

Empowering Communities for Sustainable Change



 www.savsign.org

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VISION

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

MISSION

Initiating 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.

WHO WE ARE

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.

We are registered as a non-profit organisation in Ghana, working in 52 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. Our operational areas are proven to have the most vulnerable groups in the country and known to harbour the highest concentration of the poorest and under-served households in Ghana.

For 15 years, we have implemented interventions that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals linked to our core thematic areas (Inclusive Quality Education, Livelihood & Economic Empowerment, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), 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.

CORE VALUES

Our organisation operates on a foundation of core values that guide our every action and decision. These values reflect our unwavering commitment to creating a positive impact and promoting a more equitable society.



Social inclusion

Committed to enabling the rights of the most under-served to be realised.



Diversity

We deeply respect individuals of all backgrounds, regardless of age, gender, status, religion, or political affiliation.



Passion

This drives us forward, especially in our determination to inspire others to join in our pursuit of social justice for all.



Innovation

We proudly apply appropriate technologies to provide evidence-based context-specific and environmentally friendly solutions.



Excellence

A standard we continuously strive to surpass, through continuous knowledge management, learning, and improvement.



Accountability

This is embedded in our operations, as we demonstrate trust through integrity, transparency, high ethical standards, and performance, ensuring that our actions align with our values and commitments.



OUR SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

We have zero tolerance for abuse of power, privilege or trust, or any form of inappropriate behaviour, discrimination, abuse, harassment, or exploitation of any kind against our staff, partners, stakeholders and or the people we work with.

Our commitment to protecting the wellbeing of our staff and the people we serve across the country has always been embedded in our operations. Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) is therefore at the core of what we do. 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 or harassment are prevented as far as reasonably possible. If 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 the vulnerable.

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 organisational policy, all staff are required to complete basic PSEAH courses. This way, they 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.

Leading the Way with Sustainability Reporting

2023 marked a significant milestone for our organisation as we pioneered sustainability reporting within the local NGO space in Ghana. We proudly published our inaugural Sustainability Report, a comprehensive document that highlights our organisation's contributions in the area of governance, social and environmental responsibility.

This document showcases our organisation's impactful contributions in these key areas, providing donors, partners, and stakeholders with valuable insights into the progress we are making towards achieving our sustainability objectives.

We invite you to take a moment to read this report, and gain valuable insights into our commitment to positive and sustainable change in the communities we serve.

Visit our website www.savsign.org or scan the QR code below to read or download the full report.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Partners and Friends of Savana Signatures,

I welcome you to our 2023 Annual Report. This report is themed “**Empowering Communities for Sustainable Change**”.

Empowering local communities involves providing the needed support, resources, and the opportunities to individuals and community members to take control of their own lives and achieve sustainable change. This way, we foster the sense of ownership and responsibility within the community.

We, at Savana Signatures, are of the firm belief that when communities are empowered, they are able to better address their own needs and find solutions to their own challenges. This ultimately promotes a sense of ownership and pride.



— Dr. Stephen Agbenyo —

Our work in 2023 reflects our mission and vision. Through our commitment to driving positive change in the lives of those we serve, we have consistently strived to empower communities to create lasting and sustainable change.

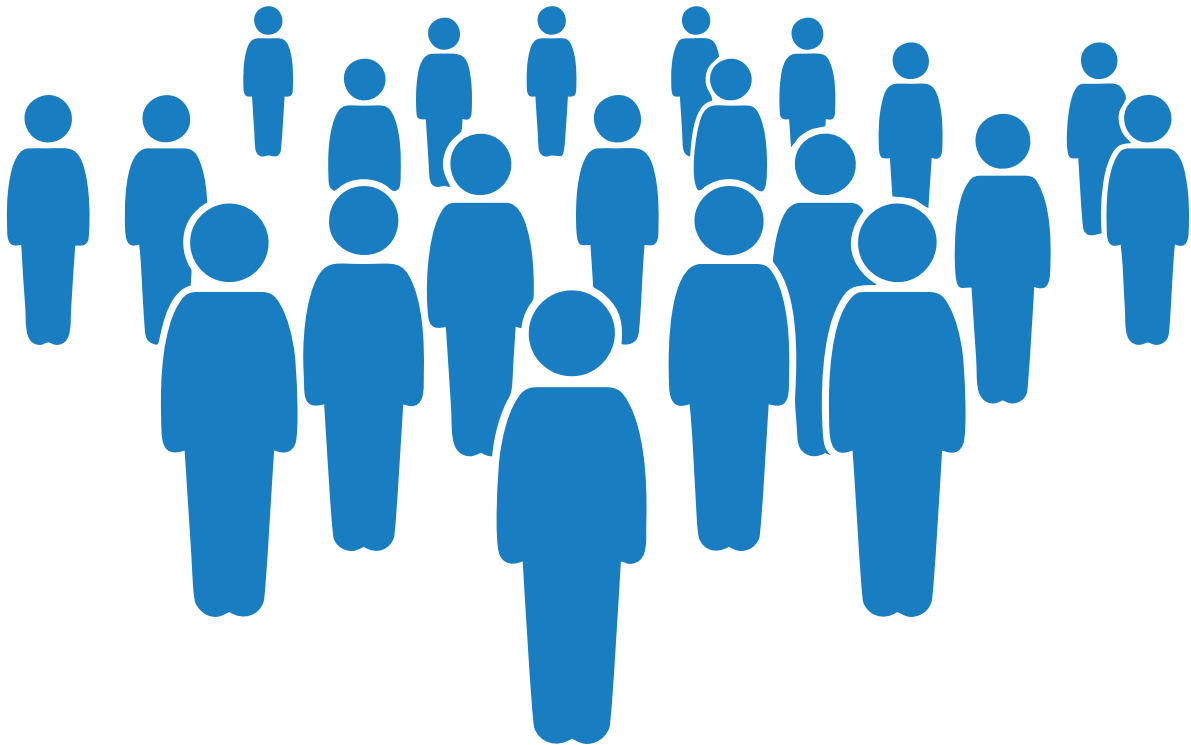
In this 2023 annual report, we begin by giving you an overview of our core values and safeguarding commitments and highlight our pioneering role in developing sustainability reporting within the NGO space in Ghana. Through our sustainability report, we showcase our sustainable contributions to the world.

The annual report includes achievements across our thematic areas of good health, education, and livelihood and economic empowerment. The results of 2023 were achieved with the support of our sponsors, donors, benefactors, and our dedicated For-Impact Team members, alongside the cooperation and support of various target community members and their leadership. I use this opportunity to thank all partners, stakeholders, sponsors and donors for their continued support. These achievements and celebrations would not have been possible without your support.

Finally, a galaxy of gratitude goes to the hardworking young men and women of Savana Signatures who continue to keep faith with the vision of the organisation and give their best in ensuring that our projects and programmes are implemented with the highest quality standards that gives return on investment to our donors and sponsors through the impact we record in the lives of our community members. You are persons who continue to facilitate the growth of enduring qualities in others. As we mark our crystal anniversary in 2024, I could not have wished for any better team!

