

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Net Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Development(NOYED-Ghana)



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Message from the Executive Director:



Hello Team NOVED-Ghana, I trust this message finds you all safe and free from the global enemy; COVID-19, which closed our businesses, terminated the lives of our loved ones and confined us with a new normal of nose mask and social distancing. As Ghanaians and social workers, social interaction is critical to us. We show our love through that and learn a lot to appreciate the challenges of the communities we work with to better support address the seemingly unending problems. But it is for our own good and for the love of the people we care for, to comply with state and health professional dictates in managing the COVID-19.

As an organisation, our growth miles have been limited by this COVID-19 in various forms including limited access to funds, failure to meet set targets in existing projects, to mention but a few. This notwithstanding, we have navigated through with some minimal gains and we are happy to inform you of these gains. We are grateful to each and every one of you for the continuous support and show of love in this business of social work. Our doors are opened for opinions and ideas that will help us travel far.

Please enjoy the bits and pieces we have put together for you in the next pages.

ACRONYMS

Y-CEE	Youth Center for Entrepreneurial Empowerment
CEEGE	Creating Enabling Environment for Girl Education
YAW	Young Africa Works
NBSSI	National Board for Small Scale Industry
MCF	Master Card Foundation
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
GES	Ghana Education Service
GG	Gereed Geredschap
FFN-GC	Fistula Free Northern Ghana Campaign
NNED	Northern Network for Education Development
CSOs	Civil Service Organisation
NGOs	Non-Governmental organisation
TaTU	Tamale Technical University
STEM	Science Technology Engineering and Maths
NVTI	National Vocational and Training Institute
YEEP	Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Program

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report gives high-lights on the activities of the Net Organization for Youth Empowerment and Development (NOYED-Ghana) for the period, January to December 2020 representing the physical year of the organization.

Even though the organisation experienced a decline in projects and activities we are still thankful to God, our partners and collaborators for how far we have come as an organisation. The projects carried out within the 2020 fall within the thematic areas of the organisation. Even in the midst of the turbulence, the organisation was able to chalk significant success in 2020 physical year. The key successes, activities, challenges and opportunities going forward are all highlighted in this report.

2. UPDATES ON ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1. Systems and Structures within the Organisation

The existence of strong systems and structures within an organisation ensure the effectiveness of the organisation. As a result of this, NOYED-Ghana has been consciously building the structures towards maintaining strong organizational credentials. The organisation successfully filed its annual returns and renewed records with the Registrar Generals Department of Ghana. The organization's records with other statutory bodies such as Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) and Social Welfare Department have all been renewed and updated with the previous year while efforts are made towards this year's compliance.

Also, in terms of management structure, all the systems are fully in place to support a successful implementation of any programme or project the organisation may sign. the organizational accounts are also regularly audited and shared with partners who want to assess the records of the organization. Annual reports are also consistently prepared building on activity and programmatic reports.

2.2. Staff

NOYED-Ghana has a staff capacity of five (6) with the hope of recruiting to key positions if things get better. The six staff include two females and four males. The staff constituted the Executive Director, Finance Officer, Project Officer, Secretary and the remaining two are in charge of managing the youth center of the organisation.

2.3. Publicity

Publicity of the activities of the organization has improved significantly. The website was restored and is fully functional. The contents of the site have also been updated to reflect the programmes and activities of the organisation. Also, all our social media handles are in full functional. The Facebook page is updated and populated with activities carried out in every week by the organisation. Also, the organisation has made use of the radio for advocacy and sensitisation

activities. All these interventions have earned the organisation high level recognition within its operational regions in Ghana.

3. PROGRAMME UPDATES

NOYED-Ghana, as an organisation focuses on three thematic areas: **Education, Health and Livelihood & Governance**. Our programmes and interventions are aligned to these thematic areas. Initiatives were taken under each of these thematic areas.

3.1. EDUCATION:

Under this sector, NOYED-Ghana finalised the CEEGE project, partnered with Africa Education watch, conducted general assembly meetings for NNED and a few others. Below are selected highlights.

