

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter. The reporting period has been an exciting one for the Foundation: we launched the Shift the Power programme, which challenges to us re-examine how development is done; we added four new projects with funding from Jacobs Foundation, Botnar Foundation and the International Organisation for Migration.

We continued to be a valued member of the civil society community in Ghana, facilitating the development and strengthening of CSO coalitions and alliances at regional and national levels for development effectiveness.

Details of these and more are provided below and in the links to our website and other platforms. We invite you to engage with us on our very own platforms. Happy reading!

## FUNDING PARTNERS



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**COMIC  
RELIEF**

*foundation*  
**BOTNAR**





Eunice R. Agbenyadzi- Head of Programmes at STAR-Ghana Foundation

## Stakeholders push for more investments to improve girl's education

Speakers at a STAR-Ghana Foundation facilitated forum on improving girls' access to quality education have called for increased investments in education to improve access to education for all. The call is coming on the back of concerns around poor education outcomes for girls. Poverty and cost-related (hidden) challenges remain foremost on the list of barriers that confront girls' sustainable access to quality education and their retention and performance in school. Participants recommended that the unique needs of girls should be factored into education financing to enable girls to enroll, remain and complete their education. The forum was held under the theme 'Increasing Inclusive Access to Continuous Quality Education for Girls.' [....more](#)



Project Manager for G-REP, Dr Ernestina Korleki Tetteh (left) with Kofi Asare of Africa Education Watch (right) at the forum.

## Promoting domestic resource mobilization for social development: Reflections on our experiences and lessons on what works

Domestic resource mobilisation is widely acknowledged as a sustainable strategy for the strengthening of the civil society sector and organisations and for promoting locally driven development in Africa. However there has been a general failure to tap into these resources, due to a variety of factors. In 2021, STAR-Ghana Foundation partnered the [African Philanthropy Network \(APN\)](#) under the [Giving for Change project](#) to undertake a multi-country assessment of the legal environment for giving in eight (8) countries across Africa, Asia, and North America. The assessment revealed that legal frameworks at the national level have failed to protect this right and/or do not provide an enabling environment for domestic resource mobilization and community philanthropy to thrive [....more](#)



## Violent Extremism and Border Security: STAR-Ghana Foundation builds capacity of border communities in Upper East Region

Community buy-in and support is critical to the success of efforts aimed at helping improve security and or preventing conflicts and strengthening resilience particularly in risk border communities against spillovers and infiltration of violent extremism. In Ghana, the volatile security situation in neighbouring countries to the north has heightened concerns of possible infiltration of extremists and radicalization of vulnerable demographics in border communities. To mitigate these risks, STAR-Ghana Foundation, with funding from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ghana, is implementing the Community Cohesion project in six border communities in the Upper-East region which aims at reducing their susceptibility to radicalization and violent extremism....[more](#).



Grants and Resource Mobilization Manager, Joan V. Koomson and other participants of a validation workshop on C SSP-StP

## STAR-Ghana Foundation holds nationwide validation framework workshops for Civil Society Strengthening Project (C SSP) - Shift The Power

As calls for power shift between the global north and south in areas of development deepen, International NGOs continue to fashion out ways to prepare the south for a paradigm shift in power. In Ghana, Norsaac is modelling Participatory Grants Making (PGM) with a core country team including STAR-Ghana Foundation, Oxfam and WACSI providing support. The pro-marginalized and policy influencing organization (Norsaac), is one of two CSOs selected in Ghana to roll out prototypes aimed at providing the needed power shift. [more](#)....

## Multi-stakeholder approach needed to promote girls' education

The Executive Director of STAR-GHANA Foundation, Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu, has called for a collaborative approach from all stakeholders towards the promotion of girls' education in the country.

He said the performance between boys and girls have not been the best despite efforts by the government, civil society organisations (CSOs), development partners, traditional authorities, parents, and others to improve the situation...[more](#)



Amidu Ibrahim Tanko- ED for STAR-Ghana Foundation in a group photo



Members of a community dialogue

## Civil society urged to adopt double-edged approach in advocacy

The Executive Director of STAR-Ghana Foundation, Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu, has urged civil society to adopt a double-edged approach in their advocacy work.

