

# **LIFECARE GHANA (LIFECARE)**



*Providing Live Opportunity to All*



*Incorporated under the laws of Ghana with its registered office at*

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## **Introduction**

LifeCare Ghana (LifeCare) was formed in 2004 by representatives of women and youth groups in Wa in their quest to champion the welfare of underserved women and children. It has its head office in Wa in the Upper West Region. With over eight years of community service, the organisation has grown from a community-based organisation to a non-profit NGO with registration numbers G-36,888 and DSW/5462 obtained from Registrar General's department and the Department of Social Welfare, respectively. It was established against the backdrop that development opportunities for rural development abound under Ghana's decentralization system, yet majority of the rural communities lack development due to their inability to utilize the opportunities. Operating in the thematic areas of education, human rights, food security, environment, and water and sanitation, the organisation has under-served children and women as its target groups.

## **Values**

- We value partnership based on respect, honesty and openness
- We believe that everyone must be able to enjoy their fundamental human rights
- We value diversity and cross-cultural understanding
- We believe that people working together can achieve lasting positive results
- We value the innovation and creativity generated by shared endeavour

## **Vision**

A society where opportunities exist and are enjoyed by all

## **Mission**

LIFECARE should be a reputable grassroots organization dedicated to conserving the environment, improving access and education quality delivery, and enhancing food security and opportunities for underserved children and women in society through partnership and volunteering.

## ***Goals and Objectives***

The Organization operates with the following goals:

- a) Organizational Strengthening: Improving our organizational structure, processes, funding sources and partnerships with other organizations so as to remain relevant and effective to achieve our vision.
- b) Access to Education: Improve access to quality basic education for most disadvantaged girls and boys by facilitating enrolment, retention and teaching quality delivery.
- c) Environmental conservation: Promote biodiversity conservation and improve access to and sustainable use of natural resources to benefit most disadvantaged women and children.
- d) Human Rights/Good Governance: Improve ability for most under-served women and children to exercise their human rights and participate in community development.
- e) Rural Health: Improve care and support for persons affected by HIV/AIDS and access to water, sanitation and hygiene in underserved communities.
- f) Food Security and Rural Livelihoods: Improve food security and livelihoods for under-served women and children by building their skills and resources to overcome poverty in a sustainable way.

## **Activities**

- Provide support to out-of-school children and young women in rural communities to ensure their enrolment and integration into schools.
- Contribute to the global fight against HIV/AIDS by facilitating dissemination of information, and promoting care, support and treatment for People Living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.
- Capacity building in reforestation and livelihood activities that promotes biodiversity restoration in disadvantaged indigenous communities.
- Advocacy for the rights of most underserved women and children in society through civic education, and stakeholder engagements etc.
- Facilitate access to portable water, sanitation and hygiene for underserved women and children.
- Support in the strengthening of cooperatives, business research and business linkages through training in technical and business management to develop enterprises in particular fields of production eg shea nut, grains, value addition, small ruminants etc.
- Facilitate provision of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters.
- Research, train and resource local communities to dialogue with their District Assemblies and advocate for social services due them and set the agenda for their development.

## **Strategies:**

- We respect and reinforce existing partnerships within the societies where we work.
- We focus on harnessing strengths, assets and potentials and promote community driven development and sustainability.

## **Membership of Networks**

- International – Global Hand Foundation; Steven Sinotte Foundation; Betterplace.org.
- Local – Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC); Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of Children (GNCRC); Northern Network for Educational Development (NNED).

## **What Has LIFECARE Done Since Its Establishment?**

- Collaborated with 4 community organisations and 2 civil society organisations in two districts - Wa and Garu-Tempene, to demand accountability from Assembly members. The beneficiaries were trained to use community score card to track the level of community involvement in project planning and implementation. Thus, they now track activities in the areas of service personnel in education, health and agriculture in their respective communities.
- Constructed a four bedroom house at Kperisi for teachers to improve quality of teaching and learning in deprived areas.. The Wa Municipal Education office provided furniture and fittings including beds, whereas the Kperisi community provided water, sand, stones and labour for the construction. All three stakeholders participated in the project monitoring.
- Collaborating with Educational Development Fund for Muslim Youth (EDUFUND), with funding from Ibis West Africa, a number of activities were carried out towards addressing low enrolment of the girl child in schools in 4 communities of Wa municipality. They

involved a baseline survey to collect basic data on schools infrastructure and boy-girl ratio, and meetings with teachers, selected pupils and parents to identify the factors that cause the low enrolment and high drop out rate of the girl child in school. As a result, 198 children were supported to enrol and retained in 15 basic schools.