3.1.1. Creating Enabling Environment for Girl Child Education (CEEGE) project: This initiative was started in 2019 with the support of Empower. It sought to eliminate the barriers limiting improved performance of girls academically using three tier approaches; Addressing home factors, School environment and community level issues. Significant gains have been made under this project even though COVID-19 did not spare its implementation. Below are some highlights;

- ✓ Empowerment Club formed for girls to address important topics such as sexual and reproductive health, Masculinity and Gender, Public Speaking, Hygiene and were also supported with approved sanitary pads.
- ✓ The school received supplemental teaching and learning materials to support effective teaching and learning.
- ✓ Facilitated training of teachers on best practices to support and make the environment friendly for girl child education.
- ✓ Developed child safety and protection manual for the school.
- ✓ Thirty (30) mothers trained on girl child education to serve their communities as girl child education ambassadors and they are very supportive in educating the communities on the need to enhance female education.
- ✓ Dropout rate, absenteeism and the overburdened household chores or unpaid care works on the female dropped to some level as visits to their homes and records of the schools showed.
- ✓ Young girls received practical training on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as one of the STEM disciplines, which broadened their knowledge and bridged the learning gaps in that subject area



Donation of supplemental teaching and learning materials to the school



Young Girls on Practical training on ICT



Visits to the homes of the young girls



Sanitary pads donated to the young girls

3.1.2. Radio Discussion on “Back to School” with Africa Education Watch



Radio Discussion on Back To School

NOYED-Ghana, in partnership with Africa Education Watch organised a radio discussion on school reopening and Covid-19 and the way forward since schools were closed down. The discussions centered on findings made from the reopening of the schools after schools were closed down. The findings were from monitoring of 200 schools (100 JHS and 100 SHS) in Ghana. The monitoring was to see how the Covid-19 safety materials were distributed and utilized in the schools. The findings from the monitoring were discussed on air for the benefits of the general public.

3.1.3. District Stakeholder Engagement on School Reopening: NOYED-Ghana participated as a stakeholder in discussing the measures to put in place before the reopening of school, during the upsurge of the COVID-19 in Ghana. Among other things discussed were the conditions of some of the schools, availability of enough infrastructure to cater for social distancing in the schools, availability of PPEs for students and staff of the various school and the measures to deal with the resurgence of Covid-19 in the schools. NOYED-Ghana was actively engaged in the discussion and offered varied opinions in shaping the proposals from northern Ghana to the government through Ghana Education Service (GES).

3.1.4. Activities Under the Northern Network for Education Development (NNED): Being the Lead Agency for NNED in northern region, NOYED-Ghana leads in carrying out NNED activities in the region. NOYED-Ghana also serves as the mobilizing body bring all CSOs and individuals with interest in education development together. During the year under review, research assignments and advocacies were carried out in support of education development amidst COVID-19. Also, after leading the network in the region for about 8 years, elections were conducted and a new Lead Agency, Savanna Signatures were elected to take over in fostering the mandate of the network in the region.

3.2. LIVELIHOOD AND GOVERNANCE

3.2.1. The Youth Centre for Entrepreneurial Empowerment (Y-CEE) Project:

Supported by EMpower, the Y-CEE project continues to be the leading livelihood empowerment initiative of NOYED-Ghana impacting skills training in welding and fabrication for the youth. Beyond the practical training, they are also trained on basic literacy and numeracy, leadership, gender mainstreaming, customer relations and general entrepreneurial skills to help make them complete so that at completion, they can set up and operate their shops with minimal or no support. To date, Y-CEE has trained and successfully graduated 45 young-persons including a female. The following are some of the gains of the project in the year 2020.

- ✓ Twelve (12) youth were successfully graduated as professional welders and fabricators and were supported with tools to set up their shops.
- ✓ All the trainees successfully wrote and passed the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) Proficiency Practical's Part One (1) Examination, scoring 100% pass mark and were certified.
- ✓ The trainees have also been trained in budgeting, costing, pricing, literacy and gender related issues which are critical to their social well-being.
- ✓ Eight of the graduates have successfully established their shops and are operating on their own. The remaining are still in the process of setting up with the support of their parents in securing shop sites as that was their responsibility and condition for their ward's consideration for training.

