<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGRA</td>
<td>Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHVs</td>
<td>Community health volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>CICOL</td>
<td>Civil Society Coalition on Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPP</td>
<td>Convention People’s Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELCAP</td>
<td>Enhancing Livelihoods through Climate Change Adaptation and Learning Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>Farm Radio International</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAWU</td>
<td>Ghana Agriculture Workers Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBC</td>
<td>Ghana Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>GHS</td>
<td>Ghana Health Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>GTV</td>
<td>Ghana Television</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEA</td>
<td>Institute of Economic Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International non-governmental organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISODEC</td>
<td>Integrated Social Development Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDC</td>
<td>National Democratic Congress</td>
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<td>NHIA</td>
<td>National Health Insurance Authority</td>
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<td>NHIS</td>
<td>National Health Insurance Scheme</td>
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<td>NOGCAF</td>
<td>Northern Ghana Community Action Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPP</td>
<td>New Patriotic Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARDA</td>
<td>Participatory Action for Rural Development Alternatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARED</td>
<td>Partners in Rural Empowerment and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAS-G</td>
<td>Presbyterian Agricultural Station, Garu</td>
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<td>PFAG</td>
<td>Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana</td>
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<td>PIAC</td>
<td>Public Interest and Accountability Committee</td>
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<td>PNC</td>
<td>People’s National Convention</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>Progressive People’s Party</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>Traditional birth attendant</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAT</td>
<td>Value Added Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>WiLDAF</td>
<td>Women in Law and Development in Africa</td>
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<td>WOM</td>
<td>Women and Orphans Movement</td>
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Oxfam in Ghana continues to advocate for a just and equitable society where everyone in Ghana is healthy and has enough to eat, and where authorities are accountable and responsive to their citizens.

During the year under review, Oxfam in Ghana sought to combine these two goals by engaging communities and candidates in the national elections of December 2012. Supporting civil society partners and building on the demands raised by communities, for example through the development of a “Farmers’ Manifesto”, those seeking political office were encouraged to commit to investing more in Ghana’s small-scale farmers, provide free universal access to health care, and strengthen transparency and accountability in the country’s extractive industries.

As a result of community-level meetings with candidates, the signing of pledge cards, policy dialogue with women farmers, debates and media activities – amongst much else – we believe that Oxfam and our partners have made a positive contribution to focusing greater attention on the key issues of millions of voters. But there is a long way to go before electoral promises are translated into action, and we will continue to support civil society in its efforts to ensure that they are.

We also provided direct support to communities lacking key services, with a strong emphasis on supporting poor women. In communities across the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions, Oxfam continued an innovative pilot project to enable communities to adapt their livelihoods to the growing impact of climate change. In the Upper East Region we assisted traditional birth attendants and community health volunteers to improve maternal health care and to increase the number of skilled deliveries.

The following report reflects an overview of our work in 2012/13, and the lessons we have tried to draw from it. As ever, we appreciate your support and partnership in this endeavour.

Sebastian Tiah
Country Director
Oxfam in Ghana
ABOUT OXFAM

Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organisations networked in more than 90 countries, whose aim is to build a future free from the injustice of poverty. Oxfam began working in Ghana in 1986 in the West Mamprusi District, tackling chronic water and sanitation issues. Over the years we have invested in the provision of water and sanitation, micro finance, health, hygiene and education facilities to rural and farming communities. We challenge unjust policies and practices and we respect people’s rights.

In 2008, a decision was made for all Oxfam affiliates to operate under a Single Management Structure (SMS), which aims to align and harmonise Oxfam’s work, enhance synergy and maximise impact. The Ghana country programme, with Oxfam GB and Oxfam America as affiliates, has developed a Joint Country Analysis and Strategy (JCAS) under the SMS, to be implemented until 2015.

The JCAS guides our strategic focus, and was developed in consultation with Oxfam’s partners and allies, and in consideration of our experience, relative strengths and the Ghanaian context. As such, Oxfam’s work has focused on supporting civil society advocacy and research for better accountability and a fair distribution of resources in the agriculture, health, and extractive industry sectors.

OUR MISSION

Oxfam’s mission is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. With partners and allies, we act in solidarity with people living in poverty, especially women, to achieve their rights and assert their dignity as full citizens.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a Ghana with an improved quality of life, characterised by active citizenship, and shared, pro-poor and sustainable growth in a just and democratic environment.

OUR CORE VALUES

• **Accountability.** We hold ourselves accountable in everything we do and demand the same from others, including individuals, governments and corporations.

• **Inclusiveness.** We include and involve all stakeholders in all aspects of our work. We like to listen to and learn from our diverse global community. We are open to everyone, regardless of ethnic background or religion.

• **Empowerment.** We seek to ensure that everyone involved with Oxfam feels empowered.

• **Honesty and realism.** We commit to actions that we can deliver on and communicate openly about priorities,
decisions and agreements.

• **Delivery.** We are focused on timely delivery of results.

