







RESULTS BROCHURE 2023

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ABOUT CURIOUS MINDS

Curious Minds is a uniquely young people-led organization with a focus on promoting children and youth development.

Curious Minds works to ensure that all children and youth are well informed and meaningfully participate in decision-making that affects their lives by advocating, generating knowledge, sharing information, building partnerships and training young activists at local, national and international levels.

OUR WORK IS PREMISED ON FOUR STRATEGIC PILLARS NAMELY

- Advocacy
- Communications
- Capacity Building
- Organisational Development



MISSION & VISION

Vision

A world where all children and youth are well empowered to freely and actively contribute to issues concerning them in an environment that ensures that their rights are respected, protected and guaranteed.

Mission

Curious Minds works to ensure that all children and youth are well informed and meaningfully participate in decision-making that affects their lives, by advocating, generating knowledge, sharing information, building partnerships and training young activists with a focus on the local, national and international levels.

CORE VALUES



Team Work



Integrity



Accountability





Girl Power Project 4 Change

Title: Girl Power Project 4 Change

Donor: STAR Ghana

Location: Central and Volta Regions

(Komenda, Ampenyi, Fievie, and Agbakope) Duration: September 2022 – March 2023



Project Description

Girl Power For Chnage Project aimed to build the capacities of young girls and women in SRHR. The project created various platforms, including radio discussions, community outreaches, colloquia, outside broadcasts, and stakeholder engagements, to allow young girls and women to engage on SRHR topics.

Goal: To build the capacities of selected young girls and women in SRHR and provide platforms for regular engagement on SRHR issues.



- Increase knowledge among young girls and women on SRHR to make informed choices.
 - 2 Increase access to SRHR services and create safe spaces for young girls and women.
- 3 Sensitize parents, guardians, and community leaders to support SRHR issues.
 - Foster support from stakeholders like GES, GHS, and district assemblies for creating safe, inclusive environments in schools and health facilities.

KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Training for 30 Young Girls:

Delivered training on SRHR topics and broadcasting skills in the Central and Volta Regions, empowering young girls to engage and educate others in their communities.

Radio Discussions:

Conducted **30** radio sessions on SRHR, aired on Radio Central and Freedom FM, creating a platform for open dialogue and information sharing with the wider community.

Community Entry Visits:

Held 4 community visits to engage gatekeepers, foster relationships, and gain community support for the project's goals.

Social Media Campaigns:

Launched social media campaigns to raise awareness and spread SRHR knowledge across broader audiences.

Community Outreaches & Outside Broadcasts:

Organized 4 community outreaches and outside broadcast sessions to directly engage local communities on SRHR issues, fostering informed discussions and service access.

Community Engagement Sessions:

Conducted community outreaches to sensitize parents, guardians, traditional and religious leaders on the importance of supporting SRHR and creating a conducive environment for young girls and women to access services.

Regional Colloquium:

Organized a colloquium in the Central Region, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss SRHR challenges and solutions, strengthening partnerships and expanding the project's reach.

RESULT (OUTCOMES)

Increased Knowledge of SRHR Among Girls and Women

A total of **1,756 girls** and women were reached with SRHR information through community-based activities, radio discussions, and outreaches.

Youth Engagement in SRHR Advocacy

30 weekly radio programs on SRHR issues were broadcast across Radio Central in Cape Coast and Freedom FM in Sogakope, **engaging over 11,000 people** in the project districts and beyond.

Community Sensitization on SRHR

11,500 parents, guardians, traditional, and religious leaders were sensitized to better understand and support SRHR issues, surpassing the target of 10,000 due to high participation in community outreaches and radio programs.

Access to SRHR Services

400 women and girls accessed SRHR services at partner facilities during the outreaches.

Process (Outputs)

Community Outreach Campaigns

4 community outreaches were successfully organized in the Central and Volta regions, engaging local communities in discussions about SRHR.

Capacity Building for Young Girls

2 capacity building workshops were held, training 30 young girls in SRHR, broadcasting skills, and self-esteem, as well as increasing their ability to educate their peers.

Radio Discussions on SRHR

30 weekly radio discussions on SRHR topics were broadcast across the two regions, with active involvement from young girls and women, ensuring the messages reached a wide audience.