He said their work must not just focus on reporting to align with the objectives and requirements of their donors but also geared towards development effectiveness.

According to Alhaji Tanko, civil society actors often force themselves to pick up positives, where perhaps it might have been more useful for them if they focused on the challenges....[more](#)



## STAR-Ghana Foundation rally partners to push for equity, social inclusion -Two-year AVID project begins

STAR-Ghana Foundation's Actions for Voice and Inclusive Development (AVID) project has held an orientation for partners under the project in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. The aim was to create an avenue for the partners to better understand the Foundation's ways of working, including reporting requirements and how these relate to the project. Additionally, the workshop provided a platform for identifying synergies amongst the partners to enhance collaboration...[more](#)



Participants at an orientation meeting for AVID partners

## Partner civil society, stakeholders to achieve quality education for girls. - Gov't urged

A STAR-Ghana Foundation forum on "Promoting Girls' Education in Ghana" has called on all stakeholders to help promote access to education for all, particularly girls. The participants were of the view that improving access to education for girls was a shared responsibility, adding that government alone cannot provide access to quality education for all...[more](#)



Some female student at the Basic level in the Savannah region

## Leverage technology to improve livelihoods of women, girls- G-REP Project Manager

Partners under the STAR-Ghana Foundation's Gender Rights and Empowerment Programme (G-REP) have been encouraged to use all available platforms to ensure that women and girls embrace and take advantage of technological innovations to improve their lives.

Such a move, a Projects Manager at the Foundation, Dr Ernestina Tetteh, said would also help to improve the lots of their families, communities, and the country generally...[more](#)

## Shift The Power: Civil Society Strengthening Project (CSSP) team onboarding begins



STAR-Ghana Foundation and WACSI staff at a meeting discussing CSSP-StP team onboarding

The search for new ways of working that promote community voice and involvement in social development is imperative and has become an agenda pursued by many development actors, particularly in recent times. In this spirit, STAR-Ghana Foundation and the West African Civil Society Initiative (WACSI), are rolling out a long-term civil society support programme; Civil Society Strengthening Programme-ShiftThePower...[more](#)



DEPARTMENT OF GENDER VOLTA || JMA PIXELS 2023

# STAR-Ghana Foundation launches Civil Society Strengthening Programme - Civil society actors receive long-term support to sustain their initiatives

STAR-Ghana Foundation and the West Africa Civil Society Institute ([WACSI](#)) are currently implementing the Civil Society Strengthening Programme Shift the Power (CSSP/#StP) with funding from [Comic Relief](#) and the [UK Foreign Commonwealth Development Office](#) (FCDO). This eight-year programme aims to provide long term support to Civil Society Actors (CSA) in Ghana, contributing to their resilience, responsiveness, and effectiveness in delivering the priorities of their constituents.....[more](#)



Management of the Foundation in a group photo with partners and officials of FCDO at the unveiling

## Foundation Botnar expands initiative to advance young people's urban wellbeing to Ghana

Today, Swiss philanthropic organisation Foundation adds the [city of Koforidua in Ghana](#), to its global [OurCity](#) initiative that leverages local strengths, community engagement and digital technologies to transform cities and ensure young people's wellbeing. Following its success in several cities, including [Tanga in Tanzania](#) and [Cluj-Napoca in Romania](#), the city of Koforidua in Ghana is joining the [OurCity](#) initiative that supports.....[more](#)

## STAR-Ghana Foundation, WACSI hold orientation for catalyst fund partners of Civil Society Strengthening Project (CSSP) - Shift the Power



Some catalyst fund participants at an orientation meeting for the CSSP-StP project

STAR-Ghana Foundation and the [West Africa Civil Society Institute](#) ([WACSI](#)) have held an orientation for catalyst fund partners under the [Civil Society Strengthening Programme Shifting Power](#) (CSSP-#StP) in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. STAR-Ghana Foundation and the [West Africa Civil Society Institute](#) ([WACSI](#)) have held an orientation for catalyst fund partners under the [Civil Society Strengthening Programme Shifting Power](#) (CSSP-#StP) in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region.....[more](#)



