



Office Accra

Issue no. 4 | August 2023

GIZ GHANA NEWS BULLETIN



Dear colleagues,

We're excited to bring you the latest updates, success stories, and valuable insights from our wide array of projects and initiatives in this edition.

Get ready for an exclusive interview with our new Country Director, **Dr. Dirk Aßmann**, as he shares his vision and plans for our mission. Additionally, we're excited to showcase the remarkable creativity and ingenuity of young minds in this year's Senior High Schools Renewable Energy Challenge.

In this issue, we also dive into how the Governance for Inclusive Development programme has made a tangible impact by supporting Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in establishing a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) project in the close-knit community of Jama, situated in the Bole District of the Savannah Region.

We trust that this edition of the GIZ News Bulletin will inspire, foster connections, and further encourage progress towards a sustainable and equitable world.

Happy reading!

The GIZ NEWS BULLETIN Editorial Team

AT A GLANCE

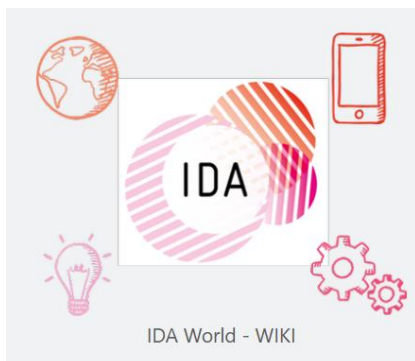
- ❖ Project News
- ❖ Impact /Success Stories
- ❖ News from Country Office
- ❖ Starting/Leaving Stories
- ❖ Newcomers & Departures
- ❖ Vacancies & Game of the Month

AT A GLANCE

Have you heard of...

IDA and Microsoft 365 are parts of your “Digital workplace” that make your work simpler and more efficient. In the WIKIS you'll find both, on the one hand, important (GIZ specific) information on the Microsoft 365 applications and on the other everything you need to know about IDA World.

To access the WIKIs, just click on the images below.



Empowering Financial Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities

People with disabilities are often excluded from financial services and do not have an account, for example. One reason for this is that financial service providers are not trained to address their specific needs and therefore cannot serve them effectively. The Financial Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (FI4PwD) project aims to close this gap by training both disabled people in financial literacy and financial service providers in dealing with these special clients.

Today we celebrate the successful completion of our financial literacy training programme. Over 240 people have benefited, including 160 people with disabilities who now have basic financial literacy skills. We were able to involve 72 banks, savings and loan associations and insurance companies, including representatives from the Bank of Ghana, the country's regulator.

The transformative impact of the programme is evident, as participants are now navigating traditional and



digital financial services with renewed confidence. Sarah Kekeli Akunor, a Ghana Blind Union entrepreneur, expressed her gratitude, *"The programme has educated me on the importance of budgeting, saving and retirement planning. It has inspired me to grow my business, invest in advertising and take my business to new heights."*

The FI4PwD project has ended, but we look forward to continuing to promote this mission through the Private and Financial Sector Support (PFS) programme.

Contact Person: angelina.armah@giz.de

Promoting intra-African trade: Ghanaian companies visit Kenya.

Under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), African governments seek to facilitate trade in other African countries, especially for micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs and MSMEs).

In this context, the Ghana AfCFTA Coordination Office (NCO), together with the Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) and the GIZ AfCFTA Support Programme, conducted a market entry expedition to Kenya. During the five-day event, 30 Ghanaian companies were able to present and sell their products and thus increase the visibility of products "Made in Ghana". Ghanaian traders also met other East African companies and trade associations in Kenya and were able to establish business relationships.



The occasion was also used to inaugurate the Ghana Trade House, which stocks quality Ghanaian products for the East African market, diversifies supply, stimulates trade activities, creates business opportunities and aims to provide employment opportunities. Interventions like the Market Entry Expedition have been planned by the NCO to support the realization of actual trade under the AfCFTA programme which is estimated to boost intra-African trade by 52.3%.

Contact Person: maren.breuer@giz.de

Sustainable Economic Development, Training, and Employment

Driving Green Initiatives in e-Commerce

The e-commerce value chain is a fast-growing part of trade and has the potential to significantly contribute to income and employment generation. However, there are big environmental challenges in this area. Packaging of parcels is one example along the value chain, amongst others that has a direct environmental impact in terms of waste.