## OXFAM’S APPROACH IN GHANA

Oxfam promotes ownership and partner-driven interventions in Ghana, with results, value for money and transparency as key guiding principles. Our approach and strategy in Ghana focus on:

• Combining long-term development, humanitarian assistance, campaigning and advocacy to tackle the root causes of poverty.
• Advocacy and facilitation, rather than direct service delivery.
• Supporting and strengthening credible Ghanaian movements to become better engaged in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the government’s policies.
• Strengthening local to national links in advocacy work and alliance-building.
• Emphasising the needs of women and vulnerable groups, facilitating linkages between women and producer organisations as well as other actors and services.
• Ensuring that Oxfam adds value to partners in terms of expertise and international links, to the benefit of both partners’ work in Ghana and Oxfam’s work elsewhere.
• Working collaboratively and openly with a wide range of allies.
• Measuring our impact, rather than the extent of our financing. This process aims to harmonise Oxfam’s work, create synergy and maximise impact.
• Supporting regional and global campaigns.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

In line with our vision for Ghana, the following changes are anticipated by 2015:

• Ghanaian citizens will benefit from accountable, natural resource governance that ensures the participation of poor women and men in decision-making and resource-allocation processes for sustainable development.
• More women and men small-scale producers will have a stronger voice in food and agriculture policy processes and become drivers of economic change through access to land and effective value chains.
• Ghana should meet its African Union commitments by investing 10% of its national budget in agriculture, ensuring small-scale farmers are prioritised in these investments.
• Men and women will have increased their resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change, through responses focusing on the livelihoods of poor women.
• Government of Ghana will have provided alternative sources of funding, including the implementation of the one-time National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) premium, to make quality health care accessible to poor women and men.
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS
THE GROW CAMPAIGN

BACKGROUND

The context and problem
There is a growing injustice in the global food production and distribution system. Current systems of production do not safeguard the environment for future generations. Inadequate support to smallholder agriculture, gender inequality, and land grabs are unfavourable to the large majority of the population. Even though government investment in agriculture is above 10% of the government’s budget, as promised in the 2003 African Union Maputo Declaration, this funding does not reach small-scale farmers. Land used by small-scale farmers is being sold for large-scale commercial agriculture which may not enhance food security or sovereignty. Climate change is further adding to the woes of the small-scale farmer.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The campaign and partners
Oxfam’s GROW campaign is active in 57 countries across the world, including Ghana. Its aim is a world in which everyone has enough to eat at all times and the environment is safeguarded. The campaign focuses on increasing investment in smallholder agriculture and securing access to land for small-scale farmers, especially women. In Oxfam, we work with and support partners to achieve maximum impact. Partners for the campaign in Ghana include Civil Society Coalition on Land (CICOL), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF-Ghana), Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) and SEND Ghana. In addition, allies including Farm Radio Ghana, ActionAid Ghana, Ghana Agriculture Workers Union, and Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition have joined the campaign.
The focus in 2012: Influencing election campaigning
Opposition parties and citizens in general demand accountability and fulfilment of the manifesto promises made by government. The GROW campaign thus worked to try to ensure that political parties’ 2012 election manifestos reflected the needs of the population, and catered to the priority needs of smallholder farmers. This included the following actions:

Influencing the national development agenda
Partners in the GROW campaign wanted to make sure the voices of small-scale farmers were present and clear in electoral debates, so they set out to develop a ‘Farmers’ Manifesto’ through consultation meetings with farmers’ groups, civil society organisations and political parties across the country. The manifesto included demands for:

- Greater quality investment in agriculture in favour of women and men small-scale farmers.
- Greater access to productive agricultural land by women and men small-scale farmers.
- Special attention for small-scale farmers in the implementation of existing agricultural policies.
- Sustainable economic development and investment plans.
- Acknowledgement and support of the central role of women in agricultural production.
Promoting the Farmers’ Manifesto

The Farmers’ Manifesto was launched and widely distributed among the public, as well as to presidential and parliamentary aspirants, to help ensure that the voices and opinions of farmers were reflected in political party manifestos. Representatives of farmers’ and civil society organisations met with political party leaders and their manifesto drafting committees, as well as key parliamentary candidates, to encourage them to include key issues in their visions for Ghana.

Forums were also held at community level for parliamentary candidates to interact with farmers and to encourage them to sign ‘pledge cards’ in support of small-scale agriculture, against which they would report back to communities if elected to office. The campaign also held policy dialogues with politicians and policy makers on policy options for smallholder agriculture development and food security in Ghana. The campaign participated in an event organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) for presidential candidates to present their policies to the electorate, and also contributed to the government’s 2013 Budget and Economic Policy Statement to highlight the issues raised in the Farmers’ Manifesto.

“We are interested in irrigation dams, farm inputs and factories that can absorb our produce.”

“The marginal contribution of agriculture to GDP is due to the use of rudimentary technology. The marginalisation of small-scale farmers in terms of investment, finance and rural infrastructure constitute the basic conditions for poverty of most Ghanaians.” Sylvester Bagooro, Third World Network-Africa
**Public and political engagements**

a) **International Rural Women’s Day (15 October 2012)**

The Farmers Organisation Network in Ghana and Development Action Association, with support from Oxfam in Ghana, ActionAid Ghana, UN Women, World Food Programme (WFP), Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and Yara celebrated the global Rural Women’s Day with an event on the theme “Empowerment and the Role of Rural Women in Poverty and Hunger Eradication”. This was attended by more than 1,000 rural women farmers from across Ghana, representatives from INGOs and civil society, donors, researchers, public and private media, chiefs and political parties.

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**Women’s dialogue (27th September 2012)**

The ‘Women’s Dialogue with Political Parties’ initiative at the College of Surgeons and Physicians in Accra was another major campaign activity during the year. This event, which was organised by WiLDAF with support from the GROW campaign, provided a platform for political parties contesting the 2012 elections to present their vision and intended policies to women, who form 51.4% of the Ghanaian population. More than 750 people attended, including representatives from faith-based organisations, small-scale farmers, and persons with disability. The political parties CPP, PNC and PPP were represented by their 2012 presidential candidates, while the GFP, NDC and NPP sent representatives to take part in the dialogue.

