



**Leveraging
Technology for Better
Health Outcomes**

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We are *A For-Impact Organisation*



Savana Signatures is a for-impact organisation focused on creating lasting positive change in Ghana using proven essential innovative interventions to improve the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

Our operational areas are proven to have the majority of vulnerable groups in the country, and known to harbour the highest concentration of the poorest and under-served households in Ghana.

For over a decade, we have implemented interventions linked to our core thematic areas, i.e. Inclusive Quality Education, Livelihood & Economic Empowerment, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), to drive growth and development among individuals and communities.

The driving force behind our successes over the past decade has been our women-led approach and technological interventions coupled with our dedicated staff, multiple partners and donors. We invite you to join us in our mission to create a brighter, more equitable future for all.

As a registered non-profit organisation in Ghana, we are working in 44 districts across the country with our two main offices located in Tamale in the Northern Region and Ho in the Volta Region. We also have four strategic satellite offices in Atebubu-Amantin, Mion, Yendi, and Zabzugu.

To learn more about us, go to: www.savsign.org

We envision a society where all have access to tools that improve their livelihoods and quality of life. We approach this by working to initiate positive change among youth, women and vulnerable populations of Ghana, using innovative solutions to facilitate access to **Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Quality Education and Skills Development.**

We can break the cycle of poverty and improve health outcomes and general quality of life, especially for young people and women, by investing in these three basic areas of life.



CORE VALUES



INNOVATION



PASSION



EXCELLENCE



DIVERSITY



SOCIAL INCLUSION



ACCOUNTABILITY

VISION

A society where all people have access to tools that improve their livelihood and quality of life

MISSION

To initiate positive change among girls, women, youth and vulnerable population of Ghana using innovative solutions to facilitate their reproductive health and rights, quality education and skills development.

Our PSEAH Commitment



Savana Signatures is committed to protecting the wellbeing of the people we serve across the country. Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) is at the core of our operations. Our employees are expected to adhere to safeguarding principles and work in a safe, harassment-free environment.

We take great care to implement our activities in a protective environment where harm, exploitation, abuse, and harassment are prevented as far as reasonably possible. In the event that these issues do arise, we have a robust reporting system in place to respond effectively.

Our dedication to creating a safe environment enables us to earn the trust of our partners and society, and to make a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals.

Our employees and related personnel are held to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. We provide humanitarian assistance and services in a way that respects and fosters the rights of beneficiaries and other vulnerable members of local communities.

As part of our organizational policy, all staff are required to complete basic PSEAH courses to ensure that the communities we serve, as well as our own workplace, are protected from Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment. To learn more about our safeguarding policy, please visit our website at www.savsign.org.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Hello Partners, Sponsors and Supporters,

Our previous report focused on how Savana Signatures worked to break barriers and carried everyone along, despite the COVID 19 challenges. This was important for us because we needed to find ways amidst the Covid 19 challenges, to reach our beneficiaries, and provide them with the needed support to improve their lives.

This annual report highlights our efforts in 2022. Women and girls continue to be our focus and priority because, they are the most marginalised, facing unequal access to social and economic rights. To achieve this, we also needed to adapt to a rapidly changing world devastated by COVID 19. Savana Signature's innovative platforms, tools, and technical expertise helped in achieving great milestones in 2022 that you would read about shortly.

One of the most exciting developments in the past year is our new governance structure designed to promote efficiency, effectiveness and greater diversity. We had a new set of board members who have shown great enthusiasm to support us with their technical expertise, to further the attainment of our vision of a society where all people have access to tools that improve their livelihood and quality of life.

We at Savana Signatures would like to thank all our donors and partners who have provided the invaluable support that has enabled us to keep our commitments and deliver our mission.

I continue to be very proud and impressed with the incredible work of the very young and talented For-Impact Team at Savana Signatures. I am immensely grateful to the members of Savana Signatures' governing board for their strategic direction.

Finally, we are grateful to our donors, sponsors, partners, media and other stakeholders for their continuous support.



“

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”

Stephen Agbenyo
Executive Director

HEADLINES FROM THE YEAR

AUGUST 2022

Dir. of HPD Observes CHAPs Dev't Process

Director of Health Promotion Division of the Ghana Health Service, Dr Dacosta Aboagye, paid a field visit to Sorugu CHPS to witness at first hand, how Community Health Management Committees (CHMCs) are working to improve behaviour change across thousands of communities under 545 CHPS zones in northern Ghana. At Sorugu CHPS, he spent time to observe how the CHMCs were led by health staff to use a participatory approach to brainstorm on the main health challenges they face in their communities and suggested available homegrown resources they can tap to locally address them for their wellbeing. This was done under the USAID/ASBC Activity



AUGUST 2022

Journalists Discuss Partnership with SavSign

New executives of the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) for Northern Region paid a courtesy call on Savana Signatures to introduce themselves, and to also discuss areas of partnership to promote the welfare of the vulnerable. They were received by our Executive Director, Mr Stephen Agbenyo, who congratulated them on their election, and briefed them on how Savana Signatures is using innovative solutions to impact the lives of vulnerable people in the areas of sexual reproductive health and rights, quality education, economic empowerment, and technology among others. “As an organisation, we cannot do our work without you; there is no way we can do our work without you. Close collaboration is very important,” Mr. Agbenyo stated. For his part, Mr Abdul-Majeed said: “You’re one of the important organisations championing the rights of the vulnerable. As journalists, we are the mouthpiece of the people and we need to see how best we can partner to champion the welfare of the vulnerable,” Mr Abdul-Majeed said.



OCTOBER 2022

British High Commissioner Confers with SavSign



The British High Commissioner to Ghana, Harriet Thompson, met with officials of Savana Signatures to discuss issues relating to economic and women empowerment, especially in the northern sector, and how the UK can support. The UK is working to turn its support in Ghana to focus on the country’s northern sector in the area of development, with the view to support the country manage potential security challenges. The British High Commissioner to Ghana, Harriet Thompson, on the back of this met with officials of Savana Signatures, an organisation which has been impacting the lives of the vulnerable in the country, particularly in northern Ghana.

OCTOBER 2022

AgooSHE+ Screens SHS Students for Breast Cancer



To crown the 2022 Breast Cancer Awareness Month, AgooSHE+ helpline in partnership with SavSign TV, assembled health practitioners within the Tamale metropolis to educate and screen students and staff of the Vitting Senior High Technical School for breast cancer. Beneficiaries were educated on what breast cancer is, the causes and symptoms as well as the effects on one’s life. They were also trained on how to identify a normal breast and conduct self-breast check as well as breast cancer screening options, and when to see a doctor. The exercise was done on the theme “Ensuring Healthy Breast for Life”. The AgooSHE+ Helpline [5100 or 0800 00 11 22], which has been offering life-saving support to vulnerable people in Ghana, particularly young people, was introduced to the students and staff as a key resource centre providing sexual reproductive health information, counselling, psychosocial and referral services to help people make informed life choices.

SavSign Operationalises Grievance Redress Committees

Two committees have been put in place by Savana Signatures to resolve all grievances that may arise from the 167.98-kilometre Tamale – Yendi – Tatale road construction under the Ministry of Roads and Highways' Transport Sector Improvement Project (TSIP). The committees are responsible for resolving all issues of compensation, poor project performance, social and environmental concerns, and labour-related- issues which may come up. Under the project being funded by the World Bank, Savana Signatures has institutionalised a framework for documenting and managing all project related complaints in line with the project's grievance redress mechanism, as well as develop a gender-based violence /sexual exploitation and abuse framework. On the back of this, a central computerised system and tollfree lines, as well as other grievance reporting channels, have also been opened to receive all complaints from the communities within the five districts through which the road construction traverses.



NOVEMBER 2022

SavSign Director Presents Award To Nkilgi FM



Executive Director of Savana Signatures, Stephen Agbenyo presented an award to Bole-based Nkilgi FM at the Northern Region GJA Awards night held in Tamale, which Savana Signatures was one of the sponsors. The support for the Ghana Journalists Association was in line with a long-standing partnership between Savana Signatures and the Association in impacting the lives of people for rapid development

DECEMBER 2022

SavSign TV Promotes Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine



In a bid to support the national Covid-19 vaccination efforts, SavSign TV organised a two-day Activation & Vaccination Campaign drive within the Sagnarigu Municipality in Northern Region to dispel vaccine hesitancy and encourage the uptake of Covid-19 vaccines among the people.

