



Annual Report

2021
ANNUAL PUBLIC SUMMARY
OF ACTIVITIES



Cover Photo: Student at Miskiya school in Tamale, Ghana.
The school receives support from CRS on WASH activities including the rehabilitation of toilets and training on proper hygiene protocols.

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Acronyms

ACERS	Acute Care and Emergency Referral Systems
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
APIMA	Action for the Protection and Integration of Migrants in West Africa
CBA	Community Based Advisors
CHPS	Community Health Planning and Services
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CP	Country Program
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CWIS	City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation
DAES	Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services
DDO	Diocesan Development Office
EFR	Emergency Flood Relief
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
EU	European Union
GES	Ghana Education Service
GESSiP	Ghana Extension Systems Strengthening Project
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GOH	Government of Ghana
Ha	Hectares
HCT	Helmsley Charitable Trust
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSS	Health System Strengthening
ICOWASH	Integrated Community Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
iMBC	Integrated Mothers and Babies course
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
I-WANG	Improving Water in Northern Ghana
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly
MNH	Maternal and Newborn Health
MoFa	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
REST4D	Rest for Development
RIPS	Regional Institution for Population Studies
RRR	Rising from Resilient Roots
SAG	Sanitation Advocacy Group
SBC	Social Behavior Change
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Community
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SPI	Sahel Peace Initiative
THP	The Hunger Project
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
WAN	Water Access Now
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Letter from CRS Ghana



Dear stakeholder,

Through this annual report, the Ghana country program endeavors to provide an account of its stewardship to our teaming supporters and stakeholders. It is therefore my pleasure to present the Annual Public Summary of our activities and results for 2021. I am extremely proud of the modest contributions of the CRS Ghana Country Program to the attainment of both our Agency's Vision 2030 strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. As data shows, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is a huge setback for sustainable development the world over, resulting in increased poverty rates, growing unemployment and vulnerability. The dedicated staff of CRS went above and beyond, amid the global pandemic, to deliver high quality, innovative and impactful programs that addressed the urgent needs of the communities we serve. I am most grateful for the team's agility and adaptiveness!

CRS is aligned with government, donor and community priorities, and remains committed to targeting vulnerable populations. In other words, we partner to deliver relevant programs where the need is greatest. Additionally, CRS Ghana continues to advance system strengthening and Local Leadership through Partner Capacity Strengthening (PCS) activities, ensuring that our local partners are prime ready and capable of effectively implementing programs in line with our principle of subsidiarity. We advanced this objective by assessing the capacity needs of

five (5) local partners for technical assistance in addition to routine partner capacity strengthening support across our programs.

The work of CRS Ghana impacted nearly 1.2 million people in 33 districts in 2021 and contributed to strengthening national systems. For example, the investments made in the 'Developing Acute Care and Emergency Referral Systems' (ACERS) Project has led to strengthening emergency referral systems in several rural communities in partnership with the National Ambulance Services (NAS). CRS, in partnership with USAID, has delivered Ghana's first ever Rural Emergency Dispatch Centers in two districts - Gushegu in the Northern region and Nkwanta South in Oti region. The results have been compelling and visible, and strengthened the capacity of NAS to serve rural communities. The ACERS project reached 87,600 community members with community demand generation activities for Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) services. Our health programs ensured that 3,974 maternal and child emergency cases were safely transported to health facilities by our innovative modified motor tricycle ambulances, averting possible deaths. In the area of WASH, the Country Program reached 12,595 either through capacity building or access to safe water, latrines and hygiene. CRS has continued to prioritize WASH in health care facilities, schools and communities in a holistic manner as these remain critical in rural communities. Our Youth and Migration programs reached a total of 10,919 participants and provided professional skills training to 966 youth in different skills areas.

These few examples illustrate the efforts made in Ghana to contribute to both our Agency Strategy, the SDGs and Government of Ghana priorities. We could not have achieved these results without the collaboration and reliable support of our partners, donors, Government of Ghana, the people we serve and our dedicated staff. CRS will continue to work in partnerships to expand the delivery of impactful and integrated programs that align with government priorities and respond to the needs of local community. We welcome your continuous support!

Daniel Mumuni
Country Representative

Who We Are

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve, and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice and embody Catholic social and moral teaching as we act to:

- Promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease/poverty and nurturing peaceful and just societies; and
- Serve Catholics in the United States as they live their faith in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

As the official international Catholic relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, CRS draws upon a rich tradition of Scripture and Catholic social teaching, which serve as the foundation for CRS' Guiding Principles. These principles are shared across religious and cultural boundaries and articulate values that are common among people who seek to promote and work towards true justice and lasting peace. These values include:

- Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Social Nature of Humanity
- The Common good
- Subsidiarity
- Solidarity
- Option for the Poor
- Stewardship



CRS works in 114 countries and has, in the last year, served over 159 million vulnerable people across its priority sectors—including agriculture, capacity-strengthening, education, emergency response, health, justice and peacebuilding, microfinance and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In total, over 92 percent of our revenue goes toward programming.