2023 IN FOCUS: THE NUMBERS

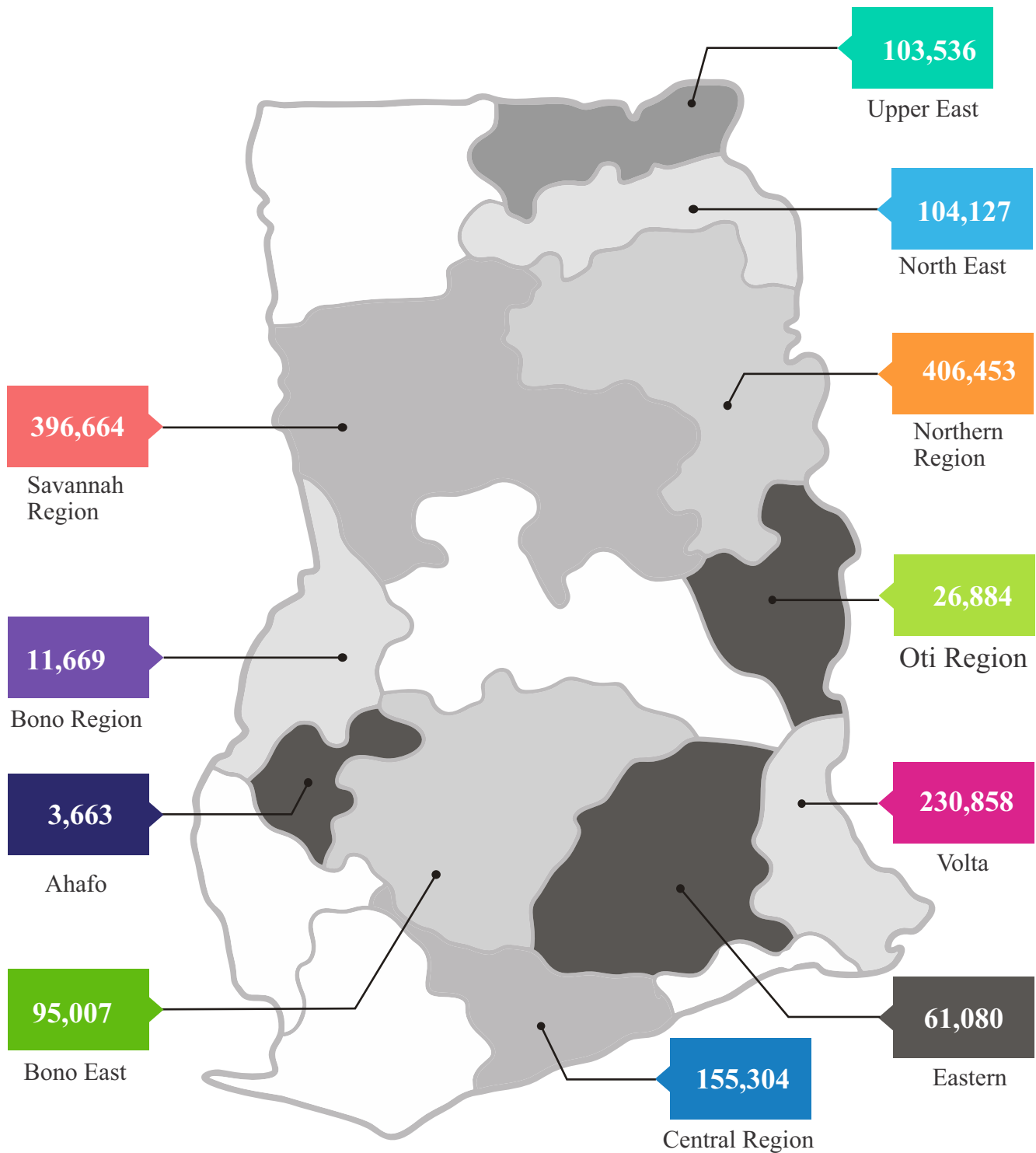
Driven by the desire to positively impact the lives of every Ghanaian, Savana Signatures in 2023 continued to leverage technology, effective and scalable tools to deliver services to communities, build the capacity of young people, empower women, the youth and the vulnerable across 11 regions in the areas of health, education and livelihood and economic empowerment. We implemented 14 programmes, reaching more than 1.5 million people across 52 districts.



1,595,245

People directly reached with our programmes

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL REACH





Health
↔

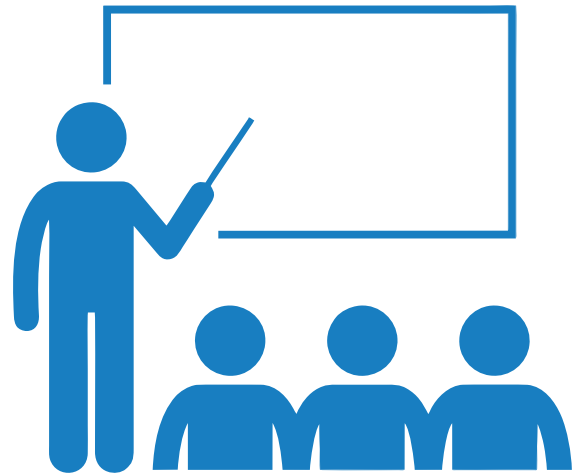
1,589,403

People benefited from our **health** initiatives. Represents **99.63%** of programming for 2023.

4,312

People benefited from our **education** initiatives. Represents **0.27%** of programming for 2023.

Education
↔



Livelihood &
Economic
Empowerment
↔

1,530

People benefited from our **Livelihood & Economic Empowerment** initiatives. Represents **0.10%** of programming for 2023.



HEALTH

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

2023 HEALTH INITIATIVES HIGHLIGHTS

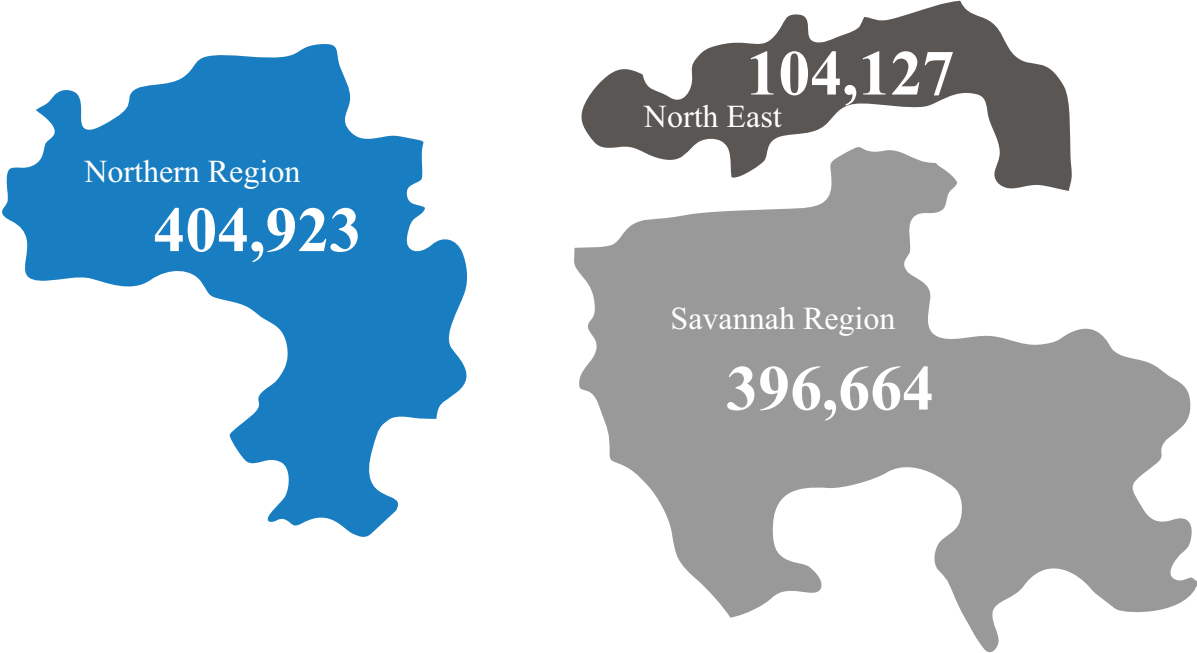
In 2023, Health remained our primary focus. The sector captured 99.63 per cent of our interventions, directly benefiting 1,589,403 individuals. Our initiatives reached diverse beneficiaries including community members, health workers, women (especially pregnant women and new mothers), children under five years, and adolescents. Across various regions, our efforts focused on a wide range of health issues - from the uptake of family planning, malaria prevention, menstrual hygiene management, maternal and child health, nutrition, reproductive health, adolescent health, infectious diseases to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

