



WIDOWS AND ORPHANS MOVEMENT (WOM) 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Fati Abigail Abdulai

The year 2019 was a reflective year for the Widows & Orphans Movement (WOM). As an organization, we reflected on the vision, mission, growth strategy amidst trending developmental expectations. The involvement of our clients who are the right holders, duty bearers & other stakeholders informed the new direction for the period 2020 to 2025.

It remains clear that the work of WOM is very much needed in many regions of the country & so there is a need to work innovatively and prioritize fund raising to reach a wider audience, being more impactful.

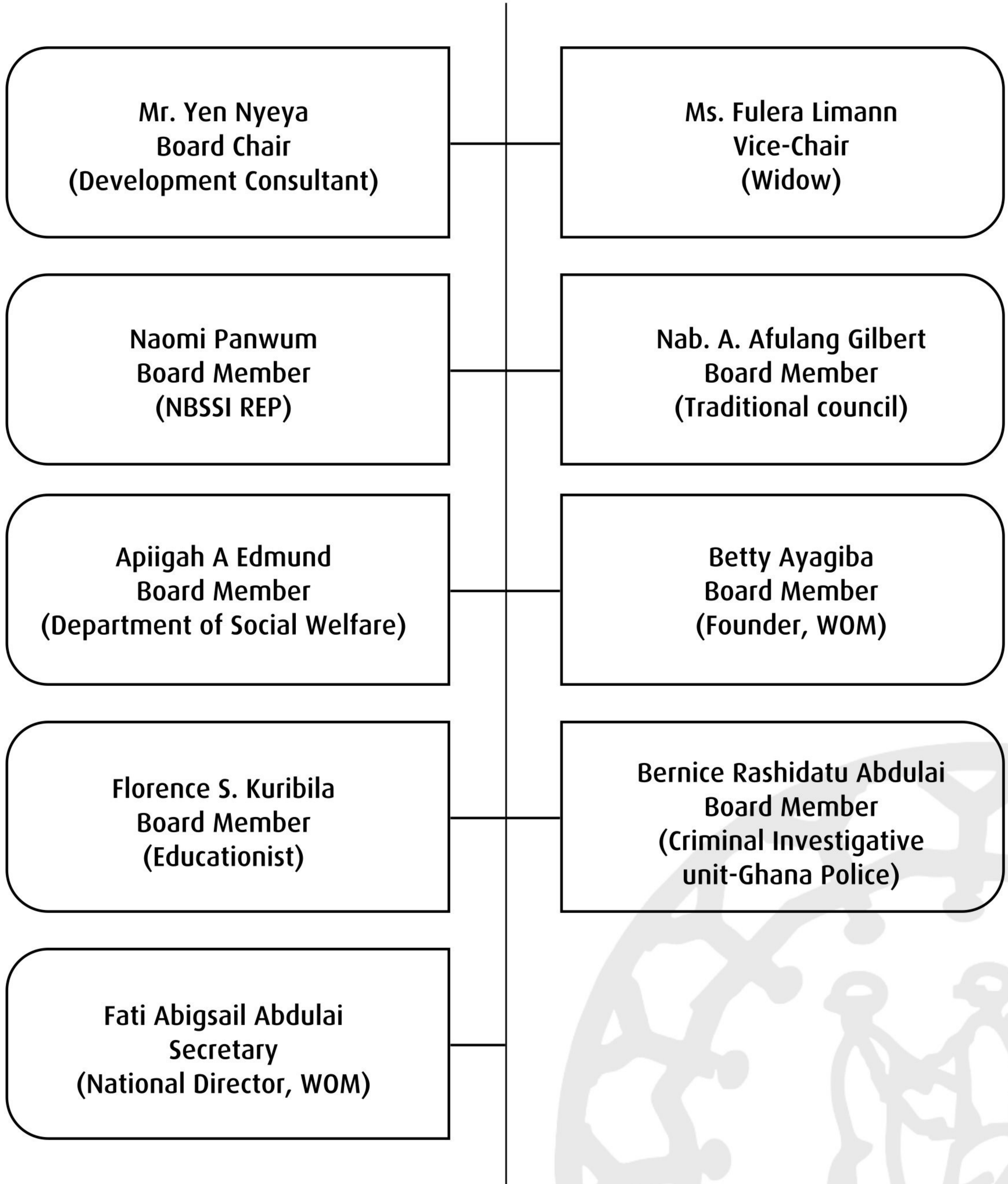
WOM's four (4) year project proposal to curb gender-based violence as part of the "ENOUGH Project" led by OXFAM & WILDAF was approved to commence in 2020. While a new Micro-credit programme was initiated in the Bawku West District of the Upper East Region, with support from SWISSHAND. Go Rentals donated 25 laptops which solved the long need for computers to facilitate work.

The indefatigable Board & staff of WOM consistently prove their commitment to the worthy cause of the organization. Our partners, donors & volunteers both in Ghana & overseas who remain the backbone of the organization continue to make us proud by investing their resources in us.

Widows & Orphans Living a dignified life can be achieved and together we are making this a reality.

THE BOARD

We acknowledge & remain grateful to all our donors, partners and/or collaboration for their contributions. Our work would not be possible without you & your support. To all our individual donors/contributors who wish to remain unknown, we say God Bless you.



