



## WELCOME

Issue no 2 April-2023

## Contents



*Regina Bauerochse, GIZ Ghana Country Director*

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to welcome you to the second edition of the 2023 News Bulletin. As always, we have exciting success stories from both the projects and the country office to share with you.

Mechanical and electrical equipment, like air conditions, is necessary for the operation of buildings. At the same time, it consumes a lot of energy and is thus responsible for high CO2

emissions. How can this be changed? That's what the SustainE4Climate project shows, which is now building a nearly zero energy building together with the Energy Commission. You can read more about it in our "From the projects" section.

Eva Andoful is a remarkable graphic and fashion designer who overcomes her physical disability with impressive resilience. She received support through a digital skills and digital literacy training for people with disabilities funded by the Digital Transformation Center Ghana (DTC). Read the success stories to find out what she learned from the training and how it has benefited her professionally and also how cashew farmer Haruna Alhassan managed to double his yield of five sacks of cashews through the interventions of our projects.

Such incredible results demonstrate the impact of our work on the lives and livelihoods of people in the communities where we operate.

In conclusion, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of our News Bulletin, which is filled with exciting and diverse topics that showcase our work's impact. We remain committed to driving meaningful change in the communities where we work.

Yours

Regina Bauerochse

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# News from Projects

The ESC provides renewable energy and energy efficiency services on a new website.



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**WE GIVE YOU THE GREEN LIGHT**

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german cooperation  
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Switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy is of great benefit to businesses. It is clean, less expensive to produce and climate friendly.

The adoption of energy efficiency has proved to yield significant savings in energy, making it one of the best ways to reduce production cost and increase profitability for businesses.

To deepen the awareness of businesses in the private sector of the benefits of renewable energy and support them in making the switch, the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) operates the Energy Service Centre (ESC) to provide businesses advisory services on renewable energy and energy efficiency with the support of the SustainE4Climate project. The centre has recently launched an interactive [website](#) to help reach more potential customers and facilitate their access to AGI-ESC's services.

The website not only provides information on service offers, but also has, among other things, an energy savings calculator and a portal for green jobs, which aims to connect companies and trained professionals in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The objective of the website is also to attract customers for the ESC to generate the revenue needed to become self-sustaining and continue to provide quality renewable energy and energy efficiency services. In this way, the centre aims to achieve its contribution to Ghana's climate goals. If you want to see for yourself how much energy you use and where there is potential for savings, you can try out the AGI-ESC's [energy-saving calculator](#). [thomas.tisong@giz.de](mailto:thomas.tisong@giz.de)

SE4C and the Energy Commission are building a nearly zero energy building in Accra.



The buildings and construction sector accounted for 38% of global energy-related CO2 emissions in 2019. Energy demand and emissions from buildings are expected to continue to grow strongly. Especially in hot climate countries, where strong population growth and increasing affluence will lead to higher energy demand, especially for indoor air conditioning in hot climates. Therefore, sustainable change in this sector is essential and there are already opportunities for transformation. To showcase this potential, the SE4C project is constructing the nearly zero energy building (nZEB) in collaboration with the Energy Commission of Ghana.

In a tropical country with high humidity and consistently high temperatures, achieving an energy-efficient building with minimal energy requirements can be a challenge.

The designers of the nZEB were faced with this challenge and opted for a combination of passive and active measures. The passive approach aims to reduce the buildings energy consumption by utilizing natural environmental factors. For example, the building is designed with a compact volume, the roof shades the façade, and the building's orientation facilitates natural ventilation. To complement the building's design, active measures have been implemented, including a solar plant that generates most of the building's required electricity. Furthermore, energy-efficient lighting and intelligent cooling strategies help to reduce energy consumption. The measures are proving to be successful as the building is generating additional green energy that can be fed into the grid. [cornelius.odai@giz.de](mailto:cornelius.odai@giz.de)

*eSkills4Girls laboratory*

## E-skills for Girls Laboratory handed over to Takoradi Technical University.

Reshma Saujani, American lawyer, politician and founder of the non-profit organization Girls Who Code, once said, *"If you teach one girl how to code, she will teach three more people."*

Information and communications technology (ICT) has become a fast-growing sector in the career field. Previously being male dominated, many reforms have been introduced to equip the girl child with knowledge in ICT.

In a ceremony on April 13, a delegation from the Project to Support the Transformation of the Vocational Education and Training System in Ghana, led by Program Manager Silke Partner, handed over the ICT Lab "E-Skills for Girls" to the Takoradi University of Technology. As a result, the part of the project objectives "Promoting women's participation in the digital ecosystem" has been achieved.