NOVEMBER 2022

USAID Delegation Interacts With Gbrima CHMC



A USAID delegation led by Dr. Zohra Balsara, Director for Health, Population, and Nutrition Office, paid a working visit to Gbrimah CHPS in the Sagnarigu Municipality to interact with Community Health Management Committee members. Gbrimah CHPS is among 545 CHPS zones in 17 districts in Northern, North East, Upper East and Upper West regions being assisted under the USAID/ASBC Activity to mobilize communities to implement local solutions to their health needs for measurable behaviour change. The visit was to give the delegation an insight into the work of the CHMCs in the Community Engagement for Health and Wellbeing (CE4HW) approach used in drafting Community Health Action Plans (CHAPs), and to track the progress of the CHAPs implementation in the Gbrimah CHPS area.



LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



1 NO POVERTY



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Projects

- **Empowerment For Transformation (E4T) - Pg. 8**
- **Transport Sector Improvement Project - Pg. 10**

EMPOWERMENT FOR TRANSFORMATION (E4T)



Savand
Signatures.

In partnership with



Contributing to sustained peace in the Chereponi District by empowering women in Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) to understand for themselves the consequences conflicts have on their families and livelihoods.

Empowering Women for Peace and Prosperity in Chereponi

In the Chereponi district of Ghana, recurring ethnic conflicts have caused economic and social vulnerabilities in communities, especially among women. But amidst the turmoil, a ray of hope emerged in the form of the 'Empowerment for Transformation' (E4T) programme.

Savana Signatures, with support from the Chereponi District Assembly, identified and selected 50 women from Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) as direct beneficiaries of the intervention. These women were trained on women's rights and economic power, conflict resolution techniques, and financial literacy, with the goal of improving their contribution to sustaining peace and stability in Chereponi.

One of the women who benefitted from the programme was from Adaare Community. She discovered a new part of herself during the leadership seminar and financial literacy trainings. She learned the importance of saving and how to prioritize her most important needs against the less important ones, and as a result, found ways to save profit from her sales before anything else.

As a leader of her VSLA group, she also developed new ways of ensuring her group's activities were observed properly by group members, especially when it came to issuing loans within the group and making sure such loans were paid back to the group in time.



The programme didn't just impact the women directly involved, but also their daughters. Fifty girls whose mothers belonged to the VSLA women groups were trained on their rights and the need to remain in school until completion. These girls now serve as champions in their respective schools, helping their peers to also understand the need to stay in school.

The success of the programme was a result of working together with the district assembly, which fostered a good relationship between the beneficiaries and the community leadership. Despite the people of Chereponi being relatively skeptical and careful about strangers due to the past years of insecurity in the district, the partnership with the district assembly ensured full support of the community leaders and VSLA women groups.

Thanks to the E4T programme, women in the Chereponi District have a new sense of empowerment, and their daughters have a brighter future.

Amina's Success



I am from Adaare Community. I discovered a new part of me during the Leadership seminar and financial literacy training. This part of me is committed to saving and reinvesting in my business.

I had a serious challenge when it came to saving. This was because I felt my business was not really going well for me because of low sales and I had some personal financial things to take care of. I would ensure I had all my financial issues sorted out before I would even think of what to save. As a result of this, I constantly lost my business capital and had to resort to support from my husband or loans from friends to continue my business.

During the financial literacy training, I understood the importance of savings and how to prioritise my most important needs against the less important ones. This has helped me to find the difference between what I should and should not do with my business capital.

This new part of me is committed to saving profit from my sales before anything else.

As a Leader of my VSLA group I have also developed new ways of ensuring my group's activities are observed properly by my group members especially when it comes to issuing loans within the group and making sure such loans are paid back to the group in time.

Transport Sector Improvement Project



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THE WORLD BANK



MINISTRY
OF
ROADS AND HIGHWAYS



Ensuring the smooth execution of and to minimise the negative social effects of the road construction projects in the Bono East and Northern regions under the Transport Sector Improvement Project.

Innovatively tackling socioeconomic effects of road construction in Ghana

To ensure the Transport Sector Improvement Project by the Ministry of Roads and Highways is executed successfully and with minimal negative social effects, Savana Signatures has been managing the project-related issues, grievance redress mechanisms, and the gender-based violence framework in the road construction areas of the Bono East and Northern regions.



Our 3-Pronged Approach



Institutionalising a framework for documenting and managing project-related complaints in line with the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) procedures (supported by the project's computer-based GRM) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) framework;



Delivering communication and public information dissemination/sensitization on the GRM and GBV/SEA framework;



Delivering varied forms of training programmes for staff of MRH/GHA/DFR and other project actors (interest groups and committees) at the district and community levels.



Over the past year, Savana Signatures has successfully worked towards achieving these objectives, resulting in the steady progress of the road construction projects in the identified regions.

2022 Highlights



Developed, reviewed and finalised Community Engagement and Communication Strategies for implementation in the project areas.



Four grievance redress offices have been set up in Sang, Yendi and Zabzugu and Atebubu-Amantin to aid in the collection and processing of project-related grievances, including the GBV-related cases.



Three toll-free numbers (0800 00 22 22 for Atebubu-Amantim; 0800 00 33 33 for Lot 2 and 0800 00 44 44 for Lot 1), have been set up and deployed across all project-affected communities to enable residents seek information on the project as well as report complaints relative to the project.



A project online complaints capture system, and Grievance and Complaints Logging System (GCLS) is being operated and publicised to make reporting of complaints easy and anonymous.



Six radio stations in Atebubu-Amantin, Zabzugu, Yendi, Mion and Tamale have been contracted and are airing the approved project jingles which have been recorded in English, Twi, Bono, Hauza, Dagbani, Ewe, Baasare and Likpakpa. A-30 minute air-time have been allocated to the project GRO and other critical stakeholders in the project, to periodically engage the affected communities on the road projects while informing them of major milestones or upcoming activities.



Complaint boxes have been manufactured and mounted at vantage points in each project-affected community as well as the project site of the 3 construction firms (Yangtse Engineering Company; China Jiangxi International Economic and Technical Cooperation Limited and the China State Cooperation Engineering Cooperation Limited; China International Water and Electric Cooperation and the Chongqing International Construction Corporation) across the Bono East and Northern regions. People with issues, information, and concerns can deposit a written note into these boxes. The Grievance Redress Officers collect letters or notes from the boxes on a weekly basis for processing.



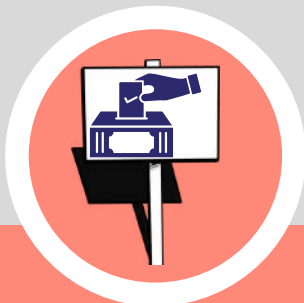
Other project actors such as service providers have been engaged and trained on the project GRM and PSEAH/GBV.



Trained the workforces of the 3 Construction firms (Yangtse Engineering Company; China Jiangxi International Economic and Technical Cooperation Limited and the China State Cooperation Engineering Cooperation Limited; China International Water and Electric Cooperation and the Chongqing International Construction Corporation) on the project's GRM and GBV frameworks, with focus on the structures and mediums available for information dissemination and reporting of complaints.



Developed and printed a stack of publicity materials, including radio jingles, posters, and fliers on the project GRM, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual harassment, HIV/AIDS, and Covid-19. These materials are being used for various community engagements in the project areas.



A total of 53 signposts have been manufactured and mounted along the project-affected communities to educate residents on how they can report grievances they have regarding the project.