THE STAFF & MANAGEMENT



Fati Abigail Abdula
National Director



Patricia Ayichuru
Women's rights officer



Jonathan A. Alataaba
Finance Officer



Gifty Abalansa
Promic Programme
coordinator-Bolga



Ganinu Abangos
Promic Programme
coordinator-Bongo



Daniel Awintot
Promic Programme
coordinator-Bawku West



Lovia Naya
Income Generating
Officer



Hannah Nyaba
Assistant Microcredit
Officer



Evelyn Ameseya
Sponsorship Officer



Betty Ayagiba
Founder & counselor



Collins Nyaba
Driver



Merete Bavngård
Volunteer

● Sarah Atanga 9 Assistant Microcredit Officer-Bongo)

LIST OF PARTNERS

We acknowledge and remain grateful to all our donors, partners and/or collaboration for their contributions. Our work would not be possible without you and your support. To all our individual donors/contributors who wish to remain unknown, we say God Bless you.

PARTNERS



ACADEMIA & RESEARCH PARTNERS



NETWORK



WOM AT A GLANCE



The Widows and Orphans Movement (WOM) is a national organization dedicated to helping and supporting widows and Orphans socially and economically for over 25 years.



We have reached **12,435 WOMEN**
in 125 COMMUNITIES across
Northern Ghana

- Total of 154 Widows groups
- 13095 members across Ghana

VISION

To see Widows and Orphans
Without tears and intimidation

MISSION

To initiate and facilitate processes
and programmes to empower
widows and orphans economically,
socially and spiritually

AREAS OF FOCUS



Human Rights
(Widows, Children
& Women)



Education &
Skills Training



Economic
Empowerment



Health
(HIV/AIDS &
Malnutrition)



Formally established in 2017, Atarrah is WOM's social enterprise. Using resources indigenous to West Africa, such as baobab & shea, Atarrah Produces a number of safe and healthy products.

www.womgh.org/shop

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Gender-Durbar: Cooking Competition Among Male Assembly and Unit Committee Members

Honourable Seidu Musah, the assembly member for Apelinga in the Bongo District who also happens to be an imam (Muslim cleric) & winner of the cooking competition for the Bongo district said that, growing up he helped his mother run a restaurant. Currently his wife equally runs a restaurant where he helps-out mostly. He added that, cooking is not only for women & that, men needed to participate to lessen the burden of care work.



Winner of men's cooking competition in Bongo

Honourable Johnson Pwalia, assembly member for Aneo in the Kasena Nankana West district who equally won the competition at the Kasena Nankana West District believed that God gave most people two hands to ensure that each hand offered a helping hand to the other.

In the same way, men & women are created to support one another. Therefore, it is unfair that both a man & a woman would go to the farm, come back tired, & only the woman is left to do the cooking alone. He added that, the believe that men should not go to the kitchen needs to change.

Saying his mother thought him cooking & today the skill enabled him win the competition. He therefore encouraged men to support in the kitchen.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Winner of men cooking competition in Kasena Nankan West District



Men's Cooking Competition on-going



PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

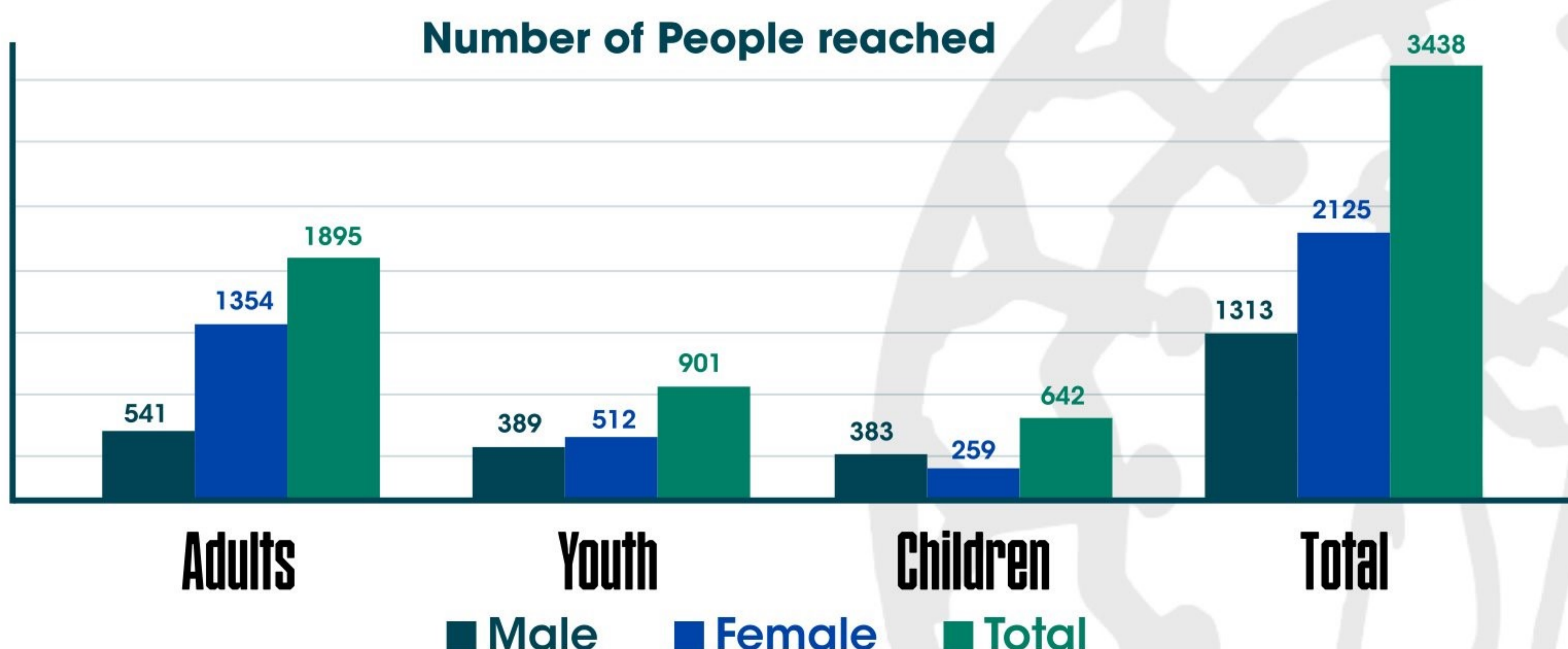
HUMAN RIGHTS - WOMEN

Work to advance women's rights was carried out in partnership with the Network for women's rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT), Action Aid Ghana (AAG) & Water Aid Ghana (WAG). Awareness was created among traditional leaders, women rights organizations (WROs), CSOs & women groups on the land bill to facilitate support for the passage of the bill in partnership with NETRIGHT.