![Presidential candidates being interviewed at the Women’s Dialogue; credit: Oxfam](image1)

![Cross-section of women at the dialogue; credit: Oxfam](image2)

![Hon. Hawawu Gariba, (right) Dep. Min. of Women & Children Affairs; credit: Oxfam](image3)

![Participants at the Rural Women’s Day Celebration; credit: Oxfam](image4)
Key dignitaries who participated included the Deputy Minister for Women and Children Affairs, Hon. Hawawu Gariba Boya, who chaired the event; Cheryl Anderson, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director; Margaret Kyei Manu, Greater Accra Regional Director, Ministry of Food and Agriculture; and Nii Armah Tackie, Chief Executive, Ga West Municipal Assembly. Women smallholder farmers in Ghana used the opportunity to call for responsive government policies. Women’s empowerment will lead to much desired positive changes in the lives of families, communities and in the nation as whole.

Representatives of rural women participating in the event raised issues on:

- Rural women’s non-involvement in policy formulation.
- Challenges with land tenure.
- Need for irrigation for farming.
- Lack of access to basic farming equipment.
- Agricultural mechanisation.

The campaign supported partner organisations to enable women farmers to participate in the event. The women farmers showcased crops including vegetables, cereals, nuts, roots and tubers. The Deputy Minister and other dignitaries commended the women for an excellent display.
b. World Food Day (16 October 2012)
More than 2,000 women small-scale farmers and youth supported the campaign to mark World Food Day. In addition, the GROW campaign supported Economic Justice Network-Ghana to organise a live radio debate, “Call for Political Debate on Agrarian Transformation”. The programme brought issues of agriculture and rural transformation to the fore, and representatives of farmer organisations used the opportunity to state their position on agriculture in Ghana.

c) International Women’s Day (8 March 2013)
Oxfam in Ghana supported Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF-Ghana) and the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) to celebrate the 2013 International Women’s Day on the theme “Mainstreaming gender and women’s rights in agriculture and food policy programmes.” Women speaking at the event drew policy makers’ attention to key development issues related to ending poverty and injustice against vulnerable people. They expressed concern about a lack of social facilities for childcare, and the need for water and fuel wood to help improve their productivity.

d) Contributing to the government’s 2013 budget
GROW campaign members developed and submitted inputs into the Ghanaian government’s 2013 Budget and Economic Policy Statement. These concerned greater rights over productive land for small-scale women farmers and better quality investment in smallholder agriculture and food security. The campaign also highlighted the need for government to: improve public support for smallholder agriculture, address the constraints facing women farmers in particular, link research to agricultural extension services, improve access to mechanised tractor services, and credit, and focus attention on climate-resilient sustainable agriculture.

Building knowledge through research and policy development
Research to generate and strengthen evidence for the GROW campaign in Ghana was undertaken on women and small-scale producers’ rights to land. Factsheets were developed and distributed and communities engaged in the research. A study was also conducted relating the national land policy to the African Union Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy. The report will be used to engage the National House of Chiefs to address the persistent challenges in the land sector. Other studies centred on public and private sector investment in sustainable smallholder agriculture, social protection and food security in West Africa, and a gender audit of the national land policy and customary land practices.
ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

1. Greater profile for small-scale food producers in Ghana and the challenges they face. The launch of the Farmers’ Manifesto was widely covered in both print and electronic media.

2. Strengthened engagement with government and political parties. This included a meeting with 17 Directors of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture led by the Chief Director, and with three presidential and 12 parliamentary aspirants.

3. A stronger civil society movement for food security. Farmers and civil society organisations were strengthened to advocate for smallholder agriculture development and food security in Ghana.

4. Securing electoral commitments for food security. The CPP, NPP and PPP presidential aspirants as well as 12 parliamentary candidates signed and submitted pledge cards, while the NDC committed to further engage with the campaign on the issues in the Farmers’ Manifesto. These pledges included to improve access of smallholder farmers to appropriate agricultural technologies, irrigation facilities, tax incentives, low interest loans, roads infrastructure, and ready markets for agricultural produce, and the involvement of women farmers in decision making.

LESSONS AND CHALLENGES

Engaging politicians in an election year has clearly been a fruitful process. The Farmers’ Manifesto serves as a voice of smallholder farmers in Ghana and is an accountability tool that continues to be used after the 2012 elections.

Key challenges identified by the campaign include:
- Limited time and resources to respond to existing and emerging opportunities.
- A need to further strengthen coordination and collaboration amongst partners.
- A need to make the public face of the campaign more visible.
ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND LEARNING PROJECT

BACKGROUND

Upper West, Upper East and Northern regions record a high incidence of poverty and food insecurity, despite the overall growth of Ghana’s economy in recent years. Agriculture, the main source of livelihoods, is under serious threat due to climate change. Oxfam launched the Enhancing Livelihoods through Climate Change Adaptation and Learning Project (ELCAP) in April 2012 as a one-year pilot in eight farming communities in the East Mamprusi, Garu Tampane, Nandom and Nadowli districts. ELCAP has now been extended to 16 communities and up to 2015. Oxfam works with four national NGOs who implement the project to benefit a target of 3,000 farmers, 70% of whom are women.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The project seeks to enhance the capacity of rural communities to adapt to climate change in the following areas:

Securing the natural resource base – soil and water conservation

Beneficiaries in three communities planted 600 mango seedlings for vegetative cover and fruits. Women in Dambolteng nursed and supplied 4,000 acacia seedlings to their own and surrounding communities. In addition, 324 households in Yapala, Sumniboma and Gbanterego were supported to construct energy-saving stoves for cooking, contributing to a reduction in the use of wood for domestic fuel. Thirteen ‘fire squads’ comprising of 150 men and 99 women volunteers in six communities were trained and equipped to prevent and manage bushfires. At least 21 bushfires were put out by these volunteers in the dry season.
Enhancing food production and availability

The project facilitated the recovery of 1.5 acres of barren land through innovative farming methods learned from farmers in Burkina Faso. We supported 572 farmers by providing early maturing, drought tolerant and high yielding seed varieties of maize, beans, onions and watermelon seeds. Four women and one man were provided with a pair of bullocks and a plough each to help in land preparation, while six more women and one man were supplied with a donkey and cart to help farmers in three communities transport their produce. A total of 78 women and 62 men participated in farmer ‘field school’ sessions to facilitate farmer-to-farmer learning and adaption of improved farming techniques. These included minimal tillage, compost manure preparation, zai¹ method as well as ‘tie and ridging’ and stone bonding to secure soil fertility and retain limited rainwater on farmlands.