## STAR-Ghana Foundation launches 'our city project' to promote youth in governance

STAR-Ghana Foundation with funding from the [BOTNAR Foundation](#) is implementing a three -year project named the 'Action for Youth Development (AfYD)' project. Also known as '[our city project](#),' the project is sited in Koforidua in the [New Juabeng Municipality](#) with the overall goal to contribute to a municipality where young people are informed and have the capacity to participate actively in governance and influence improved services across all sectors.....[more](#)



# STORIES OF CHANGE



Abanga Moses Aningiba -beneficiary of the GfC Project partner ,PCBR-Garu

The training, carried out in collaboration with the District Departments of Agriculture of the Kasena-Nankaka and Pusiga districts is part of STAR-Ghana Foundation's Community Livelihood Enhancement project funded by the IOM. [...more](#)



Farmers working on farm

## Community-led Philanthropy Projects driving change- GFC Partners identify support areas for development

Community-led philanthropy is critical to the development of every society. Developmental projects through local philanthropy is largely need-based, thus addressing specific issues with distinctive tailor-made methods depending on the community. Today, a lot of Communities in Ghana are buying into the idea of owning their development by mobilizing capital and human resources through STAR-Ghana Foundation's Giving for Change (GfC) Programme...[more](#)

## Building community resilience against security threats: farmers in border communities trained on modernized Agri-skills and marketing, others to benefit from mechanized boreholes and water pumping machines under Livelihood Enhancement project.

Over 100 farmers in three border communities in the Upper East Region have received training in modernized agriculture and irrigation farming.

## STAR-Ghana, OXFAM, other CSOs and INGOs reignite the push to accelerate Northern Ghana Development

Conversations about development in northern Ghana need to be purposeful, coordinated and targeted; that was the overwhelming consensus reached at a Civil Society Organizations Forum on Development Coordination in Northern Ghana held in Tamale on March 14, 2023. The Forum, which was co-funded by STAR-Ghana Foundation and OXFAM with support from other organizations like Norsaac, ActionAid Ghana, GDCA and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) amongst others, reignited frank conversations on how to better coordinate and collaborate to accelerate development in Northern Ghana...[more](#)



Major (rtd) Don Chebe and some participants of the Forum

# PARTNERS CORNER

## STAR-Ghana Foundation joins Comic Relief to commemorate Red Nose Day

As a partner on the [#ShiftThePower](#) programme, STAR-Ghana Foundation (SGF) joined Comic Relief's annual commemoration of Red Nose Day. Head of Programmes for the Foundation, Eunice Agbenyadzi spoke about the Foundation's hopes to empower & create local change!.....[more](#)



Eunice R. Agbenyadzi- Head of Programmes at STAR-Ghana Foundation

## Programmes Workstream Reflection

STAR-Ghana Foundation Programmes workstream held its first reflection meeting. The meeting served as a platform to create a collective vision for the workstream's programming. Stepping away from the projects, the meeting enabled the Programmes team to understand new challenges and how best to position the workstream to respond to these challenges. The meeting presented the opportunity to align running projects to the Foundation's strategic plan. The meeting also provided an opportunity to identify gaps and consequently generate ideas on the best ways to fill those gaps identified.

## Northern Sector Projects Manager for STAR-Ghana features on OneYoungWorld



As a Peace Ambassador for OneYoungWorld, [Aaron Atimpe](#), Projects Manager of the Northern sector for STAR-Ghana Foundation joined other ambassadors to discuss issues on peace and drivers of [#violent](#) [#extremism](#)..[more](#)



The Programmes Workstream at the first reflection meeting

# UPDATES

## GfC: Partners meet to strengthen relationships and identify additional opportunities to harness and scale up Shifting Power



GLOBAL PARTNERS LEARNING AND REFLECTION WORKSHOP

For the first time since its inception, partners on the Giving for Change (GfC) Programme met to learn and reflect on the programme. The five day event, attended by over fifty(50) partner representatives from Africa and Europe also provided an opportunity for strengthening relationships and identify additional opportunities to harness, shift power and scale up the programme...more

## 6 border communities in U/E region gain Livelihood Projects from STAR-Ghana Foundation and IOM



Beneficiaries of the Livelihood Project receiving items at the Pusiga Municipal Assembly(U/E region)

Six border communities in the Upper East Region have benefited from Livelihood Projects; satellite farms with mechanized boreholes, fitted with generators and accessories for constant water supply.