WOM-AAG continued to work with women small holder farmers & other stakeholders such as the District Assembly in the Talensi district to increase recognition, redistribution, reduction & representation of unpaid care. This led to the maintenance & treatment of bore holes by the district assembly informed by demands of women small holder farmers after series of dialogue meetings; there has also been an increase in recognition of unpaid care work that has led to redistribution among men, boys, women and girls. It is worth noting that, more women are using their free time to engage in livelihood activities.

The media, youth & WOM with support from AAG also documented & shared some stories of widows facing abuses which raised more awareness on rights of widows. Again, 155 new profiles were linked to Greek sponsors making a total of 857 profiles in the Talensi & Nabdam districts at the end of the year.

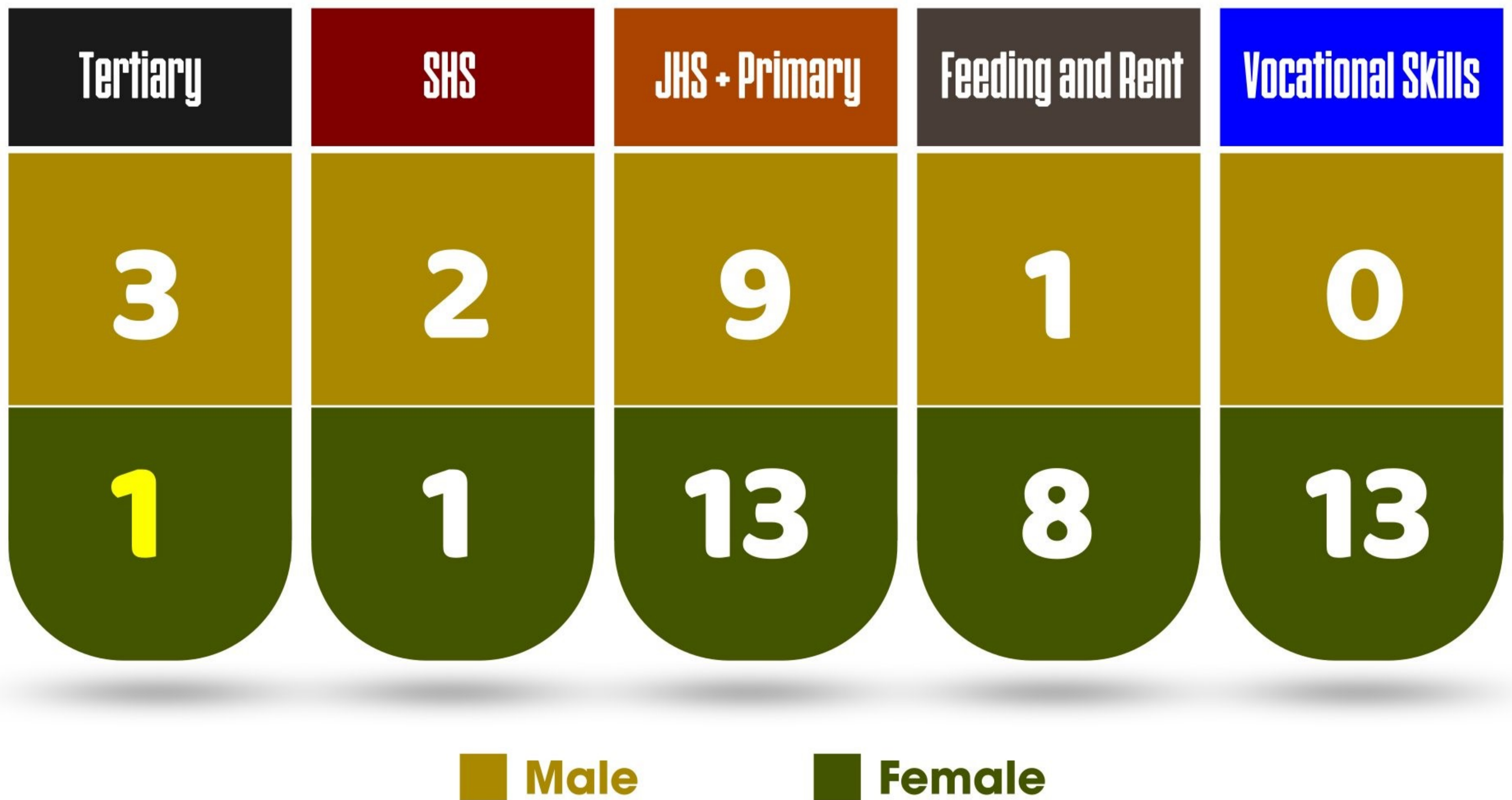
Our Work with WAG in the Bongo and Kasena Nankane West Districts used Stop Action Theater to address issues of unpaid care work & low participation of women in decision making as part of the Water & Sanitation Hygiene for public Health Project (WASH4PH). This was climax with cooking competitions held among male assembly members to demystify some gendered social norms pertaining to water sanitation and hygiene.



PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL SKILLS

A total of fifty two (52) widows & orphans being nineteen (19) male & thirty three (33) female were supported to stay in school or learn a vocational skill with support from Paul e.V & some individuals.



As part of AAG-WOM sponsorship programme in the Nabdam & Telensi districts, 19 communities comprising 8 & 11 communities respectively were reached. The number of sponsored children increased 702 in January to 857 children in August (426 boys, 431 girls).





Gallery

2019 Highlights

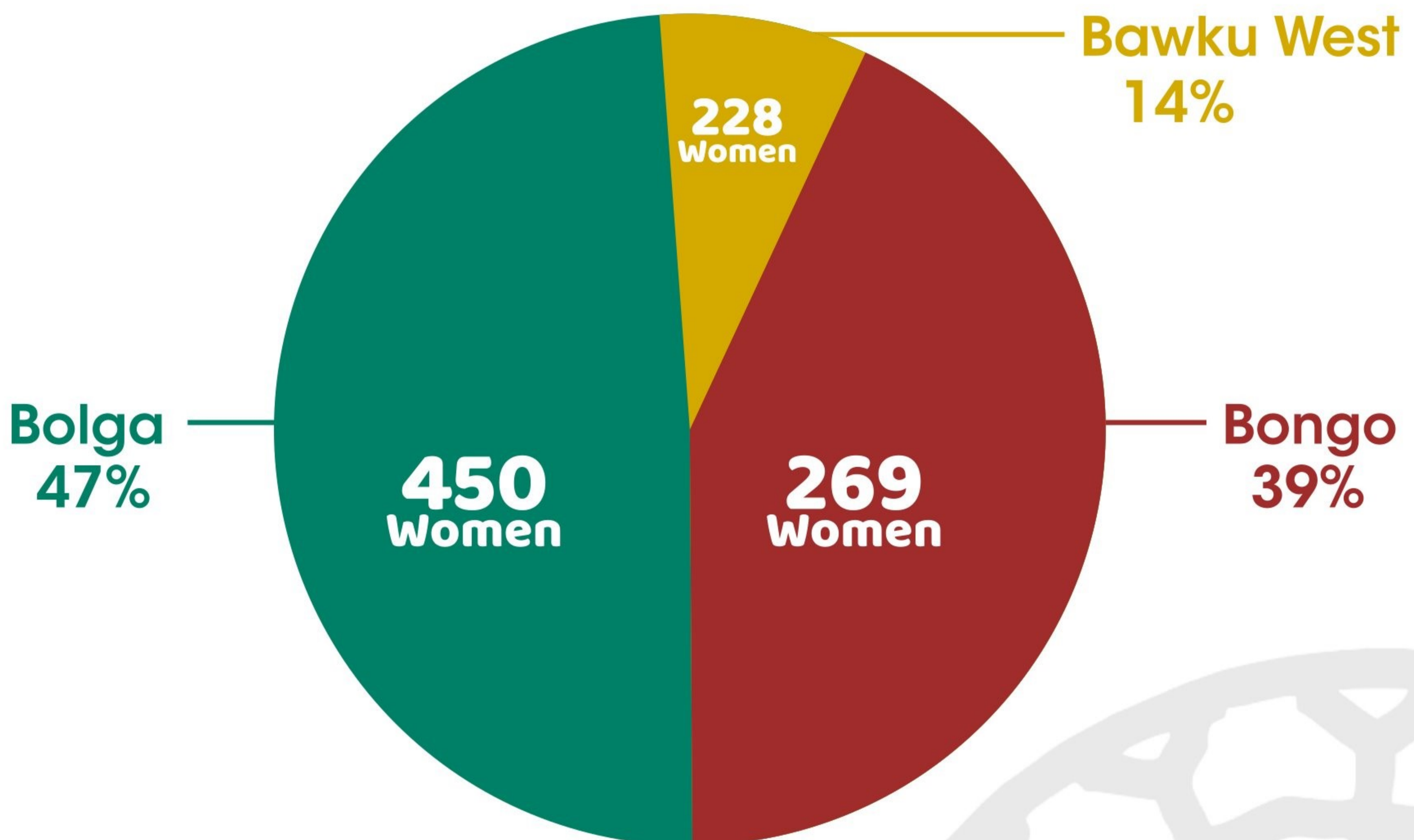
PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Promoting Micro-enterprises for efficient Poverty Reduction (PROMIC) PROGRAMME

In 2019, WOM with support for Swiss hand, started a new Promic programme in the Bawku West district of the Upper East region. This brings the total Promic programme to three. Thus, Bolga & Bongo Inclusive. A total of 947 women comprising 82% widows, received GH¢ 571,300.00 to either start & expand their businesses.