¹ Zai is a both soil and water conservation agricultural technique in which the farmer makes a hole on the farm, fills the hold with compost manure and covers it before seeds are sown. It allows for more efficient use of the manure.
Improving farmers’ income

Oxfam supported dry season gardening for 219 men and women farmers, by restoring spillways and transplanting vertiver grass on the embankments of two community mini-dams and providing training, seeds, farm implements, fertiliser and fungicides. We enhanced rural enterprises such as shea nut picking and processing, and supported livestock farming by providing 167 women and 18 men with 355 goats and pigs. In all, 421 people, mostly women, were able to better manage and invest their incomes through the formation of Village Savings and Loans Associations.

Advocacy to enhance communities’ adaptation to climate change

The project seeks not just to deliver services, but to empower and equip communities to engage with authorities to better access government and private sector services, and to shape their policies. Community groups were trained on advocacy skills and were linked with existing District Food Security Networks (DFSNs) to advocate for sustainable adaptation strategies. One new DFSN was created in Nandom District. Communities were able to speak out and highlight their demands in local media and community radio. Initial contacts have been established with Agriculture Mechanisation Service Centre (AMSEC), Savanna Accelerated Development Authority (SADA), the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and micro-finance organisations at the district level to facilitate links between farmers and service providers for inputs and services. Oxfam facilitated the participation of partners and communities at participatory scenario planning sessions in two districts, and at climate adaptation network meeting. These provided project communities with an opportunity to raise their concerns about climate change adaptation and food security with decision makers at district and national levels.
ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

There is evidence that the project is contributing to enhancing livelihoods and adaptation capacity to climate change. Some 1,600 farmers in eight communities are now more aware of climate change hazards and are learning and adapting soil and water conservation techniques, and using drought-tolerant seeds to mitigate the impact of climate change on their livelihoods. In two communities, 225 women are involved in rearing goats and pigs. Some 600 mango seedlings and 4,000 acacia seedlings have been planted to serve as windbreaks, as well as providing a source of food and income generation. Village Savings and Loans Associations have been revived and formed in four project communities with a membership of 421 women and men who are using savings to enhance their livelihoods security. These benefits have even spilled over to neighbouring communities, for example Zedung community members farmer field schools while Tibani community members also learned about dry season gardening.

These adaptation strategies are leading to greater food security among households in the community. For example, as a result of the project Jaratu Dasmani from Gbanterego in Gurum Tempani District of the Upper East Region of Ghana has increased her maize yield from just one or two to five sacks. She summarises the impact saying, “Good crop harvest here is everything. You will eat well and sell the surplus for income to take care of health, education, and social needs such as funerals.”

LESSONS AND CHALLENGES

Lessons learnt include:
• Farmer-to-farmer sharing of knowledge and skills facilitates direct and practical peer learning as well as complementing formal extension services and enhancing sustainability.
• Project implementation and benefits have a spill-over effect on neighbouring communities who may not be targeted by the interventions.
• ‘Zai’ farming methods proved effective at managing water and improving yields in project communities.

Challenges include:
• Limited access to or late arrival of fertiliser and farm inputs is a major setback to efforts to increase smallholder farmers’ productivity.
• Greater time and investment in advocacy is needed for the benefits of the project to be fully realised.
BACKGROUND

Access to health care is generally low in rural Ghana, due to a skewed distribution of health workers and facilities in favour of more affluent regions. Poor people cannot always afford out-of-pocket payments, which leads to preventable illnesses and deaths. The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was introduced in 2004 as an alternative health financing mechanism and as a social protection measure. It covers the direct costs of health care services and medicines for most common diseases in Ghana. With mandatory membership for all Ghanaians, the NHIS was set up to ensure universal access to quality health care and ultimately improve health outcomes.

However, by 2011, the NHIS was able to cover only 34% of the population. This means two-thirds of the population still pays out-of-pocket for their health care needs. There are several reasons for this, most notably the fact that the NHIS is unfair and is unable to provide health care for poor people. Many Ghanaians contribute to the NHIS through tax but do not benefit from the scheme because they cannot pay insurance premiums. The NHIS is in danger of reinforcing and perpetuating historical imbalances in access to quality health services across different regions in Ghana.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

Oxfam and our partners campaigned in the run-up to the 2012 elections, calling on political parties and the government to prioritise universal access to health care. Partners included Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), Essential Services Platform, the Coalition of NGOs in Health, and Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR).

The campaign ran various events and activities to mobilise members of the public to push for improvements in the implementation of the NHIS. Activities included the following.
National debate on tax-based financing

ISODEC and the Universal Access to Health Care Campaign (UHC), with support from Oxfam, organised a national debate on tax-based financing of health care at the British Council in Accra on 15 November 2012. The event was attended by 97 participants from the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, health service providers, civil society groups, political party representatives and the media.