The main challenge to this project has been securing set up tools for the trainees so that after graduation, they can set up their shops and put their skills to good use. Fortunately, GG projects showed up and supported with the tools but this delayed a lot due to the closure of borders following the outbreak of the COVID-19. Below are some pictures from the project.



Trainees undergoing soft skills trainings on Entrepreneurship, business and financial management



Trainees being supported with tools to facilitate setting up of their shops after graduation



Trainees undergoing welding and fabrication training at Y-CEE

3.2.2. Distribution of tools donated by Gereed Geredschap (GG) Project: NOYED-Ghana's relentless search for partners who will support the organisation with tools for the Y-CEE and its beneficiaries landed in the hands of GG-Projects after a proposal was submitted. Various tools have been received and the beneficiaries and many other shops were supported all in the interest of creating jobs for the youth. The tools included welding machines, hammers, pliers, drillers, punches, spanners, sewing machines, vices just to mention but few.



Tools distributed to the trainees after their graduation supported by GG Project

3.2.3. Registration of trainees at Y-CEE in NBSSI /YAW project: NOYED-Ghana, in order to empower the trainees under the welding and fabrication, registered all the 45 trainees for the National Board for Small Scale Industries/ Young Africa Works project. This project is to enable youth have entrepreneurial skills and tools to operate. Their registration was meant to enable them receive additional skills and other tools to better establish themselves in the markets.

3.2.4. Formation of VSLA for women under the CEEGE Project: Under the CEEGE project, on component two of the project which looks at the community and household level issues and addressing them to make the community friendly to girls' child education, NOYED-Ghana identified that most of the women in the community have no business or any livelihood supporting activity doing and this made most of them being subjected to discrimination in decision making regarding their girl child education.

After the formation of the VSLAs for the mothers, there were given financial support in the form of start-up business capitals to enable them establish or improve their businesses. There were also guided to cultivate the habit of savings and developing sound business ideas.



Mothers trained on VSLAs and supported with business startup capitals

3.2.5. NBSSI/Mastercard Foundation Program: The National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) in partnership with MasterCard Foundation (MCF) designed a three-year Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Program (YEEP) under the Young Africa Works (YAW), as a result, called for the services of NOYED-Ghana both as a consultant and a trainer to help train the beneficiaries. As part of the activities various trainings have been provided to NOYED-Ghana and all meetings organised via Virtual Learning Platforms and other Physical trainings were attended by the staff of NOYED-Ghana.



Training on YEEP attended by Staff of NOYED-Ghana

3.2.6. Promoting Clean Cooking:

NOYED-Ghana continues to link up and participate in various initiatives led by Ghana Alliance for Clean Cook stoves and Fuels (GHACCO) in the interest of promoting clean cooking while saving the health and life of our mothers and persons engaged in the business of cooking for mother Ghana.

3.3. HEALTH

The health thematic area did not see significant initiation and implementation of projects. Largely, activities under the Fistula Free Northern Ghana programme supported by the French Embassy were closed.

Fistula Free Northern Ghana Campaign (FFN-GC). This project was funded by the French Embassy. NOYED-Ghana collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Ghana Health Service (at the regional and district level) and Kpandai STAR FM to create more awareness on the condition-Obstetric Fistula. It was also to identify 30 women with the condition and to assist them through corrective surgery and reintegrate them into their communities.

The awareness creation was done with significant number of the activities being implemented. Unfortunately, due to some challenges faced at the fistula center in Tamale, the project could not continue up with the surgeries. Below are some pictures from the project.



Awareness creation and Sensitisation activities on Fistula

3.3.1. Surviving the threats of Covid-19: Due to the emergence of COVID-19, which came as a global threat, Ghana NOYED-Ghana made provisions for the procurement of COVID-19 safety materials such as reusable nose mask, hand sanitizers, tissue and Veronica buckets to the staff of the organisation and to all the project beneficiaries in Y-CEE and students, as well as teachers in the Bamvim Presby JHS where the CEEGE project

was carried. The organisation also made some banners/ stickers bearing information on ways to prevent the spread of the virus which were placed at the premises of the office and project sites. Our social media platforms were also used to educate the general public. They organisation carried out sensitisation meetings with the women on Covid-19 pandemic and its safety protocols and other measures to contain the disease.