History of Catholic Relief Services Ghana



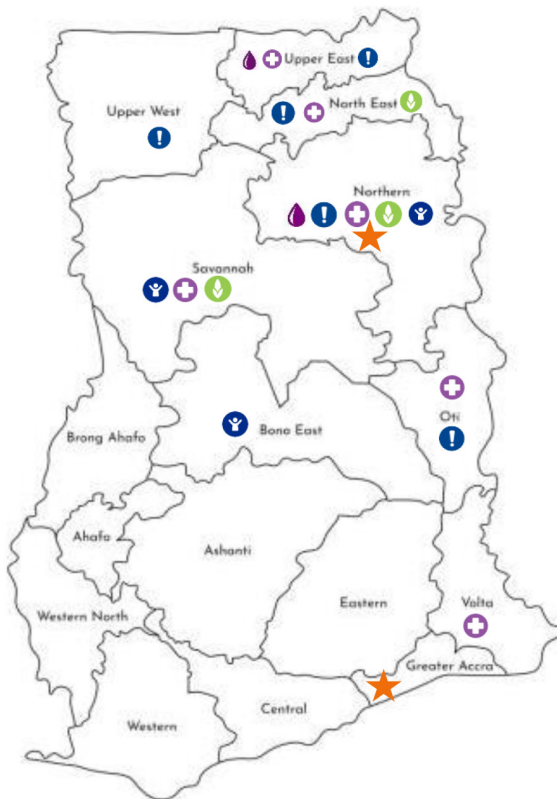
CRS began working in Ghana in 1958. Over the years, we have worked to implement programs on agriculture, health, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), microfinance, school feeding, water, sanitation, emergency relief and peacebuilding. CRS implements programs through partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, including the Government of Ghana (GoG), local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international NGOs, church and public/private sector partners.

The year 2021 started on a challenging note for Ghana due to the socio-economic impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic, which adversely affected the lives and livelihoods of people, especially those living in poverty. The Ghana Health Service reported an additional 54,771 cases and 920 deaths in 2021 alone, while at the same time combating yellow fever outbreak in the Savannah region. More than 770,000 Ghanaian workers experienced wage reductions and 42,000 workers experienced layoffs because of the pandemic in 2020 (World Bank report, Ghana Business Tracker Survey). The hangover of this economic impact continued into 2021 with Ghana's annual inflation rate accelerating for the sixth straight month to 12.2% in November of 2021, resulting in an increase in prices of food and non-food items, according to the Ghana Statistical Service. Ghana was also at the receiving end of the impact of climate change, characterized by frequent and adverse climatic events, including erratic rainfall, floods, windstorms and storm surges along coastal communities. The government embarked on an ambitious program to reverse the situation through the planting of 5 million trees, which aligns with CRS' greening project in Ghana.

CRS continued its Covid-19 response program to help people protect themselves from the pandemic and build back their lives. In combination with risk communication and community engagement, CRS provided services in the areas of water, sanitation, education and primary health care, which remain relevant to the fight against Covid-19, particularly when the need to maintain good hygiene standards is highlighted as the minimum safety protocol. Our livelihood interventions also provided skills training and start-up support for over 1,107 young men and women to set up their own businesses.

CRS Ghana has a staff strength of 101 out of which 98 are national staff and 3 international staff. The country program's head office is in Accra, Ghana, with a sub office in Tamale, the capital of the Northern Region.

Where CRS Works



- ! Emergency
- + Health
- 🌱 Agriculture
- 👤 Youth and Migration
- 💧 WASH
- ★ CRS Offices

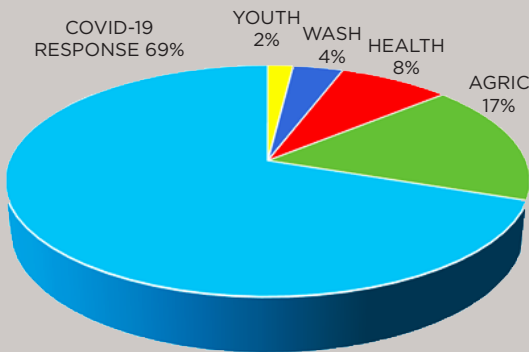
“I saved a couple of lives over the past months using the Helping Baby’s Breathe (HBB) method. In fact, the facilitation has made me proud of myself.”






-A PARTICIPANT OF THE ACERS’ PROJECT CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING IN GUSHEGU, NORTHERN REGION.

Overview of Programs

Over the last 64 years, CRS has specialized in a variety of programming to best support the needs of Ghana. Now, the Country Program (CP) has robust programming in the agricultural, Health, Gender, financial inclusion, peace building and social cohesion. WASH, and Youth sectors. Additionally, in 2021, the CP demonstrated adaptability to emerging issues, such as Covid-19 and the disastrous flooding in parts of Ghana’s Upper West Region. The table below depicts the total number of beneficiaries reached across all the programming sectors in the year under review-FY21.

Number of Beneficiaries Reached in FY21



	YOUTH	21,583
	WASH	42,873
	HEALTH	94,631
	AGRIC	197,036
	COVID-19	813,664

 **1,169,787**

AGRICULTURE

Available statistics from the World Bank and the Ghana Statistical Service indicate that the agricultural sector contributed about one-fifth to Ghana’s GDP whilst providing employment to around 30 percent of the labor force in 2020. The sector remains one of the core priorities for CRS and the Country Program works to address food insecurity by bolstering farmer capacity, promoting access to extension services, reversing land degradation, and strengthening local/regional policies. Ghana’s geographic position is in one of the world’s most complex climatic regions affected by both weather from the Sahel and Atlantic Ocean as well as tropical storms. This threatens livelihoods across the country, creating a variety of needs that must be addressed.

GHANA EXTENSION SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING PROJECT (GESSIP)

CRS, in a consortium partnership with The Hunger Project-Ghana (THP-Ghana), Farmerline and the Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES), implemented the GESSiP project from November 2018 to November 2021, covering 15 districts in the Northern Ghana. The project, funded by Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), was initiated to address the poorly resourced and weak agricultural extension system by promoting Community-Based Advisors (CBAs) and the Private Service Providers (PSPs) concepts.

