



## Situational Reports of Civil Society's response to COVID-19 in Ghana

# COVID-19 SITREP



WASH YOUR HANDS



USE SOAP



AVOID CROWDS



WEAR MASK



AVOID HANDSHAKE



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

## AUGUST 2020



## ABOUT THE GHANA COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT

In April, STAR Ghana Foundation with support from UKAid and European Union launched the ‘**Citizens Response Project**’ (CRP) in partnership with eight civil society organisations in Ghana. The project coordinated actions of the diverse activities of CSOs responses to COVID-19 to support coordinated civil society actions around COVID-19 prevention, management and mitigation. The project aimed at supporting and complementing efforts by Government and other stakeholders to prevent the spread of the virus and mitigate the effects and risks of the pandemic on vulnerable and marginalised groups. The first phase of the project ended on 31 August 2020 and has seen positive outcomes from citizens and government alike with a total direct/indirect beneficiaries of **638,956** and media reach of **8,000,000** people. The August SITREP is the fourth and the last series of the monthly cumulative report under the Phase I of the CRP response action to COVID-19 in Ghana.

**This project is supported by STAR-Ghana Foundation with support from:**



## ABOUT THE COVID-19 SITREP: CURRENT SITUATION

In the month of August, new recorded cases of COVID-19 declined. The weekly record (22 September 2020) of COVID-19 cases increased to 46,062 with an active case of 507. Correspondingly, the recovered and discharged cases have seen significant improvement while the death rate also steadily increases. Following the release of a number of the COVID-19 restrictions including the opening of airport, the country has transcended into the new normal. However adherence to the safety protocols is very crucial in reducing the spread of the virus. The STAR Ghana CSOs response project over the last few months has achieved significant results in its coordinated response action towards the prevention, management and mitigation of the virus. The Situational Report for August provides a comprehensive overview of the overall project activities and response action of the first phase of the Citizens Response Project in Ghana.

## KEY TAKE-AWAYS

 <p>CARITAS GHANA</p>	<p>Caritas Ghana social behavioural change has resulted to the increased information sharing by religious leaders, increase the use of face masks, adherence to social distancing and reduce domestic violence and stigmatisation.</p>
	<p>Collectively, CSOs and CS actors have shown that, focus and attention should be given to efforts of CSOs to locally raise fund.</p>
	<p>CSOs and health workers collaboration is needed to address the challenges of COVID-19. Bringing together different experts will help CSOs to identify common interests that capture the needs of various actors.</p>
	<p>Involve Parents, Guardians and Family members of People with mental or neurological disabilities in pandemic response projects.</p>
	<p>The media needs capacity building and financial support to understand the issues, access to the right and verified information to sustain advocacy that contributes to or results in attitudinal change.</p>
	<p>Technology can be used to bridge gaps and give voice to the voiceless in and the platform forms a key component of the sustainability of the project as we plan to use it beyond the funding stream</p>
	<p>Civil Society should embrace technology not only as response to the restrictions that COVID-19 presents but also to ensure they optimise and scale their interventions.</p>