The Pan-African E-Commerce Initiative has signed an Integrated Development Partnership with the Private Sector (iDPP) with TinyDavid (SnooCode), a private entity.

The iDPP initiative is driven by the goal of crafting inventive remedies to curtail packaging waste in the realm of e-commerce. Central to this endeavor is the creation and experimentation of reusable and recyclable shipping bags, ingeniously triggered by QR codes. (These bags will incorporate a QR-coded breakable seal, requiring the recipient to scan it upon delivery confirmation.) He or she then removes the contents from the bag, which can then be reused.



"Our partnership is not only a response to the environmental challenges posed by the growth of e-commerce, but a proactive approach to addressing them. By integrating sustainability into the core of e-commerce practices, we can pave the way for a more responsible and environmentally balanced sector" says Gerald Guskowski, coordinator of the Network for Inclusive and Economic Development cluster.

He also says our collaboration is based on the belief that through cooperation we can create innovative solutions, improve customer experience and promote sustainable growth of the e-commerce sector. According to him, this partnership will allow us to maximize our respective strengths and address the issue more effectively." He concluded.

Contact Person: emmanuel.mumuni@giz.de

Private sector comes together with the aim of changing the TVET system.

Like many other developing countries, Ghana faces the challenge that workers often do not have the skills that employers require for certain jobs. To close this skills gap, Ghana's vocational education and training system needs to be transformed. Private sector representatives discussed how this could be done at the annual Sector Skills Body (SSB) planning workshop, which was attended by the chairpersons of all twelve sectoral vocational training bodies and their committee members.

The main highlights of the event were the success stories of the various SSBs in the previous phases and the establishment of a new green sector. This is about creating a body to monitor the effectiveness of the programmes implemented to ensure sustainability in the areas of programme development and on-the-job learning for the vocational students.



The event was put together by the EU Ghana Pact for Skills: Support to the Transformation of the TVET System project and the Commission for Technical and Vocational Training, CTVET and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Contact Person: hephzibah.armah@giz.de

Sustainable Economic Development, Training, and Employment

Young people show the importance of vocational training.

From carpentry to welding, hairdressing to baking, the boundless talents of Ghana's youth have shone bright across various sectors. Their skills and creativity were eloquent reminders of the significance of vocational education and training, as demonstrated at the WorldSkills Zonal Competition. Held in Ghana under the auspices of the Commission of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET), this event underscores how vocational education empowers young individuals to excel in their chosen professions. Beyond Ghana's borders, this competition echoes in Europe as well.



The WorldSkills Zonal Competition aligns with a global movement devoted to nurturing skills and fostering a more prosperous future. These events act as bridges between education and industry, preparing youth for the swiftly evolving job landscape. By celebrating expertise, they pave the way for a generation prepared to meet the dynamic demands of tomorrow's job market.

Contact Person: hephzibah.armah@giz.de

Climate and Energy, Just Transition

School teams invent renewable energy-based technologies for agriculture.

The creativity and ingenuity of young people is once again demonstrated by students from schools across the country in this year's Senior High Schools Renewable Energy Challenge. They presented their innovative ideas to support smallholder farmers using renewable energy at an event in Kumasi in mid-August. There, six schools were selected to participate in the final round of the competition.

The Senior High School Renewable Energy Challenge (SHC) of the Ghana Energy Commission (EC) has been running since 2019, and each year not only does the number of participating schools increase, but the competition also gains in importance across the country.

But what is the aim of the SHC? On the one hand, it aims to develop the research skills of high school students and promote technological innovation in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency. On the other hand, the EC wants to inspire students to solve problems related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change. In this way, future professionals in the field will be recruited.



It seems to work! This year, the school teams' inventions under the theme "*Small-scale mechanised agriculture using renewable energy technologies*" are great again. Whether a solar-powered multi-purpose irrigation system, a robotic harvesting system to reduce post-harvest losses, or a solar-powered hatchery will ultimately win the race will be revealed in October in Accra, when the winning team will be crowned. For the winners, the SustainE4Climate project has already been sponsoring the prizes since 2019. This year these include a 5kW solar panel, solar fans, laptops and solar lamps.

Contact Person: raymond.okrofu@giz.de

Leaving no one behind: Empowering disabled people through savings and loans associations

Did you know the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) for Persons with Disabilities (DACF for PWDs) was instituted by government in 2005 to improve the socioeconomic situation of PWDs and reduce their level of poverty, especially those outside the formal sector of employment. However, PWDs are faced with a challenge of accessing this fund and any other forms of formal financial services to save and grow their businesses.