TOTAL LOANS DISBURSED
GH¢571,300.00

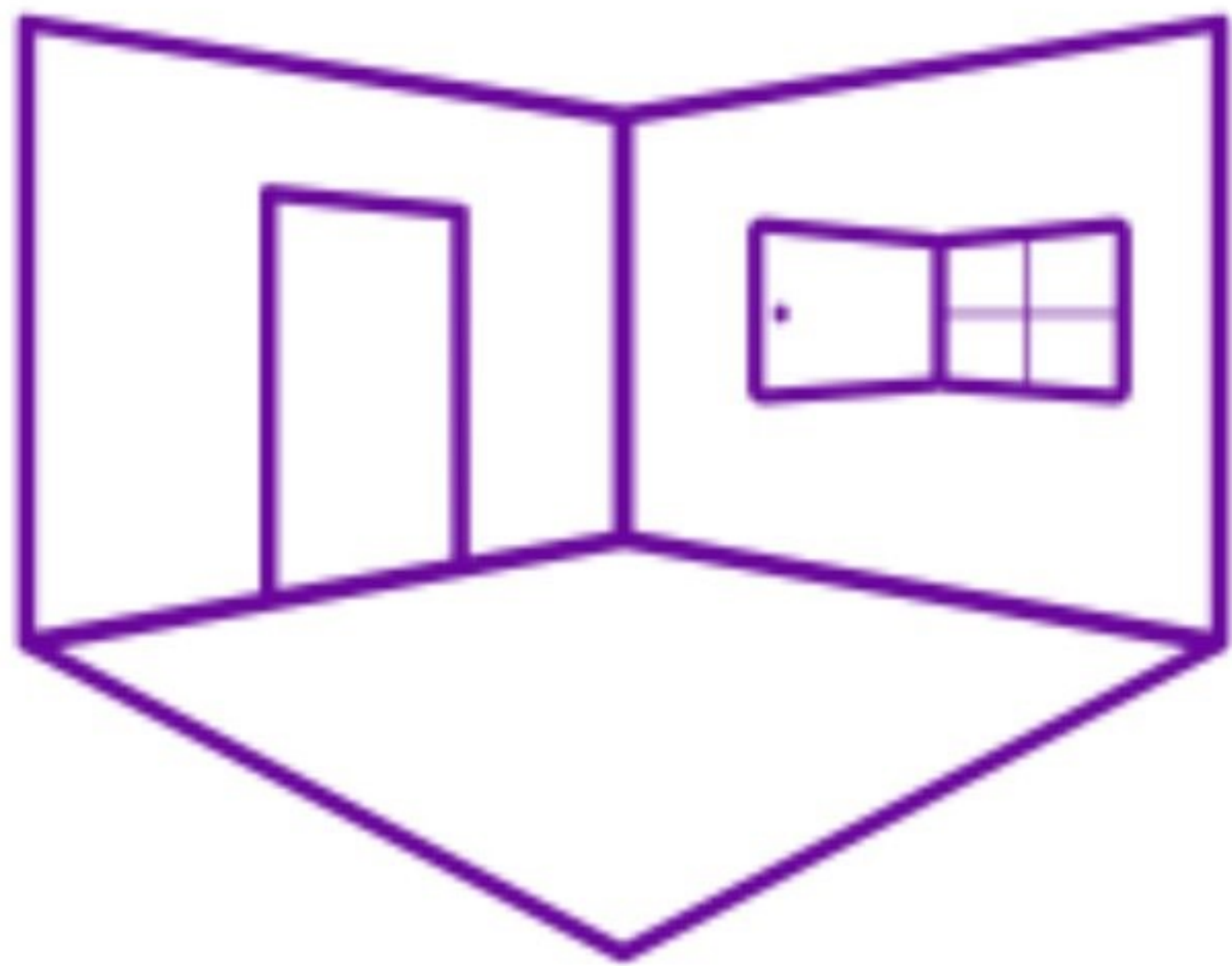


Other Projects & Activities

Shelter for Women

Thanks to Jos Duff hues & Marijke Van Ben Bos (Stitching Zaare) of the Netherlands, Dr. Awoonor & Leda Liman, Seven (7) rooms were completed for 7 widows while two are yet to be constructed. The Stitching Zaare projects also supported the rebuilding of collapsed grinding mills in Binaba, Zabzua & Dorungu in 2019.

PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES



**7 ROOMS
CONSTRUCTED**



**3 GRINDING MILLS
REBUILT**

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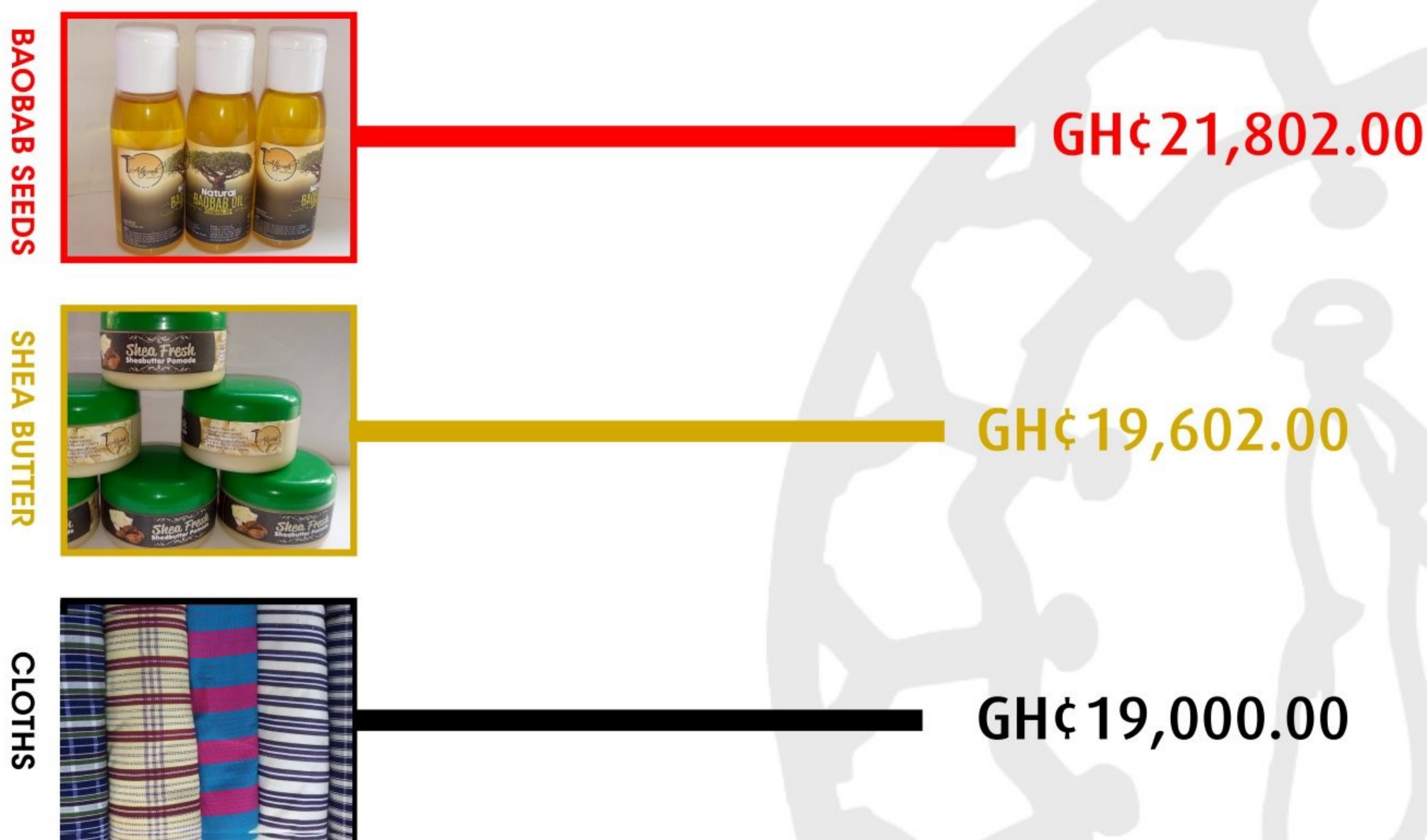
In 2019, Atarrah worked with sixty-six (66) women within thirteen (13) Communities directly. These women are aggregators who worked with the larger groups.