Community-level groups and organisations have been educated on the road construction projects in the Northern Region. They include women's groups, persons with disabilities, the aged and youth groups.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)



Projects

- **Accelerating Social and Behaviour Change (ASBC) Activity - Pg. 16**
- **Health Marketing Activity - Pg. 19**
- **Nutrition In Retail Project - Pg. 23**
- **Sexual Health Education Plus Helpline - Pg. 27**
- **Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) - Pg. 34**
- **Focused Post-Partum Care (FPPC) - Pg. 38**
- **Promoting Adolescent SRHR Through Participatory Community Engagement (PASPCE) - Pg. 41**



Accelerating Social and Behaviour Change (ASBC) Activity

The ASBC Activity is encouraging widescale adoption of key life-saving health behaviours in the areas of malaria prevention; sexual reproductive health; nutrition; family planning, emerging infectious diseases; maternal and newborn child health; and water, sanitation and hygiene.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ACCELERATING SOCIAL
AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

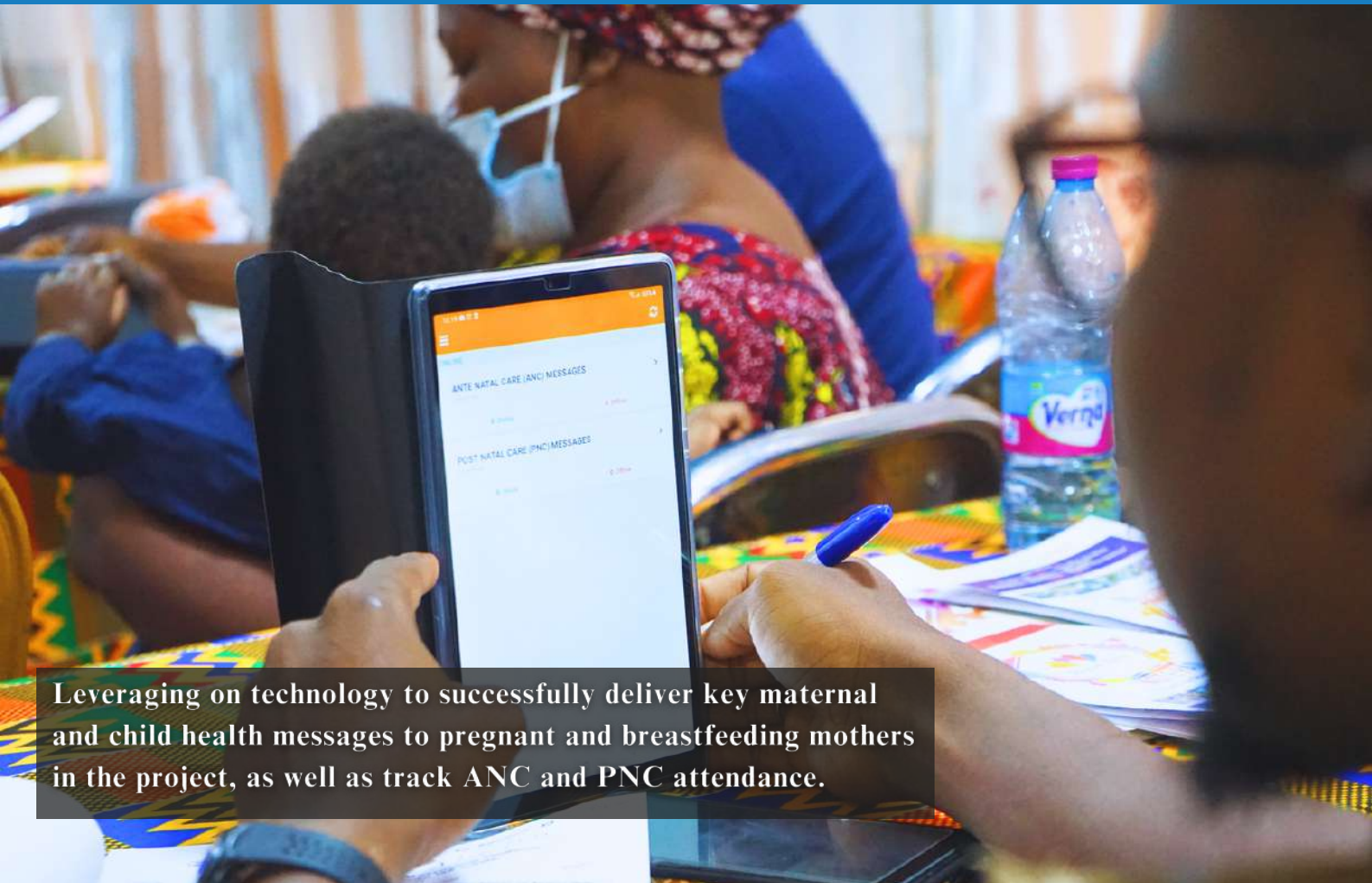


Savannah
Signatures.

A USAID Ghana ASBC consortium member



Accelerating Healthy Social and Behaviour Change in Rural North Through Technology



Leveraging on technology to successfully deliver key maternal and child health messages to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in the project, as well as track ANC and PNC attendance.

Improving healthcare delivery in Ghana has always been a top priority for the Ghana Health Service over the years. Despite the years of efforts, the uptake of healthy behaviours and critical health services in key health areas remain inconsistent. The situation is even troubling in rural northern Ghana, where for instance, there is an alarming rate of poor nutrition and low family planning acceptance rate.

The USAID has since 2022, been supporting the Health Promotion Division (HPD) of Ghana Health Service to lead a consortium of civils society and the private sector to accelerate healthy norms and behaviours among Ghanaians in seven critical health areas in 17 districts in Northern, North East, Upper East and Upper West regions. As a consortium member, Savanna Signatures is leading the ICT component of the project named Accelerating Social and Behavior Change Activity.

Recognising that traditional methods of disseminating health information have not always been effective in reaching everyone in the community, especially those in hard to reach locations, Savanna Signatures has been using a more innovative approach to improve access to health information.

Since 2022, we have been deploying ICT-based interventions in the ASBC Activity in 40 CHPS zones in Sagnarigu Municipality and Mamprugu Moagduri District in the Northern and North East regions, where we are utilising digital and electronic platforms to communicate for health and wellbeing.

Key among the interventions is the use of a simple mobile phone technology to promote the uptake of ANC and PNC visits among pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, while encouraging them to adopt family planning, proper hygiene, vaccine acceptance, good nutrition, and guidance on other key health behaviours.

This technology allows the women to receive automated calls with relevant health information on critical health areas in their local languages.

Another key aspect of our ICT intervention in the programme has been the use of QR Code to track ANC and PNC attendance of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in the remote and hard to reach communities in the two districts.

Again, to address the issue of health staff absenteeism due to training programmes and workshops, we are using Talking Books as a training tool to ensure that health staff at the CHPS level received their trainings in the comfort of their facilities to allow them spend quality time with their clients, especially pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, adolescents, and people at the grassroots.

Savana Signatures also supported HPD to implement a phased roll-out of Community Engagement for Health and Well-being (CE4HW) activities in 40 CHPS zones in the two districts.

Through a participatory approach, the various Community Health Management Committees for the 40 CHPS zones brainstormed on the main health challenges they face in their communities and suggested available homegrown resources they can tap to locally address them for their wellbeing.

These were captured as their Community Health Action Plans, which they are implementing as part of the project's overall strategy to ensure widespread adoption of life-saving health behaviours for improved health outcomes in Ghana.

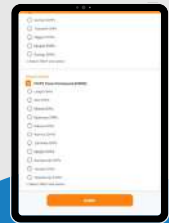


2022 Highlights



200

Talking Books procured to be used as training tools for community health officers and volunteers



40

Mobile tablets set up and deployed to register pregnant women and lactating mothers onto the Kpododo Collect Mobile App and Messaging System



90

ANC & PNC audio messages developed and recorded in six local languages for broadcast to pregnant and lactating mothers



9,600

QR codes generated and deployed to 40 CHPS to track ANC and PNC attendance



160

Community health officers had their capacity built to lead CHMCs to develop Community Health Action Plans (CHAPS) for 40 CHPS zones.

HEALTH MARKETING ACTIVITY



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The HMA is promoting the adoption of key health behaviours among individuals by improving access demand and uptake of high impact health products relative to family planning; maternal and new-born child health and nutrition; WASH; HIV/AIDS; malaria prevention and treatment.

