



**BIBIR
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**December 31
2013**

DETAILED PROJECT AREAS OF 2013

Bibir Ghana undertook various projects in 2013 to reduce the barriers that bring about poor quality of education, low enrolment and high school dropout rates in the Savelugu-Nanton District and Tamale Metropolis in order to provide the opportunity for children to develop their potentials. The project also provides access to ICT training and library facilities in the Tamale Metropolis to further support the quality of education in this northern region that lacks behind in education progress.

EDUCATION

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF

PRIMARY EDUCATION --SAVELUGU

LIBRARY TAMALE
METROPOLIS

ICT-TAMALE
METROPOLIS

KAYAYEI

SKILL TRAINING

POVERTY
REDUCTION

MICROCREDIT

FOOD SECURITY

CROP FARMING

YEAR SUMMARY

BIBIR worked and continue to work more closely with all our stakeholders and other NGOs present in the target area towards a holistic approach in the achievement of its set objectives. In our role in supporting and improving quality of basic education in the Northern region, we undertook various activities such as promoting reading habits via access to our library facilities right in the heart of town, identification of needs and supply of teaching and learning materials to ten selected schools in Savelugu, providing inter-schools quiz to encourage learning and reading among the 10 selected schools, improving teacher's formation through in-service training and promoting ICT skills among the youth in Tamale Metropolis. We also held workshops and seminars with the target communities, Parents Teachers Association (PTA) to sensitise them on the importance of their children education in order to facilitate enrolment of children in schools, promote child rights and discourage harmful traditional practices that militate against education and child rights. In addition, we gave out basic materials to needy pupils after assessing and prioritising their individual needs in the 10 schools. Registration of needy pupils with National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was part of support to ensure early access to healthcare.

1.0 Education-Savelugu-Nanton

The education intervention started with meeting with Ghana Education Service to have awareness of the needs and challenges facing basic education in the Sevelugu–Nanton municipality in 2012. After a series of meetings with Directorate, BIBIR Ghana selected ten underperforming schools namely *Dinga primary school, Bilsitua primary school, Kpalung primary school, Tinkurugu primary school, Nyeko primary school, Totenyili primary school, Kanshegu primary school, Rashadiya primary school, Al–Marikazia primary school and Laligu primary school* to implement our intervention. In these chosen schools, we had interviews with individual stakeholders in line with their educational needs/challenges and how to improve the quality of education in a collective effort. The analysis of the outcome of the interviews brought to light the different challenges serving as barriers in basic education in the municipality. These issues were then put into a project planning matrix to our donors Fundacion Intervida for support and partnership.

In 2013, with financial support from Intervida we started the intervention with workshops to strengthen the quality of basic education and child rights amongst teachers, SMC representatives, parents and educationists in all the selected schools and communities. Competent facilitators sensitised community members, parents and teachers on the importance of their children education in order to improve upon enrollment, performance, school retention and to discourage harmful traditional practices that militate against education and child rights. Fifty teachers from the selected schools were also offered in-service training and refresher courses by facilitators from the Ghana Education Service Directorate on creative style of teaching, child rights, motivation and discipline in schools.

In collaboration with Savelugu Ghana Education Service, we also assessed, identified and provided ten selected schools with various teaching and learning materials to supplement their shortages in the second quarter. BIBIR also donated text books for different subjects and teaching aids to all the ten beneficiary schools. The total cost of donation is in thousands of cedis.



DONATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS

Assessment exercise on poor and needy pupils in the ten selected schools was conducted in the first quarter to identify needy pupils in all two hundred and sixty pupils which represents about 20% of the total pupils population benefitting (1,297) from the project were provided with basic needs (exercise books, pens, pencils, sandals, bags and reading

books) in the later part of the second quarter. The same number of beneficiaries was also registered with National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to receive free health treatment in case of illness at the cost of (5Ghc) to facilitate early access to healthcare. Bibir also provided one whiteboard and a football each to the beneficiary schools as well as four Oxford study Dictionaries were given to the each of the ten beneficiary schools through the Education Service Directorate. These materials will motivate pupils and teachers and also facilitate teaching and learning in these schools. The GES Directorate and Bibir Ghana will jointly monitor the right use of the items given out to ensure that the donated items are put to the right use.

Our initial impact assessment conducted in the ten schools has shown significant increase in the enrolment, performance and retention rates. This is awaiting confirmation from the Savelugu- Nanton Ghana Education Directorate annual statistically report.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS



WORKSHOP FOR STAKE HOLDERS



SUPPORT FOR NEEDY CHILDREN



PROVISION OF NHIS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

2.0 Library Tamale Metropolis

BIBIR library continues to serve the general public in the Tamale metropolis as it is situated right in the heart of town and close to the central market. Our library provides access to variety of reading and learning materials including the daily newspapers that promote the quality of education in the metropolis and also serves as a way of developing and sustaining the habit of the youth literacy development. We continue to ensure equal access to our internet facility for research and information to improve users' academic and professional development. The general management of the library worked towards ensuring that the rules and regulations governing the library are strictly adhered to by all users. Our library books and materials are well kept in the appropriate shelves before and after use, borrowed reading materials are returned on time and checked to ensure that they are not damaged.