The debate highlighted the fact that the scheme is in a state of financial distress, and that the poorest and most vulnerable people are still not covered by it. There was consensus that tax-based financing is key to ensuring the financial sustainability of the NHIS and enabling it to provide universal access to health care in Ghana.

Regional-level campaign activities

‘Health crisis’ talks and forums were held in five regions across the country: Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Northern and Upper East regions. The regional breakdown of the participants are shown in Fig. 1

The objectives of these talks were to share some facts about the NHIS with key stakeholders in the regions, discuss tax-based financing of the NHIS, and to demand sustainable universal access to health care for Ghanaians in the 2012 election. Recommendations of the health forums and crisis talks from the five regions included the following:
- Scrap the annual health insurance premium and adopt tax-based financing for predictable and sustainable financing of the NHIS.
- Improve NHIS funds by deducting 10% of the Road Fund, introducing a ‘sin tax’ on petrochemicals, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes etc, and by transforming the National Health Insurance Fund into a National Health Fund.
- Combine curative with preventive health care to reduce treatment costs.
- Expand health infrastructure, and resource it adequately to improve quality of care.
- Expand the coverage to include more diseases and illnesses.
- Release payments early to the health institutions to enable them to provide quality services to the general public.

National walk for universal access to health care
The Greater Accra regional branch of the Coalition of NGOs in Health, with support from the campaign secretariat and Oxfam, mobilised more than 300 women to march to the political party headquarters. There the women demanded universal health care free at the point of use, and called on politicians to sign the campaign pledge card as evidence of their commitment.

Engaging the public in the debate

Media
The campaign used various platforms to engage the general public. Two radio interview broadcasts were held on GBC radio about universal health care. A live discussion on Joy TV highlighted critical issues regarding access to health care and its financing, with a particular focus on the NHIS. Panellists on the programme included campaign coalition members, as well as representatives from the NPP and the NHIS. The campaign also analysed the health promises made in 2012 election manifestos in a “Manifesto Digest” broadcast on Joy TV, highlighting the implications of policy options and programmes proposed by the two leading parties. ‘TV crawlers’ rolled at prime times on GTV and Metro TV in November and December 2012, calling on the general public to text in their support for the Universal Health Care campaign.

Using SMS and social media
The campaign used its Facebook and Twitter accounts to share information with the general public.

public. In addition, bulk SMS messages were sent to about 22,500 people asking them to text their support for the Universal Health Care campaign to create a mass petition. About 6,174 subscribed by texting back in support of the campaign.

**Information, education and communication materials**

As part of the campaign strategy, 2,000 health manifestos and campaign stickers, and 1,000 pledge cards and petitions were developed, printed and disseminated in the Upper East, Northern, Brong Ahafo and the Greater Accra regions.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT**

- The campaign successfully contributed to making discussions on health care a major issue during the 2012 election. The political parties NDC, NPP, and CPP highlighted issues of NHIS and universal health care in their manifestos and prioritised health in their election campaigns.

- The three political parties also signed the campaign’s pledge cards, committing to prioritise universal access to health care free at the point of use should they win the elections. In addition to signing the pledge cards, the NDC promised to strengthen the NHIS and declared: “Our policy will prioritise access, equity, affordability, and inclusion ... the NDC government will make the NHIS truly national by phasing out the District Mutual Health Insurance Schemes and rolling out a one-time premium nationwide”. The NPP promised to spend a substantial amount of oil revenues on health care, while the CPP offered to support the Universal Health Care campaign if voted into power.

- In February 2013 the Ministry of Health publicly acknowledged that the campaign’s research report, “Achieving a Shared Goal”, led it to revise its coverage figures, now recognising that just 34% of Ghanaians were covered by the NHIS in 2011 – half the original assumption, and a spur to progressive reform.

- In response to the campaign’s calls for tax-based
financing, the NHIA, upon the directive from the president, convened national stakeholders’ meetings during which they made proposals to increase NHIS funding by:

a. Increasing the VAT levy by 1 – 1.5%.
b. Introducing a sin tax on petrochemical industries, tobacco and alcoholic products.
c. Using a proportion of the Road Fund.
d. Intensifying clinical audits of claims to eliminate corrupt practices within the scheme and to improve efficiency gains.

LESSONS AND CHALLENGES

• Progress has been made, but major reforms of the NHIS are still needed and will take time.
• The complexity and lack of transparency of party manifesto processes makes it difficult for civil society to effectively engage with the issue.
• Sustainable financing for civil society campaigning is difficult to attract.
BACKGROUND

In Ghana, 75 women die every week from pregnancy-related complications and childbirth. The Upper East region is one of the most remote and poorest areas in the country, and its health care indicators are significantly worse than the national average.

Oxfam in Ghana, in partnership with Participatory Action and Rural Development Alternatives (PARDA), piloted a maternal health project in six rural communities in three districts of the Upper East Region in 2011, following which the project was extended to 2015. The project communities include Sumbrungu and Zuarungu in Bolgatanga Municipality, Tanga and Sapelliga in Bawku West District, and Naaga and Gia in Kassena Nankana District.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the project are to:

• Raise awareness of citizens’ rights to health care, and enable women to demand their right to maternal and child health services.
• Raise the commitment of Ghanaian policy makers, opinion leaders, and decision makers on the enactment and enforcement of by-laws that will facilitate access to free maternal health care at the point of use.
• Build the capacity of at least 200 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and 15 midwives on the importance of antenatal and post-natal care, skilled delivery, identifying complications, and referral.