The key achievements of the GESSiP project are highlighted as follows:



Over 70 percent of the trained CBAs started their own businesses in the agribusiness sector (sale of seeds, fertilizers, and extension services to other farmers). Mohammed Jalilu, a CBA from West Gonja district, trained three savings groups and nearly 300 farmers on good agricultural practices and linked over 159 farmers for the purchase of farm inputs from larger scale input suppliers. Jalilu now owns a fertilizer and pesticide shop, and CRS continues to monitor his progress.



Mohammed Jalilu (far left) making input sales to farmers in his shop.

REGREENING AFRICA PROJECT

CRS Ghana played a pivotal role in supporting the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources through the government flagship Green Ghana Project to plant over 30,000 tree seedlings in the Mion district. The protection and naturing of these trees will be supported by the Mion district Environmental Management Committee, which we equally played the central role to get formed, inaugurated and running.

CRS has also been awarded a six-month funded extension of the Regreening Africa project due to its achievement in the implementation phase. Regreening Africa seeks to improve the livelihoods and food security of smallholder farmers through the reversal of land degradation and evergreen agriculture. Throughout the project's lifetime, CRS exceeded its household and acreage targets by over 3 percent. This result is an indication of effective partnership between project donors, partners, and beneficiaries. To this end, CRS will utilize the additional six-month extension to consolidate the ongoing gains in Mion, its focus district.

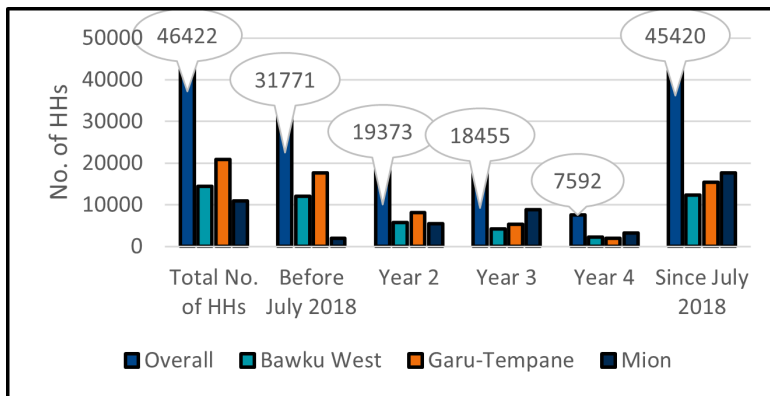


Figure 1: The number of households practicing regreening activities has increased tremendously since the project's beginning in July 2018.

ENHANCING REGREENING THROUGH LIVELIHOODS (ENHANCE) PROJECT

CRS has a global goal to restore 1.6 million hectares of degraded land and increase agricultural land by 50%, reaching 1 million farmers per year. This goal is targeted at supporting all people to achieve a dignified and resilient livelihood in sustainable landscapes. From January to September 2021, CRS Ghana implemented a discretionary funded project to regreen and restore 100 hectares of degraded land in Mion district of the Northern Region.



A woman in the Mion District participating in a tree planting session as part of the Enhance project.

CRS facilitated the planting of over 34,000 tree seedlings on various lands (homesteads, farms, communal farms) that are now at different stages of restoration. The organization also conducted trainings for 100 fire volunteers from target communities (40% women) and equipped them with logistics (cutlasses, Wellington boots, hand gloves) to prevent and manage bushfires at the community level. An additional 2,000 farmers and stakeholders were trained on tree planting, woodlot establishment and management, and other regreening practices such as farmer managed natural regeneration. These initiatives were jointly implemented with the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry within the framework of government initiative- I.e National Tree Planting Exercise under the Green Ghana project.

CRS also facilitated the enactment of district environmental byelaws for the Mion district to help mitigate bushfires, prevent indiscriminate tree logging, and charcoal production. Furthermore, CRS supported the formation of an Environmental Management Committee within the Mion district Assembly structure to enforce the byelaws and provide technical advice to the Assembly on environmental issues. In June 2021, CRS was recognized for its contribution to restoring degraded land and the establishment of a District Environmental Management Committee (DEMC) at a national event attended by the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation.



CRS' Project Manager receiving a National Award on behalf of CRS on UN World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

HEALTH

While Ghana has a successful decentralized health infrastructure, the country experiences high maternal and neonatal mortality rates, partially due to the lack of comprehensive policies and guidelines to provide emergency referral and care at the district level. CRS addresses this issue by working with district-level partners in all health programming to ensure that the interventions are both culturally and environmentally relevant to the communities we serve.

DEVELOPING ACUTE CARE AND EMERGENCY REFERRAL SYSTEMS (ACERS)

The \$5.1million ACERS Project commenced in 2018 and is in its final year of implementation. As a health system strengthening project, ACERS has achieved the underlisted via its three components: Demand Generation, Accessibility to Facilities, and Quality of Care. Overall, through the concerted effort of project and the contributions of other stakeholders, skilled deliveries have risen in the two project sites between 2018 and 2021 (Gushegu: 58 percent to 69.4 percent and Nkwanta South: 49.3 percent to 56.8 percent). In addition, institutional maternal mortality has decreased dramatically between 2019 and 2021 (Gushegu: 112 per 100,000 live births to 22 per 100,000 live births and Nkwanta South: 136 per 100,000 live births to 83 per 100,000 live births).

Harmonization of GHS and NAS referral activities & Scale-up outside ACERS Districts



Pregnancy School Plus (PSP) demonstrates the potential of improving community members knowledge around pregnancy related danger signs:

This demand generation component aims to improve timely care seeking for obstetric and newborn health issues in health facilities. During the reference period, the ACERS project team reached 87,600 community members with community demand generation activities for maternal and newborn health (MNH) services. Through 84 cluster-based Pregnancy School Plus (PSP) sessions in 100 communities, 1,260 pregnant women were reached directly with MNH messages. These messages included importance of early registration for antenatal care; identification of danger signs in pregnancy and in newborn; importance of possessing valid health insurance cards as well as the importance of birth preparedness and complications readiness plans for pregnant women. The findings of Lot Quality Assurance surveys (LQAS) indicate an increase in maternal knowledge on danger signs in pregnancy from an average of 25% in November 2019 to 68% in November 2021 among participants of the PSP sessions in the project sites.