This year BIBIR Ghana purchased new books to replace worn-out ones to meet the increased demand of our library users. The strategy of our awareness creation campaigns still maintain the form of visits to schools and communities in and around the metropolis to make people aware of our library facility and disseminating information on our library to every batch of the ICT trainees. BIBIR ensures that all the library users are taken through the use of the facility after they are duly registered. There is continues increase in the number users on daily basis and younger children are now patronising the library facility than ever before. In all average daily attendance in the library from January to December 2013 were 3,162. We registered all new library users in 2013 and provided them with orientation to ensure good coordination and for users to make the best use our facilities.

Challenges

While BIBIR Ghana met the expectation of users on the demand of enough current books, reference material through support of Intervida on purchase of new books and easy self-service, however, we could not do it all. As stated in 2012, some challenges in the operation of the library remains, the challenge of inadequate space available to accommodate all the users at peak hours, convenient reading hours, extremely warm temperatures in the study rooms especially during the dry season which is not conducive for learning and poor handling of books are still issues to be dealt with. The librarian employed in March this year needs to meet these challenges through creative approaches in order to deal with user behaviours and expectations.



BIBIR LIBRARY

3.0

ICT Tamale Metropolis

In 2013, BIBIR ICT still continues to be one of the well-patronised ICT facilities in the metropolis providing the youth with a unique support to learning information technology and getting a job despite the fluctuation of power or electricity has negative effect on learning as well as the computers causing a lot of damages to them. ICT students received training in different areas as follows: Introduction to Computer, Windows, Microsoft Word Basic, Microsoft Word Excel, Microsoft Word Access, MS Word Advanced, MS Power Point, MS Publisher, Corel Draw, Photo Impression 4, Visual Business Card 4 and Introduction to Internet. For the year under review, 248 made up of both males and females were trained in our ICT School. Our school is well known in the metropolis because of effective teaching and learning that take place during training hours and also for its low fees charge to allow the poor to easily access. Jobs for our completed students are easily attained because of our good records in training candidates and how they performing well after training during interviews and at their respective work places.

Orientation and Awareness Creation

Our students before undertaking our ICT course are given proper orientation to help them to be familiar with the training environment, rules and regulation of the institution. In 2013, the awareness creation was by of the dissemination of information about the existence of our ICT facility in schools visits and to users of our library facility during their orientation.

Follow up / monitoring and evaluation

BIBIR Ghana continues to support individuals completing our ICT training course to find practical attachment to further develop their skills for the employment market. We do this by arranging for practical placements for these students in other organisations who collaborate with us.



BIBIR ICT SCHOOL

4.0 Kayayei

The vocational training and school going for our kayayei girls started in 2010. It began with 80 girls 62 opting for vocational training in seam stressing and 18 opting to enrol in regular school. The 80 girls came from 4 communities in the Tamale Metropolis. The 62 girls were shared among their mentors for training whilst the other 18 girls were given admissions in the various schools around the communities. The training for these girls took three years for their completion. All the 62 girls have graduated this year (2013) and before their graduation as part of their package, each girl was given a set of tools to aid her in settling to commence business in her community. Twenty-four (24) girls from Gbalahi who were engaged in dressing making early 2012 are still in their second year of training. Their registration fees have all been paid and support is still being given to them. It is hoped that in the near future their examination fees and materials will be paid for 2014 to assist them in their completion.

BIBIR “kayayei” project has served as research for many students in the various universities in Ghana, U.S.A, Germany, Netherlands etc. This is a recent message received from a student by name Eva Heinen offering MA in Maastricht Netherlands *“I had read great things about your work and the projects you run on training for “kayayei empowerment” and also on your guidance with former students. I was hoping that I could visit you and seek your expertise on this topic. If possible we could also arrange for me to help with some projects, I am open to anything in order to learn more about you and these girls”*