The following activities were carried out in the project communities during the reporting period.
Community training in first aid and nutrition
A total of 2,159 community members were trained on proper management of minor ailments and injuries, and good nutrition to improve health conditions. With knowledge from the first aid and nutrition training, TBAs and community health volunteers (CHVs) carried out door-to-door education in the project communities with information on the importance of balanced and healthy diets, directly reaching 11,307 people.

Mass education on reproductive health rights
Education on reproductive health rights was enhanced through radio programmes in three local languages, namely Kusal, Kasem, and Gurene, highlighting teenage pregnancy, family planning and obstetric fistula. Four episodes were aired at least four times in each local language, and complemented by community sensitisation exercises, reaching about 300 people in each of the communities.

Community/town hall meetings and debates
Community-level meetings were organised to engage community members, traditional authorities and opinion leaders to feed into maternal health care improvement in their respective communities. In all, 415 chiefs and community members participated. Discussions during town hall meetings included the role of health centres in reducing maternal mortality, how to sustain improvements in health care beyond the lifespan of the project, and how to adapt community by-laws to improve maternal health. The chiefs and elders expressed their support for maternal and child health in their communities.

"As for me and my community, we will continue to work to improve maternal and child health."
Naaga chief
Following the community-level meetings, a conference on “The relevance of by-laws in promoting maternal and child health” was held with chiefs, policy makers, opinion leaders, health care professionals, TBAs and representatives of Ghana Health Service (GHS) to consider the enactment and enforcement of by-laws to facilitate access to maternal and child health. In all, 36 males and 22 females participated in the conference, agreeing that by-laws were useful in enhancing maternal and child health in their communities.

Advocacy and lobbying training
Training in advocacy and lobbying, with the participation of assembly members, was carried out in each of the six communities to empower the CHVs and TBAs. A total of 122 community members (over 70% women) benefited from the trainings in all six communities.

Capacity building workshop for TBAs
A one-day training workshop was organised for 114 TBAs (over 90% female) in the six project catchment communities to build their capacity.

During the training TBAs were empowered to:
• Advocate for skilled deliveries.
• Identify early signs of labour for quick referrals.
• Advise pregnant women on ‘Safe Motherhood Practices’ such as early registration for antenatal care which will lead to close medical supervision of pregnant women and babies, and to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.
• Identify danger signs during pregnancies to facilitate early referral to the health centres.

Learning and sharing between TBAs and professional midwives
In all, 10 midwives and 125 TBAs took part in the training. This was a common platform for TBAs and GHS midwives to share experience and best practice in maternal health care and to learn from one another. The midwives provided further guidance to TBAs on key areas of concern, including care throughout pregnancy, during delivery, and after the birth.
Providing mobile phones to TBAs

TBAs were provided with 200 mobile phones, plus five Ghana Cedis (£1.67) in phone credit per month. This was in addition to the 50 phones previously supplied to TBAs, enabling them to make timely referrals and to link pregnant women and mothers to health centres.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

- By-laws were enacted in all six communities in favour of deliveries attended by health professionals.
- Knowledge of maternal health care services, reproductive health rights, nutrition and first aid has improved following the training and education, enabling communities to benefit from an increase in skilled maternal health services.
- Communities’ capacity to demand better services has been improved. For example, the community health centres of Tanga, Gia and Sapeliga have been able to lobby for a skilled midwife, a mini-labour room and a toilet facility for their respective health centres.
- CHVs, TBAs and community members are now better able to manage common ailments and injuries effectively.
- TBAs successfully referred 711 cases to the community health centres over the period, as indicated in Fig. 2. The overall effects are safer deliveries and a reduction in maternal deaths in the project communities.
CHALLENGES

• Pressure on health personnel due to staff shortages; for example, it was reported that the only midwife in Zuarungu Health Centre attended to deliveries for 48 hours virtually without rest.

• Lack of appropriate ambulance services within the communities and districts, an inadequate regular supply of drugs, and the poor state of some facilities at the health centres.

• Limited resources to consolidate achievement and scale up.

• Border communities have difficulty with mobile telecommunication.

LESSONS LEARNT

There is the need to maintain a good campaign secretariat to coordinate the campaign.
BACKGROUND

Ghana struck oil in commercial quantity in 2007 and started production in 2010. In addition, an important new field was discovered by Tullow and partners in 2010 with the potential for extraction of 1.4 billion barrels.

Legislation delivered by the government – notably the Petroleum Revenue Management Act 815 and the Petroleum Commission Act 821 – do contain important transparency provisions, such as the disclosure of company payments and the establishment of a Public Interest and Accountability Committee. Yet at the same time, they provide wide discretion to the Minister for Energy in setting policy, developing regulations and negotiating licences in contracts. No open and competitive licensing process or contracts disclosure is required.

Transparency and accountability in the oil and gas sector is essential to avoid the ‘resource curse’ in Ghana and to counter unrealistic expectations by Ghanaians of concrete benefits from the oil sector. As such, there are important improvements to be made in the management of Ghana’s resources, as well as in ensuring that revenues are well spent as part of medium- and long-term investment plans and do not lead to a reduction in efforts to support and raise revenues from other parts of the economy, as can happen when countries experience resource booms. Civil society organisations such as the Platform on Oil and Gas are essential in efforts to ensure integrity and accountability in the oil and gas sector.