Awareness creation, Sensitisation and distribution of PPEs to the mothers to contain the spread of Covid-19.

4. OPPORTUNITIES

- a. The contract agreement between NBSSI/MasterCard Foundation as a consulting organisation and a service provider presents a big opportunity for NOYED-Ghana to help train persons in Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship.
- b. NOYED-Ghana also submitted some number of project proposals, some of which shows green light of acceptance. This when fully accepted will broaden the project base of the organisation.
- c. The various projects carried out within the communities in the Tamale Metro and the Sagnarigu district serve to make the organisation known to these parts of the northern region as an organisation that invest in the youth especially the girl child and vulnerable in society.
- d. The organisation has also secured new partnership with GG-Project, a donor organisation which supported the organisation with tools to graduate the last batch of welders trained at Y-CEE. This is a plus to the pool of partners and donors working with NOYED-Ghana.

5. KEY SUCCESSES

- a. There has been a deepened relationship between NOYED-Ghana and EMpower. As a result, a new grant has been made to NOYED-Ghana implement project in female tricycle driving.
- b. The successfully training of the last batch of welders has made the organisation one of the leading organisations in the training of youth in employable skills.
- c. The partnership with NBSSI and Master card foundation has given the organisation a strong network for exploring other opportunities. It has also made NOYED-Ghana gained advantage to register the welders who have gone through Y-CEE to receive additional trainings and tools.
- d. On the set up and tooling of the last batch of the trainee, NOYED-Ghana was able to secure partnership with GG Project to support in the provision of the tools to the trainee.
- e. Signing of a contract with Right to Play to implement a project in some selected school shows the deepened confidence and trust for NOYED-Ghana.
- f. The 12 youth recruited for training at the Youth Center for Entrepreneurial Empowerment (Y-CEE) were successfully registered the trainees for the National Vocational Training Proficiency Certification. We are determined that Y-CEE will get 100%-mark in this.
- g. All statutory documents of the organization; Registrar General Department, Social Welfare, including Audit reports have been fulfilled. This better positions the organization to relate well with partners and potential partners.
- h. Participate in soft skills for staff capacity building: Also, the staff of NOYED-Ghana have been engaged in capacity building programmes through virtual learning platforms. These include programmes from edukans and most recently by University of Ghana School of Law.

6. CHALLENGES

- a. Almost all the projects ended in 2020 and NOYED-Ghana could not secure new funding for the organisation even though proposals were submitted. This adversely affected the organisation since there were no funds to implement projects.
- b. The sudden change of things as a result of the Covid-19 has made the FFN-GC not to achieve the intended goal it was designed to achieve. This was a big blow to the organisation and worsened by the complications from the fistula center.
- c. Also, the Covid-19 has also impacted negatively on the organisation since some proposals were not looked at by donors who were badly hit by the virus.
- d. Office Running Cost: Due to lack of core funding and fall in support, NOYED-Ghana went into difficulty in taking care of the office running cost. This included, renewal of website cost/fees, rent, staff cost to mention but a few.

Despite these challenges, the organisation is working hard to overcome some of these challenges especially, fall in funding.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION

- a. **Continuous proposal development:** Continuously pushing in proposal developments; addressing concerns as raised in rejected proposals as well as venturing into new areas within the ambit of the organization are sure ways to help in seeing the organization through with funding.
- b. Build on Reputation and Credentials as established with others: Referrals from other organizations that NOYED-Ghana has worked with and registered significant impact could also support in securing new partners and funding opportunities for the organization.
- c. **Continuous staff development:** Staff capacity development is a continuous one. The need becomes more pressing to enable staff be up to task.