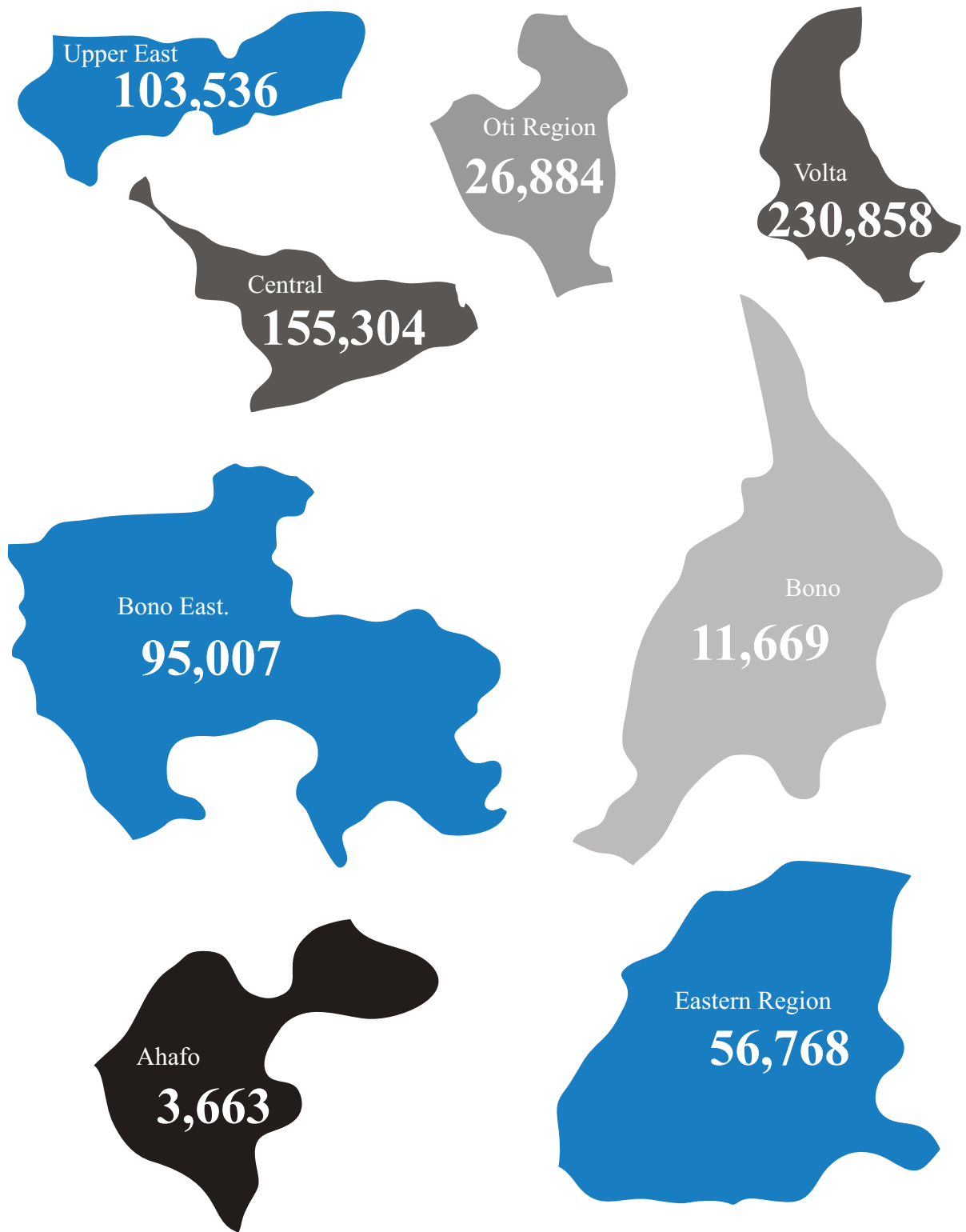
For instance, in northern Ghana, we conducted capacity-building training for Ghana Health Service personnel on Community Engagement for Health and Wellbeing, and family planning

counselling, while disseminating crucial health information to pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, and communities at large. In the Volta Region, we focused particularly on adolescent girls, providing weekly reproductive health education and distributing free sanitary pads to empower them with essential knowledge and resources for their wellbeing.

Generally, our engagement extended beyond dissemination of health information. In the Savannah Region, we actively promoted and essential health commodities, such as contraceptives, chlorhexidine gel, toilet infrastructure and hand sanitizer, to ensure their uptake and utilisation within communities. These initiatives underscore our ultimate commitment to improving health outcomes.

Regional Breakdown of the Figures

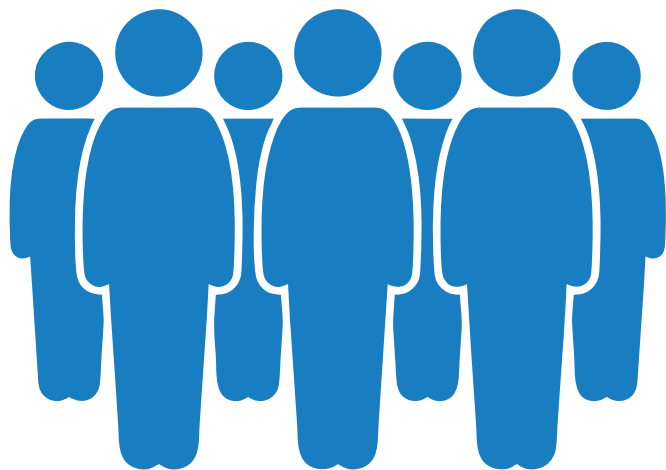




Promoting Adolescent SRH Through Participatory Community Engagement



One of our school engagements at Bronyibima in the Central Region



446,046

People Reached

Our dedication to promoting safe and empowered communities for young people has remained strong over the years. As champions of youth empowerment, we recognise the critical importance of equipping adolescents with the knowledge and resources to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

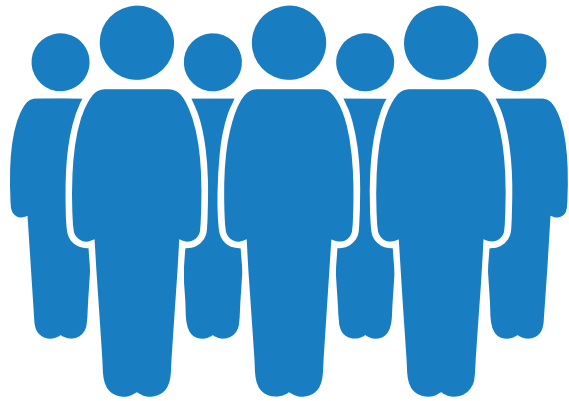
We continued our efforts in implementing the 2021 Promoting Adolescent SRH Through Participatory Community Engagement (PASPCE) project. This initiative was designed to empower young people, particularly adolescent boys and girls, to navigate the complexities of reproductive health and exercise their rights to make informed decisions.

Throughout the year 2023, our engagements under the PASPCE project made a significant impact, reaching a total of 446,046 individuals across 17 districts in five regions in Ghana. We employed various activities to meet the needs of both in and out of school adolescents and community leaders. From peer-to-peer discussions on the online platform SavSign TV, in and out of school engagements, and drama, to community engagements and AgooSHE+ Helpline, we employed a multifaceted approach to facilitate meaningful dialogue and knowledge sharing. These empowered adolescents with the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices and protect themselves from harm.



Students perform a drama on nutrition at one of our engagements

Health Marketing Activity



396,457

People Reached



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. 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.

In collaboration with the Ghana Health Service, Savana Signatures implemented an innovative, cost-effective, and resilient health commodity promotion and distribution system, known as the Health Marketing Activity initiative.

Under this initiative, we have for three years running, been actively promoting the adoption of high-impact health products related to family planning, maternal and neonatal healthcare, nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), HIV/AIDS, and malaria prevention and treatment.

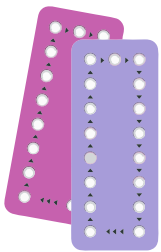
In 2023, we conducted extensive training sessions for 143 Community-Based Agents (CBAs) across the seven districts of the Savannah Region. These individuals underwent rigorous training and received essential skills and knowledge to conduct educational outreach on family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition, and personal hygiene. Additionally, they received training in basic bookkeeping to ensure the efficient management of resources from the low-cost commodities they distributed.