Community Sensitization Session in Gushegu Municipality.

Ghana gets its first set of District-based Referral and Emergency Dispatch Coordination Center.

In FY 21 ACERS established two Referral and Emergency Dispatch Coordination (EDC) Centers in Gushegu and Nkwanta South. Using a framework for coordination, ACERS harmonized the pre-hospital and inter-facility referral activities of Ghana Health Service (GHS) and National Ambulance Services (NAS). The district-based EDC centers were designed to strengthen the referral processes and dispatch coordination through level appropriate medical transport infrastructure - vehicular ambulances, modified motor tricycle ambulances and other means of transport at the pre-hospital level. Prior to establishing the EDC centers, the ACERS Project facilitated the activation of 22 Community Emergency Transport System (CETS) Committees and supported these CETS committees with 22 modified motor-tricycle ambulances (MMAs). Within this reference period, the MMAs facilitated the referral of 2,774 maternal and newborn emergencies and thus averting possible mortalities. The Gushegu Referral and Emergency Dispatch Coordination Center was officially commissioned by the United States Ambassador to Ghana, Her Excellency Stephanie Sullivan.



U.S. Ambassador HE. Stephanie Sullivan, joined by Ahmed Nuhu Zakaria, Chief Executive Officer of the National Ambulance Service (behind), Ayaga Bawa (far left) of the Regional Institute for Population Studies, Yendi Diocese Bishop Vincent Boi Naa (Right), and CRS Staff following the EDC commissioning.

Arriving to Survive and Thrive: Promoting Quality of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) to Save Lives.

As part of ACERS' Quality of Care component, 185 health staff and 542 community-based agents including drivers of modified motor tricycle ambulances were trained in various strategies to support delivery of quality EmONC services. In a typical rural community, the nurse or midwife is expected to perform miracles when complications arise for women in labour. Health workers' ability to successfully save the lives of such clients is largely dependent on their knowledge and skill set as well as the availability of equipment and supplies. Within the reference period, ACERS baseline and qualitative systems



Trainees observing practical session during Helping Mothers Survive training.

appraisals unearthed gaps around health staff clinical competency with respect to Emergency Obstetric Newborn Care (EmONC) service delivery. These gaps negatively influenced the ability of health staff to provide positive health service user experience translating into health staff inability to avert maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. To contribute to closing these gaps, the ACERS project organized a series of capacity building activities including Helping Mothers Survive (HMS) and Helping Baby's Breathe (HBB) for 51 nurses and midwives in Gushegu and Nkwanta South. Testimonies by health staff indicated that some client deaths recorded in their facilities could have been averted if the HMS and HBB knowledge and skills were acquired earlier. A participant of the Helping mothers survive training in Nkwanta South summarizes the added value of HMS and HBB trainings by noting, "If I knew this earlier, I would not have lost a patient I had at my facility some months back who was brought in unconscious. I probably could have saved her life with this knowledge".

These achievements were made possible under the coordination and leadership of CRS and its partner organizations, Ghana Health Service, National Ambulance Service, Regional Institute for Population Studies, and Columbia University

RURAL EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES AND TRANSPORT FOR SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (REST4D)

The Rural Emergency Health Services and Transport for Systems Development (REST4D) Project is a three-year program (August 2020-July 2023) with an overall objective to improve maternal and child health outcomes in northern Ghana. REST4D focuses on the replication of CRS' maternal and child health best practices, health systems development, and capacity building to promote timely health care-seeking behaviors and effective referrals to improve maternal and child health outcomes in the most marginalized rural communities in the Upper East, Savanna, North-East, and Northern regions of Ghana. The project objectives are to ensure: (1) maternal, child and newborn services within the CHPS program are improved (2) the decentralized health system is strengthened (3) successful REST4D strategies are adopted and integrated into the CHPS policy and guidelines.

The REST4D project is deploying key technical interventions such as maternal and newborn care, tele mentoring and consultation, integrated mothers' and babies' course (IMBC), and health commodity and supply chain management.

REST4D finished the first year of implementation in July 2021, with impressive results, including:

- 200 health facilities enrolled to benefit from project interventions.
- 100 CHPS staff identified and fully engaged in the tele-mentoring intervention. 200 frontline health staff have improved their skills to provide quality health services to beneficiaries through this initiative.
- The physical mentoring and coaching intervention of 374 health staff from 10 districts has resulted in improved MNH service delivery and client waiting times in more than 100 health facilities.
- 110 Health staff trained on COVID-19 infection prevention and control, to strengthen WASH in healthcare. This was critical to reducing hospital-based infections and keeping health workers safe to continue providing services.
- 40 motor tricycles were procured and modified as rural emergency transport systems to refer emergencies to 200 beneficiary communities. 1200 maternal and child emergency cases were transported to the health facilities by these ambulances.
- 200 Community Emergency Transport System (CETS) committees were formed, trained, and commissioned to oversee the operations and management of the MMAs.
- 200 model mothers identified and trained, 100 iMBC groups formed and lead mothers trained and resourced to function effectively. These groups have supported over 2000 lactating mothers to manage postpartum depression.
- About 1,250 stakeholders from national, regional, district and community levels trained on REST4D approaches including Rural Emergency Medical Service, tele-mentoring, and repositioning traditional birth attendants (TBAs) as link providers for health care facilities.