The ICT lab has been equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and is only available to girls, to encourage female participation in the digital space. Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor of the school, Reverend John Frank Eshun, touched on how grateful the school was for the continuous support being received and lauded the added-on facility as an avenue to improve female participation in campus activities.

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*Dr Charity Sarpong receives PSA Testing Devices from GIZ*

## Boosting Men's Health under the Prostate cancer Project

The Greater Accra Regional Director of Health Services, Dr. Charity Sarpong, is leading an initiative to promote men's health with the aid of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Testing Devices.

The devices have been donated to eight health facilities in the Greater Accra Region by the German chemical and pharmaceutical group, Bayer AG and GIZ. Additionally, 2,450 cartridges were donated under the "Piloting Early Diagnosis of Prostate Cancer in Selected Underserved Communities in Greater Accra Region" project. PSA Testing is a blood test that measures the amount of prostate-specific antigen in the blood and is used to screen for prostate cancer.

The aim is to detect and manage prostate cancer early and reduce the rate of late presentation. The beneficiary health facilities will undergo technical and user training to better operate the equipment. Dr. Sarpong expressed excitement that men's health is gradually gaining attention, noting that the focus has mainly been on women with cervical and breast cancer issues. She praised the partners for their support and for bringing men's health to the forefront.

Dr. Kennedy Brightson, Medical Superintendent of Shai Osudoku Hospital, expressed gratitude on behalf of the recipient facilities and highlighted the importance of the PSA Testing Devices. He emphasized the need for health education and community screening, as prostate cancer often afflicts men who suffer in silence and only seek help when it is almost too late.

With the donated equipment, health facilities can power the machine, take samples, and determine whether a patient is positive or negative. This will enable appropriate referrals for further investigations and case management. The PSA Testing Devices are expected to play a significant role in preventing prostate cancer and improving the quality of life for men in the Greater Accra Region.

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*Health screening at Haatso*

## Promoting healthy lifestyle in Haatso and surroundings

Academic City University College, in collaboration with partners GIZ, Appointed Time Printing, Ga East Municipal Assembly, and Add Pharmacy, last week organised a free medical screening event to promote healthy living in the Haatso environs. The initiative aimed to provide members of the university community and people within the vicinity with access to valuable health information and services to help them maintain good health and prevent illnesses.

The event, which attracted about 1,132 people, including students, staff, and residents from Haatso, Bohye, and the surrounding areas, offered free screening services for blood sugar, eyes, dental, cholesterol, hepatitis B testing and vaccination, and COVID-19 vaccination. In total, 596 people were screened, and another 536 were enrolled in the National Health Insurance Scheme. Participants also had the opportunity to consult with medical professionals and receive health advice and tips on how to maintain good health.

The Municipal Chief Executive of Ga East, Elizabeth Kaakie Mann, commended the partners for promoting healthy living in the community and encouraged everyone to take charge of their health and embrace preventive measures. One of the participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to check their health status and receive advice on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This initiative is part of the COVID-19: Comprehensive Pandemic Management for Employees, Families, and Communities project with the objective to ensure pandemic preparedness of companies and municipal and district assemblies for better epidemic response and that communities and employees of companies partnering in the project are resilient and ready to withstand future pandemic. [Yaya.souare@giz.de](mailto:Yaya.souare@giz.de)

*Contributing to proper waste management*

## Pandemic management projects on course

Partners in the mining sector who are working with the GIZ developPPP team on one of its two Pandemic Management projects are happy with pace of implementation and achievements so far. This was revealed when Project Manager Helene Widmer visited the partners on the COVID-19: Pandemic Management in Times of COVID-19 and Beyond project and the respective catchment communities.

The Project objective is to strengthen economic and health resilience of partner catchment communities. Already about 40,000 residents have been screened for various non-communicable diseases and referred for further case management.

Medical equipment such as CPAP ventilators for breathing support, neo-natal resuscitation devices and patient trolleys have also been procured and distributed while 30,000 community members have been enrolled onto the National Health Insurance Scheme.

As part of the second Pandemic Management project under which GIZ partners with companies in non-extractive industries, fifty junior and senior high schools in the Volta and Eastern regions can now better manage their waste and observe good hygiene practices.

Appointed Time Printing (ATP) together with GIZ donated 90 handwashing stations and 90 waste bins to the schools. In addition, there were two garbage collecting tricycles, and one garbage pressing machine. The University of Environment and Sustainable Development also benefitted from the donation. This action is in furtherance of project objective to increase the health and economic resilience of employees of the private companies and their families.