**66 Women's
groups reached**



**within
13 communities**

A total of forty one thousand, four hundred & fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 41,414.00) was directly disbursed to the women for mobilizing 5.6 tonnes of Baobab seeds and 1,481kg of shea butter in the Nabdam, Talensi, Bongo, Bawku west, Bolga East districts and Bolga Municipal. Another GH¢ 19,000.00 was used to purchase cloths from twenty (20) cloth weavers.



MICROCREDIT

Overcoming my addiction to alcohol



Vida Adongo is 37 years old, a mother of four (4) boys & hails from Tindonmolgo, a community under the Bolgatanga Municipality. She became a widow three (3) years ago and says;

I have never been to school. I had a business when my husband was alive but after his demise the business collapsed because I had to now provide for the family fully. I started taking in alcohol and would drink on credit. It became very difficult to even provide “gari” for my children to eat. Until I was introduced to the Widows & Orphans Movement where I received some counselling and training before accessing my first loan of GH¢400.00. Later I had GH¢800.00 & finally GH¢1500.00. I used the money to start charcoal & firewood business. Today, not only have I quit drinking alcohol, my children and I are happy and eat properly.



Improved health: The story of Sophia Abeleyine

Fifty (50) year old Sophia Abeleyine is a mother of two (a boy & a girl). She is from Tindonmolgo in the Bolgatanga Municipality & the bread winner of her family since the demise of her husband 26 years ago. In addition to her children, she equally cares for three (3) other relations of hers.

Sophia said, a relative financed her first business but it soon collapsed because she spent her capital in attempt to care for her family. She says;

**CONTINUED
ON NEXT PAGE**

ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESS STORIES



I was always not well & could not sleep at night. At the hospital, they frequently say my blood pressure was unstable. When I visited WOM, I received training & a loan of GH¢400.00 from them, the third loan I took was GH¢1,500.00. These monies helped me buy more rice, dry okro, cooking oil, etc to fill my shop. During the training I learnt that, it was important to save money for the repayment of the loan & have since put this knowledge into practice. Hence I do not struggle to repay the credit. I am now able to also meet the nutritional requirements of my children.; an improvement in my health & have capital which I can roll back into the business.



UNPAID CARE WORK

LIVESTOCK EXTENTION VOLUNTEER SAVES LIVESTOCK OF WOMEN

Access to veterinary services remains a challenge in the Talensi and Nabdam Districts. The people of Kotintabig, in the Talensi district are mostly livestock farmers, but unable to access veterinary services which resulted in high mortality of their animals. Women small holder farmers experience the greater challenge of accessing these services.

The Widows & Orphans Movement (WOM) in partnership with Action Aid Ghana (AAG) after holding consultative meetings with the smallholder women farmers, trained 24 youth as Livestock extension volunteers to provide basic care for the animals to curb the death rates.

Alex Bugre of Kontintabig was part of the youth trained in the Talensi a& Nabdam districts.

He says;

**CONTINUED
ON NEXT PAGE**

ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESS STORIES

“

I was fortunate to be trained & I have since used my knowledge & skills to help people especially the women here with their animals. Animals in my community no longer die like before.

Everyone especially the women now get to deworm their animals, treat their external parasites & simple wounds.

If I see the case is serious, I help them to get the veterinary officer”.



Alex Bugre (orange shirt) deworming Yin Tii's (woman) livestock



Yin Pii happily waiting her turn to deworm her livestock

ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESS STORIES

Yin Pii the chairperson of the Kotintabig Women group shared her experience working with Alex Bugre's. She said;

Alex has been our savior in this community. Our livestock used to die from common diseases & parasites because we could not afford to go to Pelungu (the major market) or even pay the services of the veterinary officer there to treat our livestock. We now get cheaper services & he is always available. He even trains us on how to feed them & take care of their sleeping place. I am very happy our livestock are now healthier & stronger.