Stakeholder Engagement at Colloquium

1 regional colloquium on SRHR was organized in the Central Region, with 136 participants, exceeding the expected number of 100 due to high interest and participation.

Social Media Campaign on SRHR

1 social media campaign was conducted, featuring engaging content on SRHR issues. The campaign successfully increased awareness across digital platforms.

Testimonies and Notable Quotes

Success Stories

The Queen Mother of Fievie – Dugame has played a pivotal role in the success of the project, dedicating herself to its implementation. Taking a lead role, she mobilized local girls to educate other young people in the community, actively supporting them during their pre-production meetings. Her belief that the success of the girls reflects her own success has driven her commitment to the project.

One direct beneficiary from Fievie -

Dugame has gone on to form a club in her church, where she provides training on advocacy, self-esteem, and STIs, among other topics, to her students. Inspired by the project, girls from all the beneficiary communities have expressed a strong interest in joining the Girl Power 4 Change Project, demonstrating its far-reaching impact and the growing desire for positive change among local youth.

Youth Public and Policy Advocacy to End Harmful Practices project

Title: Youth Public and Policy Advocacy to End

Harmful Practices project

Donor: UNICEF

Location: Nationwide

Duration: June 2023 – October 2023



Project Description

The project focused on addressing the prevalent issues of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child marriage, harmful practices, and promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) across Ghana. It aimed to create lasting change by engaging young people, empowering communities, and raising awareness at national and regional levels. The project was implemented nationwide, with efforts to engage young people in advocacy, create safe platforms for dialogue, and contribute to the development of better policies to end harmful practices.

Goal: To contribute to a reduction in GBV, child marriage, harmful practices, and improvement in SRHR across Ghana through youth empowerment, community engagement, and advocacy by the end of 2023.



- To expand national awareness of the existence and dangers of harmful practices like GBV, and the importance of SRHR through weekly radio discussion.
 - 2 To create safe spaces/platforms where young people can interact with key stakeholders on eliminating harmful practices at the regional and national levels.
- To create platforms where young people can actively contribute to awareness creation, and call for better policy toward ending harmful practices (as defined by UN) in Ghana.
 - To equip youth advocates, and organisations with the capacity needed to champion advocacy campaigns that affect change.
- **5** To develop an online course for youth advocacy

Key Activities Implemented

Social Media Awareness Campaigns:

Extensive campaigns on social media raised awareness about harmful practices like GBV, child marriage, and SRHR, engaging over 289,000 young people.

Weekly Radio Programs:

Aimed at educating the public on child marriage, GBV, and Violence Against Women and Their Children, the radio programs reached over 20 million listeners nationwide.

Regional and National Colloquia:

These events provided young people with the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders like policymakers, traditional leaders, and civil society organizations.

Advocacy Training:

Youth advocates and organizations were trained on the UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide (YAG) to help them lead campaigns and push for policy changes.

Engagement with Parliamentarians:

Discussions with MPs focused on advocacy for better legislation around SRHR, including the passage of the bill to scrap import taxes on sanitary products.









Result (Outcomes)

Expansion of National Awareness of Harmful Practices

A total of **20,750,000 listeners** engaged with the weekly radio programs across national radio stations on topics such as child marriage, GBV, and VAWC.

Youth Engagement in Advocacy

289,532 total impressions were generated through social media awareness campaigns. The digital media campaign also saw a **total engagement of 24,034**, signaling widespread reach and resonance of the campaign messages.

Youth Policy Advocacy Contributions

6 Parliamentarians directly engaged in policy discussions, committing to advocate for the removal of taxes on sanitary products and the improvement of SRHR policies, including the re-entry of adolescent mothers into school.

Training and Capacity Building

37 youth advocates and **29 youth organizations** received capacity-building training through the UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide. These trained youth advocates went on to educate **70 peers** and engaged **1 CSO** in the process.

Success Story

Samuel Lamptey, a trainee of the UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide, used the guide to support his advocacy work in Ga Mashi, where he had previously partnered with GIZ. Recognizing the need for a network of local artists, Samuel leveraged the guide to identify key allies and experts who could provide training on the operations of artists both locally and internationally.

He described the guide as a "never-ending work plan," helping him stay focused while adapting to new developments. The guide equipped him with the tools to present strong, evidence-based arguments, leading to successful advocacy efforts that will continue to benefit his organization and future community advocates.