Waste management especially plastics remain poor in many schools. The fifty schools dotted across fifteen districts will now dump their plastics in the waste bins. The University which would oversee the tricycles would then collect and using the pressing machine, compress the waste for onward refinement and reuse. [Mary.bonsu@giz.de](mailto:Mary.bonsu@giz.de)



*Mrs Rashida of WiAD-UWR shares her expertise on empowering women in agriculture.*

## EUGAP Empowers Women in Agriculture on International Women's Day Celebration in WA

In commemoration of the 2023 International Women's Day, the European Union Ghana Agriculture Programme (EUGAP) and its partners celebrated women's achievements in agriculture and local governance.

Through its MOAP NW and REACH projects, EUGAP launched a social media campaign that showcased smallholder women farmers who have embraced innovations in their farming activities and women leaders making waves in the Upper West Region.

To further unveil opportunities for women in the agriculture sector, EUGAP embarked on a radio campaign. During a radio [discussion](#), Mrs. Charity Baature, Regional Director for the Department of Gender, commended EUGAP for providing handheld push planters to smallholder farmers, reducing their workload and allowing them to attend to other tasks.

With a push planter it takes 4 hours for a woman to plant a one-acre field. With manual work it takes four people for 6-7 hours to plant the same acre. Furthermore, (female) farmers have generated additional income through the rental of the planter to other farmers. The celebration concluded in a brief event, themed "*Innovation and Technology - Opportunities for Women in Agric*," which brought together over 100 EUGAP beneficiaries in farming, agribusiness, and local governance. Speaking at the event, the EUGAP Coordinator, Mr. Abu Huudu, highlighted the programme's commitment to empowering women: The program provides women with access to finance, training, and information through innovative digital platforms. Furthermore, the EUGAP-financed radio programs help women farmers in getting real-time information on good agricultural practices, markets, and prices. Participants shared their experiences on the importance of technology in agriculture and business and the positive impact of EUGAP on their businesses. ☎ [matthias.berthold@giz.de](mailto:matthias.berthold@giz.de)



*Ekumfi pineapple farm*

## Improving Supply Chain Management of Ghanaian Agro-Processors

The AgriBiz programme, in partnership with MoTI, has supported the capacitation of 16 contract farming trainers (General Managers of Business Resource Centers and MoTI staff) over a period of five weeks in Kumasi.

The training of trainers was a 3-phase programme that included field visits and practical exercises with Ghanaian companies that currently have challenges with their raw material supply chains. One of the major challenges for agro-processing companies in Ghana is the timely and reliable supply of raw materials in good quality.

To resolve this challenge, the contract farming trainers will be linked to interested companies who have applied for process facilitation towards inclusive contract farming arrangements. Contract farming trainers and company owners/managers will implement an action plan together in order to improve inclusive contract farming arrangements between the companies and farmer-based organizations (FBOs) representing the producer base. This way both parties enjoy a win-win situation by farmers having a clear understanding of the quality standards required by the buyer, a reliable market and transparent sales processes and the company having timely delivered reliable supplies of raw materials of the right quality.

Four different companies that work with about 700 farmers, were also trained in contract farming management. The aim was to enhance the matchmaking. The beneficiaries created detailed action plans to improve inclusive contract farming arrangements between companies and farmer-based organizations (FBOs). The implementation of the action plans will be facilitated over the next months by the trained facilitators. ☎ [Christoph.Pannhausen@afci.de](mailto:Christoph.Pannhausen@afci.de)



## EU REACH exhibits at National Climate Change and Green Economy Week

The EU REACH Project joined other organizations at the National Climate Change and Green Economy Week exhibition in Accra, Ghana, to share knowledge and collaborate on combating climate change and promoting sustainable economic growth.

With Northern Ghana facing increasing threat of climate change, the EU REACH Project showcased its critical interventions in promoting agroforestry, such as the distribution of 46,000 cashew seedlings to farmers.

This intervention is essential for achieving sustainable economic growth and reducing the region's vulnerability to climate change impacts, including droughts and floods, which have significant socio-economic consequences.