Transforming Rural Health: How Community-Based Model is Improving Health Outcomes in Savannah Region



In remote parts of Ghana, access to affordable and appropriate health commodities has become a challenge due to poor supply chain distribution networks. This has caused deficiency in people's demand for essential health commodities and hampered availability. However, ensuring access to high-quality and affordable health services, especially in rural Ghana, is essential for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the past year, Savana Signatures has been working with the Total Family Health Organisation (TFHO) and the Ghana Health Service in the Savannah Region of northern Ghana to introduce an efficient, affordable, and robust health commodity promotion and distribution system. Through USAID funding, we have successfully created demand for and improved access to high-impact health commodities in seven districts in the region.

Using a community-based distribution model, we have ensured the uptake of key health commodities for Family Planning, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, nutrition, WASH, Malaria prevention, and HIV/AIDS in Sawla-Tuna-Kalba, West Gonja, Central Gonja, Northeast Gonja, East Gonja, North Gonja, and Bole. Our Health Marketing Activity approach has not only increased the uptake and accessibility of these health commodities but also empowered community members to start businesses and become change agents.

Through this model, we have trained 211 Community Based Agents (CBAs) and sensitised over 210,000 community members on family planning and other essential health commodities.

CBAs were equipped with entrepreneurial skills and stocked with family planning and other essential health commodities to promote uptake in the communities.

The results of our HMA project have been impressive. There is increased access to reproductive health information and health commodities, which has significantly decreased the incidence of teenage pregnancies and HIV infections among young people. The project's community-based distribution model has proven to be an effective strategy for tackling health challenges in the region, resulting in its extension for another year to further deepen the gains made so far.

Ultimately, this project is a testament to the power of community empowerment and collaboration in achieving Universal Health Coverage and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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Ultimately, this project is a testament to the power of community empowerment and collaboration in achieving Universal Health Coverage and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

211

A total of 211 Community Based Agents (CBAs) gained knowledge on family planning and other essential health commodities and entrepreneurial skills.

211

211 CBA stocked with family planning and other essential health commodities promote the utilisation of these commodities in the communities.

210,784

210,784 Community members acquired knowledge on family planning and other essential health commodities

Impact Stories



In the Tantuani community in Northeast Gonja, teenage girls and women face a rising number of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), leading to frequent quarrels between couples. Many women feared becoming pregnant immediately after childbirth, causing tension at home and affecting the peace in the household.

“I gave birth recently, my baby is 11 months old. I don’t want to get pregnant now, so my husband and I decided not to be intimate until my baby is two years. This situation is causing a lot of misunderstanding and tension at home, affecting the peace in the house. I am worried he might go to another woman” Seidu Faiza expressed.

Since the CBAs educated community members on family planning methods and introduced safe contraceptives to them, tensions are easing in their homes. The use of secure pills has helped the women to take responsibility for their contraceptive needs.

Faiza’s husband shared his experience after his wife adopted family planning: "My wife takes the Secure pill every evening. She takes it after her work, so I remind her to take the pill everyday."

The CBAs' intervention has enabled the community to take charge of their reproductive health, promote healthy sexual activities, and maintain peace and stability in their households.

In the past, harmful substances like plants, toothpaste, and shea butter were commonly used on newborns' umbilical cords, causing bacterial and fungal infections that could lead to complications in their growth and development.

Sule Shemima, Imoro Biadawu, and Augustina Mani from Soma in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District experienced the negative consequences of the long-standing practice, and desired a solution that would not harm their babies or burden their families with high medical costs.

Thanks to the CBA's intervention and the use of Chlorhexidine gel, the community has been able to reduce the risk of umbilical cord infections and promote the healthy growth and development of their babies.

"With the Chlorhexidine gel, my baby's umbilical cord dried and fell off within 7 to 10 days after childbirth, unlike my previous baby where it took 12 days to 2 weeks," Imoro Biadawu shared her experience.

For Sule Shamsia, the use of the gel prevented her baby from getting discharges. "Since using the Chlorhexidine gel, I haven't seen any redness or yellowish discharge on my baby's cord, which I experienced with shea butter oil. I don't worry about cord infections, and my baby is healthy."



Nutrition In Retail Project



Promoting the consumption of fortified and locally available nutritious foods among high-risk groups; pregnant women, children under 5 years and adolescent girls.



Savandi In partnership with Signatures.



Improving nutrition. Improving lives.



World Food Programme

Empowering Communities to Overcome the Triple Burden of Malnutrition



As we look back on the past year, we are reminded of the persistent challenges facing communities across Ghana when it comes to malnutrition. It is a global issue that not only contributes to maternal and child mortality, but also exacerbates the spread of infectious diseases. Unfortunately, in some Ghanaian communities, insufficient food access, as well as myths and misconceptions associated with the consumption of meat, fish, egg etc. by pregnant women, children and adolescents, continue to thwart the country's progress.

This is why our Nutrition In Retail Project was birthed. The project is designed to leverage the power of social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) to promote the consumption of fortified and locally available nutritious foods by high-risk groups (pregnant women and children under five years) in the Sagnarigu Municipal and Karaga Districts.

Our objective is clear: to contribute to improved nutrition outcomes by encouraging individuals and communities in the two districts to consume fortified and locally available nutritious foods.

We believe that by focusing on improving maternal nutrition, especially before, during and immediately after pregnancy, the practice of exclusive breastfeeding and provision of safe, appropriate, and high-quality complementary food with essential micronutrient, we can make a meaningful impact.

Over the past year, we have seen first-hand the positive impact of our efforts. By working with local retailers to promote nutritious food options, providing education and resources to families and caregivers, and raising awareness about the importance of proper nutrition, we have made strides in addressing the issue of malnutrition in these districts.

We recognise that there is still much to be done, but we are confident that through the power of collaboration, education, and innovation, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.



2022 Highlights



124

Myths and misconceptions on dietary intake addressed by 124 health workers who promote the consumption of fortified and locally available nutritious foods in communities using SBCC materials.



38

In-school adolescents make informed decisions on nutrition through 38 SHEP teachers who are capacitated to educate students on locally nutritious available foods and fortified foods.



3,016

A total of 3,016 in and out of school adolescents gained knowledge on locally available nutritious foods and fortified foods with the obaasima seal



1,321

Over 1,321 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers ensure the consumption of available locally nutritious foods and fortified food through weekly nutrition related messages delivered via their mobile phones.



27,536

A total of 27,536 nutrition related messages have been delivered on consumption of a 4-star diet, exclusive breastfeeding, food safety and hygiene etc.



1,637

1,637 pregnant and lactating mothers were directly educated on locally available nutritious foods and fortified foods with the Obaasima seal.



483,905

483,905 of the general population received information on adhering to positive nutritious practice on consumption of 4-star diet and fortified foods with the obaasima seal.



Success Stories

It is amazing to see and share with our donors, partners and stakeholders, how much impact our project has had on the lives of our beneficiaries.

Abdulaih Rawdatu Nasa



Since I learnt about 4-Star diet, I have introduced it to my sister whom I stay with. Now we make sure to add vegetables and fruits to our meals. My sister now calls me Obaasima or Madam 4-Star all because I insist on eating a balanced diet for all the essential food nutrients needed for good health.

Mohammed Suabida

I used to buy snacks (fizzy drinks and toffees) with the five cedis my parents give me for school daily. Learning about the 4-Star diet through my participation in the Nutrition In Retail Project made me realise I was not getting the right nutrients from taking those fizzy drinks compared to meals like banku with okro stew and meat or waakye with vegetables and meat.



Ahmed Baidawu



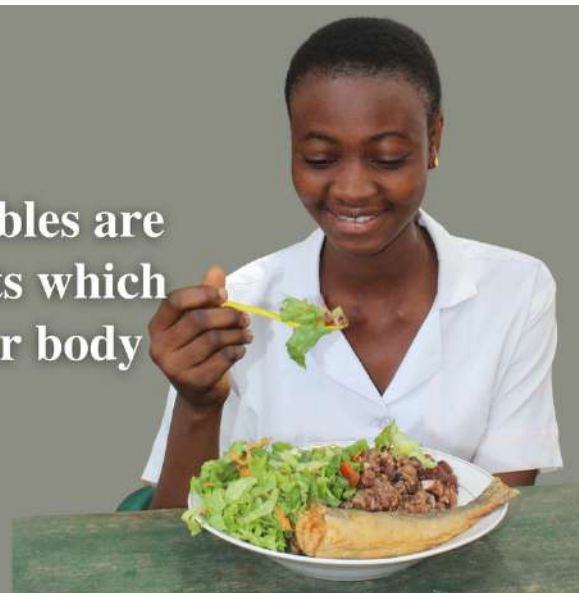
Growing up, I believed plantain was not good for pregnant women but from today's health session, I have learnt that is not true. Plantain contains nutrients good for pregnant women, and so, I will eat it to get more nutrient for the growth of my unborn baby.