Samuel Lamptey

Process (Outputs)

Organized Awareness Campaigns

1 social media awareness campaign on eliminating harmful practices was successfully organized, with high participation from young people.

Regional and National Engagements

5 colloquia were organized (including one additional community-based colloquium) to engage youth, traditional leaders, and policymakers on eliminating harmful practices, exceeding the initial plan of 4 regional colloquia. 902 individuals were reached.

Youth Advocacy Guide Development

A localized version of the UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide was successfully developed, involving 10 trained youth advocates and a consultant. This guide is now a tool for youth advocacy efforts across the country.

Parliamentary Engagement

1 engagement with Parliamentary Standing Committees on Gender and Children and Finance was organized, leading to direct interactions with 6 Members of Parliament and 6 young people.

Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking (ChaCLaT Project)

Title: Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking (Cha-

CLaT Project) Donor: USAID

Location: Selected coastal fishing communities in Greater

Accra Region

Duration: March 2023 - December 2023



Project Description

The ChaCLaT Project addresses the critical issue of child labour and trafficking, specifically in Ghana's coastal fishing communities. It seeks to empower children and adolescents through education and awareness to reduce the exploitation of children, raise community awareness, and foster collaborative efforts for child protection.

Goal: To contribute to the reduction of Child Labour and Trafficking along the fishing communities in the selected coastal districts through child and adolescent, community empowerment, and awareness engagements by the end of 2024.



To facilitate community-based interventions for addressing child labour and trafficking in fisheries by the end of 2024

To establish safe spaces/platforms for young people to interact with key stakeholders from diverse sectors and levels by the end of 2024.

To provide explicit knowledge about child rights to children, adolescents (both boys and girls), and communities in Ghana, particularly about child labour and trafficking by the end of 2024.

To facilitate community-based interventions for addressing child labour and trafficking in fisheries by the end of 2024

Media Engagement & Advocacy

The project developed local radio programs with some produced in local dialects and media content to raise awareness about child labour and trafficking

Training and Capacity Building

Local children, adolescents, and community leaders participated in training programs on child rights, trafficking, and community-based solutions. 30 children were trained as champions to educate their peers about child labour and trafficking. 500 community members, including religious and traditional leaders, were sensitized on children's rights.

Safe Space Creation

The project set up 3 safe spaces (listening clubs) for youth to interact with stakeholders. These spaces were used for capacity building activities and as platforms for raising issues related to child labour and trafficking.

Community Sensitization

Sensitization activities were conducted in the form of community forums and colloquia. **9 community sensitization fora** were held across various districts.

Key Activities Implemented

Stakeholder Engagement

Regional and national colloquia brought together key stakeholders from multiple sectors to discuss and act on child protection. 2 national colloquia and 1 regional colloquium were held with key commitment statements from local leaders.





Result (Outcomes)

Radio Programs on Child Labor and Trafficking

A total of **2 radio programs** were produced, successfully meeting the target. These programs reached a broad audience, raising awareness on child labor and trafficking issues.

Youth Training as ROC Champions

30 youth were trained as ROC champions. These youth are now equipped to advocate for children's rights and raise awareness within their communities.

Training on Child Labour and Trafficking

A total of **375 individuals** were trained on child labor and trafficking, The training had a significant impact, with a strong focus on key stakeholders.

Community Education on Child Rights

1,211 community members were educated on child rights

Community Leader Commitments to Address Child Labour

7 community leaders pledged to take action on child labor and trafficking, surpassing the target. This is a positive outcome, showcasing strong leadership support for child rights initiatives.

Creation of Safe Spaces

3 safe spaces were created to support children at risk of labor and trafficking and offered refuge and safety for vulnerable children.

Process (Outputs)

Community Sensitization Fora

9 community sensitization fora were held. These events played a key role in educating communities and fostering local support for child rights protection.

Commitment Actions from Stakeholders

8 commitment actions/statements were received from various stakeholders, exceeding the target. This demonstrates strong buy-in from key community and institutional actors in the fight against child labor and trafficking.

Testimonies and Notable Quotes

Success Story

An 8-year-old boy from Takoradi was found living with squatters in Tema, after sneaking out of his grandparents' home due to dissatisfaction with his living conditions. Exposed to abuse and danger, the case was brought to the attention of the CLaT network. Through collaboration with social welfare, the police, and the assemblyman, the boy was located, returned to school, and reunited with his biological father. The father now provides monthly upkeep money, ensuring the child's safety and well-being. This intervention has protected the child's future, allowing him to thrive in a safe environment.