Conclusively, the organisation has gone through difficult times due to the fall in funding, largely triggered the outbreak of the Covid-19 and the Ghana beyond aid policy of the government. But with conscious efforts made, the organisation is still moving towards the right direction with the hope that more would be done if fundings are available.

8. APENDICES

- a. NOYED-Ghana Profile
- b. Certificate of Incorporation
- c. Social Welfare Certificate

Appendix A. Profile of NOYED-Ghana

Background

The Net Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Development (NOYED-Ghana) was established and registered under the Registrar General's Department of Ghana in 2005 and operates as a Non – Governmental, Not-for-profit Organisation. NOYED-Ghana is also registered with the National Youth Authority (NYA-Tamale) as a youth related organisation.

It was created by a group of young people trained in community development by the Ghana Red Cross Society (Tamale), as well as other youth led organisations including, the Ghana United Nations Students and Youth Associations (GUNSA), the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS).

NOYED-Ghana continues to be led by the youth to champion the development of the vulnerable and less fortunate communities.

The organisation has a team of well-experienced individuals, who provide support to the implementation of the programmes and projects of the organization. These people are carefully selected for their technical expertise in the thematic areas of education, health, women's empowerment and good governance and livelihood.

Vision and mission statement:

NOYED-Ghana's vision is: "An improved quality of life of the youth and the vulnerable (women and children) in society"; and

The mission is: "To collaborate with community networks as a force for the cost-effective creation and implementation of sustainable programmes."

Our approach:

NOYED-Ghana uses a multi-faceted approach to development, with the understanding that no project, campaign, community or individual is the same. These strategies include education and sensitisation, capacity building and training workshops, advocacy and behaviour change communications, as well as direct service delivery through volunteerism as the key driver of sustainable and lasting change in the communities across Northern Ghana.

The vision and mission of the organisation are supported through the following objectives:

- To advocate for access and enhance quality education for all children especially for girls and children with disabilities (CWDs) in northern Ghana.
- To contribute to improved health, predominately among women and children in the society.
- To sensitise the public on the importance and severity of HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and other outbreaks.
- To contribute to improved socio-economic status of women and youth through income generating activities.

- To empower the youth to become responsible and active citizens, through volunteerism, capacity building and participation in decision making.

Organisational structures/Systems

The administrative structure of NOYED-Ghana consists of the Board of Directors, the Executive Board and the School/Community Groups. The Board of Directors is the highest decision-making body of NOYED-Ghana and consists of five members, including three men and two women. The functions of the Board include: Guiding affairs in accordance with the laws of the organisation and Ghana; Market NOYED-Ghana to the donor community and secure funding as basis for ensuring financial solvency and fluidity; Approve budgets and authorise expenditure; Monitor, evaluate and supervise the Executive Board in the performance of their functions; Monitor and ensure transparent and efficient use of NOYED-Ghana's resources and funds.

The Executive Board, which serves as the implementing body of NOYED-Ghana's projects and programmes, is made up of the Executive Director, Director of Programmes, Accounts/Financial Administrator, Communications, Fundraising and Project/programme Officers.

Currently, NOYED-Ghana has a total of six staff - four men and two women. Yearly, 3 to 4 students from University for Development Studies (UDS) and Tamale Technical University (TaTU) come on internship for 3 to 4 months duration. Periodically, foreign volunteers also do come to volunteer with the organisation. All staff are working on voluntary basis with monthly stipends, based on the availability of funds.

As the head of the organisation, the Executive Director enters into contracts and partnerships with other organisations on behalf of NOYED-Ghana and is directly responsible for the day-to-day administration of the organisation. He serves as the secretary for the Board of Directors during Board meetings and provides updates to Board members on any developments within the organisation.

NOYED-Ghana is fortunate to have an experienced Accounts Officer who strives to ensure decency in the management of finances and other resource of the organisation. He is a signatory to all accounts of NOYED-Ghana and keeps all financial records of the organisation.

The Communications, Fundraising Officer is in charge of managing the communications of the organisation. He facilitates media engagements, publications and update of all media channels and platforms that the organisation uses. Identification of potential donors and development of proposals also fall core under his/her ambit.

