



Global Communities in Ghana

Expanding Economic Opportunities through Microfinance

Global Communities is helping to expand economic opportunities in Ghana through Boafo Microfinance Services Ltd. Established in 2007, Boafo is a microfinance service company created through a partnership between HFC Bank Limited (Ghana) and Global Communities with funding support from USAID and the United Nations. This partnership combines Ghana's largest mortgage lender with Global Communities expertise in providing loans to low- and moderate-income individuals to help them expand businesses, purchase homes and pursue educational opportunities.

Building Resiliency in Northern Ghana

The USAID Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) program is an integrated project under USAID's Feed the Future initiative designed to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts to sustainably reduce poverty and improve the nutritional status of vulnerable populations. The purpose of the RING project is to improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable households in targeted communities of 17 districts in the Northern Region. This is being achieved through three complementary project components: increasing the consumption of diverse quality foods, especially among women and children; improving behaviors related to nutrition and hygiene of women and young children; and strengthening local support networks to address the ongoing needs of vulnerable households.

Creating Economic Opportunities for Urban Youth

The Youth Inclusive Entrepreneurial Development Initiative For Employment (YIEDIE) is working to create economic opportunities in Ghana's construction sector for disadvantaged youth, implemented by Global Communities in partnership with The MasterCard Foundation. YIEDIE aims to reach more than 23,000 youth with training with technical, life and/or entrepreneurship skills leading to employment. The project applies an integrated youth-led market-systems model to improve the capacity of youth and service providers across the value chain. YIEDIE targets five of Ghana's six largest cities—Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Ashaiman and Tema with the aim of creating increased employment (including self-employment) in the construction sector by targeted youth; and fostering increased coordination and support for a better enabling environment by construction sector stakeholders.

Expanding Access to Water and Sanitation

Using a community-driven approach that involved residents and a broad range of stakeholders, Global Communities implemented programs to create sustainable improvements in water and sanitation access while improving hygiene behaviors. Water Access Sanitation and Hygiene for the Urban Poor (WASH-UP), funded by USAID, helped to improve availability and access to water and sanitation services in three slum communities of Accra and two slum communities in the urban area of Sekondi-Takoradi.

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The aims of WASH-UP included: increasing household access to affordable and sustainable drinking water and sanitation systems; promoting innovative economic enterprises in the areas of water and sanitation; improving hygiene and sanitation behavior among the urban poor; and strengthening local governance in the areas of water supply, sanitation services and hygiene promotion.

Global Communities is now implementing the USAID WASH for Health (W4H) program in 30 target districts. WASH for Health accelerates sustainable improvement in water and sanitation access and hygiene behaviors through improved sector governance and private sector engagement. Building on WASH-UP's success, WASH for Health coordinates closely with other USAID programs to improve water supply and sanitation infrastructure in schools and health facilities. Global Communities is adapting its Community-led Total Sanitation methodology developed in Liberia to the Ghanaian context to bring open defecation-free achievement to scale, and works closely with district governments to institutionalize WASH in district plans. WASH for Health increases access to water supply through small town water system development, and activities are complemented through GDAs with Coca Cola and Rotary International.

In partnership with Cummins Ghana Ltd. and the Cummins Foundation, Global Communities is improving the security, water and sanitation services and hygiene practices of students and staff of the Lartebikorshie cluster of schools near Accra. Through Global Communities' integrated approach to behavior change communication (BCC), we are helping the students improve their hygiene behaviors, with a particular focus on handwashing, while encouraging students to share what they have learned with family and community members. We are also helping the neighborhood around the schools to develop a Community Action Plan and identify their priorities for development. In partnership with the Unilever Foundation, Global Communities has also worked with 17 schools in Tema, just outside of Accra, to improve water and sanitation and hygiene practices.



RECENT PROGRAMS

Improving Urban Neighborhoods and Local Governance

IncluCity built upon on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded SCALE-UP program which enabled the urban poor in India and Ghana to have a meaningful voice in slum improvement programs. In Ghana, Global Communities worked with local organizations to expand access to credit, provide vocational training, upgrade water and sanitation systems and improve housing conditions for residents of slums in Accra and Sekondi-Takoradi. Through IncluCity, Global Communities increased the participation of slum residents in governance, inclusive planning and budgeting processes, while building the capacity of the local governments to generate revenue. At the same time, the Our City, Our Say program, funded by Making All Voices Count, worked to increase citizens' participation in local governance in the metropolitan area of Sekondi-Takoradi. Working with the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA), the program improved public service delivery by increasing the STMA's ability to track and solve service delivery issues.

Engaging Youth

In conjunction with ongoing efforts to improve the sanitation situation in Ghanaian communities, Global Communities implemented the Youth Engagement in Service Delivery (YES) program. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the YES program helped to build the capacity of local youth organizations and trained youth for employment in the solid waste sector. The program also focused on building the capacity and life skills of youth with training in savings and financial literacy, basic business and employability skills.

Global Communities is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself.

Please visit our website at www.globalcommunities.org for more information.