Commemoration of International Days



Programmes and Activities

GH Alliance Coordinates Regional Dialogue and Advocacy to engender policy discourse on SRHR & SGBV issues in Ghana.



GH Alliance Empowers young people to create change through Street Activism and SRHR Education Campaigns marginalised group in Amasaman





Courtesy visit by the Maries Stopes International (MSI) to GH Alliance



Welcome to the Secretariat of the GH ALLIANCE

Partnership and Courtesy Visit

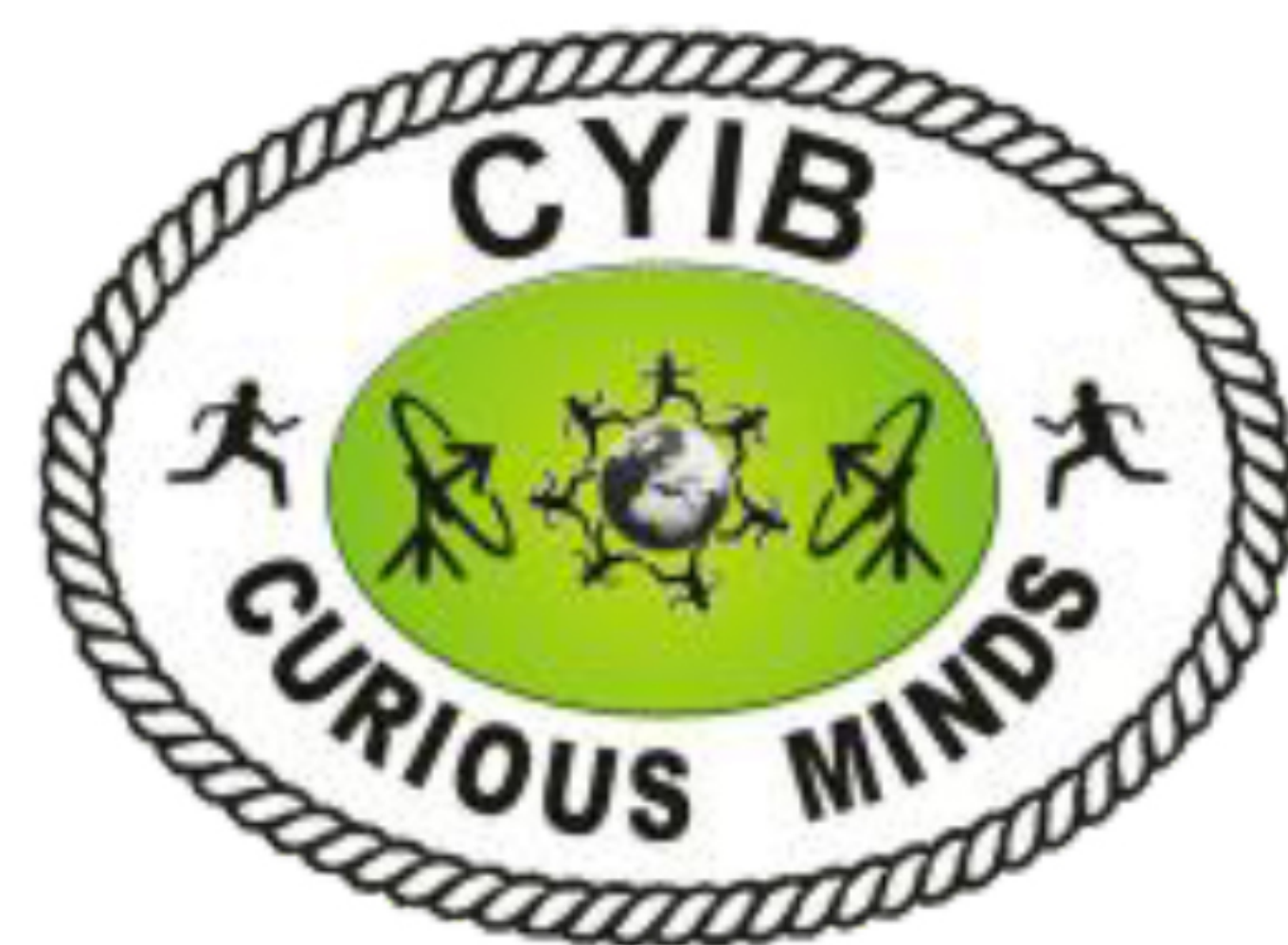


The National Governing Board (NGB) of the Ghana SRHR Alliance



Courtesy visit by the KGL Foundation to GH Alliance

PARTNERS



Inter-Agency Working Group on
Reproductive Health in Crises



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