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Green leafy vegetables are high in antioxidants which help to protect your body from diseases.





Sexual Health Education Plus Helpline



Providing adolescents and young people with free access to information, counselling and referral services on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, as well as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.



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AgooSHE+ Helpline: Advancing SRHR and Helping People Make Informed Choices

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) are essential aspects of the overall health and well-being of individuals, communities, and nations. Despite global efforts to promote and protect SRHR, many individuals still face barriers to accessing information and services. In Ghana, the AgooSHE+ Helpline has emerged as a critical resource for individuals, mostly adolescents and young people seeking information, support, and referrals related to their SRHR issues and services. It has been offering a confidential and non-judgmental space for individuals to ask questions, share concerns, and receive guidance on a range of SRHR issues. It has also been a great reference point for those requiring counselling, psychosocial support, and referral services to health facilities and social justice institutions across the country.



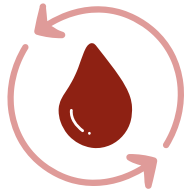
In 2022, a total of 5,983 callers reached out to seek information and counselling services on reproductive health and gender-based violence, as well as referral services to health facilities and social justice institutions.

There was high number of callers seeking information on Menstruation (682), Yellow fever vaccination (236), COVID-19 (647), and Family Planning (649), Contraceptive Counselling and usage (338) as well as Education (462). A total of 497 call drops were recorded within the period the year.

Most of the callers of AgoosSHE+ helpline were from the Northern Region (1,375), followed by VoltaRegion (984), Central Region (862) and Greater Accra Region (571). A significant number of the callers spoke Twi (2,287), Dagbani (1,864), Ewe (1,078), English (738) with Ga (16) recording the least language used to communicate with the SHE+ Helpline attendants.

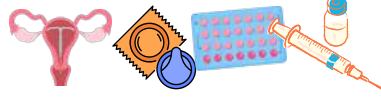
Females accessed the AgoosSHE+ Helpline the most with 3,147 people. Males were 2836.

What AgooSHE+ Callers Sought Help In



682

Menstruation/Menstrual Hygiene



338

Contraceptive Counselling and usage



136

Sexual health/ Sex education



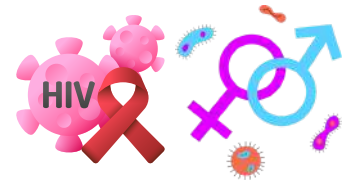
147

Pregnancy



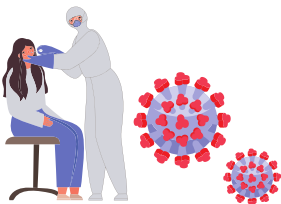
86

Gender-Based Violence



94

HIV/AIDS/STI's



647

COVID -19



362

Maternal Health/Child care



412

Personal hygiene and Nutrition



188

Relationship counselling



42

Feedback



64

Sexual harrasment

What AgooSHE+ Callers Sought Help In



247

Special Enquiry



462

Education



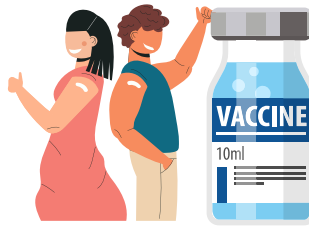
497

Dropped call



63

Pranks



568

Yellow Fever Vaccination



117

Drug and substance abuse



128

General Health Tips



54

Entrepreneurship/
Financial assistance



649

Family Planning



We Can Help You!

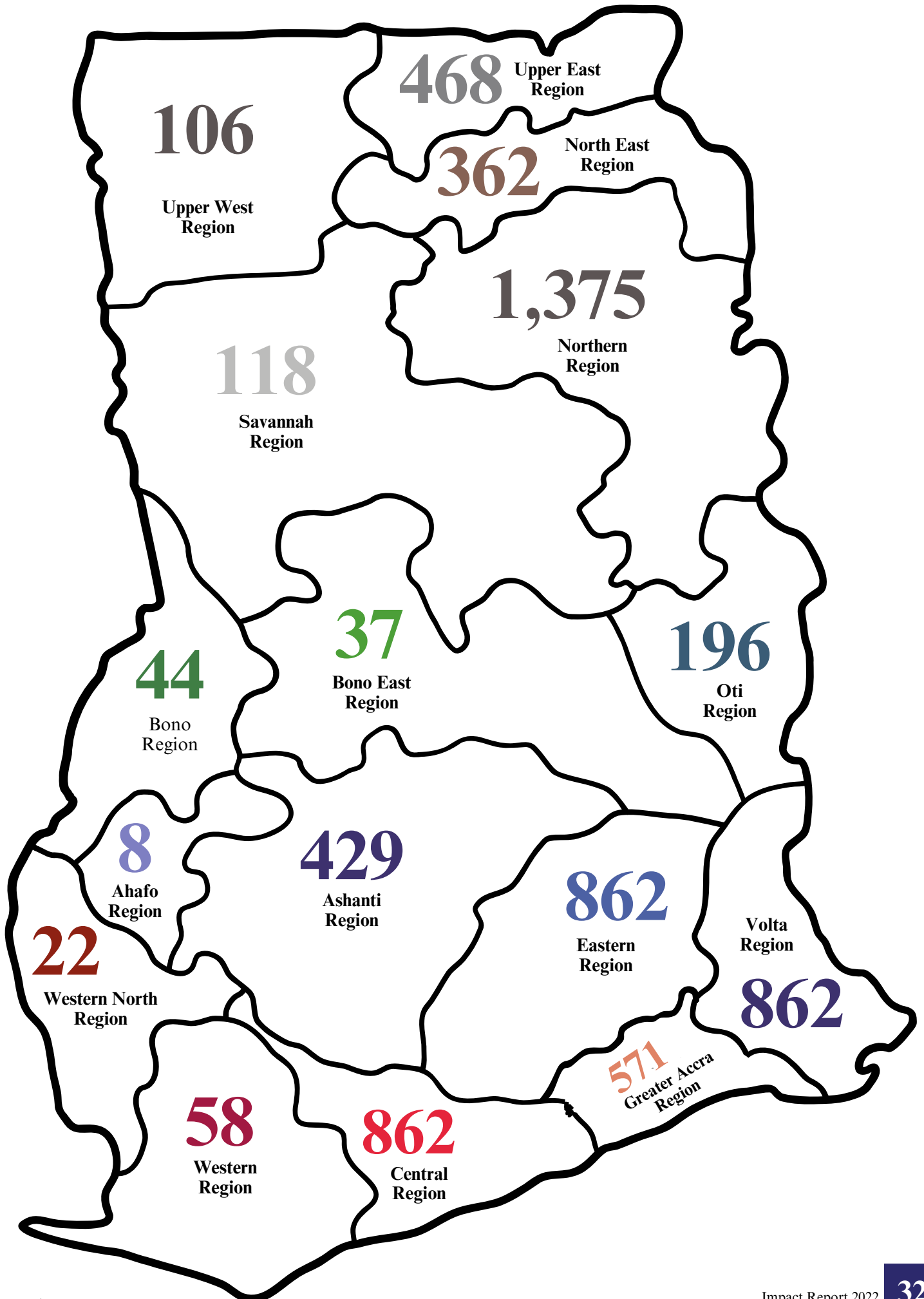
- Do you need information on your health?
- Do you need to talk to a qualified counsellor?
- Do you need referral to a health facility?