STAR-GHANA COVID-19 19 RESPONSE SITUATIONAL REPORT

Partners	Project Interventions	Results Achieved
<p><b>Objective 1: To increase and improve on citizens' access to accurate, timely, inclusive and relevant information on COVID-19 and response Actions</b></p>		
<p><b>Caritas Ghana</b></p>	<p><b>Caritas Ghana started Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) strategy to improved behavioral change on COVID-19 safety protocols</b></p>	<p>Caritas Ghana formed an alliance with the key religious leaders in Ghana to develop messages using infographics, audios and videos on the compliance to the COVID-19 protocols, reducing stigmatisation, domestic violence and mitigating the social impact of the virus in English and other local languages. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>Caritas Ghana SBCC activity reached about 180,000 citizens in places of worship, transport stations, market places, and virtual platforms such as Whatsapp, Youtube, Facebook and Twitter. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>SBCC activities contributed to the growing adherence to the COVID-19 safety protocols such as the wearing of face mask, regular handwashing, observance of social distance, among others by citizens. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>Ghana Federation of Disability organisations (GFDO)</b></p>	<p><b>GFDO improved access to information for persons with disability on COVID-19.</b></p>	<p>The GFDO developed 10,000 relevant Information Education Communication (IEC) Materials in large/bold prints, colour contrasts, audio files, sign language interpreted videos and relatable graphics, and some focused on mental health coping mechanisms to target the different disability. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>Engaged and signed MOU with four (4) key TV stations to air disability inclusive awareness programmes. The GFDO also in the course of the project launched a social media campaign and kept it running with accessible materials and information for GFDO and member organisations. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>GFDO liaised with the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and PWD volunteers to distribute information and campaign materials for Persons with disability to come to understand what is now termed as the 'NEW NORMAL'. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)</b></p>	<p><b>MFWA addressed fake news and misinformation about the coronavirus disease in Ghana.</b></p>	<p>The MFWA fact-checked claims and statements from speeches, news stories, viral messages on social media and other media publications about the coronavirus disease and disseminated widely through partnered radio stations, online news portals, newspapers and dedicated website and social media. Visit <a href="http://www.factcheckghana.com">www.factcheckghana.com</a> for fact-checked information on COVID-19. <b>Source: <a href="https://bit.ly/3coqHsQ">https://bit.ly/3coqHsQ</a></b></p>
		<p>MFWA published 17 publications of facts on COVID-19 in the Daily Graphic and the Chronicle newspapers. These publications ensured that facts about COVID-19 reach other segments of the public and broadcast on radio dramas and discussion across Ghana. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>MFWA fact-check project) ensured the reach of accurate information to 3,202,500 beneficiaries (both directly and indirectly) in remote areas and vulnerable groups, illiterates and semi-literate. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>Over 40,000 people were reached at least every other day on radio with public awareness/education on COVID-19 and fact-checked reports that countered claims, myths and misconceptions about the disease at the national, regional and local levels. <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>MFWA collaboration with the media and district assemblies in resulted to some Assemblies taking critical actions at the height of the pandemic such as supporting persons with disability with <u>self-sustaining items</u> and cancelling of market days. <b>Source: <a href="https://bit.ly/2RNZBSF">https://bit.ly/2RNZBSF</a></b></p>



		<p>MFWA's dedicated <a href="#">fact-check website</a> and other online platforms (i.e. Twitter, Facebook, Soundcloud and YouTube channels) reached over one million impressions.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report.</b></p>
<p><b>Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG)</b></p>	<p><b>CHAG created two working groups to plan the development and dissemination of IEC materials on COVID-19</b></p>	<p>At the end of the project, 3,500 health workers gained improved skill, knowledge and confidence in COVID-19 case management and control.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>Through CHAG house to house engagement, 50,000 rural households benefitted from 250,000 COVID-19 educative, informative materials which has improved the compliance of covid protocols in these households.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>The CHAG organised three sessions of meetings for church health leaders to share the IEC materials with them and prepare the health facilities for the training and household visits to disseminate the materials.  <b>Source: Partners monthly reports</b></p>
		<p>The Market Development Programme for Northern Ghana (MADE) joined CHAG to include the interest and needs of farming communities in Northern Ghana in the development of the IEC materials.  <b>Source: Partners monthly reports</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 2: To support communities, NGOs and other citizens' groups develop and implement initiatives at local and national levels for supporting vulnerable groups and the implementation of national and local response plans</b></p>		
<p><b>Caritas Ghana</b></p>	<p><b>Caritas Ghana promoted advocacy for resettlement and reintegration support for vulnerable groups</b></p>	<p>Through advocacy vulnerable groups were guaranteed access to improved Emergency and Relief support services during the COVID-19 pandemic period resulting to the reduction in economic activities and loss of livelihoods.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>Additional sum of close to 2 million Ghana Cedis were secured from fundraising to support 180,000 vulnerable people access emergency and relief help in the form of food, PPEs and temporal shelter.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
		<p>Through stakeholders consultations, vulnerable people in the Northern and Ashanti Regions received support through skills training and start-up kits to enable them start and own small-scale enterprises.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>The Ghana SDG platform</b></p>	<p><b>The Ghana SDG platform coordinated and facilitated local resource mobilisation to support local response plans</b></p>	<p>The SDG platform coordinated citizens efforts to raise GHS 119,712.62 as cash donations for the CSO COVID-19 Response Fund. The donation was received from 78 contributors which constitute 10 individuals, 67 Institutions, 1 unidentified.  <b>Source: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UiiUVN">https://bit.ly/2UiiUVN</a></b></p>
		<p>1,437 beneficiaries including the aged, street children, Persons with Disabilities and mental health patients benefited from the donation of 230 bags of 25kg rice, 210 gallons of 5L oil, 230 bags of water and some vitamin C in the Phase I of the CSOs COVID-19 Response Fund.  <b>Source: <a href="https://bit.ly/2HoGPPR">https://bit.ly/2HoGPPR</a></b></p>
		<p>13 District with Persons with Disabilities, Street Children, Aged/Widows and Mental Health Persons received 5000 pieces of FACEMASK and 9000 copies of SAV Stickers IEC Materials in the Phase II of the CSOs COVID-19 Response Fund. <b>Source: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Zp8V2P">https://bit.ly/2Zp8V2P</a> : <a href="https://bit.ly/2Zd9AVO">https://bit.ly/2Zd9AVO</a></b></p>
		<p>The CSOs platform on the SDG regular convenings ultimately helped influence the behavioral patterns of citizens to played active role in shaping the discussion on COVID-19 in the country.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>Ghana Federation of Disability organisations (GFDO)</b></p>	<p><b>The GFDO monitored the government support programme for Persons with Disability (PWD)</b></p>	<p>The government in partnership with National Business for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) has develop a Corona Alleviation Programme Business Support Scheme (CAP BuSS) to support PWD as a result of GFDO advocacy.  <b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>