The project's participation in the exhibition also provided an opportunity to educate patrons on the importance of planting trees as a climate change mitigation measure, with free seedlings distributed, including varieties such as English Groundnut, Portia, and Tree of Life. 📧 [Matthias.berthold@giz.de](mailto:Matthias.berthold@giz.de)



*Workshop on E-commerce*

## Connecting Ghanaian Businesses Online, Through E-Commerce.

The Pan-African E-Commerce Initiative (PeCI) recently organized a three-day Training-of-Trainers (ToT) workshop in Ghana aimed at mentoring and coaching micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), entrepreneurs, and startups to engage in e-commerce.

The workshop was designed to enable women entrepreneurs, who often have limited access to the internet and mobile phones, to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge required to participate in e-commerce.

During the interactive sessions, representatives from 13 intermediary organizations, such as associations and business hubs, from different parts of the country engaged in informative discussions on the challenges that average businesses, especially those led by women, face while engaging in e-commerce. The workshop highlighted the potential of e-commerce to help MSMEs and startups expand and grow their businesses, especially in Africa, and reach new markets.

E-commerce provides an opportunity for women entrepreneurs, who traditionally face a double burden of taking care of their families and their businesses, to expand their businesses without leaving their homes or cities. The ToT program aims to equip intermediary organizations with the knowledge and tools to include e-commerce training in their portfolios, with a special focus on building the capacities of female trainers.

The upcoming ToT session in May will focus on environmentally sustainable business practices such as reusable packaging and strategies that MSMEs can adopt when scaling up their e-commerce businesses. With the right set of skills and support, MSMEs and startups can build thriving online businesses, and e-commerce can offer women entrepreneurs access to wider markets and the opportunity to impact their communities positively. 📧 [emmanuel.mumuni@giz.de](mailto:emmanuel.mumuni@giz.de)





## Gender Mainstreaming key for development of local assemblies

Inclusion is a prerequisite for holistic development. Gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting have become key requirements for good governance for district assemblies in Ghana.

Gender mainstreaming is the process of considering the needs and interests of both men and women when making plans and policies, so that men and women are treated equally. Also, gender budgeting is creating, preparing and analyzing budget from a gender perspective.

Over the past four years, the Governance for Inclusive Development (GovID) programme has built the capacities of partner districts in vulnerability analysis, planning, and budgeting, which helped MMDAs design gender profiles that influence their plans and budgets. The result reflects in the fact that partner districts are scoring higher points in the gender criterium aspect (at least 20% in terms of women participation) of the District Performance Assessment Tool (DPAT) than before.

DPAT is an annual assessment of districts' performance in delivering their mandate that determines the allocation of grants under the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF). The DPAT implemented by KfW also assesses aspects of gender mainstreaming and budgeting. In Jaman North District Assembly for example, the allocated funds from central government increased from **1,03 million GHS** in 2021 to **1,55 million GHS** in 2022 through the improved scores in the DPAT assessment. Also, the Kwahu West Municipal Assembly won a project funded by the Canadian High Commission and the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) to empower women to participate in local politics. This was due to their 'inclusion of gender related lines in our action plans and budgets due to our involvement with the GovID program' says the planning officer. [jens.hamlicher@giz.de](mailto:jens.hamlicher@giz.de)



*Contract and Construction Audit Training for partner MMDAs*

## Support for Audit Committee Meetings: Moving Audit Committees from Establishment to Activation

Improving public financial accountability is vital for inclusive development. The Public Financial Management (PFM) Act, 2016 introduced Audit Committee (AC) in covered entities to replace the Audit Report Implementation Committee (ARIC) due to lack of independent judgement. The AC is responsible for oversight of the internal audit function, financial reporting process and disclosure, and receipt of both internal and external audit reports. They support covered entities to implement good financial management practices at the national and subnational levels.

Despite the potential for good performance, lack of resources hinders ACs from meeting regularly as required. To bridge this gap, the Governance for Inclusive Development (GovID) programme provided temporary funding to absorb travel and accommodation costs for external members of the Audit Committees. This allowed them to hold regular meetings, resulting in better implementation of recommendations and increased verification of infrastructural projects.

GovID initially supported 15 ACs and has now increased to around 80, with the aim of reaching 100. The Committees now meet a minimum of twice a year and in some cases up to four times a year. This has led to a significant increase in implementation of recommendations, from 54% in 2018 to about 80% in partner districts. Audit Committee members can now undertake field verification of problematic infrastructural projects cited in audit reports.

The Intervention has seen strengthening of Internal Controls and increased the implementation of Audit Recommendations in partner districts. This success represents a major milestone, and efforts are ongoing to sustain the gains made by GovID.