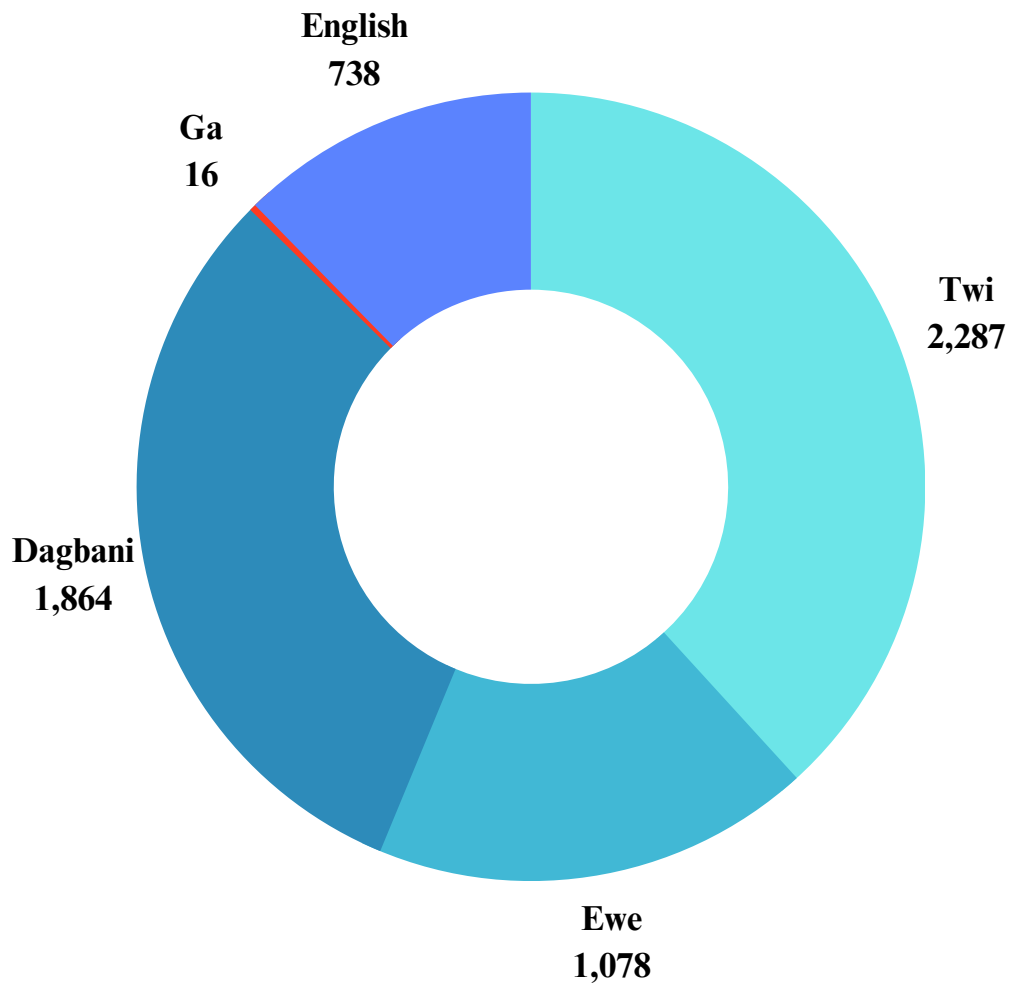
Call **MTN 5100**
0800 00 11 22
All Networks

059 394 7812 [WhatsApp Only]

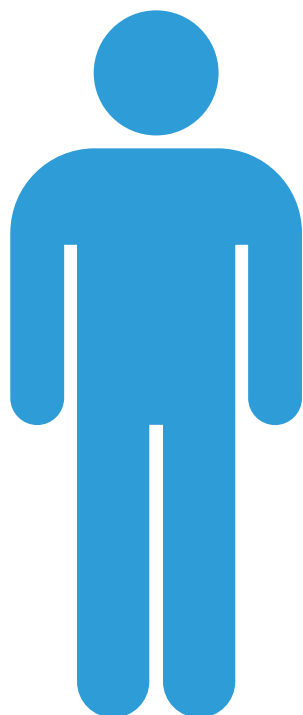
Where People Called Us From



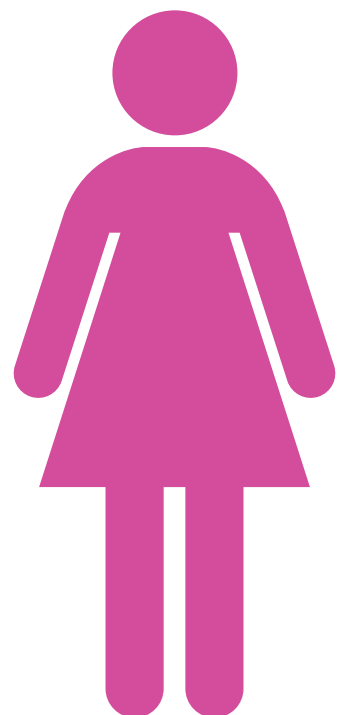
Languages AgooSHE+ Callers Spoke



Sex of AgooSHE+ Callers

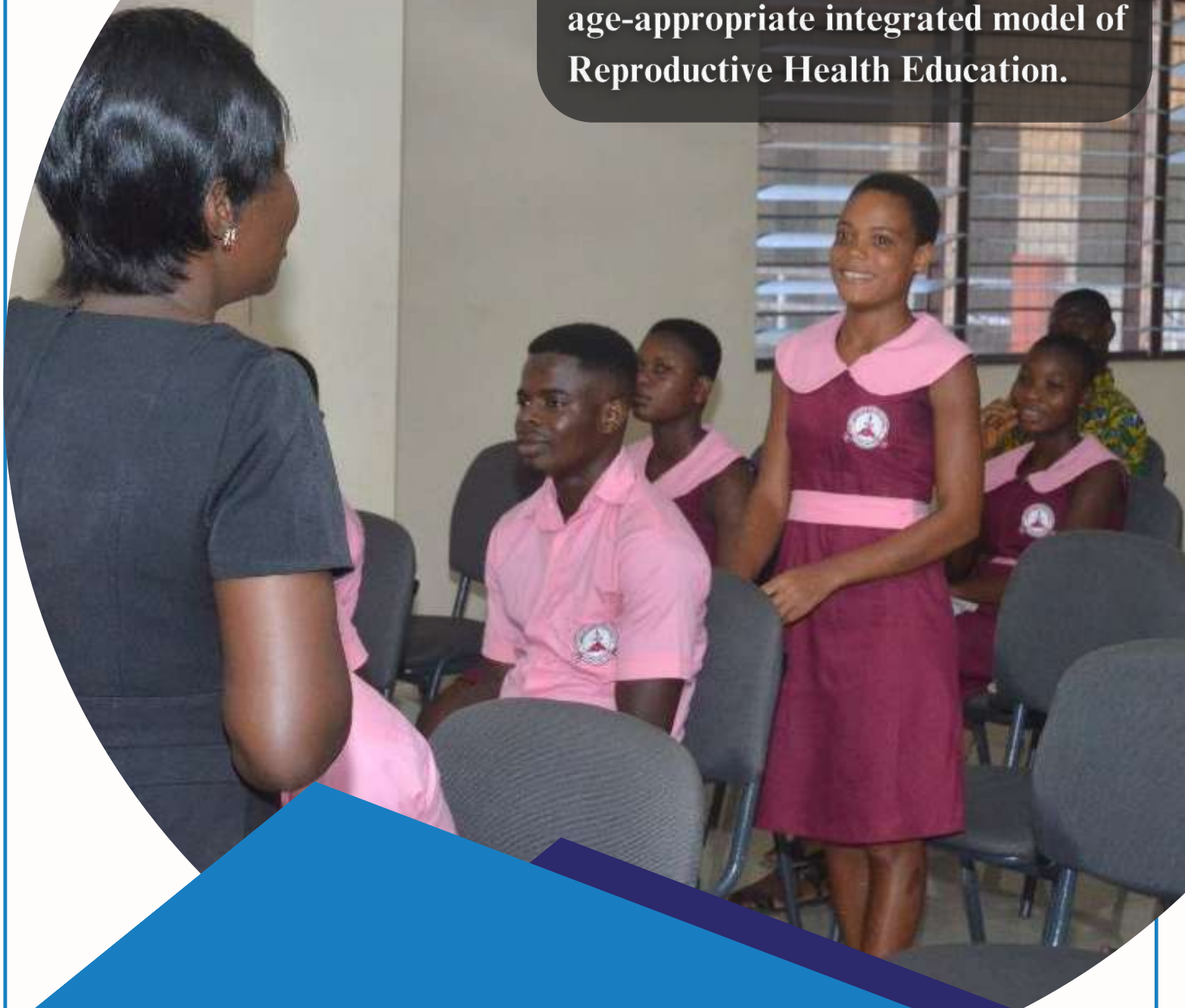


2,836



3,147

Empowering young people in and out of school, with accurate and age-appropriate integrated model of Reproductive Health Education.