<p><b>Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG)</b></p>	<p><b>CHAG trained and donated IEC materials to health workers</b></p>	<p>CHAG health facilities vulnerable groups have benefited from 10 coveralls, 500 N95 masks, 320 boxes of surgical face masks, 20 gumboots and goggles, 330 infra-red thermometers hand sanitizers, washing bowls and hand towels (85 each) and 81 120L veronica buckets donation packages from CHAG. <b>Source: Partner’s Monthly report</b></p> <p>CHAG facilitated organisations under the Ghana Federation of Persons with Disability which include the Mental Health Society of Ghana and Care Ghana to develop IEC materials. <b>Source: Partner’s Monthly report</b></p> <p>3,500 key health personnels (400 trained face-to-face, nearly 600 trained vial virtual means who inturn trained colleagues in their faciities) were equipped with skills to manage and control the COVID-19 pandemics in their various health facilities. <b>Source: Partner’s Monthly report</b></p> <p>CHAG taining of health workers unravelled that most of the hand sanitizers used at the hosipital are below the minium standard alcohol content of 70 %. This has caused many Ghanaian Frontline Health Workers to contract COVID-19 in line of duty. In effect, CHAG has been collaborating with the FDA to call off the affected brands from the market. <b>Source: <a href="https://bit.ly/3gzejrs">https://bit.ly/3gzejrs</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/2Xz8wun">https://bit.ly/2Xz8wun</a></b></p>
<p><b>Objective 3: Increase the transparency, responsiveness and accountability of government and its relevant agencies to citizens around the development and implementation of COVID-19response plans, including the utilisation of resource.</b></p>		
<p><b>Penplusbytes</b></p>	<p><b>Penplusbytes online platform has reached over 545,400 people with original stories</b></p>	<p>Penplusbytes online platform and digital tools <a href="http://www.COVID-19infogh.org">www.COVID-19infogh.org</a> increased the access to information on COVID-19 for citizens and created the oppourtinity for Citizens to provide feedbackon COVID-19. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p> <p>Penplusbytes have reached 545,400 people with original stories on COVID-19 across the country through the engagement with 18 stringers and 12 community radio stations. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p> <p>Over 1,431,000 people have also viewed the stories and news published on the online platform. The platform by far has been fully active and has received 1,588,980 direct views and 588,328 indirect views. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p> <p>Penplusbytes Social media engagements with motion graphics, short videos and visualisations and media interactions on various TV outlets (TV3 COVID-19 360 Show, GTV, Atinka TV) has gained prominence online with a total reach of 5,410,000 people. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>Caritas Ghana</b></p>	<p><b>Caritas Ghana participatory monitoring activity improved MMDAs responsiveness</b></p>	<p>Caritas Ghana participatory monitoring and evaluation activity has seen improved the responsiveness of 16 MMDAs in the area of social service delivery for vulnerable persons. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG)</b></p>	<p><b>CHAG engage with the Ministry of Health, Health Sector Working Groups to on the COVID-19 activities</b></p>	<p>CHAG advocated for the inclusion of CHAG health facilities in the government COVID-19 allocating resources. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p> <p>Through advocacy, the Executive Director of CHAG, Peter Yeboah was appointed as a member of the COVID-19 commodities monitoring software committee. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p> <p>Through CHAG’s active engagement in the commodity com,mittee, proper mechanisms have been adopted for the engagement of various stakeholders concerning the status and use of locally produced (cloth) PPEs. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p> <p>CHAG, active engagement in the commodity committee resulted in the proper division of the 50% salary bonus promised by the presidents for Frontline health workers among health staff in the various districts. <b>Source: Partner’s End of project report</b></p> <p>CHAG advocated and received 18% of government COVID-19 commodities to all CHAG facilities across the regions. These will include PPEs, and other general stuff requires at the various health facilities.</p>