- Implemented a project on hygiene and sanitation education using Behaviour Changed Communication (BCC) and has developed 250 key messages for community education. The project was able to increase 6,570 community members' awareness and used information to increase their knowledge on hygiene and sanitation in 10 communities in two districts – Wa municipality and Garu-Tempene district.
- Trained and supported over 600 underserved people involving women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in soap making, beads production, batik tie & dye manufacturing, entrepreneurship and records keeping among others.
- Using its own internal resources and volunteers, the organisation has facilitated formation of 15 women self-help groups, sensitized 15 rural communities in bushfire management and trained 373 women in rabbit domestication.
- Organised sensitizations and facilitated care and support for persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in 13 rural communities in Wa Municipality, Wa East and Wa West districts.

### Operational Area

Since its inception, LifeCare has been working in 2 regions in the north of Ghana viz. the Upper East Region (UER) and the Upper West Region (UWR). It operates in Garu-Tempene District of UER and the Wa Municipal, Wa West and Wa East districts of UWR. Within the next 5 years, the organization wishes to expand its programmes to include Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District in the Northern Region and Lambusie-Karni district of UWR.

Figure 1: Map of Ghana showing locations of the 10 administrative regions of Ghana.



## **Funding**

Funding and resources for the organisation are obtained from:

- Bihasun Integrated Development Organisation (BIDO)
- Membership dues/volunteers contribution
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Community Aid for Rural Development (CARD)
- EDUFUND/IBIS West Africa
- Wa Municipal Assembly/Ghana Aids Commission
- On-line/internet-based fundraising
- Garu-Tempene district Assembly
- Collaboration with other organisations

## **Organisational Structure and Management**

The organization has a 7-member Board of Directors. The board is the highest decision-making wing of the organization. They meet quarterly to assess the progress of the organization, make strategic decisions and look at programme and administrative issues that require the board's attention. The members are:

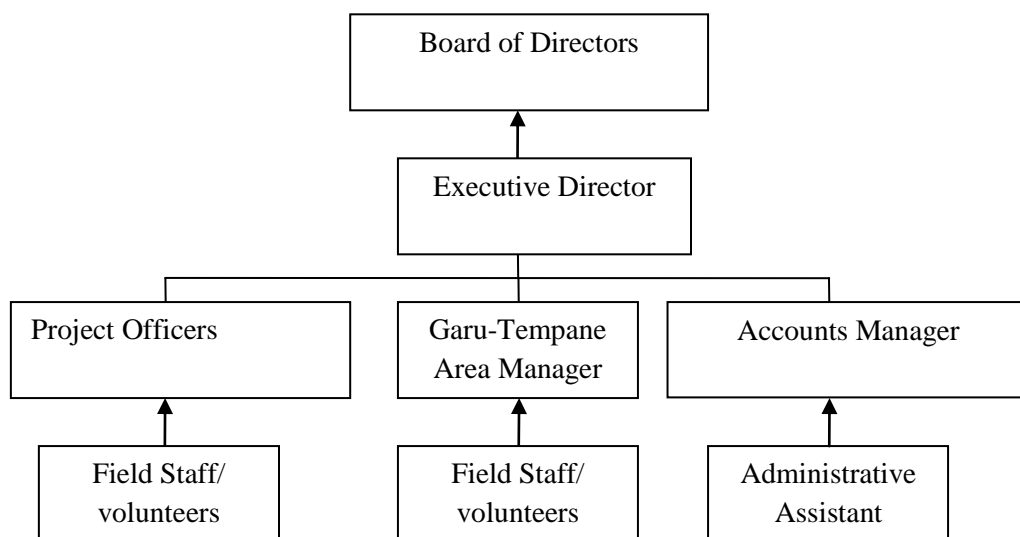
1. Mr Mumuni Hassan, currently the chairman of the School Management Committee (SMC) of Fongo English/Arabic School in Wa, is the chairman of the board of directors. He also served as the vice chairman of the Parents Teachers Association of the same School from 1988 to 1994. He is a seasoned contractor and the Managing Director of Mumuni Hassan Contract Works.
2. Mr N'eebo Anicetus Caesar, currently working as Director of the Department of Social Welfare of Jirapa District Assembly is a member of the board. He has enormous experience working with persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups. He is a board member of Jirapa District Disability Fund Management Committee. He is a trained community development specialist, and holds a BA in Psychology from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).
3. Ms Elizabeth Kantahaa, a professional business consultant, currently working as Business Development Officer for Jirapa Business Advisory Centre in Jirapa District, is Secretary of the board. She has also worked with the Jirapa District Assembly as Gender Desk Officer for 2 years. Her educational qualifications are High National Diploma in Accountancy, obtained from Sunyani Polytechnic.
4. Mr Abdul-Rahaman Adams – An agriculturalist and currently working as a lecturer at the Agricultural Engineering Department of Wa Polytechnic in Wa, is a member of the board. He has a Master of Science Degree in Post-Harvest Technology obtained from University of Essex in United Kingdom and a High National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering (Post Harvest option) obtained from Tamale Polytechnic.
5. Mr Abu Salifu, Deputy Upper East Regional Population officer of National Population Council, is a member of the board. He worked with National Youth Council at Bawku as the Municipal Youth Coordinator from 2004 - 2009. He also worked at Sandema Secondary School from 2002 – 2004 where he taught business management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Administration (specialising in marketing) obtained from the