GRADUATION OF KAYAYEI GIRLS



GRADUATION

5.0 Micro credit

BIBIR GHANA continues its role in supporting local women in and around selected communities by providing funds to them in a form of microcredit loan and professional information on the management of these loans. The core objective of this microcredit remains assisting local women in their small scale businesses for them to be able to cater for their children in school. We continue to encourage women groups with collective drive by granting them with micro loans charged with reasonable interest rates to each individual in the group for a flexible repayment plan. Due to the little funds available, BIBIR could not roll in more women groups even though there was always pressure from these women to assist. We could only assist thirty (30) women engaged in different types of small scale businesses like local rice Para-boiling, local oil extraction, petty trading etc. These women can be found in the Fuo Community. Before the receipt of another loan the entire group have to finish paying for their any outstanding loan and once that is done they can reapply for a much bigger loan to keep on running their businesses till such a time that they can do without our support. BIBIR is committed to changes and control systems with strong mixture of formal and informal relationship where necessary with our beneficiaries in order to understand their strengths and weaknesses so that we can provide a tailored support to all. The group formation is paramount, it provides social responsibility and therefore serves as “collateral” that guarantees repayment and sustainability. The introduction of these procedures combined with our flexible repayment plan led to a one hundred per cent (100%) recovery rate on all the loans given in 2012 and 2013.

In 2013, BIBIR supported 30 women in with microcredit assistance with an amount of GHC 150.00 each. There is a great joy when women with children without job can be assisted to get something doing to cater for themselves and their children.

6.0 Partnership with SADA in Crop Farming

SADA means Savannah Accelerated Development Authority. It is an independent agency for coordinating a comprehensive development agenda for the northern savannah ecological zone in Ghana. It is not a project but a comprehensive government strategy backed by a policy enshrined in law through ACT 805 of 2010. In effect, SADA is a long-term national response to a long-term problem.

Its objectives are;

- *Provide strategic planning guidance*
- *Mobilise human, financial and other resources*
- *Coordinate existing and future development and related policies*

Vision of SADA

“Creating a forested and Green North by 2030, doubling the incomes of Northern Ghanaians and reducing the incidence of poverty in the Northern Savannah ecological belt to less than 20% within 20 years”.

Areas operated by SADA

The SADA area comprises of the three northern regions of Ghana (Upper East, Upper West and Northern), and stretches to include districts contiguous to the Northern Region that are located north of Brong-Ahafo and north of Volta region.

Selection of Service Providers

On 14th March, 2013, SADA advertised in the Daily Graphic interested service providers from NGOs and marketing based out grower companies who are experience in supporting small scale farmers to apply and partner them to provide seeds, fertilizers, tractor services, technical extension and marketing service to farmers. It was based on this that BIBIR also applied using its experience and already existing famer based organisations (FBOs) around Tamale and Tolon/Kumbungu Metro and district respectively. A panel of distinguish judges went through all the proposals submitted by the Technical Service Providers (TSPs) and luckily BIBIR was among the chosen ones with its working areas as Tolon District. BIBIR was given two tractors at the later part of June to plough for Farmers around Tolon with a target of 625 hectares. Tractors, seeds and fertilizers were supplied by SADA to us to assist the farmers. No physical cash was handed over to BIBIR to provide this services except for mobilization where half of the total cost was use to pay for fuel for the tractors, the feeding of the tractor operators and the payment of their services. Out of the 250 hectares or 625 acreages given as our target, BIBIR was able to do 241 hectares or 603 acreages. The reason for not meeting the target was as a result of late supply of tractors and it's limited in number.

Summary of inputs supplied to farmers

Total No. of Farmers Plowed for	Total No. of acreage plowed	Total No. of Communities	Total No. of seeds supplied by SADA (kilos)	Total No. of NPK supplied by SADA (bags)	Total No. of Sulphate Ammonia supplied by SADA (bags)
351	603	14	1,680	1,250	500

Challenges

Some challenges faced during the farming season included;

- Late supply of inputs
- Drought

Recovery from FBOs

Recovery from our Farmer- Based Organisations in our operational areas has just begun and this will continue through the beginning of early next year and hope to finish in March.

Communities we work with at Tolon District;

COMMUNITY	No. OF FARMERS
Bogunaayili Upper A	20
Bogunaayili Upper B	11
Bogunaayili Lower	30
Cheshegu	45
Gbullung	12
Gingani	30
Gupanarigu	33
Kochim	17
Limo	20
Mbanaayili	35
Nwogu A	24
Nwogu B	14
Tiginyorin	15
Dalun	45
<i>Total</i>	351

For Tamale Metro we have *Young Dakpemaayili fuo (25) and Kpalgini (20)*



7.0 Conclusion

BIBIR Ghana in 2013, both local and international students who undertook their internship with us, three students from Catholic University of Applied sciences, Paderborn in Germany and three others from universities in Ghana all had over three months supervised placement with us in different fields and made significant contributions and recommendation in all project areas. During the year under review, we partnered World Vision to distribute books to some schools while some books were also supplied to our library.

In 2014, BIBIR Ghana appeals to donors to support projects such as reading in the schools in the form of mobile library, training of teachers in ICT, in-service training for teachers and equipping school with computers for ICT lessons.

We are grateful to Fundacion Privada Intervida in Spain, our sole donors for sponsoring most of our main projects.