In response, Governance for Inclusive Development programme supported PWDs to establish a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) project in the small community of Jama, located in the Bole District of the Savannah Region. The project started with a total of 89 PWDs, 40 have been registered and 22 out of the 40 members have taken loans

The aim of the VSLA is to encourage savings, and to reduce over-dependence on the DACF for PWD. Under VSLAs, like-minded people form groups that pool their savings to have a source of loan funds.



At their first savings meeting, the Jama PWD group was able to mobilize GHS 450 after a few more meetings, the total savings has risen to a substantial savings of GHS 8,135.00, out of which GHS 5,800.00 had already been distributed as loans to members. An amount of GHS 2,335.00 remains in their savings, excluding accumulated interest.

As the VSLA project progresses, the Jama PWD group have access to loans to grow their businesses and to improve their livelihoods.

Contact Person: kweku.obeng@giz.de

One of the few female pilots in the country becomes assistant town planning officer.

Meet Stephanie Ampadu, one of the 96 planning officers who benefited from the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) facilitated by Governance for Inclusive Development (GovID) programme across the country. As a newly recruited Assistant Town Planning Officer in the Ahafo Region and the only trained female pilot in the region, this training according to her came in handy.

"The training is moving me forward personally in my career. But it also gives me the opportunity to support the region and beyond with the use of geospatial technology by obtaining high quality and accurately processed imagery for spatial analysis and planning," she explained.



After the training, Stephanie applied the acquired knowledge and skills in her work area. Together with her colleague, she conducted flights in ten cities in four districts of the Ahafo region. In the future, Stephanie aspires to be licensed by the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority as a UAV pilot.

The GovID programme has also acquired 16 state-of-the-art drones for all 16 regional coordinating councils in the country. The drones will be used to capture aerial images, which will be used in the system for street naming and property addressing, as well as map making. Now the district assemblies can use the data for spatial planning and service delivery.

Contact Person: Charles.abbey@giz.de

Closing out event of the GovID programme at the Sub-national level



After 4 years of implementation in 100 districts across the country, the Governance for Inclusive Development (GovID) programme held its sub-national close out events in Tamale, Sunyani and Ho.

The objective of the event was to celebrate the achievements of the programme and create a platform for partners to share challenges and lessons learnt during the period. Also partners who have been instrumental in the programme implementation phase were recognized and awarded certificates.

Designed to end in September 2023, the GovID programme has been improving the technical competencies of Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) and Municipalities, Metropolitan and Districts Assemblies (MMDAs) in the areas of spatial planning, audit processes, planning and budgeting, accountability among others. This has led to a bridge in the knowledge gap and enhance service delivery in the MMDAs.

Between 2021 and today, more than 400 trainings were conducted to build the capacities of public employees and more than 10,000 individuals have received trainings to enhance their capacities.

To enhance data for better decision-making, the GovID programme together with its partners developed the District Development Data Platform (DDDP) which has been rolled out in all 261 MMDAs nationwide and it is now the standard tool for data-based monitoring of the SDGs in Ghana.

In the area of gender, we have contributed to the establishment and formalization of the role of Gender Desk Officers with the MMDAs by an agreement between the Local Government Service and the Ministry of Gender. A gender toolkit was developed and added into the 2021 NDPC Medium Term Development Planning guidelines which has influenced the planning methodologies of MMDAs and made it more inclusive.

By making the Ghana Revenue more efficient and increasing taxpayer education, this resulted in an increase in national tax revenue from GHS 38 billion in 2018 to 44 billion in 2020.

Partners acknowledged the good work done by the programme in promoting good governance and inclusive development. Mr. Jacob Ntiamoah the Ahafo Regional Planning officer said the impact of the programme has been significant as it fostered participation, transparency and improved planning and decision-making processes. Also, Mrs. Sheila Arthur the Regional Internal Auditor highlighted that considering the huge impact of the programme it should be extended to other non-partner districts.

We are assured of our partners commitment to continue working through citizen participation to strengthen sub-national structures to enable them finance inclusive development.

GIZ & GOLDEN EXOTICS IMPART BUSINESS TIPS TO PETTY TRADERS

Over 1,200 petty traders have received helpful business tips at a financial wellness training aimed at equipping them with necessary finance and accounting knowledge to keep their businesses afloat.