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

CRS' WASH interventions align and complement Government's efforts toward achieving universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. During the year under review, CRS engaged the sector minister to provide an update on impact of CRS' WASH programming. Based on this engagement, an exposure visit was organized for the national, regional and district levels government partners to various WASH interventions.

WASH remains one of the key programming areas of CRS, with focus on addressing identified needs in Northern Ghana and parts of the Oti Region. The year 2021 witnessed active engagement of regional and national stakeholders to create visibility for the WASH programming and to solicit for endorsement, adoption and scale up of CRS' models and tools developed through the various WASH interventions. As part of the collaboration with the ministry, the deputy minister for sanitation and water resources, Hon. Issahaku Chinnia Amidu, who led the Government delegation, commissioned 3 limited mechanized water systems for health care facilities provided by CRS and partners. This approach will ensure ownership by communities and decentralized government departments for long-term sustainability. In 2021, over 12,595 citizens, including school pupils and health staff have been reached by the project, either through capacity building, sensitization and or access to safe water, latrines and hygiene facilities. The WASH team continues to adapt its programming due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its changing nature to become sensitive to necessary prevention and responses.



Deputy Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources and Upper East Regional Minister Commission Mechanized Water System at Nangodi Health Center in Nabdam- Upper East Region.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT (ICOWASH 2.0) PROJECT

ICOWASH 2.0 is a 3-year project (November 2020 – October 2023) with a total budget of \$6,646,511, financed by Helmsley Charitable Trust (a US-based charity). It is a follow-on project to the Integrated Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition for Education (I-SHINE) and ICOWASH 1.0 projects. The aim of ICOWASH 2.0 is to build on the ongoing progress in WASH systems strengthening and consolidate gains made under the I-SHINE and ICOWASH 1.0. The project is being implemented in three districts (Talensi, West Mamprusi, and Mamprugu Moagduri). While implementation is ongoing in various districts, engagements with regional and national-level authorities are in progress to facilitate adoption and long-term sustainability of grassroots WASH interventions, (including institutional strengthening, market-led approaches, and knowledge management) in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities (HCFs).

In 2021, CRS continued to strengthen community structures through the implementation of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) for households, WASH improvements (including capacity building for artisans and sales agents to facilitate the development and access to WASH markets by households), implementation of WASH in Schools strategies to create WASH Friendly school environments and WASH in health care facilities through incorporation of WASH into the Health Systems Strengthening building blocks, facilitating Infection Prevention and Control and medical waste management, infrastructure provision/upgrade and planning and budgeting for operation and maintenance.

The project also facilitated several regional and national engagements of partners to discuss best practices and innovations from the ICOWASH project and modalities for integration with government systems. The 2021 implementation year yielded the following outputs and outcomes:

- As part of the CLTS implementation, CRS supported the construction of 332 new household latrines, 352 hand washing stations (tippy taps), and 152 functional “soakaway” pits. These initiatives contributed to the certification of 9 communities as open defecation free (ODF) communities.
- Additional 114 resilient latrines were constructed through the implementation of sanitation marketing activities
- Verification and certification of 66 schools and 2 HCFs as WASH friendly institutions.
- 61 Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) groups mobilized GHS 218,001 (\$34,366) in savings and disbursed GHS 82,994 (\$13,398) as loans
- Ten (10) SILC/Livelihood groups sold 1,543 pieces of soap and 96Kg of shea butter and made GHS 1,883 and GHS 745 as profits respectively.
-

The following outcomes/impacts were also achieved:

- Over 90% of households in the project districts have functional handwashing stations which enhanced hygiene promotion and adherence to Covid-19 protocols in the rural communities.
- 73% of pupils in project supported schools practice hand washing with soap after exiting latrines and at critical times.
- WASH planning has improved significantly. 89% of schools update and implement activities in their WASH plans.
- As a result of implementing Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) activities in schools, HCFs, and communities, 88% of school children are now knowledgeable on the proper actions if menstruating at school and 99% use appropriate sanitary pads during menstruation.

IMPROVING WATER IN NORTHERN GHANA

Improving Water Access in Northern Ghana (I-WANG) is funded by Water Access Now (WAN). The project focuses on improving safe water access in communities, health facilities, and schools. In FY21, the project collaborated with Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly (MMDAs), Ghana Health Service and Ghana Education Service to expand water access to an estimated population of 25,668 at the cost of \$275,810.

As a result, the project constructed 29 boreholes, 3 Limited Mechanized Water Systems and established 2 water businesses (using the SAHA Global business model) across 7 districts in 4 regions (Gushiegu, West Mamprusi, Nkwanta South, Kassena-Nankana West, Builsa South, Nabdum and Talensi Districts). The project also trained 125 Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMT) and 10 Area Mechanics to support in the operation and maintenance of the water facilities in communities.

URBAN WASH

CRS Ghana is implementing Urban WASH and resilience project to address water security and sanitation challenges. This project is expected to improve the resilience, health, and wellbeing of children and adults in Greater Tamale. The Urban WASH and Resilience Project is a collaboration between CRS and its partners; Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, Sagnarigu Municipal Assemblies, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources and other sector stakeholders such as Ghana Water Company Limited, Water Resources Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, among others. This initiative focuses on three thematic areas: 1. Water Security 2. Enhanced WASH service delivery and 3. Facilitate construction of household latrines. The project outcomes will include an establishment of a Tamale Water Trust Fund (TWF) for catchment protection and restoration, improve functionality of water points and promote City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) planning for Greater Tamale.



In September 2021, CRS and partners inaugurated the Tamale Water Fund Steering Committee.