The CBAs spearheaded various initiatives in the year, including delivering key information on

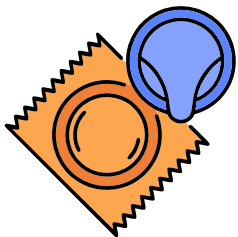
family planning, personal hygiene, and maternal and child health. These sessions served as platforms for raising awareness and dispelling myths surrounding health practices.

They also distributed essential health commodities such as Secure oral pills and Ebony condoms to those in need in the hard-to-reach terrains. This ensured access to family planning methods and promotion of safe sexual health practices. With our support, the CBAs also conducted market activations, sensitising the public on key health issues.

Our initiative yielded significant improvements in access to essential health commodities in 2023.



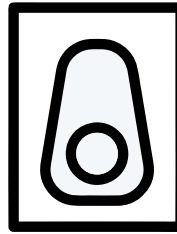
2,838 strips of Secure oral pills distributed, providing women with reliable contraceptive options.



1,272 packets of Ebony condoms distributed, promoting safe sexual health practices.



445 bottles of hand sanitizers distributed, promoting hygiene and sanitation.



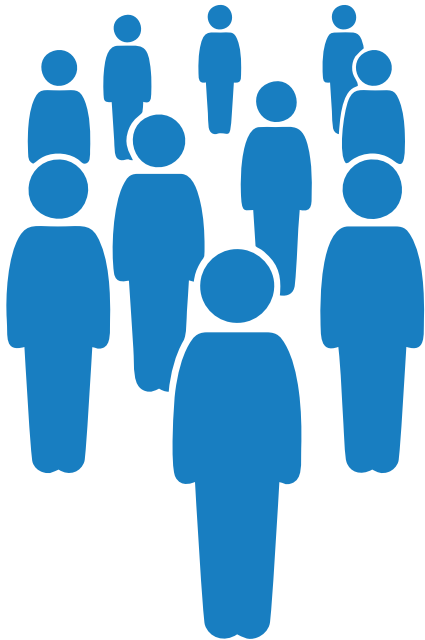
345 Satopans and 20 Sato stools distributed, facilitating safe and hygienic practices.



130 tubes of Chlorhexidine Gel distributed, promoting newborn health and preventing infections.



Accelerating Social & Behavior Change Activity



184,767

People Reached

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.

Savana Signatures as a consortium member, is leading the ICT component of the project and again supporting in the implementation of the Community Engagement for Health and Wellbeing in the two districts.

Our ICT intervention, powered by the Kpododo Mobile Messaging platform, provided crucial maternal and child health information in audio form to pregnant and lactating women in their preferred local languages. By the end of 2023, a total of 4,993 pregnant and breastfeeding women had registered at the various CHPS facilities to receive audio messages. Between February 25, 2023 and December 31, 2023, a significant 97,698 voice messages were sent to these beneficiaries, ensuring key health information on how to maintain healthy pregnancy and babies reached the women in the comfort of their homes.

Under the Community Engagement for Health and Wellbeing, we supported the various Community Health Management Committees in the

The USAID/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 new-born child health; and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Improving healthcare delivery in Ghana has always been a priority in Ghana over the years. Despite the years of efforts and investments, 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, low family planning acceptance rate and low uptake of health services.

The USAID has since 2021, been supporting the Health Promotion Division (HPD) of the Ghana Health Service to lead a consortium of civil society

development, implementation, and review of Community Health Action Plans in 40 CHPS zones in the two districts. These homegrown plans served as vital roadmaps, tailored to addressing the unique health needs of each CHPS zone in the two districts.

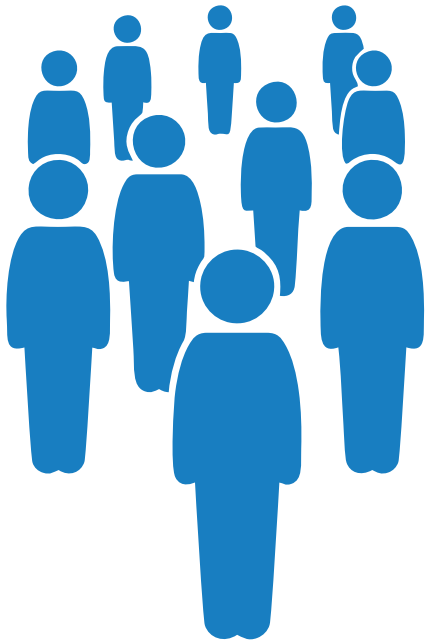
We also trained 178 health staff from the regional level through the district to the community level, on the usage and management of the Talking books, an audio device designed to deliver

on-demand content in local languages for people with low literacy skills. These devices were used by community health volunteers and health staff for educational outreaches within communities.

We also capacitated health promotion officials in 4 districts across the Northern and North East regions with comprehensive training on the utilisation of the new District Health Information Systems (DHIS2) Application



Youth Empowerment Project



124,075

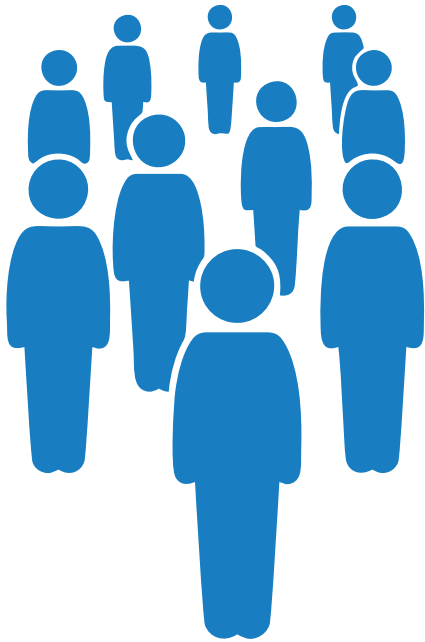
People Reached

For four years now, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), one of our flagship adolescent programmes, has been empowering young people in and out of school, with accurate and age-appropriate integrated model of Reproductive Health Education. The project ultimately seeks to protect young people from contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, prevent early pregnancies and gender-based violence.

Through our initiative, adolescent girls and boys were introduced to accurate and age-appropriate reproductive health education, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, and gender-based violence. Women and men were also sensitised on issues of gender-based violence, adolescent reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention and testing. Teachers were also capacitated to facilitate adolescent reproductive health education in schools.



Nutrition In Retail



53,123

People Reached

In 2023, our commitment to enhancing nutritional outcomes and promoting wellbeing remained firm through the continuation of our Nutrition In Retail Project. This initiative focuses on advocating the consumption of fortified and locally available nutritious foods, particularly among high-risk groups, including pregnant women, children under 5 years, and adolescent girls.

Throughout the year, our efforts were dedicated to reaching these target groups with vital information on nutrition and best Maternal and Child Health (MCH) practices. Through engaging sessions, individuals were equipped with essential knowledge on 4-star diet to guide them in making informed decisions regarding nutrition and overall health and well-being.

One of our approaches involved practical cooking demonstrations and food preparation. By providing hands-on training, we empowered women groups

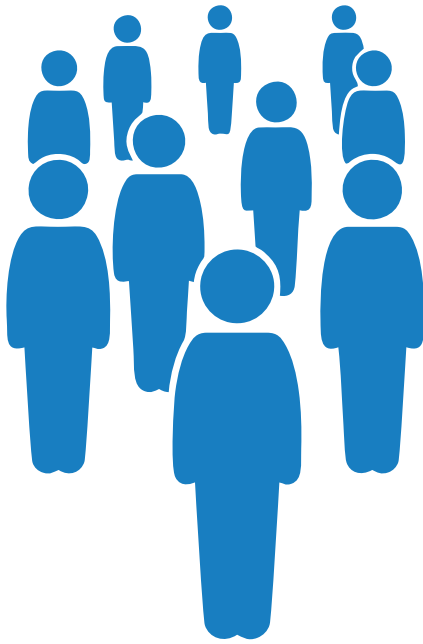
within Sagnarigu and Karaga to improve their cooking skills and incorporate a diverse range of nutritious locally available foods into their diets.