Oxfam continued to build on our extractive industry programme, adapting to new situations during this early phase of Ghana’s oil production. We also expanded the programme to include some work on mining sector revenue, focusing on supporting civil society to participate in the management of Ghana’s oil and mining revenues at local and
national levels. The programme works in five interrelated areas:

1. Strengthening the civil society organisation Platform on Oil and Gas.
2. Supporting civil society monitoring of oil revenue collection and management, and influencing government expenditure, budgeting and national-level development.
4. Building the campaigning capacity of oil and mining civil society organisations.
5. Supporting global policy, research and campaign activities designed to influence Ghana’s management of its extractive industries.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Supporting the Public Interest and Accountability Committee

The Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) was inaugurated in September 2011 and held its first formal meeting in October 2011. The committee has 13 members, including a representative of the Platform on Oil and Gas. Oxfam has been coordinating with Revenue Watch Institute and other donors – including USAID – about how best to support this new watchdog as well as individual members on the PIAC. In October 2012, Oxfam made a US $25,000 grant through the Ghana Trades Union Congress to support PIAC activities.

In collaboration with Revenue Watch Institute, Oxfam arranged the Washington DC launch of the PIAC’s first report in June 2012 at an event attended by more than 50 participants representing international financial institutions, the US government, companies, donors and civil society. In addition, more than 250 people watched the webcast of the event online. The report, Can Oil and Accountability Mix? Ghana’s Experiment with Citizen Oversight of Petroleum Revenues, takes a comparative look at the projections made for oil revenues in 2011 against actual receipts; considers the roles assigned to the different institutions within the Petroleum Revenue Management Law; and finally, passes a critique of the projections made for 2012. Oxfam also facilitated meetings of PIAC’s Chair with representatives of the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, and State Department to share the findings of the report and to explore ways in which these stakeholders could be of support.

Technical assistance to civil society on the Petroleum Management Act

Oxfam in Ghana supported the Platform on Oil and Gas in its efforts to ensure strong implementation of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act. Oxfam provided technical legal assistance to the Platform

3 www.piacghana.org
4 http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/23004527
to draw up proposed “legislative instruments”, or implementing regulations, to ensure that the laws will be well implemented. We also supported a civil society workshop on the Petroleum Revenue Management Act implementation, which included presentations by lawyers from Baker Hostetler in New York on approaches for legislative instruments to implement the Act.

**Tracking the expenditure of revenues**

Oxfam supported SEND-Ghana and Friends of the Nation to pilot a district assembly-level budget and expenditure monitoring programme, which began in 2011. The project was implemented in the Jomoro District and Tarkwa-Nsuaem District in the Western Region, and the Tolon Kumbungu District in the Northern Region.5

**Engaging in the 2012 elections**

The general elections in 2012 provided a context for civil society to bring key oil sector issues into the public debate. The Platform on Oil and Gas and its members used the opportunity to encourage the adoption of oil transparency and accountability safeguards. Recommendations were made to all political parties and translated into commitments by the NDC and the NPP as part of their manifestos, serving as the basis for demanding accountability in the oil and gas sector from the new government.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT**

Oxfam in Ghana contributed to participation of the Platform on Oil and Gas and other civil society organisations in the development and monitoring of transparent and accountable government systems for managing and spending Ghana’s oil and mining revenues at national and district levels. In a significant step, the government published its most important contracts with oil companies on the Ministry of Energy website. These gains are a direct result of a strong civil society coalition and the actions of civil society groups within Ghana. Oxfam in Ghana is strengthening these groups in order to contribute to long-term solutions that will benefit Ghana and other countries facing similar circumstances.

**LESSONS AND CHALLENGES**

The new phase of work following a successful phase of legislative reforms required another set of specialised skills and knowledge capacity which is currently very limited among civil society groups, particularly those working in Ghana’s oil governance issues.

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BACKGROUND

Oxfam is a global leader in responding to humanitarian emergencies, alongside and linked to our advocacy and longer-term development work. Oxfam believes that all people have the right to live with dignity, and therefore a right to protection and assistance in the event of a humanitarian crisis. We save lives by providing aid, support and protection during emergencies.

In Ghana, Oxfam has no current humanitarian operations and believes that the State has the capacity and responsibility to respond to disasters. Our role is to help build capacity and engage in policy advocacy to ensure governments and other stakeholders respond effectively to humanitarian crises and address the needs of victims when disasters occur.

Oxfam is also seeking to strengthen our work on disaster risk reduction in Ghana, building on the experiences of the Enhancing Livelihoods through Climate Change Adaptation and Learning Project (ELCAP) in the northern regions. During the year, we conducted a disaster risk reduction assessment, providing an overview of the hazards in Ghana and the actors involved in disaster risk reduction. The assessment should support the further development of programmes to enhance sustainable livelihoods and mitigate the impacts of climate change and related potential disasters.
GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Oxfam aims to put poor women’s rights at the heart of all we do. Gender is at the centre of every aspect of our work in Ghana including essential services, economic justice and extractive industries. Gender inequality is a major barrier to ending poverty. This is why we contribute to ending all forms of gender inequality and promote the role of women in all our programmes by changing attitudes, providing business opportunities and training, and introducing new technologies.

We give women priority in our development programmes. While the maternal health project is obviously focused on women, 70% of those benefiting from the Enhancing Livelihoods through Climate Change Adaptation and Learning Project (ELCAP) are women. This includes the formation of women’s savings and loans groups, support for rearing goats and pigs, dry season gardening and much more. Advocacy for equal access to productive resources is contributing to some men giving land to their wives for farming. In the GROW campaign, specific emphasis is placed on women’s access to land and other agricultural productive resources. We take advantage of special occasions such as International Rural Women’s Day and International Women’s Day to draw the attention of policy makers to the special needs of women small-scale farmers. We also used dialogue with the media to raise awareness of these issues, while our alliances with gender-centred organisations such as WiLDAF and ActionAid mean we can push the case of gender equality together.