In FY21, the project supported the development of a CWIS plan, trained 210 Water and Sanitation Management Teams to managed 30 water points, facilitated community engagements and formation of steering committee for creation of the Tamale Water Trust Fund (TWF) and facilitated collaboration of sanitation entrepreneurs and sales agents to market and advance the purchase and use of household latrines.

The interventions resulted in the following key outputs and outcomes:

- Construction of 500 resilient latrines in Greater Tamale, giving 4000 people access to safe sanitation.
- Engagement between CRS, Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly and two financial institutions resulted in the waiving of collateral security for sanitation loan facilities.
- Establishment of steering committee for the Tamale Water Trust Fund
- Development of Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) for Greater Tamale, which shows the proportion of people having access to improved sanitation and those that practice open defecation
- The development of SFD led to revisions of the CWIS plan for Greater Tamale to include appropriate actions to accelerate sanitation uptake. This resulted in UN HABITAT initiating discussions with Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly, and CRS to fund portions of the CWIS plans.
- 27 manual septic emptiers identified and organized into an association for the regulation of their services by city authorities as part of CWIS activities. This has significantly reduced improper disposal of fecal sludge.
- CRS' work in public private partnership for the management of public latrines has resulted in increased patronage of 200 people per day to approximately 500 per day in the space of 1 year.

WASHCARE

Improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Ghana (WASHCARE) project (2019-2021) was funded by the Charitable Giving (Donations from individuals across CRS) and was designed to complement the ICOWASH project with the Mamprusi Moagduri in the North- East region. The final phase of the project (2021), focused on hands-on training approaches for managers and staff of healthcare facilities. About 11,739 people and 3HCFs have been reached by this intervention.

Project Results/Achievements

- Hands-on training for fifteen (15) healthcare facility (HCF) staff and volunteers on Health Systems Strengthening (HSS), Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), planning and budgeting skills to sustain WASH infrastructure
- Provision of WASH infrastructure for the 3 selected HCFs in Mamprugu Moagduri District which included the construction of two (2) boreholes, three (3) four-seater gender-segregated and disability friendly KVIP latrines, three (3) medical waste incinerators and three (3) gender segregated bathrooms
- Developed and distributed Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) materials in the form of posters and flip charts to educate both staff and clients on key health-seeking and safety behaviors, including hand hygiene, medical waste management, PPE usage, cleaning, and disinfection.



Incinerator use demonstration at Awaredoni CHPS in Talensi District-Upper East Region for Government officials from the national level- August 2021

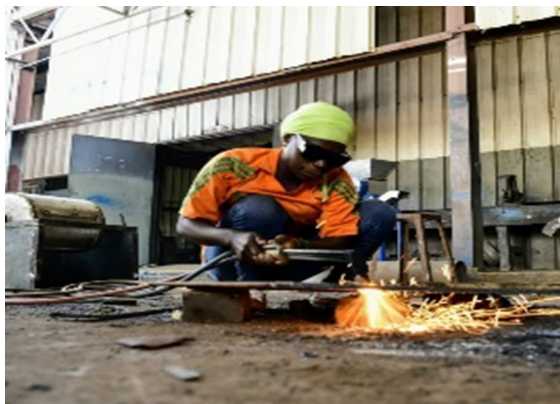
YOUTH AND MIGRATION

The Youth and Migration interventions implemented by CRS address a wide variety of cross-cutting issues. Youth unemployment, social cohesion and protection, climate change and skills development are priority areas for CRS. Ghana is a steadily growing economy with low political turbulence. However, the youth still face risks and challenges that jeopardize their ability to flourish. A 2016 World Bank report for Ghana titled “Landscape of Jobs in Ghana” found that 48 percent of youth between ages 15–24 are unemployed. Additionally, irregular migration in Sub-Saharan Africa has become increasingly dangerous in recent years. Due to high levels of unemployment, climate change and social pressure, many youths feel they have no choice but to leave their homes. In response, CRS is holistically supporting youth and migrants through livelihood programs for employment and business creation and has contributed to reduced unemployment in Northern Ghana and the Bono East Region. Overall, the youth and migration unit reached 10,919 participants in FY21. 966 participants received technical and professional development skills training and have either established enterprises or gained employment. The remaining 9,953 individuals who have been empowered through the various interventions of the unit are applying the skills in their daily lives and contributing to peaceful co-existence in their communities.

Youth LIFE 2.0

The Youth LIFE 2.0 project provided an enabling and supportive environment for vulnerable, out-of-school urban and peri-urban youth to share in opportunities for social development and economic growth. Between 2020 and 2021, 250 youth received technical and vocational skills training in various fields of their interest, as well as business mentorship and coaching from seasoned entrepreneurs.

520 youth benefited from professional development skills training to complement their 'hard' skills. The daily monitoring and reporting activities at the training grounds were led by 24 peer mentors. These mentors provided peer-to-peer support to project participants. Gender and Persons Living with Disability (PWD) inclusion was intentionally incorporated into the project as reported from the success stories. 2 females successfully graduated in the male dominated field (Electricals and Welding), 5 males in female dominated fields (hairdressing, make-up artistry, beads/sandals making and smock fabric weaving), and 2 Persons with Disabilities also successfully completed their training in tailoring and dressmaking.



A woman undergoing training in Welding

LEAD PROJECT

As international donors are shifting their focus towards the provision of resources to local organizations as well as utilizing the capacity of local partners to implement projects, CRS piloted the Local Empowerment for Action and Development (LEAD) Project to engage five local church partners in Northern Ghana in capacity building workshops. These workshops ensured local partners are well positioned to directly access government and donor funding and reached 45 participants, comprising of development coordinators, finance officers, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialists. The emphasis was placed on financial and risk management, donor compliance and donor funding (USAID), M&E systems in the various institutions with the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province Partnership in Action (TEPPA) leading the sessions and CRS facilitating the donor compliance and USAID donor funding requirements. Following the workshop's conclusion, a participant noted that, "this exercise gives us hope. Working on our identified gaps, along with our action plan, will reposition us to contribute to the transformational development of Northern Ghana".



