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Shea Network Ghana Monthly Newsletter for November, 2023

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Shea Network Ghana(SNG) Monthly Newsletter For November, 2023



Updates on our monthly activities covering WEACT, SIWEE, GSLERP and others

This newsletter covers activities that took place from November 1, to November 30th, 2023 by either only the Shea Network Ghana or was done in support with other organizations.

SNG HOLDS MEETING WITH TRADITIONAL, RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN PROJECT COMMUNITIES IN MION



In November 2023, Shea Network Ghana (SNG) organized a dialogue meeting with Traditional and Religious Leaders as well as other stakeholders from our project communities where the Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WAECT) is being implemented in the Mion District of the Northern Region.

Specifically, the meeting was held for Salankpang and Kpuljine all in the district to recognize and select individuals who reside with them in their communities but are working towards women empowerment.

The meeting was done in partnership with NORSAAC, and was held at the Mion District Assembly following a successful meeting that was held separately involving women, men, traditional and religious leaders to identify social norms that affects women growth and development in those communities.

The meeting was attended by the Chiefs, Imams, Pastors, Women-Leaders, Assembly men and women, project beneficiaries as well as other opinion leaders from Salakpang and Kpuljine.

It created an opportunity for SNG/NORSAAC together with the commutants to recognize Positive Role Models in their communities whose contributions are geared towards community development and women empowerment.

These are individuals who reside with them in their various communities but have devoted themselves to Women's empowerment and the development of their communities in general.

The purpose of identifying such individuals is to encourage others to emulate them and also to motivate such persons to continue supporting women, especially with domestic chores and unpaid work

It is also to motivate them to continue working towards reducing and redistributing domestic chores and unpaid work for women to create a safe space for them to get the time to involve themselves in

economic and money-making ventures.

The move forms part of the implementation of the Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT) Project that we are implementing with OXFAM Ghana together with several other NGOs.

WEACT is a five-year Activity seeking to reduce and redistribute unpaid care works so that women can also have the time to engage in economic activities leading to their economic empowerment.

SHEA NETWORK GHANA HELD RADIO DISCUSSIONS ON GSLERP AT ACHUBUNYO



Under the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project (GSLERP), Shea Network Ghana (SNG) in partnership with Global Shea Alliance, (GSA) held a radio discussion at Achubunyo in the West Gonja Municipality of the Savanna Region.

The event took place at the shea nursery established by the SNG partnered by GSA, UNDP, Ghana Forestry Commission, and funded under the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Discussions centered on identification and protecting of shea seedlings, environmental values of shea trees, by-laws to protect shea trees and negative effects of bush fires on shea trees.

The rests were how to prevent the deforestation of the shea trees, best practices in charcoal collection and alternative fast-growing trees that can be used as firewood/charcoal.

The discussions were aired on PAD FM in Damongo and sought to educate people in the area on how to best protect the shea tree from going into extinct.

Mr. Saani K. Sharifdeen, a project officer at SNG and some beneficiaries under the project, represented the partner organizations on November 3rd, 2023.

SNG in collaboration with the mentioned partners is implementing the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project at Jantong Daashe and Achubunyo in the savanna region aimed at raising eleven thousand and seventy-five (11,075) shea seedlings at Jantong Daashe and eighteen thousand and seventy-eight (18,078) at Achubunyo. Our nursery data however shows that as at October, 2023, a total of seven thousand five-hundred and nine-thousand seedlings have been raised in the two nurseries.

(GSLERP), a five-year climate restoration activity implemented by the Ghana Forestry Commission (FC), with the technical support of the Global Shea Alliance and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and alongside multiple national and local governing institutions, civil society representatives and private sector actors who will meaningfully and effectively participate in its further design, implementation and benefits.

The project will directly strengthen the livelihoods and climate resilience of 100,200 people (78,850 women and 21,350 men). Restoration of trees, decreased deforestation and fire management covering almost 500,000 hectares will indirectly contribute to the retention of soil moisture, the reduction of evapotranspiration and maintenance of soil fertility. These interrelated social and environmental interventions are key.

The project catalyses transformative change across this landscape, attracting significant private sector investment, through the focus of the shea value chain and shea restoration.

GCF funds and co-finance will support women collectors to re-stock 1.75 million trees in the parklands with higher and quicker yielding varieties of shea ensuring future supply, aggregation and direct marketing through performance-based contracts between NGOs who are members of the Global Shea Alliance and women's groups.