Recognising the pivotal role of education in driving sustainable change, we invested in capacitating School Health Education Programme coordinators with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct sessions on nutrition within schools.

Our intervention made a significant impact, reaching a total of 53,123 individuals with our nutrition-focused activities in 2023. This underscores our dedication to promoting nutrition and encouraging healthier communities.



Focused Post-Partum Care



1,071

People Reached

Focused Post-Partum Care:

In 2023, we ended our Focused Postpartum Care project, a Randomized Controlled Trial which tested and evaluated an innovative postpartum care, education, and support model for postpartum mothers in four health facilities in Sagnarigu in the Northern Region.

Although GHS recommendations exist for postnatal care of mothers and babies, there is a considerable focus on the newborn during PNC, leaving a gap in the quality of care that is afforded to the mother.

The Focused-PPC intervention thus provided standardised postpartum care for the mother, in addition to care of the newborn. The ultimate goal is to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, and alleviate negative postpartum health outcomes, some of which can disrupt mother/ infant bonding.

A standardised postpartum care was provided to mothers from birth through six weeks up to one year. This care included clinical assessment, postpartum education, and peer support.

The project was designed with the goal of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity through clinical care provided by midwives, targeted education on the unique needs of postpartum women based on the timeframe post-birth, and peer support from other new mothers.



Findings

- Cases of **high blood pressure decreased** over time, as they were identified and promptly managed.
- **Knowledge of post birth warning signs increased significantly** in the FPPC arm over time, while knowledge decreased over time in the control arm.
- About 99-100 per cent of women in the Focused-PPC arm were **able to identify all post birth warning signs** by 3 months.
- **Confidence in recognising complications increased** significantly in the Focused-PPC arm over time.
- Knowledge and incorporation of **4-star diet and health continued**.
- There was a significant **increase in uptake of family planning methods** over time in the Focused PPC group over time compared to the control group.
- Perceived **stress levels were very high** among both control and Focused -PPC groups at baseline and 1-2 weeks **but were significantly lower in the Focused-PPC group** as compared to the control group by 3 months.
- There was a notable **decrease in the number of women screening positive for postpartum depression** in the Focused-PPC group compared to the control group.

MRH – Transport Sector Improvement Project



356,258

People Reached

In the same period, a total of 162 grievances on engineering and compensation related issues with zero GBV issues were recorded.

Since 2021, Savana Signatures has been working to ensure the smooth execution of and to minimise the negative social effects of the World Bank-funded Road construction projects in the Bono East and Northern regions under the Transport Sector Improvement Project.

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.

In 2023, Savana Signatures conducted three trainings for community members in the project catchment areas and workers of the various contracting firms on GBV, safeguarding and others.

Breakdown of Grievance Resolution

■ **162**

Total complaints received in 2023.

■ **120**

Resolved.

■ **17**

Pending

Lot 1: 61.98km
(Tatale-Zabzugu
-Yendi)

■ **52**

Complaints received.

■ **41**

Resolved

■ **9**

Awaiting closure.

Lot 2: 106.02km
(Zabzugu-Yendi-
Tamale)

■ **37**

Complaints received

■ **27**

Resolved

■ **8**

Awaiting closure

Package 3:
Atebubu Feeder
Roads

■ **73**

Complaints received.

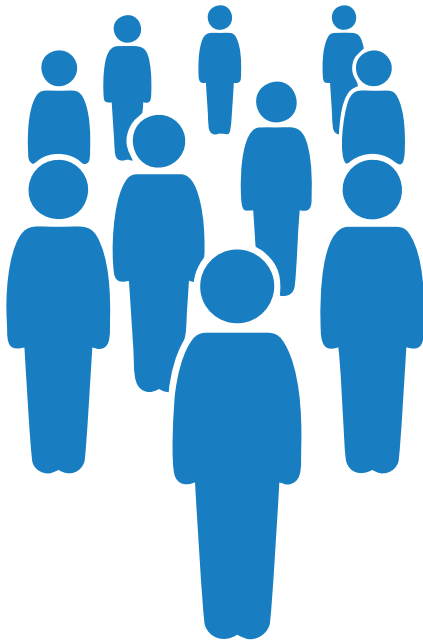
■ **52**

Resolved

■ **21**

Awaiting closure

I Choose Project



1,329

People Reached

Ghana's population has a significant young individuals, with one-third of the population being between the ages of 10 and 24 years. Unfortunately, this demographic segment often struggles with unfavourable conditions, particularly in the area of health.

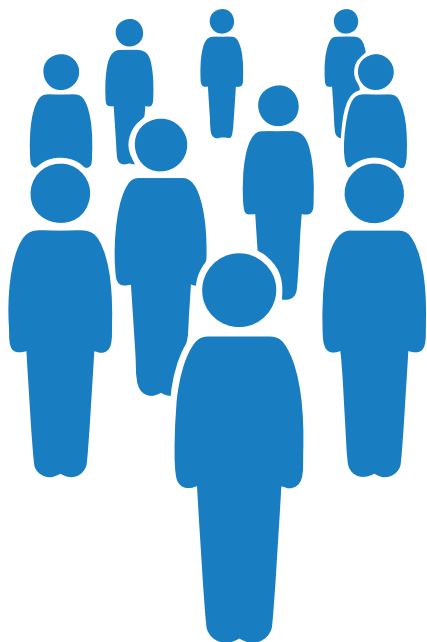
In their quest explore their sexual life, many young people adopt risky sexual and reproductive health behaviours, such as engaging in unprotected sexual practices. In most instances, this leads to unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, increasing their vulnerability to health-related issues.

In response to the pressing need, particularly in the North Tongu District, we launched the 'I Choose' initiative. This project was designed to offer accessible and youth-friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services to young people and adolescent mothers.

Additionally, the initiative aimed to empower them economically through skills training and capacity-building.

Using a multifaceted approach, including small group learning sessions, focus group discussions, Social and Behaviour Change Communication materials, peer learning initiatives, and facilitation techniques, we reached and positively impacted 1,329 young individuals in 2023. Through the intervention, we have promoted healthier lifestyles and empowered young people to make informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive well-being, ultimately contributing to their development.

Improving Family Planning Services Through PNC & Child Welfare Clinic



512

People Reached

In an effort to strengthen family planning services in the Northern and Savannah regions of Ghana, we implemented the “Improving the Provision of Family Planning Services through Post Natal Care and Child Welfare Clinic” project. This initiative targeted six health facilities across Tolon, Savelugu, Tamale Metro, Bole, East Gonja, and Central Gonja districts, aiming to enhance family planning counselling and provision during antenatal and postpartum clinics.

Through comprehensive refresher trainings, our team empowered midwives, community health nurses, and general nurses with updated knowledge and skills crucial for providing invaluable support to women and their partners in making informed decisions regarding family planning. The training emphasised the importance of birth spacing and

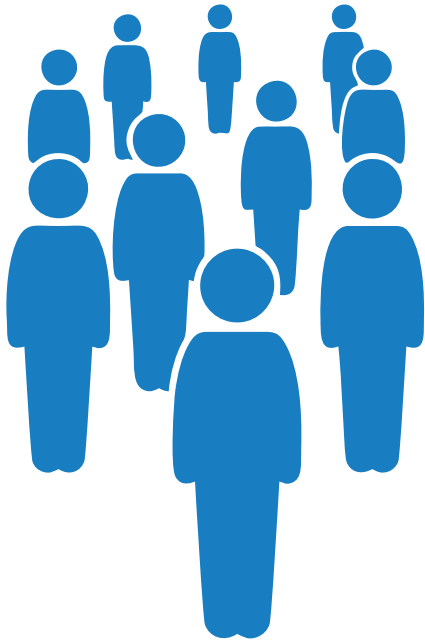
equipped participants with the necessary tools to guide families in making informed reproductive health choices.

Also, our programme examined the various contraceptive methods, alongside strategies for effectively addressing and dispelling common myths and misconceptions that often impede family planning adoption.