Gains of Farmer-Business-School Concept: the case of Ataa Naho and dry okro farming



Ataa Naho harvesting her okro

Baare, a farming community in the Talensi District is among the fortunate communities that are able to engage in both rainy and dry season farming due to the presence of a dam. During the raining season, farmers cultivate mainly food stuff to feed the family. In the dry season, those with access to land close to the water source (DAM) who are mostly men and with a few women cultivate okro and other vegetables for sale.

Ataa Naho is a small holder farmer and a member of the Titeltaaba women group in Baare under the POWER project which is implemented by WOM in partnership with AAG. She was selected by her group to participate in a training on Farmer Business School Concept in the year 2017.

Based on the knowledge gained from the training, Ataa decided to put to practice by cultivating okro which is often very expensive to do. Her husband refused to give her land, because he thought it was too risky. So she used her own small portion of land which is often used for vegetables for the household to cultivate the okro. The proceeds from her sales convinced her husband to use 4 acres of land during the raining season for okro farming and another 1 acre for dry season okro farming the following year which equally yielded a lot of proceeds after sales. This year, Ataa and her husband again cultivated okro, processed it dry

ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESS STORIES

& have been able to sell 50 bags with each bag costing between GH¢600 to GH¢900. The couple are currently using part of their proceeds from the dry okro to complete their new three (3) block rooms as well as to take care of other household expenses.

SHELTER FOR WIDOWS



70 year Paulina of Sumbrungu-Azorebiisi, who was supported to reconstruct her home happily dances saying:

Who am I, that I too have a room of my own. Thanks to WOM & all the supporters for thinking of a poor widow like myself.

Skill training-Cloth weaving

Janet Avoka, a 44 year old widow from Zebilla in the Bawku west district & a mother of 4 (1 boy & 3 girls) is part of the eight (8) widows & orphans currently undergoing a one year training at the Bolgatanga women's shelter at Pusu-namongo with support from Paul e.V & the Church of Pentecost (COP).

Janet say;

**CONTINUED
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When I heard of the opportunity to learn the skill of cloth weaving, I had some reservations. I was worried about leaving my children. But If I had not come, I would have lost a lot. WOM supported me with money to buy food for my children and I am able to visit them every month from the allowance I receive. Now, I'm able to warp and begin weaving a fabric. When I graduate in March 2020, I will combine weaving and farming which I originally did. This should increase my income and support me provide better care for my children. Since I came to the centre, i can now mention and understand English words such as: come, water, How are you, I am fine, I am sick, etc . I will like to encourage other widows to work hard. If I who have a disability is able to do this, then they can too. It is my prayer that WOM will get more support so that they can reach some of my colleagues

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The Gane Asonghe group comprises of four (4) women (all widows) who trade in Baobab powder, Baobab seed & Baobab dried leaves. They purchase the raw material from individuals in the Pelungu market (Major market), aggregate & sell to larger buyers. Atarrah started working with this group in 2014. Dialogue sessions with the group revealed that, they spent a lot of their money paying for transport to convey their goods which reduced their profit margin drastically. They would sometimes decide to carry the goods on their head walking for over 3 miles to avoid the huge cost of transporting their items. This affected their health negatively.

In 2017, the Women in Business Society of St Frances Xavier university supported Atarrah purchase a donkey and a cart for this group. The elated women said their Donkey gave birth and is currently pregnant. They now have increased profits because they do not have to pay those huge transportation cost. Equally the drudgery of transporting the goods has reduced drastically.

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CHALLENGES & THE WAY-FORWARD

CHALLENGES

The upper east region experienced floods in 2019. As a result, most of the houses of the widows were washed down because they are made of mud. It left many of them homeless & more vulnerable. There is therefore the need to seek funding to support some of them reconstruct their homes.