		<p><b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p> <p>The SDG platform embarked on two rounds of survey to identify citizens perception of Government response to COVID-19 and focused on the impact of Government's COVID-19 policy response on COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p> <p>The CSOs platform citizens survey brought to the fore the need to advocate for government to take a relook at the social protection systems and how measures can intentionally target the poor and the vulnerable.</p> <p><b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p> <p>The CSOs platform on the SDG in partnership with STAR Ghana organised media discussions and dissemination of citizens reassessment of government response to COVID-19. The dissemination strategy was used to share widely the findings and recommendations of the survey and to receive feedback from the media, CSO actors and the Government of Ghana.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3kEblK9">https://bit.ly/3kEblK9</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/353zzmb">https://bit.ly/353zzmb</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/2QOJLqn">https://bit.ly/2QOJLqn</a>  <a href="https://bit.ly/2FK9kXU">https://bit.ly/2FK9kXU</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/33O73mp">https://bit.ly/33O73mp</a></p>
<p><b>CSOs platform on the SDG</b></p>	<p><b>The CSOs platform on the SDG collected citizens' feedback on government response (policy and service) to COVID-19</b></p>	
<p><b>Objective 4: To harvest, document and share learning around COVID-19 responses</b></p>		
<p><b>Caritas Ghana</b></p>	<p><b>Caritas Ghana document and published lessons learnt and innovation report</b></p>	<p>To promote knowledge sharing and documentation, Caritas Ghana has documented and published a lesson learnt and innovations report on the Interfaith cooperation to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> <p><b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>The West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)</b></p>	<p><b>WACSI organised a webinar on government's disbursement and mismanagement of COVID-19 fund</b></p>	<p>WACSI on 27 August 2020 organised its 4th WACPoDiS Webinar on COVID-19 to discuss governments disbursement and (mis)management of COVID-19 funds; examine notable gaps in accountability, transparency and leadership oversight, as well as explore strategies to strengthen fiscal accountability systems and mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/365r0Yq">https://bit.ly/365r0Yq</a></p>
	<p><b>WACSI document monthly situation reports of CSOs response interventions</b></p>	<p>WACSI from May developed a monthly situational report on the activities of project partners under the STAR Ghana CSOs response to COVID-19 in Ghana. The monthly situation report provided an update on project intervention and included regional highlights on CSOs response action towards the fight against COVID-19 in other West African Country.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/31YH6ss">https://bit.ly/31YH6ss</a></p>
	<p><b>WACSI shared CSOs response activities with Stakeholders</b></p>	<p>WACSI organised a learning and reflection meeting with project partners to share their activities, reflect on the lessons learned and the challenges in the implementation of the project.</p> <p><b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p> <p>WACSI and STAR Ghana organised a Multi-stakeholder learning Webinar which was graced by Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah, the Ministry of Information, and key actors from CSOs and the Private Sector COVID-19 fund. The webinar promoted collaboration, partnership among learning and documentation of stakeholders' responses to COVID-19 in Ghana.</p> <p><b>Source: Partner's End of project report</b></p>
<p><b>STAR Ghana Foundation</b></p>	<p><b>STAR Ghana shared the project activities with the media</b></p>	<p>STAR Ghana Foundation in collaboration with the CRP partners held a press conference on Tuesday 28 July 2020 in Accra to inform the media, stakeholders, and the public on civil society's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/2XthtFH">https://bit.ly/2XthtFH</a></p> <p>WACSI in collaboration with STAR Ghana featured on TV3 COVID-19 360 to share updates on CSOs coordinated actions and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/33z8lxx">https://bit.ly/33z8lxx</a></p>
<p><b>CSO Platform on SDG</b></p>	<p><b>CSO Platform on the SDG engaged with the traditional media</b></p>	<p>The CSOs platform on the SDG engaged widely with the traditional media to share the feedback of citizens surveys widely. The national coordinated joined Caritas Ghana on TV3 COVID-19 360 on 25 August, GHOne Mid-day News on 26 August, Moomen Tonight on Ghana Broadcasting Corporation on 27 August and Uniq 95.7 FM on 38 August.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/2ErBxly">https://bit.ly/2ErBxly</a></p>