Additionally, we provided each participating health facility with educational materials to complement the efforts of healthcare staff in delivering quality family planning counselling and services. These included counselling cards and flipcharts, methods cards, pregnancy risk cards, referral cards, and family planning method information booklet



Right to Be a Girl



1,900
People Reached

empower them to stay in school, thus safeguarding their futures. Through this project, we are committed to ensuring that every girl has the right to access essential menstrual hygiene products and is able to pursue her education without issues.

In 2023, we embarked on the implementation of the Right to Be A Girl Project with the aim of addressing the pressing issues of teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence among adolescent girls in North Tongu District in the Volta Region. One significant factor contributing to these challenges is the lack of access to sanitary pads, particularly among girls in rural and impoverished households.

Many adolescents are forced to rely on male partners for financial support to purchase sanitary pads, leading to risky behaviours and compromising their well-being. To tackle this issue, we introduced the 'Sanitary Pad Safe Banks' concept in the district, offering free monthly supplies of sanitary pads to adolescent girls.

By providing a safe and hygienic solution for managing menstrual hygiene, this initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden on girls and

**HELP
PAD
A GIRL**

Girls need constant supply of sanitary pads to feel empowered and dignified to stay in school at all times.

DONATE NOW!

For more information contact:
📞 0550545672
🌐 www.savsign.org
✉ Info@savsign.org

www.savsign.org/donate
MoMo: 0597407579 OR
Name: Savana Signatures
Ref: Pad

SCAN TO DONATE NOW!



LIVELIHOOD & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1 NO
POVERTY



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH

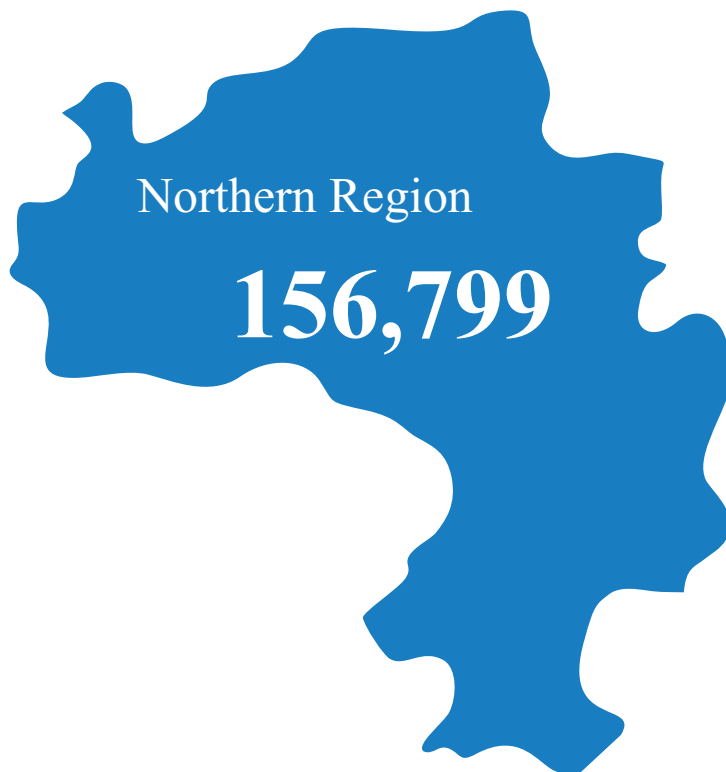


2023 LIVELIHOOD & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES HIGHLIGHTS

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, we celebrate the impact of our intervention on livelihoods and economic empowerment, especially on the vulnerable groups. We continued our mission to uplift individuals and communities by providing them with the tools and opportunities needed to improve their livelihood. While our interventions may have been on a smaller scale compared to our Health initiatives, their impact was no less significant.

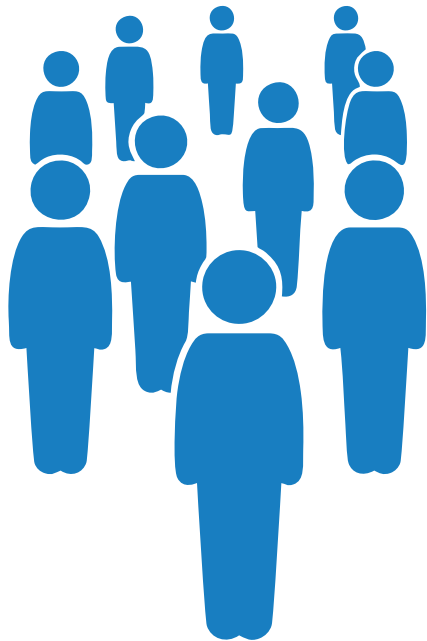
In 2023, our focus was on the empowerment of women artisans in traditionally male-dominated trades. Through trainings, we equipped 35 female artisans with the skills and resources necessary for them to excel in their respective fields. With the proliferation of online marketplaces, we focused on empowering entrepreneurs to leverage these digital platforms effectively to boost their businesses and online presence in the digital age.

Again, we embarked on an advocacy journey to raise awareness on unpaid care work which limits women's ability to participate in paid employment and other economic activities, reducing their income and decision-making power within the household and community.



Project
Region
Figures

Women's Innovation for Sustainable Enterprises



1,495

People Reached

borne by women. Our efforts also underscored the need to ensure equal distribution of unpaid care work among boys and girls, and men and women in the home.

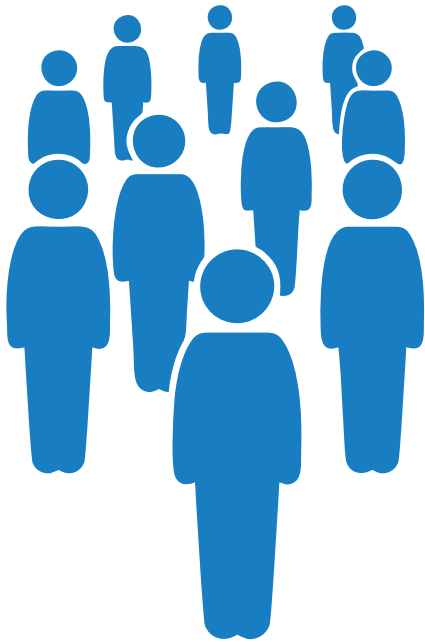
In Ghana, unpaid care work has long weighed heavily on women, hindering their economic prospects and their involvement in decision-making within households and communities. The unequal distribution of care work not only perpetuates gender inequalities but also contributes to emotional exhaustion experienced by women. The situation also worsens poverty.

Acknowledging the need to address this issue, Savana Signatures in 2023 embarked on a journey in the Kumbungu District in Northern Region, focusing on community engagement, to promote the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work.

In 15 rural communities in the district where the situation is widespread, we highlighted the impact of unpaid care work on women's participation in decision-making processes. This, we did through the creation of awareness about the hidden burdens



Digital Entrepreneurship Initiative



35

People Reached

These training of trainers were deployed to offer digital entrepreneurship advice to at least 12 Wee-North Network beneficiaries per community. We also designed a guideline strategy aimed at facilitating the replication and scaling up of the Digital Champions advisory service.