*Stakeholder workshop*

## Towards a greener, more inclusive future for employment creation: PFS and partners plan for success.

How to improve the employment situation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Ghana? To discuss about solutions for this objective the Support to the Private and Financial Sector (PFS) programme organized a workshop for key stakeholders in the private and financial sectors.

Participants from political and implementing partners, agencies and associations discussed about ideas and solutions, with a particular focus on increasing access for MSMEs to finance, developing business development skills, promoting gender equity, promoting employment services and promoting green and inclusive businesses.

The Support to the Private and Financial Sector (PFS) programme is committed to enhancing its collaboration with stakeholders to develop regional networks for MSME growth, promote green and inclusive businesses, and support local vaccine production in Ghana. With the new programme, PFS aims to strengthen its impact on the private and financial sectors in Ghana and make a meaningful contribution towards creating an enabling environment for MSMEs to thrive.

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*Example of Drug Trafficking Modules using basket*

## Protecting Ghana One Package at a Time

Ghana remains a transit and destination point for illicit drugs trafficked from Asia and South America to other African nations.

To raise awareness on the matter, the Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission (PCSRC) and Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC) held a one-day training with various licensed courier service operators in Accra.

Courier operators were encouraged to work with PCSRC and NACOC to help combat the illicit use of courier services to transport narcotics and contraband. To raise awareness and promote best practices, the PCSRC and NACOC with support from the Pan-African E-Commerce Initiative (PeCI) jointly organized this workshop as a collaborative measure to build trust in the courier services in Ghana.

The training session was designed to educate courier operators on the dangers of transporting illegal goods and thereby to create a safer environment for all involved. The workshop covered topics such as the legal implications of transporting narcotics and contraband, the risks of being caught, and the importance of adhering to safety protocols. Additionally, the session provided guidance on how to identify suspicious packages and how to report them to the authorities.

The Director of Operations at NACOC, Stanley Eyor urged courier service operators to be vigilant as the law is clear when dealing with the transportation of illegal substances. Madam Hamda Zakaria, Executive Secretary of PCSRC was hopeful that these training sessions will help to reduce the number of illegal goods being transported via courier services.

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## FEMALE PERSONALITY SPOTLIGHT – Harriet Gyan



Harriet has had an illustrious 15-year career in the development space, during which time she has developed a keen understanding of what it takes to succeed in this demanding field. She firmly believes that being passionate about your work, building strong networks and relationships, and, above all, being results-oriented are the keys to success.

In May 2017, Harriet joined the GIZ Governance Programme as a Technical Advisor, at a time when she was also a mother of two. Balancing family life and a career was a significant challenge, particularly when there were expectations from both sides. However, her strong desire to achieve results and her unwavering commitment to doing her best, regardless of the circumstances, kept her motivated. According to Harriet, "Once you are assigned a task, it is only because the person assigning you the task has confidence in your skills and abilities, and trusts that you will deliver, irrespective of your gender and role. Once this is set in place, it is now your duty to strategize, give off your best, and achieve those expected results."

Harriet is currently the Senior Regional Coordinator for the Accountability and Resources Governance Component of the GovID Programme, where she leads a team of seven technical staff stationed across the country. She holds a Master's in Public Policy and Research from the Centre for Social Policy Studies of the University of Ghana. As the only girl in her family, Harriet learned to take on responsibilities at an early age, which she believes has positively impacted her responsiveness to duty.

Harriet attributes her growth and attainment to her colleagues, both former and current, senior and peers. She recalls the voice of a former senior colleague who once said to her, "*Harriet, you cannot be quiet to every email, make yourself visible even if it means acknowledging receipt of the email.*" This simple statement became a turning point for Harriet, who had been timid and shy. She became aware of the need for mentorship and has become a strong advocate for mentoring females. Harriet participated in the GIZ Ghana Female Mentorship Programme for six months, where she mentored other female colleagues. Recognizing the importance of female mentorship, she is personally mentoring other colleagues to bring them out of their shells, which was once her solace, as well as grooming those with leadership potential, which she herself has benefited from.