SNG PARTICIPATED IN SIWEE END LAB REVIEW WORKSHOP IN ACCRA



From November 7th to November 10th, 2023, Shea Network Ghana (SNG), participated in an End Lab Review Meeting under the System Innovation for Women's Economic Empowerment (SIWEE), a six-

month piloted activity by OXFAM in Ghana in partnership with many CSOs/NGOs including the SNG and sought to uplift women from poverty and other social-norms affecting their economic empowerment.

The meeting was held at the Accra City Hotel, attended by Project Officers from partner organizations, OXFAM staffs, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. It was to review the SIWEE Activity which was piloted in in 2021.

SNG was represented by our Coordinator Alhaji Iddi Zakaria, our M&E Officer Miss Rashida Abdulai, Women and our Cooperative Development Officer Mr. Saani K. Sharifdeen

In his opening remarks Country Director of Oxfam Ghana Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam, mentioned that the idea of SIWEE started way back in 2013 as a global initiative to address issues of women economic empowerment of which Ghana was selected out of several other countries and continents. In Ghana the intervention was centered on 3 value chains, Shea, Cocoa and Sorghum value chains.

Three main things informed the design of the SIWEE initiative which are systemic address of barriers, innovative and different from what has been done, and thirdly transformative.

The inception of the initiative took three stages; scanning of the three value chains, implementation and monitoring progress.

On his part, Alhaji Iddi Zakaria, the National Coordinator for Shea Network Ghana, mentioned that as part of the broad plans for the next cycle of SIWEE, mechanization and infrastructure should be giving a priority.

He also suggested that there should be a realignment of the current thinking on access to finance for women instead of risk buying which does not seem to be feasible. There was a peer review where we were put into our previous groups to review activities/plans to determine the way forward.

Some of the primary change agents were also giving the opportunity to share the experiences and benefits of SIWEE to them.

Anita Boateng from the cocoa value chain shared that they had gender trainings and soap making and packaging. They were provided with soap cutting machines to help them mold the soap after production, this is to help shift from the old form of packaging into old cement papers to a modernized way of packaging.

They also went through financial literacy training. As a result of the SIWEE initiative she has been empowered and has contested for and won an election as the women's rep in one of the unions she belongs to.

Madam Salamatu from Salankpang in the Northern region belongs to the shea value chain and shared that post SIWEE, they have learnt how to pick quality shea nuts and process quality butter. They have also cultivated the habit of saving and unity as a group of women.

The pilot project was launched in October 2021 to deepen public awareness in selected project communities. Subsequently implementation of selected activities for a six-month period commenced. OXFAM was the lead-implementor but worked with four (4) key partners as implementing agencies, and these partners were Mondeleze International, Women in Law and Development (WiLDAF), Tungteiya Women's Association, Shea Network Ghana (SNG), Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana and Challenges Ghana (CG). These partners share responsibility for the implementation of the project in their operating districts across the selected regions.

SNG implemented its component of the project activities in the Mion District of Northern Region and Jangyili in the North-East Gonja District of the Savannah Region.

SNG HOLDS QUATERLY GMF MEETING IN PROJECT COMMUNITIES



As part of efforts towards improving project activities and to ensure successful implementation of the Gender Model Family (GMF) in our communities, the Shea Network Ghana (SNG), held quarterly engagement meeting with our beneficiaries in their communities.

The engagement which was held between was to monitor how the beneficiaries are fairing and the challenges they faced as GMFs in their communities.

The Gender Model Family (GMF) is one of the components of the Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT) project implemented by OXFAM Ghana in partnership with many organizations including the Shea Network Ghana (SNG)

GMF seeks to create an environment of fair division of labor, strong family bonds between a wife, husband and children, better access to family resources by women and children, and more consultative and joint decision-making families.

Generally, WEACT seeks to improve the ability of women to individually and collectively overcome the legal and social barriers to their participations in agriculture and economic activities, and improve the capacities of household members to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid work freeing time for women to actively participate in economic activities.

SNG PARTICIPATES IN 5-DAY WEACT ADVOCACY STRATEGIES DEVELOPMENT AND PMT MEETING



Shea Network Ghana (SNG), from November 13th to November 18th, 2023, participated in a five-day (5 days) advocacy strategies development meeting.