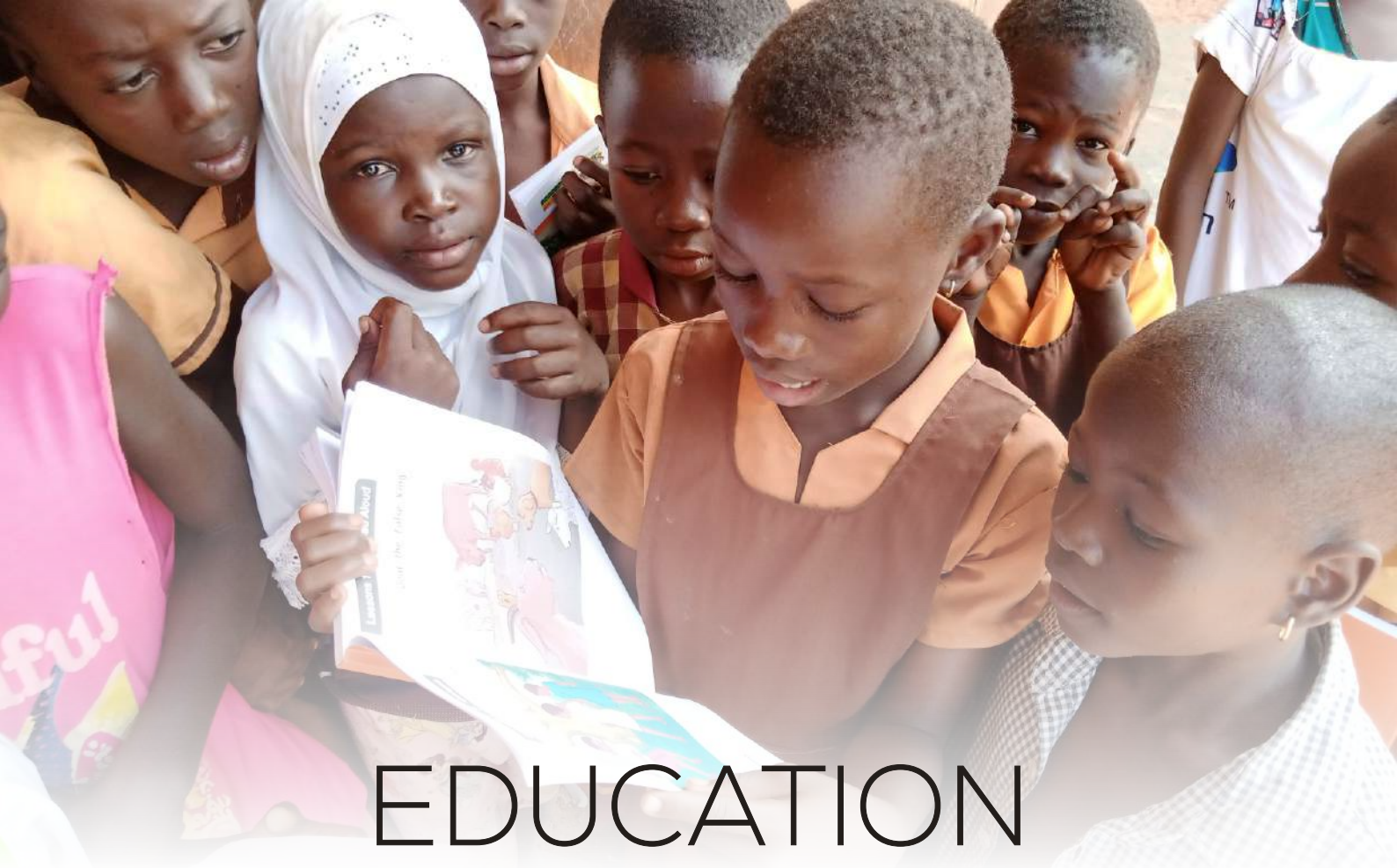
Recognising the under-representation of women in the digital space, particularly in rural areas, Savana Signatures in 2023 embarked on a project aimed at empowering young women through digital entrepreneurship under the GIZ Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development of the Digital Transformation Center Ghana.

The initiative explored the potential of using digital transformation in empowering enterprises, particularly informal micro-enterprises, and strengthening their economic situation.

We conducted a comprehensive digital entrepreneurship needs assessment of Women's Economic Empowerment Network (WEE-North) beneficiaries in four select communities in Northern Ghana, developed a manual for training and deploying Digital Champions, and equipped training of trainers with the necessary digital competencies to support entrepreneurship.

These efforts align with Ghana's National Digital Policy's strategic pillar of Digital Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which is promoting an enabling environment for digital innovation and entrepreneurship to flourish within the country. Through this initiative, we to contribute to sustainable economic development and empowerment, particularly among informal micro-enterprises in rural Ghana.





EDUCATION

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



2023 EDUCATION INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, we started a journey to enhance educational outcomes in cocoa growing communities in the Eastern Region. Our education intervention was guided by insights from a baseline survey, which highlighted the critical areas within the landscape, providing a roadmap for our activities.

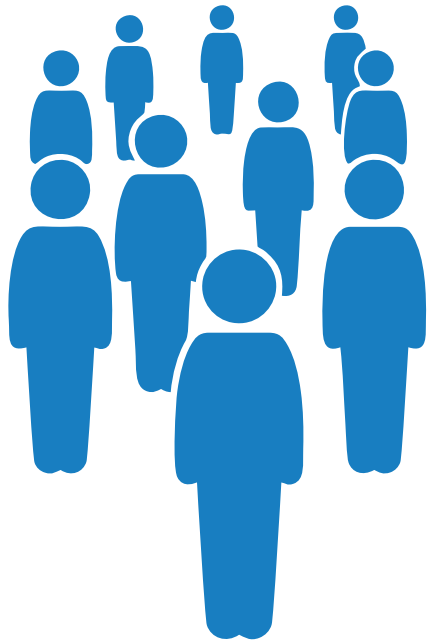
Through targeted activities, we capacitated diverse educational stakeholders, including teachers, school managers and Training Officers, School Improvement Support Officers (SISOs) to enhance teaching methodologies and promote social and emotional learning among students.

To ensure the continued enrolment of girls in school, we introduced Reproductive Health Education (RHE) to address vital topics, including menstrual hygiene, general health practices, sexual health, healthy relationships, gender equality, and reproductive rights. By equipping students with this knowledge, we empowered them to make informed choices regarding their reproductive wellbeing, ensuring responsible behaviour and mitigating risks.

Project
Region
Figures



Rural Youth in Ghana Catching Up on Education



4,312

People Reached

The Rural Youth in Ghana Catching Up on Education project is addressing the educational challenges faced by rural youth, particularly focusing on improving literacy and numeracy skills among adolescents in Suhum and Ayensuano districts - a cocoa-growing areas in the Eastern Region. In collaboration with the Ghana Education Service, the project is equipping school managers and teachers with Active teaching and learning methodologies, with the view to promote critical thinking and participatory learning among pupils. We're also providing them social and emotional learning and reproductive health education to empower the youth with essential life skills.

Ultimately, our objective is to improve the quality of education and to promote the retention and transition of girls in cocoa-growing communities in Suhum and Ayensuano districts in the Eastern Region.



Our activities in 2023 focused on:



Regional & District Training Officers were capacitated in active teaching and learning methodologies.

District SHEP Coordinators received training in both Social and Emotional Learning, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) to better address the holistic needs of students.



District Monitoring & Evaluation Officers were equipped with skills in active teaching and learning methodologies to enhance their capacity for effective assessment and evaluation.

School Improvement Support Officers (SISOs) were trained in active teaching and learning methodologies to better support school improvement initiatives.



Headteachers received training focused on active teaching and learning methodologies to ensure effective leadership in promoting a dynamic learning environment.

Teachers received comprehensive training in active teaching and learning methodologies to promote active learning and participation of students. They were also trained in Social and Emotional Learning and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights to address the diverse needs of students.





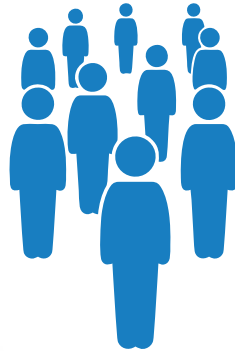
Students benefited from the interventions aimed at promoting active learning, enhancing decision-making skills, and providing support for retention and successful progression within the educational system.



A teacher who benefited from our intervention teaching with our methodology in class



SHE+ HELPLINE



5,044

People Reach

The SHE+ Helpline is playing a crucial role in combating misinformation and disinformation in Ghana, particularly concerning matters of sexual and reproductive health in Ghana. By empowering young people with accurate information, we enable them to make informed and health-conscious choices.

Over the years, the Helpline has become a critical resource for individuals, mostly adolescents and young people, who seek information, support, and referrals regarding their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). It serves as a confidential and non-judgmental space, allowing individuals to voice their concerns, seek guidance, and receive assistance on a wide range of SRHR issues. Also, it has become the companion of those in need of counselling, psychosocial support, and referrals to healthcare facilities and social justice institutions nationwide.