Harriet appreciates the support of her line manager, Kweku Obeng, and her AV Raphael Frerking, who have provided her with the necessary space for growth. "*Everyone needs that social system to grow; however, before you gain it, you must work for it; you can't afford to be stagnant.*" She is driven by Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote, "*If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.*"

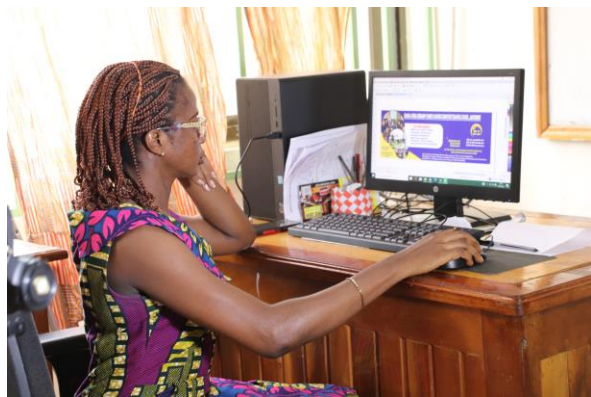
Harriet is also passionate about contributing to the grooming of young people through Christian Ministries. She is the Head of Special Outreach of a Ministry she belongs to, where she coordinates outreaches to rural communities to identify young girls and empower them with skills, educational and career guidance, and opportunities that provide appropriate exposure and growth.

She reflects on how she pushed for the support of nannies for female staff with babies during the review of the National Employees Handbook in 2017, a few months after she had joined GIZ. Her passion at the time was driven not only by the fact that she had a baby and was challenged with embarking on field trips but also because she thought about the many other "mummy staff" who were locked behind their desks while struggling to manage field duties.

When not at work or embarking on her ministry activities, she is home spending quality time with her 3 children and husband. She equally enjoys spending time with likeminded friends and having great extended family time.

## Celebrating Success

### Opportunities Thrives When PWDs Go Digital



*“Thanks to the digital skills acquired, I can promote my business and have more customers than before”.*

A fashion designer and born graphic designer, Eva Andoful uses her skills and digital marketing to inspire others. Eva is physically disabled but doesn't let her lack of mobility stop her from actively promoting her business. She has been helped by digital skills and digital literacy training for people with disabilities funded by the Digital Transformation Center Ghana (DTC).

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized in society. There is little support for them and thus few opportunities for job prospects.

To combat this, the DTC's training focused on promoting inclusive digital entrepreneurship, which, with Eva, has involved a total of 150 people across the country.

#### **Eva can now work independently.**

The training covered the use of social media platforms for businesses, some easy-to-use design tools, key apps for entrepreneurs and business. With knowledgeable instructors, participants were adequately supported despite their challenges, including sign language interpreters and text-to-audio translations.

Eva had difficulty independently sourcing materials for her fashion designs prior to the training and had difficulty promoting her business due to mobility issues. This severely impacted her business. Today, she uses digital tools to get everything she needs without outside help, and with the click of a mouse, it's delivered. The business grows Eva used to have about one customer a month, but now she has several a week. “Thanks to the digital skills acquired, I can promote my business and have more customers than before,” she says. She can now promote her designs, make contacts, and connect with her customers.

Eva was featured in the DTC video celebrating International Women's Day 2023, along with two other individuals who share how digital literacy has impacted their business.

The Digital Transformation Center in Ghana hosts several flagship projects, including Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development, FAIR Forward - Artificial Intelligence for all, Make-IT in Africa, and the Pan-African e-Commerce Initiative (PeCI). These projects aim to create an enabling environment for micro-enterprises to use digital transformation to strengthen their economic situation, promote a framework for the application of artificial intelligence, support national and pan-African entrepreneurial ecosystems to become resilient and sustainable, and strengthen an enabling environment for cross-border digital trade in selected countries of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), especially for MSMEs.

## Celebrating Success

More than 1 million people vaccinated through GIZ support.



Ghana had set a goal of vaccinating 20 million people against Covid19 and therefore the Ghana Health Service (GHS) launched the major Ghana's National COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign. The campaign was successful, also due to the support of the "Support to Vaccine Manufacturing in Ghana" project. The project has contributed to the vaccination of over 1 million people in Ghana and strengthened the conditions for COVID-19 and pandemic management in the country.

To reach as many people as possible, about 1,000 vaccinators, health workers and more than 3,000 educators from nongovernmental organizations, community-based groups and various multipliers such as community leaders or clergy have been trained and deployed in the districts and communities.

A chief from Agortime-Ziope district in Volta Region said, "Initially, we were hesitant to get vaccinated against COVID-19, but the initiative has cleared any doubts we had." A hearing-impaired young man in Savelugu, Northern region, noted: *"We had not received any of such education, however, they [GIZ partners] showed us videos developed in sign language which helped us get a better understanding of the pandemic and the need for us to get vaccinated."*

### Support in waste management in vaccination and health facilities

To speed-up the diagnosis and management of pandemics the project strengthened and improved the use of the digital health tool, SORMAS at the district level. Staff of GHS were trained, and variety of IT equipment were presented to them to facilitate the use of digital health management across the country. Districts with COVID-19 data management challenges were also supported to address these problems. Simultaneously, the project improved waste management in selected vaccination and health facilities.