**OTHER CSOs AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RESPONSE TO COVID-19-19**

<p><b>Resource Centre Network (RCN) Ghana</b></p>	<p><b>RCN organised a webinar on the role and response of CSOs during COVID-19</b></p>	<p>The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) in collaboration with the Resource Centre Network (RCN) and through the Watershed programme organised a webinar on 7 May to discuss the role and response of Ghana’s Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the wake of the unfolding reality of COVID-19. The overarching aim was to “dialogue on the relevance of WASH in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil society response.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/33QcpNV">https://bit.ly/33QcpNV</a></p>
<p><b>Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH)</b></p>	<p><b>GCNH Modify guidelines and intensify implementation plans to control the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ghana</b></p>	<p>The GCNH advocated for the need to ensure EQUITY and ACCESS in the testing and support services. Parts of the country do not still have the basic logistics continuously. Equity in health is part of Ghana’s universal access to the health coverage plan. We still see gaps in Ghana’s COVID-19 response services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Source:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3kI50qX">https://bit.ly/3kI50qX</a></p>

**CASE STORIES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM WEST AFRICA**

**Beakanyang commemorated International Youth Day in the Gambia**

A youth-led CSO in the Gambia, Beakanyang commemorated International Youth Day with a virtual youth conference with the theme: Role of young people in promoting human rights during COVID-19. The Executive Director’s address acknowledged young people working at the frontlines during this pandemic, as well as those who have volunteered in other capacities. He reiterated Beakanyang’s pledge to promote national development and to protect and defend human rights at all times.

Source: <https://bityl.co/3Hwg>

**Civil Society Organisations in the Gambia held a meeting to discuss the spread of COVID-19 in the Gambia**

Civil Society Organisations in the Gambia had a virtual meeting with trade unions and private sector associations on the fast rate of spread of Coronavirus in the country. The Government’s response to COVID-19 was reviewed. It was realised that despite the large amounts of financial and donations given to government, there is a huge gap in health service delivery and effective testing, treatment and quarantine centres. In view of this, a five-member taskforce was set up to engage the Minister of Health, Dr Amadou Lamin Samateh and the COVID-19 Response Coordinator Yaya Sanyang to receive first-hand information about the state of affairs of the government’s interventions, its progress and challenges.

Source: <https://bityl.co/3Hwb>

**PHOTO GALLERY**



Cross-section of training participants for IPC training on COVID- 19



Multistakeholder Webinar on COVID-19 responses



Partners learning and reflection meeting



WACSI and STAR Ghana featured on TV3 COVID-19 360



CHAG and SDG platform featured on TV3 COVID-19 360



IPC training on COVID

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# COVID-19 SITREP

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This project is supported by  
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