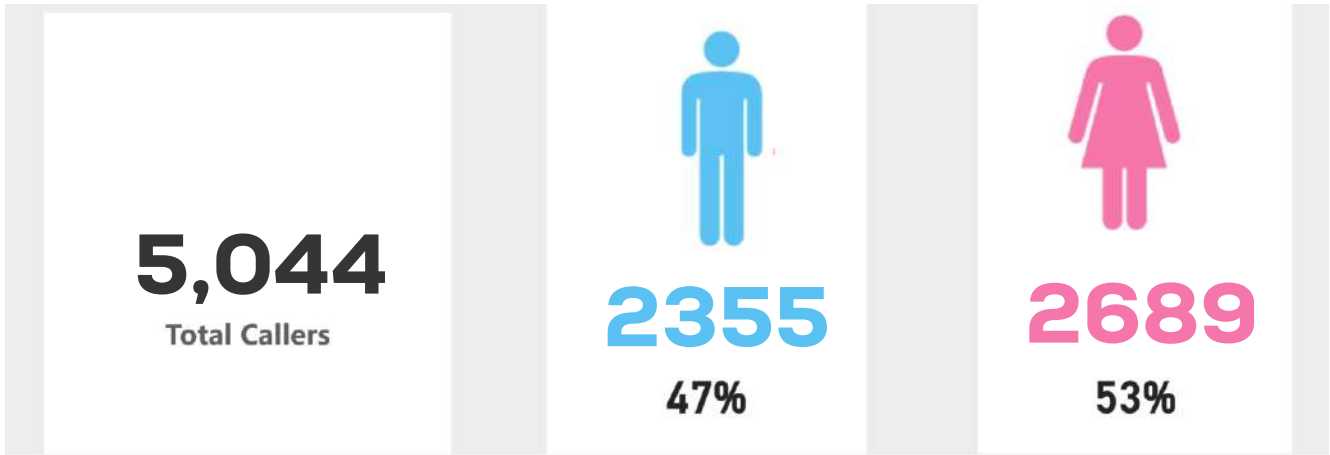
In 2023, the SHE+ Helpline received inquiries and requests for counselling services from 5,044 individuals across the nation, on topics ranging from reproductive health, drug abuse, entrepreneurship to gender-based violence. A significant of the callers were from the Northern Region, where the Helpline operates, while the Ahafo Region accounted for the least calls.

Females constituted 53 per cent of the callers for the period, underlining the critical role the Helpline plays in addressing the unique SRHR needs of women and girls. Adolescent reproductive health emerged as the topmost issue among those seeking assistance.

Referrals accounted for 10 per cent of the services provided in 2023. This highlights the Helpline's role in facilitating access to essential resources. Prank and dropped calls accounted for 4 per cent of the total calls received in the year.



Service Delivery in Numbers





99

People accessed support on **COVID-19**.



410

People accessed **Menstruation and Menstrual Hygiene** services.



181

People received services on **Drug & Substance Abuse**.



428

Services were offered on **Nutrition**.



130

Services were provided on **Education**.



62

People received services on **Yellow Fever Vaccination**



114

People sought information on **Entrepreneurship & Financial Assistance**.



590

People called the Helpline to make **Special Enquiries**



81

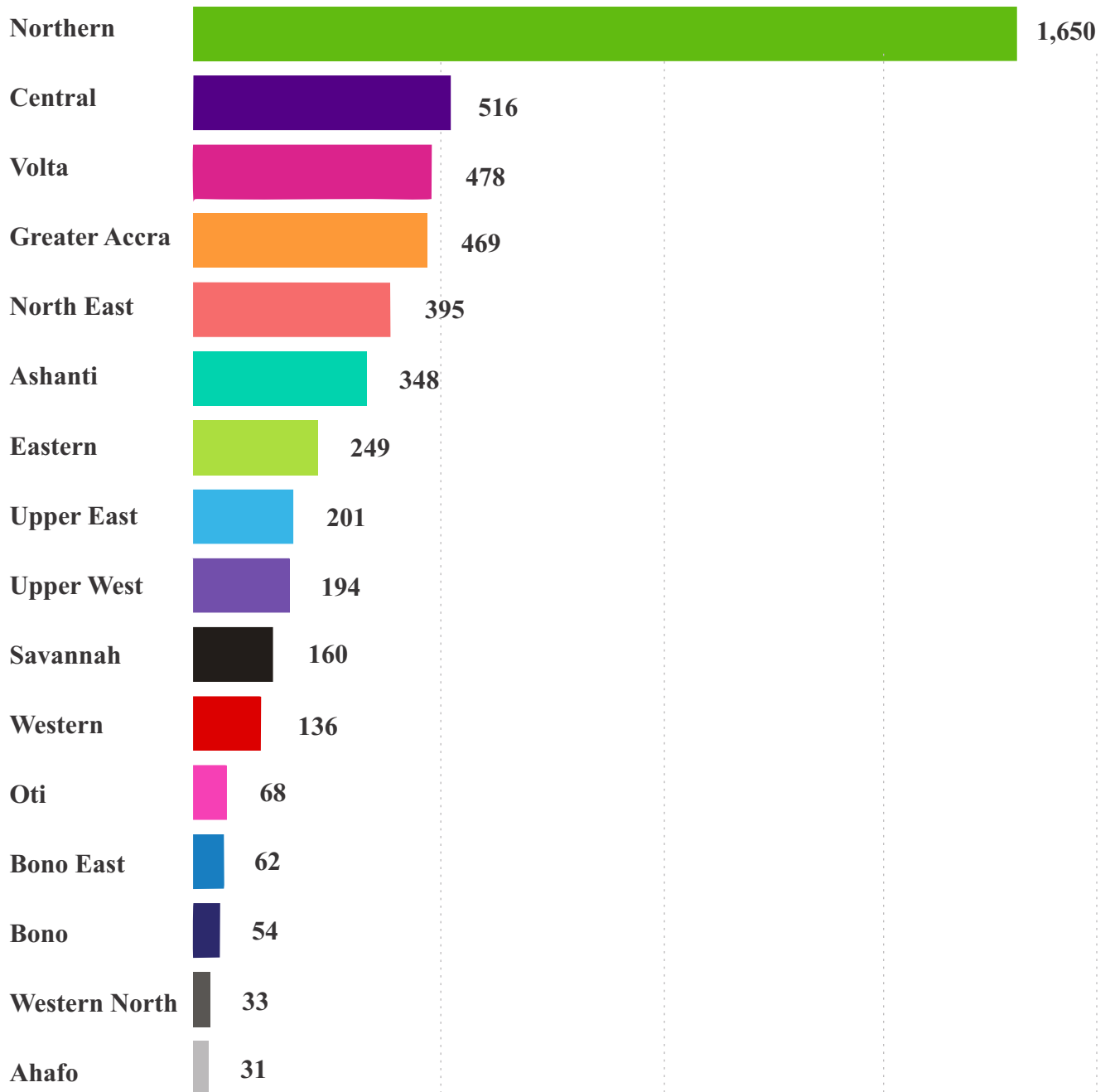
People accessed services on **Gender-Based Violence**.



203

People either **Pranked** or had their **Calls Dropped**.

Regional Distribution of Callers



15 years!...

AND WE STILL PRESS ON
UNTIL EVERYONE HAS IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD

15 years ago, we set out to initiate positive change among the youth, women and the vulnerable populations of Ghana using innovative solutions to facilitate access to Health and Quality Education and Economic Development.

We've gone through high and low moments but have managed to stay afloat along with some learnings that have become our guiding principles. Nothing can stop us.

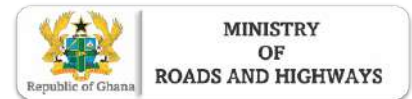
15 years on, our impact is being felt, and showing prospects in our quest to bring about positive change. And it's all thanks our incredible donors, stakeholders and partners who have been our backbone. We could not have withered this 15 years without them.

We remain resolute in our commitment until we have a society where everyone has access to tools that improve their livelihoods and quality of life!


Want to support our cause? Scan the QR code to donate




Our Partners





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