These facilities received training and equipment to reduce the risk of infection. A call center at the GHS was supported and over 3,500 people called-in to the centre and had their concerns addressed. In this way, as many people as possible had the opportunity to be vaccinated and one woman from Accra central said: *"Your campaign has given me the opportunity to get vaccinated, and for free."*

The project partners were Clinton Health Access Initiative, World Vision Ghana, and African German Health Association.



## Celebrating Success

**Bee-keeping in cashew farming – a route to increasing yields and providing additional income for cashew farmers.**



*"Since I participated in the Cashew Bee Integration Training in 2019, my yield has been increasing,"* says Haruna Alhassan, a cashew farmer in the Savannah region of North Gonja County. While he had a contract of five bags of cashews in 2018, by 2022 he had twice as many. Haruna believes this increase is due to the integration of beekeeping.

Along with 79 other farmers in North Gonja, Haruna participated in the Cashew Bee Integration Training organized by the Market Oriented Agriculture Programme (MOAP-NW) in 2019. As part of the training, beehives were placed in cashew farms so that bees could provide pollination services. This concept seems to be working, as Haruna's yield increase shows. In addition to the increased income from a higher cashew harvest, the bees also serve as an additional source of income. This is because the farmers can now also sell honey.

Due to unregulated prices in Ghana, a bag of raw cashew nuts (RCN) sells for between 600 and 800 GHC. Despite this challenge, "cashew farming" is still seen as a lucrative business that increases farmers' income and improves their livelihoods. However, "beekeeping" can provide an additional source of income for small cashew farmers. Beehives are placed in cashew farms to provide pollination services that not only increase cashew nut yields, but also increase farmers' income through the sale of honey and wax.

### Honey as an additional income

Like Haruna, his farmer colleague Zakaria Bokoro also participated in the training. On his ten hectares, he produced a maximum of nine bags in 2017. Thanks to his beekeeping skills, he has harvested 16 bags so far for the 2023 harvest period and counting. For a bag of raw cashews, he receives 600 to 800 GHC. Prices are unregulated in Ghana, yet growing cashews is considered lucrative in agriculture. In addition, Zakaria has five beehives and uses them to produce high-quality honey, which also provides him with additional income.

*"A litre of honey costs at least 70 GHC and at most 100 GHC". In the season, I can produce more than 7 to 10 litres with my six hives,"* says Iddrisu Shaibu. The farmer now supplements his income by processing honey for colleagues. Anyone can put a hive in their field, he says, but they may lack the skills to process the honey produced by the bees. Salifu Adams, also a cashew farmer, added, *"I could make more money from my farm by selling honey and wax. I believe that by the end of 2023, I will have more yield from the hives and be able to provide well for my family."*



## Celebrating Success

### Financial Literacy for All: Joseph's Journey to Success



GIZ's Financial Inclusion for Disability project has been a remarkable success in improving financial independence and inclusion for persons with disabilities in Ghana.

This project has provided valuable financial literacy training to individuals like Joseph Seyena-Susu, who has since become a success story and an inspiration to many.

Joseph's determination and hard work led him to secure a job as a civil servant, despite the stereotypes associated with visually impaired individuals. However, he still faced financial challenges due to his low income, and the GIZ financial literacy training came as a lifesaver.

The training provided Joseph with comprehensive knowledge and skills in financial management and helped him understand the interlinkage between savings, investment, assets, and insurance. He also learned how to access credit facilities and use insurance as a risk management tool.

The training gave Joseph the confidence to venture into the transport business and purchase a car, which unfortunately was involved in three accidents, causing financial stress. However, with the knowledge gained from the training, Joseph was able to manage the situation effectively and continue to grow his financial portfolio.

Joseph's success story is a testament to the positive impact of GIZ's Financial Inclusion for Disability project. It has opened doors for persons with disabilities to access financial services and manage their finances better, leading to greater financial independence and inclusion in society.

In conclusion, Joseph's message of gratitude to GIZ says it all, "Thank you." Thanks to GIZ's financial literacy training, Joseph has been able to manage his finances better and achieve success in his career and personal life.