Projects/programmes Officers are in charge executing various projects under their thematic areas. They prepare the budgets and operationalize project activities. They develop activity and field reports in line with organisational standards making room for donor/partner concerns.

Finally, the school/community groups are the grass root implementers and beneficiaries of the initiatives of NOYED-Ghana. School and community volunteers are part of these group.

In terms of policy documents for the effective governance of the organisation, key documents that are available include: Financial Management Manual, Gender policy, Child protection policy and Communications and Style Guide.

Intervention areas:

Health:

Education:

Livelihood Empowerment and Governance:

Partners / Collaborators and Networks:

Ghana Health Service, Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, Ghana Education Service, World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH), Ibis in Ghana, Northern Ghana Network Development (NGND), Northern Network for Education Development (NNED), University for Development Studies (UDS), Tamale Technical University (TaTU), Complementary Basic Education Alliance (CBE Alliance), Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights, (ARHR), Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and Fuels (GHACCO) and Literacy Bridge Ghana.

Donors

Our past and current donors include:

- Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO-Ghana)/ Comic Relief, UK
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- STAR – Ghana
- Empower- The Emerging Market Foundation
- Unicef/Literacy Bridge-Ghana
- North American Women Association (NAWA)
- Gered Gereedschap (GG Projects)
- Trull Foundation, USA
- Bio-Distributors, Tasmania-Australia.
- Crossroads Foundation Limited, Hong Kong China.
- Philanthropic Individuals

Projects

Current Projects

Youth Centre for Entrepreneurial Empowerment (Y-CEE):

Supported by EMpower: The Emerging Market Foundation Ltd, NOYED-Ghana has set up a welding and fabrication center where at risk youth are trained. Beyond the practical training, they are also trained on basic literacy and numeracy, leadership, gender mainstreaming, customer relations and general entrepreneurial skills to help make them complete so that at completion, they can set up and operate their shops with minimal or no support. To date, Y-CEE has trained and successfully graduated 45 young-persons including a female.

Professional Female Tricycle Driving Project:

Our female folks deserve better than head-portage 'Kayaye'. In line with this, NOYED-Ghana with the support EMpower, is training young women in tricycle driving. This capacity building will help them to challenge men in a male dominated sector that is equally good in supporting livelihood of youth. So far,

17 young women have been trained and assisted to secure driver's license. They have also been trained in business management, culture of wealth accumulation or savings, assertiveness to mention but a few.

Campaign for Fistula Free Northern Ghana:

This was a community led awareness campaign aimed at educating local communities in selected districts in the Northern region about the causes, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula. The goal was to reduce the number of women unnecessarily suffering from the condition and break down the stigma associated with it in order to improve the health and livelihood of women in the northern region of Ghana. This project initially focused on four communities in the Tamale metropolis and later six communities in the Kpandai district. This was funded by Trull Foundation USA, Bio distributors Australia and implemented by NOYED-Ghana in collaboration with the Fistula Centre in Tamale and Ghana Health Service.

Currently, with the support of the French Embassy in Ghana, NOYED-Ghana is educating 10 communities in the Kpandai district. Persons with the condition are identified and supported for corrective surgery, reintegrated back into their communities and assisted to improve on their livelihood. Young girls in and out of school are educated on reproductive issues, child marriage and safe guarding actions to take.

Furniture for Education (FfE Project):

Supported by Crossroads International Foundation (Hong Kong, China), NOYED-Ghana donated 35, 45 and 10 single desks to Nyohini Presby JHS, Datooyili Primary and Graceland International Academy to support improve on learning. These schools, in addition to Lamashegu primary, Sharp Brains Academy, Dohini Primary, Naaluro International School and others, also received varied educational supplies such as books, shelves, picture cards, hall marts, toys, shoes, bags to mention but a few.

Sexual Health for a Healthy Future - Peer Education on HIV/AIDs and STIs:

NOYED-Ghana is also running peer education on HIV/AIDS and STDs and the target groups are in school and out of school groups. The education is around the ABC concept strongly backed with demonstrations on condoms. To effectively consolidate this peer education, NOYED-Ghana is creating school-based clubs and will educate and train members on safe sex practices, STDs and leadership to encourage peer education on the issue for continuous and onward education. Dress makers, Hair Dressers, Youth groups are also part of the focus under this initiative.