The petty traders from Asutuare, Juapong and Togormey left the sessions with practical knowledge on how to make, spend and save money while sustaining and growing their small businesses. Trainer Nicholas Ross, a Senior Executive Director of KAST Consult, told them to think big but start small. “Don’t rent a kiosk of 200 cedis when your capital is only 500 cedis”.

Faustina Kidi Gaku already follows this advice. She runs a small shop in a small village that lives mainly from agriculture, pottery, and fishing. Nevertheless, she has learned a lot in training.

A little over 30 years ago, Faustina married a teacher and moved to Togormey after she completed middle school education. Without any capital, Faustina dreamt of trading. She capitalized on farmers in Togormey who had no market to sell their cassava. It was a win-win situation. For one year, she would credit the cassava, convert it into cassava dough, sell, pay back the farmers and save some. Within a year, she had saved 30 cedis. And that was the beginning of her small provision shop which she operates from her sitting room. This means, she doesn’t pay rent. The deep freezer housing drinks and water sits in her bedroom. From 30 cedis capital, today she boasts of 30,000 and makes 2,500 profits monthly.

Faustina could be making more profit but being a mother of six, she is very softhearted. She often gives out items on credit and runs at a loss when the creditors fail to pay back. She has a new resolve and happily communicated it. She said, *“After today’s session, I am going to stop giving out items on credit to some people. From what I have been taught here, it doesn’t matter if they get angry. I cannot run my business aground because of them. Henceforth, anybody who takes an item from the shop must also pay back, including my husband to keep my capital intact.”*

Mawuse Gidi, a hairdresser from Juapong was lucky to get capital reinjection from her husband even though she also started her business by herself 13 years ago, saving a little of what she was being paid working at a block factory. After seven years, she had saved 1,500 and got an additional 200 from her aunt. With this money, she rented a room in Juapong, bought a container and her first dryer. Today, her salon is well stocked and running profitably. Mawuse says joining the financial wellness training is a good experience because “I have learnt here how to separate my account so that my capital is not mixing up with my profit and how important it is to save a little of my profit somewhere for a rainy day while using the majority to recapitalize my business in order to grow it. If I knew this 13 years ago, my business could be much bigger than it is today”.

The petty traders left the training with this caution from Nicholas Ross, *““Don’t take a loan of 200 cedis with interest of 100 cedis when your profit is 2 cedis a day. Interest can break your business because whether you sell or not, the interest will keep growing”.*

The financial wellness sessions were organized under the COVID-19: Comprehensive Pandemic Management for Employees, Families and Communities project where one of the project partners, Golden Exotics, operates from. The project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and funded through develoPPP.

Corporate Health Management meets new Patrons.



Since 2003, GIZ has placed emphasis on the health and wellbeing of its staff through the Employee Wellbeing Programme (EWP). Even though the EWP has metamorphosed into the Corporate Health Management programme, the objective remains the same and even enhanced. The CHM programme is interested in ensuring the emotional, physical, mental and social well-being of staff in a safe, friendly and productive workspace.

Since its launch in September 2022, the CHM Team has worked assiduously to achieve this objective. At the Staff Retreat on May 19, the team unveiled the LET'S MOVE Ambassadors whose sole mandate is to help colleagues in the different clusters out of the sedentary life of being stuck behind a desk for hours un-end through physical activities. At the same event, hydration posters were unveiled to encourage frequent drinking of water while 1litre bottles were distributed to help achieve this.

Then came the local version of Step Challenge where two colleagues emerged tops with the highest steps of 858.24km and 750. 75Km. On July 20th, the CHM team gathered for a handing over between the Country Directors. During the meeting, the team presented their progress, plans, and achievements. Dr. Dirk, the new CHM Ghana patron was impressed by the team's efforts and pledged his support to continue from where his predecessor Regina Barbosa had left off. The Step Challenge winner **Geoffrey Agorbia** and the runner up **Benedict Dibkuu** were both rewarded with smartwatches to encourage and promote participation of the activity by all staff. The team also presented the outgoing patron with some parting gifts reminiscent of Ghana and Regina commended the team for their continuous dedication towards the programme despite their day-to-day tasking duties.