Youth Empowerment Project



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unesco

Empowering Adolescents to Make Informed Choices on SRHR

Since 2020, Savana Signatures has been implementing the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), one of our flagship adolescent programmes, with the support of UNESCO and partners. The project aims at protecting young people from sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, early pregnancies, and gender-based violence.

Our initiative introduces adolescents and young people in schools to an accurate and age-appropriate integrated model of Reproductive Health Education (RHE). The RHE teaches life skills and reproductive health issues such as self-esteem, personal values and norms, reproductive health and development, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and social environments.

Over the past year, we have witnessed significant achievements in our project goals. In 2022, we worked hard to secure and sustain strong political commitment and support for adolescents and young people's access to sexual reproductive health services across the project areas.

Again, we supported the delivery of accurate, rights-based, and good quality sexual and reproductive health programmes that provided knowledge, values, and skills essential for safer behaviours, reduced adolescent pregnancy, and ensured gender equality.

Our project leverages existing platforms and networks in the project communities and districts, building on local strengths and ownership for sustainable change. In partnership with the Ghana Education Service (GES), we raised awareness among community members of the urgent need to empower girls to know and understand their reproductive health and rights and the importance of completing their education.

The project challenges beliefs and stereotypes about adolescent sexuality, relationships, power inequalities, and the use of violence, especially against adolescent girls, which are often not discussed because they are deeply rooted and considered sensitive.



To ensure adolescent girls and boys and people living with disabilities make informed decision about their reproductive health, it is crucial to introduce them to accurate and age-appropriate reproductive health education

Our beneficiaries, both in and out of school, are linked to the SHE+ Helpline tollfree number 0800 00 11 22 to receive real-time, confidential, convenient, and private support such as counselling, education, reporting abusive cases, referrals to health facilities, and social justice institutions. Additionally, they can access a wide range of information on health, social issues, and myths about young people's reproductive health and rights through the Agoo Platform on tollfree number 5100.

2022 Highlights



136

Junior High Schools in the South and Central Tongu District facilitated **accurate** and **age-appropriate** **adolescent reproductive health education**.



116,248

Young people reached with **accurate** and **age-appropriate** **reproductive health education** through multiple media platforms



21,628

In-school **adolescent girls and boys** in 136 JHS were reached with **life-based HIV/AIDS** and **reproductive health education**.



136

JHS and communities in the South and Central Tongu districts implemented the School and Community **Gender-Based Violence prevention** and **response** guideline on **physical safety**, **stigma** and **discrimination**, and **sexual harassment** and **abuse**.



5,440

Members of Parent Association, School Management Committees, and teachers have been **oriented on skills-based HIV**, while **reproductive health education programmes** have been offered in 136 schools.



14,138

Community members (traditional, religious leaders and parents/ guardians) were **sensitized on reproductive health** and **life-skills education**



764

In-service teachers trained on **accurate** and **age-appropriate** **reproductive health education**.



14,696

Community members were reached with efforts to **keep girls in school**.

Impact Stories



At Vurme D/A Junior High School in the South Tongu District, we witnessed a remarkable transformation in one of our students, Godfred Sosu. Godfred struggled with shyness and anxiety, which made it difficult for him to communicate with his peers and participate in class discussions.

Fortunately, Godfred's teacher recognized his potential and encouraged him to take on a leadership role in acting out stories during the school's RHE sessions. These after-school sessions provided a safe and supportive environment for Godfred to express himself through acting and storytelling.

Through this experience, Godfred discovered a newfound love for acting and developed confidence in his abilities.

He began to contribute ideas and participate in classroom discussions, which he had previously been too afraid to do. He also made new friends who supported him in his learning challenges.



Through acting in these sessions, I feel confident to ask questions in class and I have made more friends who I share my learning challenges with to get support. I feel proud of my development and would want to pursue a career in acting. – Godfred



As a result of his transformation, Godfred now aspires to pursue a career in acting. We are proud to have played a part in his development and look forward to seeing him thrive in the future. This case study highlights the importance of providing students with opportunities to explore their interests and build their self-esteem, ultimately helping them to reach their full potential.

At Dzogadze SDA Junior High School in the Central Tongu District, we have been working to empower our female students to make positive choices and pursue their dreams.

One such student, Helen Amenudzi, has shown remarkable determination and growth.

Despite facing financial challenges at home, Helen is determined to complete her education and achieve her dream of becoming a nurse.

However, she has been making poor choices, such as asking for money from guys in her community and potentially putting herself at risk of sexual exploitation.

Through our RHE sessions, Helen has gained a better understanding of the importance of protecting herself from unwanted pregnancies and STIs. She has also been inspired by the stories shared by other students and teachers to make positive changes in her own life.

As a result, Helen has made a promise to herself to stop asking for money from guys and to appreciate the support provided by her parents. She has also taken on responsibilities at home, helping her mother prepare Abolo to sell and support their family financially.



I have been asking for money from guys in my neighbourhood to get some items that I need. I am mostly influenced by friends in my community who often request for money from guys by promising them they will talk to me to accept them as my boyfriend or having sexual intercourse with them – Helen.



Focused Post-Partum Care (FPCC)



A randomised clinical control trial to test and evaluate postpartum care, education and support model that integrates recommended clinical care, education and support for women in northern Ghana in a group setting.



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NOTRE DAME**

Improving Postpartum Care in Rural Ghana



The postpartum period is a high-risk period for maternal deaths, with complications after delivery being the leading cause of maternal deaths globally. Unfortunately, women who deliver in rural Ghana, receive little to no support tailored to their specific needs.

Savana Signatures in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame, is working at improving maternal health outcomes in the Sagnarigu municipality of Northern Region, where we are implementing the Focused Post-Partum Care project. It seeks to fill the gaps that put many mothers at risk of losing their lives due to postpartum health issues.

The randomised control research project aims at testing and evaluating an integrated postpartum care delivery model that is comprehensive and meets clinical care, education, and support needs of mothers.

Bagabaga, Kalpohin, and Kanvilli) within the municipality, receive uniquely focused education, care, and support curated to their postpartum needs. This seeks to guide them to identify and manage after-birth warning signs and complications, as well as seek appropriate medical attention when necessary.

We are proud to report that Focused-PPC has yielded positive results. Mothers have reported increased satisfaction with their postpartum care and improved health outcomes for both themselves and their babies. Peer-to-peer support has also been a significant benefit of the programme, with mothers sharing knowledge and healthcare providers noting improved communication and collaboration. Healthcare providers have also noted improved communication and collaboration between themselves and mothers.

2022 Highlights



A total of 12 audio-visual content on all topics in the Focused-PPC guide have been finalised and are being used for sessions.



Provided medical and non-medical supplies (weighing scales, BP apparatus, temperature guns, projector and screens, record-taking books) to all 4 health facilities to facilitate timely and quality services to the participants.