WAY-FORWARD

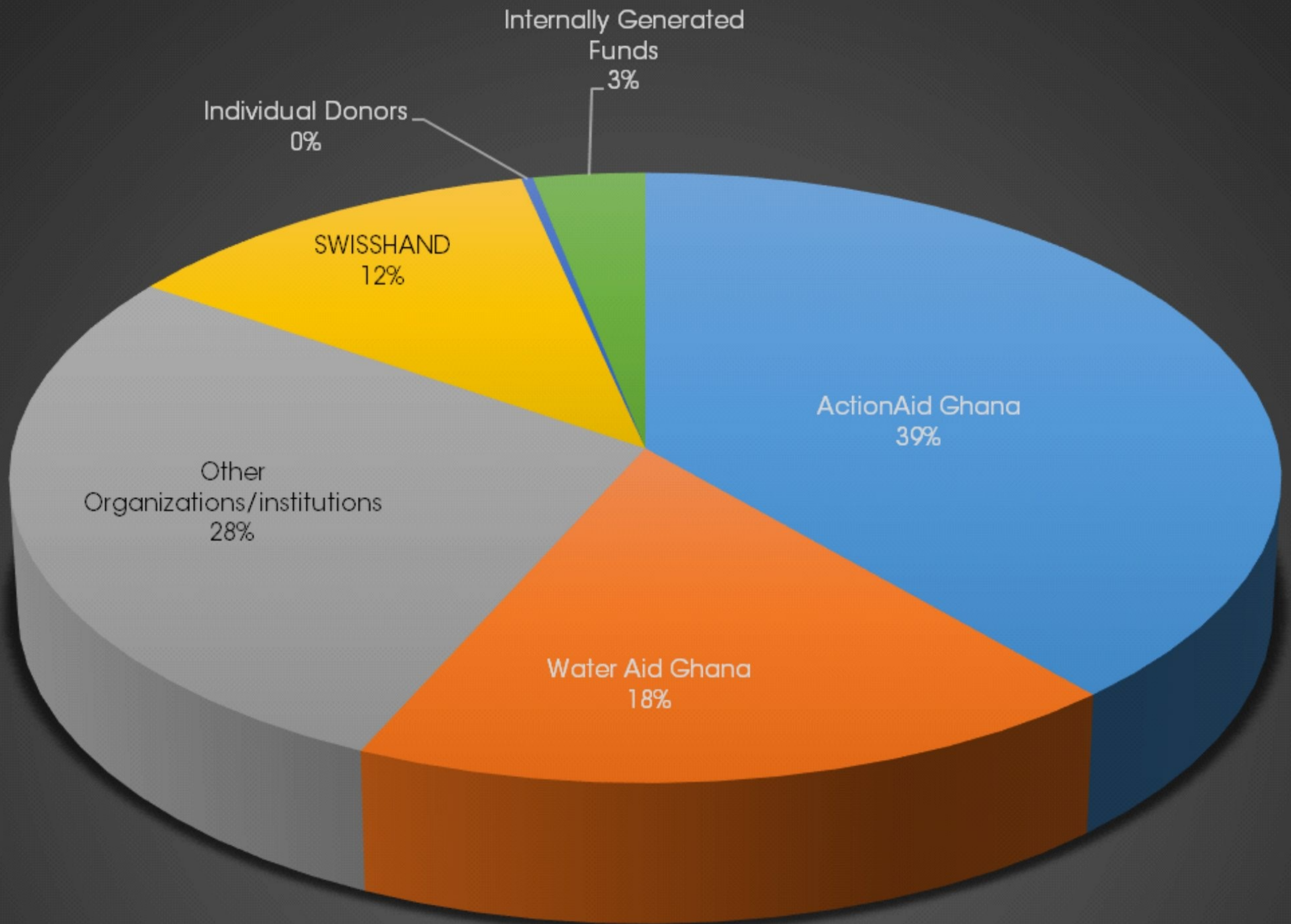
WOM is poised to increase fundraising over the next five (5) years to ensure that we are able to meet our new strategic plan. Based on this, the organization plans to develop a fundraising strategy and train all board and staff to effectively raise funds for this ambitious but doable plan.

INFORMATION ON WOM'S 2019 FINANCIALS

Source of Funds, 2019

Name of Organization/Institution/Donor	Amount (GH¢)	% of Funds	Project Area & Activities
ActionAid Ghana	261,670.78	38.6%	See Appendix 1
<i>Other Organizations/Institutions</i>			
St. Paul e.V	56,280.00	8.3%	See Appendix 2
WaterAid Ghana	122,576.57	18.1%	Leadership trainings for women
ATCWAR	1,000.00	0.1%	Education
Stitching Zaare	24,723.00	3.6%	Provision of shelter for Widows
NETRIGHT	67,592.31	10.0%	Capacity building of Women rights organisations and groups
SSB-MC	8,945.00	1.3%	Admin
women Stop Hunger	30,010.00	4.4%	Women Economic Empowerment
Total Other Organizations/Institutions	311,126.88	45.9%	
<i>SWISSHAND</i>			
Bawku West Programme	81,331.02	12.0%	Women Economic Empowerment (Microcredit)
<i>Individual Donors</i>			
Prof. Parkins Grace	500.00		Shelter for Widows -RENT
Elizabeth Boakye	200.00		Biscuits for children
T. B. Dankwa	1,000.00		Scholarly materials
Mrs. Limann	500.00		Scholarly materials
Total Individual Donors	2,200.00	0.3%	
Internally generated funds	21,132.00	3.1%	
Total Donated Funds	677,460.68	100.0%	
Net Resource of Existing Swiss hand Programme	NET PROMIC RESOURCES (GH¢)		2019 Fund Increment (GH¢)
Bawku West Programme	112,234.00		0.00
Bongo Programme	112,234.00		17,678.00
Bolgatanga Programme	166,394.00		28,898.00
Total Donations and Funds	724,036.00		

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOM'S INCOME IN 2019



■ ActionAid Ghana

■ Water Aid Ghana

■ Other Organizations/institutions

■ SWISSHAND

■ Individual Donors

■ Internally Generated Funds

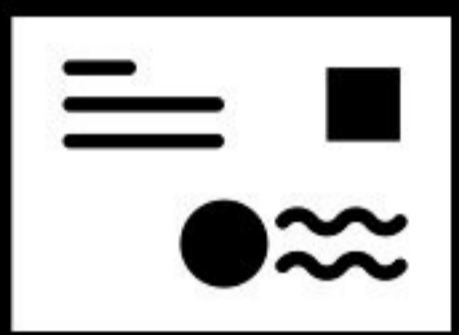
APPENDIX

Source of Funds and Donations, 2019

Activity	Amount (GH)	% of Funds
<i>Appendix 1 - ActionAid Ghana Activities</i>		
Power Project	105,408.53	40.3%
Women's Right	38,745.00	14.8%
Women's Right	19,414.99	7.4%
Fit for future	64,800.00	24.8%
Education	10,019.38	3.8%
Food Rights	10,019.38	3.8%
Total ActionAid Ghana	261,671.78	100.0%
<i>Appendix 2 - St. Paul e V</i>		
Economic Empowerment Activities	44,299.00	78.7%
Overhead Costs	4,041.00	7.2%
Education Fund	7,940.00	14.1%
Total St. Paul e.V	56,280.00	100.0%



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