Past & Current Projects

Communication for Development (C4D):

This is supported by UNICEF and implemented by Literacy Bridge Ghana (LBG). LBG has engaged NOYED-Ghana to provide consultancy services in facilitating community dialogues in the districts and communities where this project is implemented. Messages are deployed to the communities through a device called Talking Book (TB) aimed at changing the behaviour of the beneficiaries towards empowerment. The messages are developed along the following themes: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Diarrhea Management with ORS and Zinc tablets, Malaria control with LLINs, Safe Delivery with Skilled person, Exclusive Breastfeeding and Complimentary feeding, Routine Child Immunization, Open defecation, Hand Washing with soap, Birth Registration, Early marriage, Kindergarten Education, Retention and Completion of Basic Education, and, Corporal (Negative) Punishment.

Creating Enabling Environment for Girls Empowerment (CEEGE)

NOYED-Ghana, has formed an Empowerment Club for girls to address important topics such as sexual and reproductive health, Masculinity and Gender, Public Speaking, Hygiene and more. Additionally, this project facilitates training for teachers on how to better support adolescent girls, and work with mothers on small business development to increase their income levels and make them female education ambassadors in their community.

Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Education (PTAE)Project:

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NOYED-Ghana, has formed an Empowerment Club for girls to address important topics such as sexual and reproductive health, Masculinity and Gender, Public Speaking, Hygiene and more. Additionally, this project facilitates training for teachers on how to better support adolescent girls, and work with mothers on small business development to increase their income levels and make them female education ambassadors in their community.

Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Education (PTAE)Project:

This was a project supported by USAID and implemented by a consortium led by Northern Network for Education Development (NNED). The project's focus is on tracking the gains and sharing the best practices on the Ghana Partnership for Education Grant and other education resources to the advancement of quality basic education in Ghana. NOYED-Ghana was directly responsible for northern region where the project was implemented in 15 districts¹. Upper East and Upper West have 5 districts each.

¹ Tamale, Sagnarigu, Savelugu, Tolon, Gushegu, Karaga, Mion, Yendi, Saboba, Kpandai, Bole, West Gonja, West Mamprusi, East Mamprusi, Mamprugu Muaduri districts.

Promoting Community Volunteering for Quality Basic Education:

This is a broad base approach that deals with youth, women groups and community stakeholders and is aimed at getting citizens to increase their volunteering services particularly in support of the delivery of quality education for the children in northern Ghana. Under this, NOYED-Ghana got support from VSO-Ghana and Comic Relief to under the TENI project to lead in identifying, recruiting and placing community volunteer teachers in the project districts and selected schools. In all, through the support of VSO, more than 100 youth were trained community volunteering in five districts² where the TENI project was implemented.

Women/Youth in Livelihood:

Under this, NOYED-Ghana supported women groups in Jirapa Duori-guo to rear pigs and also extended support to the Shea Nut and Rice Processors in Nasia, West Mamprusi district in Northern Region. Also, Young ladies in the Savelugu/Nanton and Bolga Municipality are supported to do value addition on Soy beans as a source of livelihood. This was aimed at keeping them home just so, they do not travel for Kayaye in the bigger cities of Ghana, ie; Accra, Kumasi and Tamale. These projects supported the beneficiaries in securing sustainable economic growth through the capacity building and exposure they got. Some of the women shared testimonies to include the fact that now they strongly support their husbands to take care of house hold expenditure and management as well as payment of minor fees charged by schools.

NOYED-Ghana with the support of Empower: The Emerging Market Foundation, has also set up a welding and fabrication center aimed at training the youth in welding and fabrication. Currently, 13 youth are at the stage of graduation and plans are advanced for the next batch to be enrolled.