University of Ghana and a certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation awarded by Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

6. Mr Saako Malik – Upper East Regional Curator of Ghana Museums and Monuments Board at Bolgatanga, is a member of the board. He was a history teacher at Sandema Secondary School, Sandema (2004 – 2009). He is currently the president of Babile Islamic School Old Students Association. He has rich experience which he acquired through his routine expeditions to many African countries. He holds an MPhil and a BA in Archaeology, both obtained from the University of Ghana.
7. Mr Moomin Abdul-Rahman – Executive Director of LifeCare, is an ex-officio member and current secretary to the board. He worked as Head of Business Advisory Centre of National Board for Small Scale Industries in Garu-Tempene District, Garu (2006 – 2011) and with Kanton Secondary School as Government tutor (2005 – 2006). He also worked with National Road Safety Commission as Road Safety Campaign Officer in Wa (2004 – 2005). He holds a B.A. Degree in Political Science with Study of Religions from the University of Ghana and an MPhil in Development Studies obtained from UDS.

The day-to-day administration of LifeCare is the responsibility of LifeCare Management staff. See table 1 below for organisational structure.

Table: 1 LifeCare’s Organogram



### Management

The day-to-day administration of the organisation is done by a 7-member paid-up team, which is headed by the Executive Director. He is supported by 4 Project officers, 1 Accounts Manager and 1 Area Manager for Garu-Tempene district office. The Project Officers and Area Manager are supported by 12 field staffs that consist of part-time workers, students on internship and community volunteers. The Finance and Administrative Officer in our head office is supported by an Administrative Assistant.

Our management staffs have considerable experience in community mobilization and education. We have a great deal of experience in planning fieldwork, undertaking field activities

and reporting on field findings. Our staffs have also participated in many training workshops on project planning, monitoring and evaluation, community mobilization and adult learning.

Table 2: Profile of Key Management Staff

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Experience/ Qualification</b>
Mr. Moomin Abdul-Rahman	Executive Director	Holds an MPhil. in Development Studies and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science with Study of Religions. Over eight years experience in the management of NGO projects and programmes; has considerable knowledge and experience in gender, poverty reduction and environmental issues, and has received training in these fields.
Mr. Mohammed A. Najeeb	Project officer – Wa municipal office	Holds a Master of Arts in Economic Policy Management and a B.A. in Economics. Over nine years' experience in the management of Government projects and programmes; has considerable knowledge and experience in adult learning, developing community-based associations and environmental issues, and has received training in these fields.
Mr. Haruna Hashim	Project officer – Wa West office	Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology obtained from Azhar University, Egypt. Six (6) years of relevant work experience in community facilitation, mobilization and field work. He has also done course in Project Monitoring and Evaluation.
Mr. Mustapha Hamza	Project officer – Wa East office	Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and anthropology. Over five years' experience in the management of Government projects and programmes; has considerable knowledge and experience in adult learning, developing community-based organisations and environmental issues, and has received training in these fields.
Mr. Mohammed Mbajia	Finance and Administrative Manager	Bachelor of Management Studies and High National Diploma (HND) in Accountancy. Over nine years' experience in Fund Management, preparing financial statements and reports for donor funds. Also has experience in community development work.
Ms Grace Yenkaayi	Administrative Assistant	HND in Secretaryship and Management from Wa Polytechnic. Three years internship/ experience in office administration and management.
Mr. Ibrahim Jamal-deen	Garu Area Manager	Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology (with concentration in Crop Science). Over five years' experience in the management of Government projects and programmes; has considerable knowledge and experience in adult learning, developing farmer-based organisations and environmental issues, and has received training in these fields.

## **Programme Challenges**

Programme challenges over the years include:

- Inadequate and unsustainable funding/donor support to sustain project gains in communities;
- Inadequate logistics and technical expertise to effectively implement projects;
- Inadequate research and poor access to relevant data to develop evidence-based programmes;
- High illiteracy level of the target communities affects the rate of programme implementation.

**For further information,  
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