Building our own and partners’ capacity

Oxfam in Ghana works with partners to achieve the greatest possible impact on the lives of poor people. It is in our interest to have highly skilled
and motivated partners to work with. An evaluation of Oxfam’s partners’ capacity in monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning in August 2012 revealed an increase in partners’ focus on the process approach in project implementation. Oxfam organised a results-based management workshop for our staff and partners to improve on project delivery and monitoring of impact, including outcome tracing, documentation, learning and reporting. A total of 21 participants from six partners took part in the workshop.

In February 2013, Oxfam organised gender training for our partners and staff aimed at improving gender planning and mainstreaming in our programmes and in the social and institutional contexts in which we live and work. Topics included the importance of gender analysis in development programming, the application of gender planning tools, an introduction to gender-responsive budgeting, and promoting gender equality within our organisations.

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6 Participatory Action and Rural Development Alternatives (PARDA), Partners in Rural Empowerment and Development (PARED) Presbyterian Agricultural Services – Garu (PAS-G) Professional Network North (ProNet North)
Country Learning Review

Annual Country Learning Reviews are part of Oxfam’s Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system. This year’s review was focused on ‘active citizenship and social movements’. The overall objective of the review was to identify, share and learn from the key challenges in our work and how we dealt with them. It gave us the opportunity to analyse the impact of our work on target communities and explore how that can be increased.

More than 40 activists, advocates, and community members participated in this year’s review in Accra in March 2013. In addition to reflecting on the successes, challenges and lessons of Oxfam-supported projects, discussions focused on how to build active citizenship and effective movements, with important insights and lessons drawn from the Domestic Violence Coalition and the Ghana Trades Union Congress.

Nandom Deanery Integrated Rural Development Programme (NANDIRDEP) 
Women and Orphans Movement (WOM)
HUMAN RESOURCES
In 2012/13 we welcomed four new staff:
Ewurabena Yanyi Akofur, Programme Quality and Accountability Officer, Lillian Kuutiero Mwintome, Agriculture Advocacy Officer, Mawuse Agblobi, Business Services Manager and Dominic Deme-Der, Research and Policy Manager.
We also said our thanks and farewells to three others: Michael Kuma, Business Services Manager, Rosemary Anderson Akolaa, Health Advocacy Manager, and Albert Abraham Arhin, Research and Policy Manager.
We also owe thanks to the volunteers who generously supported Oxfam in various capacities: Salamatu Abudukari, Mona Iddrisu, Linda Boateng, Bismark Bisala and Joshua Gumah.

FINANCE
Total funding of £914,075.39 (GHS 2,742,226.17) was received to facilitate the implementation of Oxfam’s work in Ghana. A total amount of £418,000 (GHS 1,254,000) was received from Oxfam’s internal sources, whilst £472,922.89 (GHS 1,418,768.67) was received from donors including supporter marketing funding team, Flora Hewlett Foundation, etc. Of the total amount received, 13.25% was spent on programme management and administration, i.e. for every £100, only £13.25 was spent on management and administration while £86.75 directly benefited community members and partners.
Of the total agric budget, 64% was spent on supporting livelihood resilience and empowerment against climate change while the remaining 36% was spent on advocacy for increased investment in favour of small scale farmers and access to productive resources.

Similarly, of the total amount spent on health, 55% went into improving maternal health care while the remaining 45% was spent on universal access to health care campaign.

In addition, £28,350.00 of the Oxfam America’s expenditure was spent on support to the GROW campaign in Ghana.
In 2013/14 we hope to continue to strengthen our contribution to the fight against poverty and inequality in Ghana. All campaigns will work to follow up on the promises made by politicians during the 2012 elections, and to seek greater investment and accountability. The GROW campaign will press for more targeted investments in small-scale farmers and better access to land, while there are key opportunities ahead to better manage and use the revenues raised by the country’s oil and gas.

Led by a vibrant civil society coalition, the Universal Health Care campaign will seek to build on the government’s recognition that the current system is not serving poor people in order to seek reform. Supported by the Zochonis Charitable Trust, Oxfam will continue to support work to improve maternal and child health in the Upper East Region. We will also seek to build on our experiences of the ELCAP project to identify effective ways to enable more people – especially women – to adapt their livelihoods to the growing challenge of climate change, incorporating a stronger element of disaster risk reduction. We will seek to be more open and accountable, and to better monitor and evaluate the work that we do, to strengthen our support to vulnerable people in Ghana.
NATIONAL PARTNERS
African Center for energy policy (ACEP)
Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR)
Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL)
Civil Society Coalition on Land (CICOL)
Friends of the Nation (FON)
Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
Integrated Social Development Center (ISODEC)
Nandom Denary Integrated Rural Development Programme (NANDIRDEP)
Participatory Action for Rural Development Alternatives (PARDA)
Partners in Rural Empowerment and Development (PARED)
Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG)
Presbyterian Agricultural Station, Garu (PAS-G)
Professional Network, North (ProNet-North)
SEND-Ghana
Shea Network-Ghana
Wacam
Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) Ghana
Trade Union Congress (TUC), Ghana

COLLABORATORS
ActionAid Ghana
CARE International
Essential Services Platform
Ghana Agriculture Workers Union (GAWU)
Ghana Government Agencies
Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition (GTLC)
Farm Radio International (FRI) Ghana
Northern Ghana Community Action Fund (NORCCAF)
Trade Aid Integrated
Women and Orphans Movement (WOM)
World Vision International, Ghana

DONORS
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation,
Others

CONTACT ADDRESS
Oxfam in Ghana
PMB, 56 KIA, Accra
Office location: 9 Ambassadorial Extension
Roman Ridge Accra
Tel: +233 302 761 343/ +233 244 317284
www.oxfaminternational.org/www.oxfam.org/
ghana www.oxfamamerica.org