Sustainability- Waste separation in GIZ Ghana



Exactly on the day **Regina Bauerochse Barbosa** handed over office to **Dr. Dirk Aßmann** as Country Director, the new bins for separate waste collection arrived at the Country Office. The different colours of the waste bins stand for different recycling fractions. This allows for waste separation to become more visible in the waste collection areas of all GIZ buildings in Accra. Waste separation at source ensures that waste fractions can be properly recycled to high quality recycled products. In this way, valuable natural resources such as trees can be protected, and environmental pollution

is avoided. Separate collection and recycling of waste fractions such as paper or plastics creates important green jobs in the companies operating in this sector.

Please all contribute to this important environmental measure by placing your recyclable waste in the designated collection bins and not mixing it with other waste. By setting a good example, GIZ-Ghana can encourage other companies to follow our lead.

The introduction and coordination of waste separation at source is an activity of the "Sustainability Working Group". Visit us on [Sustainability \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com) to know more about correct waste separation and to become member of the working group.



Finding out more about our new CD Dr. Dirk Aßmann

CCU: Akwaaba to Ghana! We are delighted that you are here and are naturally curious as to why you ended up here as Country Director. How did you get this position and what attracted you to work for GIZ in Ghana?

I've spent the past 11 years working at the German head office, with 6 of those years as Director General of the Sectoral Department FMB. During this time, my responsibilities included numerous corporate policy issues, always with a focus on connecting these policies with the realities in our partner countries.

However, I felt the need to get back into implementation. That's why I joined GIZ, aiming to work in both Germany and abroad. Consequently, my wife and I decided to live abroad for a few years while our children were still with us. Among various options, Ghana stood out due to its immediate appeal, the intriguing and challenging portfolio, and the presence of a good school for our children. Overall, it was a perfect fit.

CCU: What motivates you to do what you do? Maybe you can share what you are most excited or passionate about.

My motivation centers on purpose. Firstly, it's a tremendous privilege to contribute to world development while being compensated for it. The gratitude our work receives, especially from the population, brings me a profound sense of fulfillment.

Secondly, I find inspiration in dedicated and innovative individuals, whether within our team or beyond. Learning from them is invaluable, and I enjoy supporting their personal growth.

Lastly, I recognize that development is a gradual process, even in our context. However, witnessing positive changes, such as an improved cooperation and leadership culture within our team after years of work, leading to greater impact, fills me with immense pride.

CCU: What are the goals you most want to accomplish in your work? Not so much the goals that are in your job description, but the goals you hold personally.

I want to see both individual employees and the team improve, which involves both personal and professional aspects. Over time, employees might say, "*The Country Director sets high expectations and maintains a fast pace, but they also value our contributions, listen to us, and support our personal and professional growth.*" In such cases, I believe I've fulfilled my role effectively.

If, as a result, we refine our approaches, leading to increased overall impact (ultimately delivering better value for money), I'll retire with great satisfaction one day.

CCU: Now if we can, I'd like to go way back for a little while. Where did you grow up and what education did you receive? Do you have any family with you in Ghana?

I grew up in Düsseldorf, the capital of the most populous federal state in Germany. My family has a working-class and craftsman's background, and I am the first generation to pursue higher education. This background has significantly influenced my outlook on life, keeping me grounded and fostering my desire to be closer to practical implementation, as mentioned earlier.

Despite my father's objections, I pursued my Abitur, which allowed me to attend university. I studied mechanical engineering with a focus on energy system analysis. However, my passion led me away from academic pursuits, and I sought a position at the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy, renowned for its sustainability research and consulting. Concurrently, I embarked on a Ph.D. in social sciences and economics.

In addition to my academic journey, I acquired two other professions, working as a solar installer and a sailing instructor. These roles served as sources of income while I was studying, as my parents were unable to provide extensive financial support. I am also a family man, married with two children; our son is 15 years old, and our daughter is 13.

CCU: When and what was your first experience with Ghana? Tell us about it.

The first was in the early 1990s: Anthony Yeboah was playing for Eintracht Frankfurt. Before that, I didn't like the club, but that team was gorgeous, and it was great to see Yeboah playing.

But then, only in April of this year, I came with my wife to visit our children's school and look for a place to stay. Our hotel was in Osu, and we went for a walk the first evening. Two things stood out: no pavements and many holes, so always keep your eyes on the ground! But above all, very friendly people. We felt very welcome right away.

CCU: You have been the Country Director of GIZ Ghana for about a month now. Tell us about some of the memorable moments so far. Have there been any surprises here?