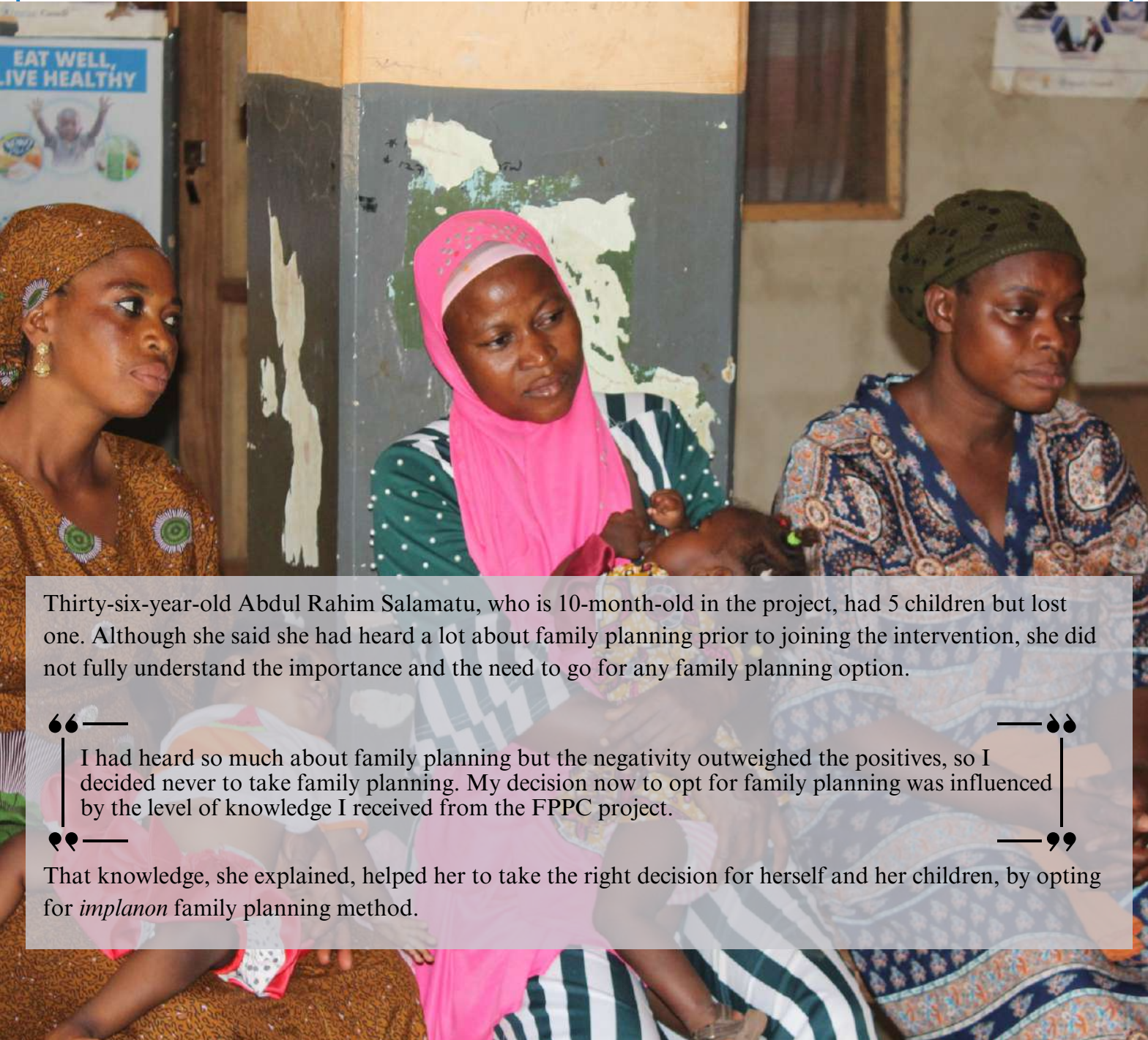


Baseline surveys conducted for all 192 participants and randomised into intervention and control groups in each facility.



24 groups formed across the 4 Health Centers (6 groups per health facility). It consists of three intervention groups and three control groups per facility. Each group has eight participants.

Impact Story



Thirty-six-year-old Abdul Rahim Salamatu, who is 10-month-old in the project, had 5 children but lost one. Although she said she had heard a lot about family planning prior to joining the intervention, she did not fully understand the importance and the need to go for any family planning option.

“ I had heard so much about family planning but the negativity outweighed the positives, so I decided never to take family planning. My decision now to opt for family planning was influenced by the level of knowledge I received from the FPPC project. ”

That knowledge, she explained, helped her to take the right decision for herself and her children, by opting for *implanon* family planning method.

PROMOTING ADOLESCENT SRH THROUGH PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PASPCE)



Ensuring safe communities for young people to make informed choices.



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Improving Access to SRHR Services for Ghanaian Adolescents



In Ghana, accessing healthcare services and information has proven to be a significant challenge for adolescents due to various factors. These include insufficient capacity among health professionals to respond to age and gender-specific needs, inadequate infrastructure and transportation options due to distance, negative attitudes among healthcare staff, and sociocultural norms and practices.

This has unfortunately resulted in many adolescent girls not seeking necessary healthcare when needed. Several barriers, including difficulties scheduling appointments, lack of youth-friendly health services, high costs associated with accessing care, lack of privacy and confidentiality, and negative and judgmental attitudes among healthcare providers contribute to this problem.

To address these challenges, Savana Signatures has partnered with UNICEF Ghana to implement the Promoting Adolescent SRH through Participatory Community Engagement (PASPCE) Project in 36 communities across five regions in Ghana (Upper East, Volta, Oti, Eastern, and Central regions).

The project aims to increase the uptake of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services through the AgooSHE+ Helpline. Additionally, the project seeks to increase knowledge and build capacity among young people and youth to seek SRHR information and services from the Young Voices Forum (YVF). It also aims to encourage community stakeholders, including gatekeepers and duty bearers, to support adolescent girls and boys in utilizing SRH information and services in target districts. Through these efforts, we hope to improve access to critical healthcare services and information for adolescents in Ghana.

1. Face-to-face engagements created conducive community environment for adolescents to express their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

Our reach

Total
37,288



Men: 6,899



Women: 5,342



Boys: 11,504



Girls: 13,543

2. Radio Engagement

Our reach

Total
1,735,680



Men: 769,460



Women: 966,220

3. AgooSHE+ Helpline promotion on Community Information Centres (CICs)

Our reach

Total
253,552



Men: 119,287



Women: 134,265

4. Young Voices Forum broadcast on SavSign TV (online)

Our reach

Total
3,243



Men: 2,053



Women: 1,190

- Most parents are educated on the importance of Iron and Folic Acid, and now encourage their adolescent girls in school to take the supplement.
- Misconceptions about Iron and Folic Acid have been addressed by health staff.



INCLUSIVE QUALITY EDUCATION (IQE)

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



PROJECT

- Edu Q-Card - Pg. 45



Edu Q-Card Pilot Project



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Empowering schools in quality control, measurement and assessment



To contribute to the attainment of greater learning outcomes, Savana Signatures, implemented the Edukans developed EDU Q-Card. The EDU Q-card is a quality assessment tool that creates increased access and participation in education planning and management from a wider range of stakeholders. This is achieved through CSO-led real time assessment and dialogue leading to management accountability. It is a tool that enables joint monitoring (core data and scores on key indicators).

After a successful implementation in 30 schools in the Volta Region of Ghana, we further piloted this assessment tool in 10 schools in the Kumbungu District of the Northern Region.

Outputs	Achievement
Supervisors, training officers and GES officials benefit from capacity development on EDU QCard	10 Supervisors trained, 1 Training officers trained 1 GES official Trained
Key stakeholders support the implementation of the EDU Q-Card program	10 headteachers 10 Assistant headteachers 30 Teachers 5 GES officials
Availability of school improvement plans in beneficiary schools that track progress and mobilize resources for improving the quality of basic education	10 beneficiary schools
Improve learning outcomes of pupils	5000

The pilot promoted the EDU Q-Card assessment tool as an entry point for programme formulation in education, improved the quality of teaching and learning through the assessment of learning environment, students, teachers, school management and school community, and actively engaged in dialogues with the Ghana Education Service for improved education resources in schools.

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Total Family Health Organization

Simavi
A healthy life for all.

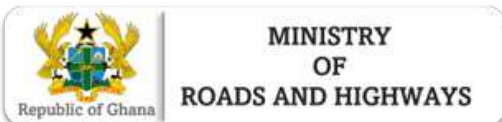


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GHA SRHR Alliance
for young people



GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE



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Improving the quality of life



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Impact Report 2022



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