SAHEL PEACE INITIATIVE (SPI)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Episcopal Conferences (EC) of West Africa established the Sahel Peace Initiative (SPI) in response to the Sahel's unparalleled degree of violent conflict. As such, CRS has well-established operations in the hardest-hit countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have been included in this Initiative due to their proximity to the hardest hit countries. SPI-Ghana through local church partners is rolling out a comprehensive community-based interventions. As a result, youth and community leaders through the joint implementation of peace and social cohesion activities have begun solving pertinent community conflicts and are leveraging on skills and knowledge acquired to live cordially despite their differences in religion and ethnicity. SPI activities helped to reduce tensions in the conflict communities of Doba-Kandiga, Yendi, Cherponi, Bawku and Bole amongst others.

The Country Program also participated in several advocacy events with US media organizations, and the US Government including the Senate Foreign Committee and State Department. These events presented an opportunity for the church leadership and CRS to influence and shape US Government policy on the Sahel.



Community sensitization and distribution of Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment to vulnerable groups in the Bawku Municipality.



Sahel Peace Initiative Ghana's National Working Group Launch

In FY21, the project engaged 4,825 people (1,859 females and 2,966 males) in various programming activities including: 4 Peace Walks, 5 Peace Games, 7 Trauma Resilience Training, 7 Community Service projects, 20 mentorship and coaching sessions, 10 Festival Celebration, 9 Community Peace Forum, and 4 Radio Talk shows.

The Navrongo Central Chief Imam, Alhaji Abdul-Karim Saeed Nyoka and other religious leaders participated in a joint Easter Festival celebration and Peace Games to show commitment to the call for peaceful coexistence. The gesture will be replicated during Muslim holidays and indicates the

collective commitments and willingness to embrace tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The Most Rev. Philip Naameh, Bishop of the Tamale Archdiocese and President of the Ghana Catholic Bishop's Conference (GCBC) and Chairman of the SPI Working Group, commended CRS for the collaboration during the Bishops' Conference and shared his belief that this church-led initiative will advance peace building efforts in the country and the Sahel region, restoring peace and unity to communities.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

COVID-19 RESPONSE INITIATIVE

In 2021, CRS Ghana continued its programming in the fight against COVID-19. Much of CRS' COVID-19 response programming centered on working with government and church partners including the Ghana Health Service (GHS), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies and Caritas Ghana, to promote the uptake of the COVID-19 Vaccines. CRS rolled out the COVID-19 Vaccine Promotion Initiative (VPI), by leveraging on community leadership to promote COVID-19 awareness creation and adherence to protocols, counter misinformation and rumors as well as support vaccine acceptance and uptake. As a result, an approximate 120,000 community members were reached directly from 240 communities across 12 districts and about 850 community leaders and members received at least one dose of the limited AstraZeneca vaccine. This was made available by the District and Municipal Administrations of GHS.



Chief of Tammboung taking his COVID-19 vaccine at a community durbar in Tamboung in Chereponi, North-East Region

EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF

In August 2021, an estimated 9,043 people from 11 districts in the Upper West Region of Ghana suffered from severe flooding. Due to this disaster, 1,261 houses were destroyed, 6,548 acres of farmland washed away, and 34 people were injured. In response, CRS Ghana implemented a \$150,000 Emergency Rapid Response (ERR) initiative with internal funding from the Humanitarian Response Department (HRD). The relief provided support to flood victims and households in 25 affected communities in Upper West Region. An estimated 9,000 people in 811 households have benefited from multi-purpose financial assistance under the ERR Fund. The

response also provided financial education and psychosocial support to the flood victims. The project was jointly implemented with the Wa Catholic Diocese and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO).



Left: CRS Country Representative, Daniel Mumuni, joins the Emergency Rapid Response team to disburse cash to flood victims in Upper West Region.

INTER-COMMUNAL CONFLICT

An inter-communal conflict between the Kandiga and Doba communities in the Upper East Region led to the destruction of houses, farms as well as the loss of lives. CRS through the SPI project assisted 75 Internally Displaced Persons in the Kassena Nankana Municipality. In collaboration with its church partner, the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Development Office, CRS conducted a needs assessment and provided shelter assistance to support displaced community members rebuild their lives.



Left: A woman stands in front of a destroyed house. Right: A group of women receive building materials to support recovery efforts following the conflict.

ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCE

REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG 6) INDICATORS

CRS Ghana hosted and supported a series of strategic meetings with the Alliance for WASH Advocacy (A4WA) to assess SDG 6 Indicators in the 2020 SDGs report for Ghana. The strategic meetings culminated in a Memo to the National Development Planning Commission on the findings of the report and made recommendations on how to effectively track performance and progress reporting of SDG 6 in Ghana. The A4WA is a coalition of WASH NGOs and networks including CRS, SNV, WaterAid, CONIWAS, World Vision, Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), Safe Water Network, Plan International, Global Communities.



Country Representative of CRS addressing Alliance members during one of the strategic meetings in Accra in October 2021

The Alliance was formed essentially to contribute to national WASH policy reforms by linking evidence generated from the allied WASH civil society organizations and networks at the national level. It also exists to build on existing national-level advocacy initiatives to promote WASH access for all in line with Agenda 2030, the SWA compact, the Africa Water Vision 2025, the 2015 NGO Declaration and the Africa Agenda 2063 for the socio-economic development of the continent through effective collaboration with other key allies.