Where to begin and end -the month has been incredibly eventful. On a personal note, our house in Cantonments presented numerous unexpected challenges, from flooding in the kitchen to leaks in the bathroom, a water pump malfunction, unwelcome visits from mice, falling ceiling lamps, and more, all following two months of renovations.

However, there have also been numerous highlights, including the warm welcome event at the country office (CO), visits to project teams, active participation in various working groups (CHM, Gender, Sustainability, etc.), the initial meeting with the RCNP, and most importantly, engaging in one-on-one discussions with the staff. Additionally, my first business trip within Ghana allowed me to witness the diverse realities in northern Ghana, with a particularly impressive display of women's empowerment, ranging from a district administration director to self-made commercial farmers and women's groups venturing into businesses together.

CCU: What were the key sources of support or resistance you encountered when you first started?

The transition was smooth, thanks to Regina Bauerochse's excellent handover. Both the CO and the programmes were well-established, with processes running smoothly, and everyone fulfilling their roles. We also welcomed Stefan Roth as the new Head of Finance and Administration (HoFA), who is well-versed in recent changes, actively seeks ways to streamline our work, and has already implemented some improvements.

While I haven't encountered resistance, I've observed a communication challenge that requires attention. Effective cooperation relies on robust communication, both within our GIZ team, within sub-teams, and with external partners. I believe there's room for improvement. In both external and internal communication, we should prioritize discussing impacts rather than detailing activities, such as specific workshops. While these activities are essential for individual advisors, they may hold little interest for others. Internally, I've noticed occasional lapses in information flow, leading to uncertainties, ambiguities, and unnecessary loops. Addressing these issues is crucial, and one of our initial steps will involve making changes to this news bulletin to enhance communication.

CCU: We are obviously curious about what to expect. Do any metaphors come to mind describing your management style as Country Director?

Challenge, engage, and inspire. I hold high standards of professionalism, dedication, and proactiveness. As a manager, I don't assert that I am superior to others (which is not feasible), but I recognize that everyone has a unique role, tasks, and competencies. I hold great respect for these and value the perspectives of specialists. Expectations for performance are high for all of us, starting with myself. However, I also prioritize organizing work in a manner that allows everyone to make meaningful contributions, become engaged, and for those who desire it, take on greater responsibilities and participate in shaping our endeavors.

CCU: What is your vision for GIZ Ghana with you as the Country Director?

At GIZ, we're undergoing significant changes with our corporate strategy focusing on being a provider of "integrated solutions." This means breaking free from technical and project-related silos and adopting a holistic approach to address countrywide issues.

An example from the Upper West Region illustrates that individual projects alone cannot significantly improve the situation despite coordination efforts. To maximize impact, we must assess the region's challenges comprehensively and determine professional approaches that may involve coordinated implementation of projects or integrating new approaches from sectors like digital or energy. This integrated view aligns with our clients' expectations, and my vision is for GIZ to lead the way in Ghana by embracing this approach.

CCU: What would you like to teach the GIZ team in Ghana?

It's crucial to bridge the gap between Ghana's reality, international development policy discussions, and the interests of the German government. Our work is directly impacted by these discussions, even during activities in Central Ghana.

I'm eager to learn more about Ghana's reality, and I encourage our National Staff to help me understand the country better. This understanding will enable us to strengthen German-Ghanaian cooperation and enhance our portfolio collaboratively with input from all team members. With my experience as the former Director General of the FMB, I can contribute valuable cross-disciplinary, integrated approaches to our efforts.

CCU: When you think of the future, what challenges lie ahead of us? Is there anything that makes you concerned or worried?

In the international discussion, the term "multipandemic" comes up again and again. We are facing a plethora of problems worldwide today, each of which would be challenging enough on its own: climate change, economic crisis due to COVID (but not only), less confidence in democratic institutions, extremism, corruption, gender imbalance, food crisis, poverty in general and so on. Most of these we are also experiencing in Ghana - yes, that worries me.

CCU: Also, what are you looking forward to?

It doesn't help just naming the problems doesn't get us anywhere. And I am a fundamentally positive person. So, I am looking forward to working with the strong team on these challenges - and if we do this in an integrated approach, I am sure we can make an effective contribution to Ghana's sustainable development.