The beneficiary border communities are Pusiga, Kulungungu, Pulimakuam, Mognori, Paga, and Namoo. The establishment of the satellite farms at the border communities come at the back of the International Organization on Migration(IOM), the funding partners through STAR-Ghana Foundation, as the implementing partner...more

## SECURITY CORNER

### Ghana Police & National Fire Service Safety Tips

**DAILY SECURITY TIPS**

Even though you may be in a hurry and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.

#DailySecurityTips #GhPoliceService

COVID-19 is real. Mask up. Stay alert ⚠️

FATS WANTS YOU TO **KNOW FIRE JOIN THE FIREFIGHTING**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO:**

- ✓ Help prevent undesired fires on your property by adhering to basic fire safety measures
- ✓ Know the nearest Fire Station closest to where you live or work for easy reach in case of an emergency
- ✓ Timely call Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) for prompt response on 112 / 192 / 030 277 2446
- ✓ Provide credible information on emergencies to help GNFS to investigate their causes promptly
- ✓ Report on any activity on or near your premises that could lead to fires to GNFS for required necessary action

Brought to you by The Fire Academy & Training School

## National Security Ministry Campaign on terrorism

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING**

A MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPAIGN

999

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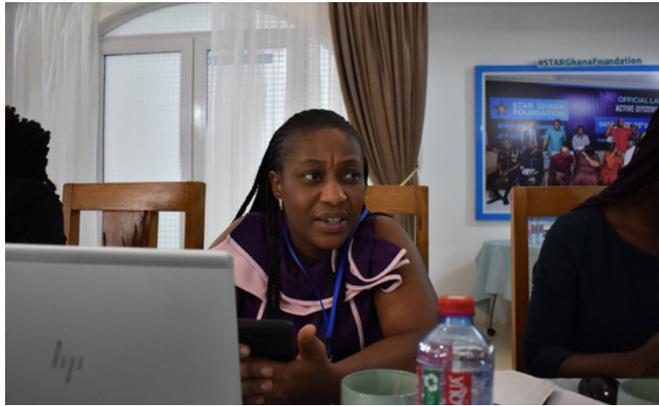
**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING**

A MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPAIGN

999

# UPDATES

## Pictures of staff in capacity building sessions



## Capacity Building: Photo Journalism workshop for Staff

Selected staff of the Foundation are expected to be trained in Videography and photo journalism. this training is a follow up to a Report Writing seminar organized by management of the organization to build the capacity of staff



## Capacity Building: Writing workshop for Staff

In April, STAR-Ghana Foundation ,held a workshop, to train its staff on report writing & administrative communication. The training, which is the first for the year, among other things seeks to equip staff with the requisite skills to enable them to write good and accurate reports.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Mid-term Review of GFC Programme



The The Giving for Change(GfC) Project seeks to transform how “development is done” by focusing specifically on the recognition and importance of domestic resources in increasing local ownership, unlocking agency, and strengthening communities’ ability to claim entitlements from different actors, especially government. The Project, implemented through an Alliance and covers eight countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. The project is over a 5year period and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. STAR-Ghana Foundation is the Anchor Institution for Ghana, with WACSI as a Strategic Partner.

### Oreintation for Civil Soceity Strenthening Programme(CSSP-StP)

STAR Ghana Foundation in collaboration with Africa Education Watch, SEND Ghana and Parliament’s select Committee on Education held a strategic meeting to discuss reports and surveys produced on education services delivery in Ghana. The report which captured an analysis of the 2022 national budget revealed an allocation of 12.9% to the education sector which does not meet the UNESCO threshold of 15 to 20% of public expenditure. The Ministry of Finance, Education Ministry(MoE), Ghana Education Service, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection(MoGCSP) and Scholarship Secretariat during deliberations at the meeting presents status reports and recommendations. Among the key issues, it was recommended that the Scholarship Secretariat diversify avenues for advertising scholarships to widen reach. Also, MoE and MoGCSP has been to invest in early childhood education in the public sector by building more early childhood centres/nurseries



**STAR-Ghana Foundation works towards the development of a vibrant, well-informed and assertive civil society able to contribute to transformational national development and inclusive access to high quality, accountable public services for all citizens.**



# STAR GHANA FOUNDATION