**STARTING A STORY by Nancy Yeri**

The beauty of change is when we embrace growth. Over the last Eight (8) years in my previous organisation, I knew it was time to reach out for a new opportunity. An opportunity to learn new systems, experience a new environment whilst building and charting an impact-led career. I have admired the impact GIZ has made through their projects and gladly welcomed an opportunity to be part of this influential organization.

I am excited to share and learn from colleagues in HR (Human Resource) and my tandem at the country level on Gender. The approach of tandem in GIZ is a thrilling one, pairing people from diverse backgrounds on one agenda to promote diversity, learning and applying approaches that are proven to transform and produce the right results.

As a Gender Focal Point at the country level, a key responsibility that excites me is to support GIZ Ghana in conceptualizing more concrete contributions to promote the implementation of gender equality and gender equity using the gender policy and other internal guidelines. In the past, I have worked on women, children, girls, and more specifically adolescent girls' and boys' issues. I am very excited about the opportunity to work together with national stakeholders to influence policy and learn about the work some current GIZ projects are doing to close the gender gaps, e.g., in digitalisation, agribusiness, TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) and reducing child labour.

In the future, I hope to work together with you all to mainstream gender administratively, to make our workspace more friendly for all, and with the gradual roll-out of the feminist foreign development policy of the BMZ to have even more projects integrate/focus on gender equality.

**LEAVING A STORY by Gabriel Kwame**

I had the privilege of joining GIZ, a highly esteemed organization, for a period of three years, eight months, and twenty-eight days. I attribute my experience to the grace of God.

Prior to my tenure at GIZ, I had amassed a wealth of knowledge and expertise from ten years in the Telecoms, IT, and Consulting sectors. Seeking to broaden my horizons in the development space, I found the perfect fit at GIZ. This proved to be an important addition to my growing career.

With my strong background in People Management, GIZ provided me with an exceptional platform to further develop these skills.

I am grateful for this opportunity, as it has had a significant impact on my professional growth. A standout memory during my time at GIZ was my stage performance in 2020 during our staff retreat at the Alisa Hotel. I acted in a play that centered around Transparency. Although it would have been thrilling to perform this creative act once more during this year's staff retreat, circumstances prevent it.

As I move forward, I leave you with a quote from QwameGaby®, "Build capacity, push more, build up your existing skills and become the best version of yourself. "In conclusion, I express my appreciation to GIZ for a fulfilling stay. Akpe Kaka.



## NEWCOMERS | Welcome to GIZ Ghana

**Tugteeya Sanda Ubaida**  
Financial Specialist  
GovID



**David Johnson**  
**Agodzro**  
Junior Financial  
Specialist  
Country Office



**Augustine Poku-Badu**  
Private Sector Advisor  
PMD



**Nancy Yeri**  
Junior Gender &  
Equality  
Specialist  
Country Office



**Robert Danful Tawiah**  
Advisor  
Support to TVET



**Ernest Knnut Afenyo**  
Advisor  
Support to TVET



**Nana Opoku Boachie**  
Technical Advisor  
MOVE



**Darko Padmond**  
Junior Financial  
Specialist  
PFS



**Henry Cofie Fordi**  
Agricultural Advisor  
Agribiz



**Thelma Nyarkoa**  
**Afful**  
Procurement and  
Contr. Specialist  
AFCFTA



**Sahadatu Alhassan**

Technical Advisor  
PME

**Letisia Yedess**

Junior Agriculture  
Advisor  
Agribiz

**Clement Osei Quaye**

Administrative  
Specialist  
PFS

**Kristina Reynolds**

Technical Advisor  
GoVID

**ObengDavid Aboagye**

Administrative  
Specialist  
Agribiz



## Departures | Leaving GIZ Ghana

**Paawou Maliki**

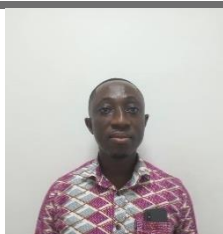
Junior Adm. Specialist  
Agribiz

**Faith Princess  
Donani**

Junior Adm.  
Specialist  
GovID

**Henry K. Acheampong**

Technical Advisor  
Ghana Heart Initiative

**Gabriel Kojo Kwame**

Technical Advisor  
PFS



**Juliet Adu Asamoah**  
Junior Admin. Officer  
GovID



**Abass Saaka**  
Driver  
GovID



**Tahiru Abdul-Wahab**  
Technical Advisor  
Go Circular



**Charlotte Esenam Afudego**  
Component  
Manager  
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**Adwoa Akuoko Kodua**  
Junior Financial  
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MOVE



**Silas Ewuntomah**  
Technical Advisor  
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