STARTING A STORY by Ira Osei Akoto



Before joining GIZ Ghana, my journey was deeply rooted in the Ghanaian entrepreneurial ecosystem. I had the privilege of working with a variety of startups and SMEs, where I honed my skills in research, business development, and project management. These experiences exposed me to the challenges and opportunities faced by local businesses and instilled in me a strong desire to make a positive impact on a larger scale.

Joining GIZ has been a significant and exciting transition for me. It represents an opportunity to amplify my efforts and contribute to meaningful change in Ghana's economic landscape. Being a part of the vibrant team at the Jobs, Migration, and Development project under the Support to the Private and Financial Sector (PFS), I am enthusiastic about the potential to drive substantial improvements in the labor market and overall employment scenario in the country.

In essence, my journey from the entrepreneurial ecosystem to GIZ Ghana signifies a natural progression toward achieving broader societal impact. I am committed to collaborating with my dynamic team, sharing knowledge, and actively engaging with stakeholders to help transform the Labor Department into a vibrant institution dedicated to employment promotion in Ghana. As I embark on this new chapter, I am filled with optimism and determination to drive positive change and contribute to the betterment of Ghana's economy.

LEAVING A STORY by Akua Ankomah Fosuhene



A Journey of Growth and Gratitude: My Time at GIZ Ghana

I joined GIZ Ghana as a curious national service person uncertain of what to expect, little did I know that this would mark the beginning of an incredible four-year journey filled with growth, self-discovery, and invaluable experiences. My initial days at GIZ Ghana were a whirlwind of new faces, acronyms, and projects that seemed larger than life but as fate would have it, the warmth of my colleagues and their willingness to guide me through the ropes eased my nerves and set the tone for the years to come.

My fondest memories of my time at GIZ will be of the opportunities I had to be mentored by an incredible array of colleagues. These colleagues with their wealth of experience, took me under their wings and shared insights that extended far beyond the confines of our projects. Their unwavering support and encouragement allowed me to push my boundaries, explore uncharted territories, and excel in ways I had never thought possible.

To me, GIZ Ghana is more than just an organization: it's a nurturing ground for young professionals. It is a place where fresh ideas are welcomed, and where passion is harnessed to create real-world impact and I consider myself blessed to have had my professional foundation built here.

Though I may be moving on, I will be continually inspired by the wonderful friendships, lessons and experience gathered through the Ghanaian-European Centre. I will miss working at GIZ and I hope that our paths may cross again in the near future.

NEWCOMERS TO GIZ



Ira Osei Akoto

Technical Advisor
PFS



Bernard N. Acheampong

M & E Specialist
AgriBiz



Reis Fuseini

M & E Specialist
PFS



Paul Adulley Mensah

Junior Finance Specialist
Country Office



Eric Zaa

Gardener
Country Office



Daniel Mortey

IT Specialist
Country Office



Joseph Kwabla Zogli

Junior Finance Specialist
Country Office



Christian Koduah

Technical Advisor
PFS



DEPARTURES | LEAVING GIZ



David Johnson Agodzro

Junior Finance Specialist
Country Office



Akua Ankomah Fosuhene

Project Technical Assistant
GEC



Susan Shika Gbedemah

Information Security Advisor
Country Office



George Ofori

Technical Advisor
PFS



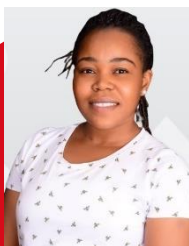
Mohammed Lansah

Communication Specialist
SCIP



Jason Awuley Lartey

Junior Admin. Specialist
MOVE



Mirilove Tay Acquah Hagan

Financial Specialist
SE4C



Andrew Mensah Quaye

Procurement Specialist
Country Office





VACANCIES

To explore current job vacancies at GIZ Ghana, please visit this official website <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/115443.html> for detailed information and application procedures.

GAME OF THE MONTH

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

NOTE
First three people to rightly complete and submit this game will be rewarded.

Send completed game to:
maxwell.kwaku@giz.de

		5	2	6		7		1
6	8			7	1		9	
1	9				4	5		2
8	2		1				4	
		4	6		2	9		
	5			4	3		2	8
5		9	3				7	4
	4		9	5			3	6
7		3		1	8	2		



Imprint

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn
Germany

GIZ Country Office Accra
P.O. Box KA 9698
7 Volta Street | Airport Residential Area
Accra | Ghana
T +233-302-760448
F +233-302-777375
E giz-ghana@giz.de
I www.giz.de/ghana