Ghana Partnership for Education Grant (GPEG) Tracking:

Led by NNED and Funded by Ibis in Ghana (Now Oxfam), GPEG tracking aimed at monitoring the Ghana Education Service Directorate and recipient schools in five districts in northern region³. The GPEG was a \$75.5 million package over a period of three years with the objective of improving the planning, monitoring and delivery of basic education service in deprived districts of Ghana. Due to its role as the lead agency for NNED, NOYED-Ghana led the tracking exercise in the Northern region.

Furniture for Education (FfE Project):

This was an initiative take to support reduce the incidence of limited furniture in our schools in northern of Ghana. With the support of North American Women Association (NAWA), NOYED-Ghana donated 60 metallic dual desks to Lamashegu Primary and Nuri-tahazeeb Islamic Primary alongside with other educational materials. Nuri-tahazeeb through the same partner, also had a 3-unit toilet facility and a 4-unit classroom pavilion to support improve on hygiene and academic performance.

² West Mamprusi, Mamprugu Muaduri, Talinsi, Nandam and Jirapa.

³Kpandai, Salaga, Saboba, Bole and Sawla Tuna Kalaba Districts.

Districts of interest and intervention/Operational Districts

NOYED-Ghana concentrates its activities and interventions in the following districts: Tamale Metropolis, Sagnarigu, Gushegu, Karaga, Savelugu/Nanton, Kpandai, West Mamprusi, Mamprugu Mugduri, Talinsi and Jirapa. The aforementioned districts notwithstanding, NOYED-Ghana has the ability to move into any new districts based on its strategic interest and the proposals of partners, provided the interventions are in line with the mission and vision of NOYED-Ghana.

Some Selected Achievements:

Even though much is still expected of NOYED-Ghana, some of the bits that the organisation has achieved include:

- 1.1. NOYED Ghana successfully recruited, placed and built capacities of more than 100 community volunteer teachers who filled vacant classrooms in (5) districts across the three (3) Northern regions of Ghana between 2011 and 2018.
- 1.2. NOYED Ghana also implemented the PTAE project in fifteen (15) districts in the northern region. This project tracked education resources and shared outcomes with education stakeholders both locally and nationally to ensure commitment towards resolving challenges identified. There were issues around quality, adequacy and effective management of the resources tracked. Community stakeholders were also sensitised on their rights and responsibilities, in respect of management of resources released to their schools.
- 1.3. **Ghana Partnership for Education Grant (GPEG) Tracking:** Led by NNED and Funded by Ibis in Ghana, the GPEG tracking monitored the Ghana Education Service Directorate and recipient schools in five districts in northern region. The monitoring supported in meeting the objective of improving planning, monitoring and delivery of basic education service in deprived districts of Ghana.
- 1.4. **Improving Teacher Capacity for Better Delivery (ITCD):** A three-year project (2012- December 2014) supported by Strengthening Transparency Accountability and Responsiveness (STAR-Ghana), the ITCD supported to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Northern Ghana by building teacher capacity through regular in-service training and effective deployment/redeployment of teachers to schools and areas where teaching services are much needed. It was implemented in collaboration with other organisations and targeted six (6) districts. NOYED-Ghana was responsible for Tamale Metro and worked closely with the Metro education Office, the Education Sub Committees of the Assembly and the SMC/PTA Network on this project.
- 1.5. NOYED-Ghana was also part of a group of organisations that received assistance from the National Council for Swedish Youth Organization (LSU) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) that developed a toolkit called “**Keeping the Promise**”, aimed at empowering youth to assess national policies to benefit themselves in Ghana under

the ***Tackling Poverty Together Team***. This was launched at the Institute of Local Government, Tamale on August 10, 2010.

- 1.6. **Building SMC/PTA Capacity for Better School Governance:** Conducted study on school governance in selected districts in the Northern Region: Bunkpurugu/Younyoo, savulugu, Gushegu and Karaga District) under the coordination of NNED with funding from SNV in 2010 and used the findings for advocacy and capacity building in leadership and community management for the SMC/PTA Members in the districts.
- 1.7. NOYED-Ghana has also successfully conducted series of studies/researches to support the advocacy works it does through the Northern Network for Education Development (NNED).

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