The meeting which was attended by project implementing partners was organized by OXFAM Ghana, the lead implementor of the Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT) Project, and was held at the African Regent Hotel in Accra.

The meeting was in two folds: Advocacy Strategies Development Meeting and Project Management Team (PMT) Meeting with the aims to equip project officers with skills and abilities to be able to develop advocacy strategies and also to update officers on project activities.

SNG, was represented by our WEACT Project Manager Ubaidatu Iddrisu, the Finance and Accounts Manager Abdul-Majid Issahaku, M&E Officer Miss Abdulai Rashidatu and our Women and Cooperative Development Officer who doubles as Project Officer on the WEACT Saani K. Sharifdeen.

Under the WAECT project, advocacies form a major tool through which the project is been implemented, hence the meeting sought amongst other things to build the capacities of project

officers and staff of the lead organization to enable them develop and execute advocacy strategies well.

WEACT, is using multiple entry points and systemic approach evolving different - stakeholders which includes women's rights organizations, governments, private sector, civil society, primary change agents among others leading to sustainable transformations and shift in attitudes and behaviors across the agricultural sector to promote Women Economic Empowerment (WEE).

AGRICSEARCH LEAD CONSULTANCY VISITS SHEA NETWORK GHANA OFFICE



Monitoring and Evaluation are critical for understanding the effectiveness of any project or program.

Regular assessment allows you to identify successes and areas where improvements can be made. It also ensures accountability, allowing stakeholders to track progress and hold each other responsible for achieving goals.

In light of this, we had in our office today a team from AgricSearch Lead, a consultancy firm contracted to do Mid-Term Evaluation of our Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT), a five-year project we have been implementation with OXFAM Ghana and other CSOs since 2020.

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Their visit was for familiarization purpose following an inception meeting detailing the assignment methodology and approaches held earlier.

The Team was led by Dr. Sadik Mohammed an Agri economist and lecturer at the Department of Agriculture -University for Development Studies.

SHEA NETWORK GHANA HOLDS DIALOGUE MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN DAMONGO



On November 23, 2023, Shea Network Ghana (SNG) in partnership with Norsaac organized a dialogue meeting to identify Positive Role Models in communities such as Larbanga and Kananto in the West Gonja Municipality of the Savanna Region

The one-day event, was held at the West Gonja Municipal Health Directorate in Damongo, organized by Shea Network Ghana in partnership with Norsaac supported by OXFAM Ghana and funded by the Global Affairs Canada

The Positive Role Models, are individuals who reside with them in their various communities but have devoted themselves to Women's empowerment and the development of their communities in general.

The purpose of identifying such individuals was to encourage others to emulate them and also to motivate such persons to continue supporting women, especially with domestic chores and unpaid work

It was also to motivate them to continue working towards reducing and redistributing domestic chores and unpaid work for women to create a safe space for them to get the time to involve themselves in economic and money-making ventures.

The move formed part of the implementation of the Women's Economic Advancement for Collective Transformation (WEACT) Project that the Shea Network Ghana is implementing with OXFAM Ghana together with several other NGOs.

WEACT is a five-year Activity seeking to reduce and redistribute unpaid care works so that women can also have the time to engage in economic activities leading to their economic empowerment.

The Project is being implemented in 9 districts and in 6 regions (Northern, Savanna, Upper West, Upper East, Western North and Western Regions) sponsored by the global Affairs of Canada (GAC)

and supervise by OXFAM Ghana.

ABOUT SHEA NETWORK GHANA

Shea Network Ghana (SNG) is an organization of shea sector businesses, stakeholders and value chain actors (collectors, buyers, aggregators and brands) formed in 2010 by the Ghana shea private sector and regulator along with Ghana Cocobod to organize and Co-ordinate the value chain.

It seeks to influence policy and provide solutions to industrywide challenges for overall growth of the shea sector in a coordinated manner. The organization provides platforms to share industry experiences and knowledge, facilitate synergy and promote shea usage, develop opportunities for stakeholders and share benefits for all.

With a direct institutional membership of 108-member organizations, key member categories of SNG include international and local facilitating NGOs, large international shea buyers and producer organizations among others. It is the most representative and professional structure for the interest of shea value chain actors in Ghana.

www.sheanetworkghana.org



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