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STRATEGIC MEMBERSHIP FOR LONG TERM INFLUENCE

CRS in FY2021 earned membership of strategic sector working groups to provide technical support as well as advise to the sectors of interest. Notable among these are the Sanitation Sector Working group, Migration Working Group, and the National School Health Education Programme Steering Committee. CRS has also supported various sectors to plan very strategic annual conferences which include the WHO recommended National Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality Conference, Mole XXXII WASH Conference, and the Northern Development Summit.

Gender

CRS Ghana applies a gender-sensitive lens to both programming and staff development. In FY2021, all CRS Ghana staff participated in the Unconscious Gender Bias training and increased their knowledge on implicit and explicit gender bias to improve their personal and professional outlook. In the fiscal period, CRS Ghana also implemented the Gender Equitable Masculinity curriculum to address unequal gender norms and the risks it poses to the individual, community, and the household. Finally, CRS, through its Empowerment through Innovation project piloted innovations to reduce women’s burden in the house and the farm.

GENDER EQUITABLE MASCULINITY (GEM)

Gender Equitable Masculinity (GEM) was piloted to create youth awareness of the need to transform inequitable gender norms. The project convened 171 male youth, 31 CRS Male Caucus members and 95 community members (traditional leaders inclusive) in the Tamale Metropolis. On average, 90 percent of the youth who participated in the training were ready to transform their way of lives during the end line survey. During the positive masculinity training, Mohammed Habib Naa Zo stated that the training made an impact in his life. He relayed the following story: one day, when it rained, he returned with his mud filled motor bike to park in the Veranda. His wife told him to wait till the rain stopped before bringing it in to avoid dirtying the house. He listened and when the rain finally stopped, he realized his wife was right and that all the mud on the motor bike was washed away. Since then, he always tries to involve his wife in all activities and decisions. Abdul Latif states, “prior to the positive masculinity training, I used to assign duties to my colleagues without necessarily making room for any of them to give ideas on how we should go about it. But after the training, I learned to make all roles assigning task inclusive and this has helped in producing efficient work output”.



Abdul Latif giving an appreciation speech at the closing ceremony of the GEM training.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH INNOVATION

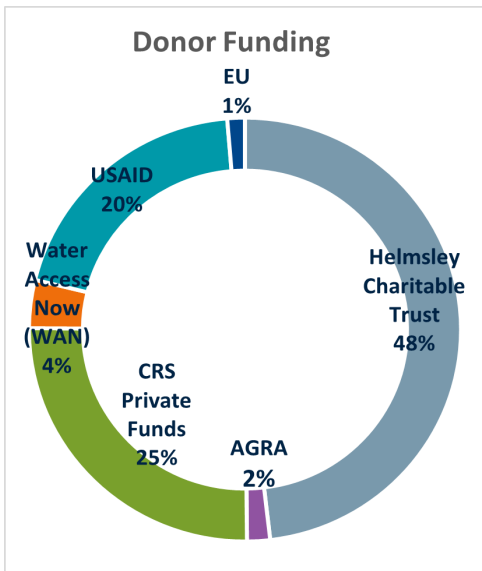
The Empowerment through Innovation Project directly feeds into CRS' Global Gender Strategy, especially Priority Area 1 which focuses on women's empowerment and ensuring women are economically, politically, and socially empowered to lead full, productive, and healthy lives. The project, implemented from January to September 2021, aimed to reduce time spent by women to undertaking their triple role (reproduction, production, and community), while allowing them enough time to rejuvenate, make income, and have a voice in the society. The project implementation ensured that 200 SILC members (Direct beneficiaries) and over 200 indirect beneficiaries enhanced their knowledge on time and energy saving technologies by introducing them to improved water fetching technology, improved cooking stoves, and use of hand drawn seed dibblers that ensures household and farm work is conducted in an easy and efficient manner. The women and their spouses have also been educated on ways to enhance their livelihoods and to lead healthier and meaningful lives in their societies. These were done through workshops, cross learning visits to other communities, and mentorship sessions.



*Left: A woman in Zakpalsi, Mion District, sitting next to the time saving improved cook stove.
Right: The traditional cook stove.*

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

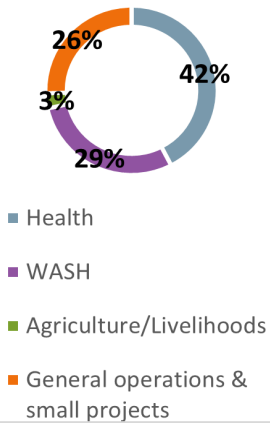
In Fiscal Year 2021, CRS Ghana mobilized and operated a budget of \$7.32m with support from five (5) major donors. Helmsley Charitable Trust contributed 48 percent of the total budget for the country program to support the REST4D and ICOWASH 2.0 projects. In addition, USAID’s support to CRS Ghana stood at 20 percent for FY2021. CRS Ghana contributed 25 percent of the total funding to match or cost-share the support of donors in the project sectors.



Donor	Funding (USD)
Helmsley Charitable Trust	3,525,932
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	126,152
CRS private funds	1,850,150
Water Access Now (WAN)	268,843
USAID	1,458,373
European Union (EU)	96,448
Total	7,325,898

During the fiscal year, CRS Ghana invested approximately \$7.23 million in Health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Agriculture and Livelihoods, and other small project sectors. Health and WASH contributed to the largest expenditures with 71 percent of total spent for the period. The general operations and small projects accounted for 26 percent of all expenditures made in the fiscal year.

Expenditure by Sector



Project Sector	Expenditures (USD)
Health	3,068,075
WASH	2,110,945
Agriculture/Livelihoods	208,305
General operations & small projects	1,850,150
Total	7,237,474

Donors



THE LEONA M. AND HARRY B.
HELMSLEY
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