My Data, Our Health Campaign

Title: My Data, Our Health Campaign Donor: Transform Health Coalition

Location: Nationwide

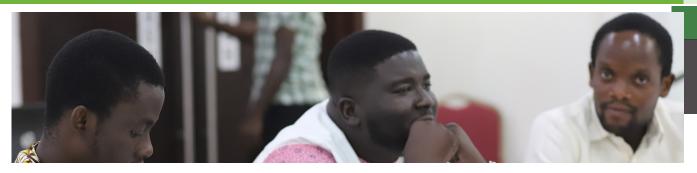
Duration: March 2023 - October 2023



Project Description

My Data, Our Health Campaign focused on raising awareness and generating political support for health data governance in Ghana. It aimed to engage the public, media, lawmakers, and civil society organizations to increase political will and civil society involvement in the governance of health data. It specifically targeted key stakeholders and worked toward the inclusion of health data governance in Ghana's development strategy.

Goal: To start a public conversation on the issue of health data and generate political support for a set of common global standards that can be domesticated into national legislation.



Create greater awareness among the general public, media, and lawmakers on health data.

Make politicians pay more attention to this issue and show greater leadership in pressing for health data governance (increase political will).

Greater civil society engagement on the issue of health data governance in Ghana. We want to broaden and strengthen the civil society engagement on this issue to generate sustained demand for the government to act.

Key Activities Implemented

Training Media Professionals

Conducted workshops to enhance media coverage and understanding of health data issues, empowering journalists to report on health data governance.

Engaging Social Media Influencers

Partnered with influencers to create viral campaigns on social media, raising awareness about health data governance among the general public.

Meetings with Parliamentarians

Held discussions with lawmakers to secure commitments for health data governance within Ghana's development framework.

Youth Group Engagement

Organized sessions with youth organizations to involve the younger generation in advocating for proper health data governance.

Collaboration with Health Organizations

Worked closely with health organizations to ensure the campaign's message was widely disseminated and supported by the health sector.

Result (Outcomes)

Increased Awareness

Significant increase in public awareness of health data governance, measured through surveys conducted before and after the campaign.

Political Commitment

Commitments from parliamentarians to prioritize health data governance in national policy.

Media Engagement

More than **50 media stories** published on health data governance.

Process (Outputs)

Stakeholder Meetings

Over **20 meetings held with key stakeholders**, including parliamentarians, civil society, and media professionals.

Training Participants

Trained 150 media professionals on the importance of health data governance.

Social Media Impact

Campaign reached over 500,000 people through social media influencers and posts.

Testimonies and Notable Quotes



"Over the years, there has not been any central pool to govern health data but operated by different institutions, so I see the topic of health data governance as an important one. This is an area that I will want to advocate for in parliament and draw the attention of the health committee to look into and see how we can build a robust central data system when it comes to health information and the way forward in decision-making."- Hon. Betty Krosbi Mensah, MP for Afram Plains North Constituency

"If we don't get information on the experiences citizens have about access to health data in the country, things will go astray in Ghana. How can one be denied access to the data that they need for education purposes, employment, or other personal reasons? We should not entertain such things! These are concerns we will question to ensure the right systems are in place."- Hon. Eric Afful, MP for Amenfi West Constituency and Member of the Health Committee in Parliament.





"Any personal data is very important, particularly regarding data privacy. No clinician has the right to share a patient's information or be judgmental about a person's data, especially the ones that have to do with young people. There are issues of improper management of data, like disclosure, which makes data management very critical. This is why we always caution health practitioners to know when third parties are needed to ensure private data is well guarded". -

Hon. Dr. Dickson Adomako Kissi, MP for Anyaa Sowutuom.



Success Story

After receiving training on health data governance, many journalists expressed their excitement about the topic. They realized how directly it affects their communities but had not previously thought to cover it. Gabriel Obodai Torgbor Ashong from Metro TV/Ablade TV said,

"It's interesting to have this training because we've had different experiences with health facilities and our health data, but it has never occurred to us as a topic to report on. Now, I will raise more awareness and get people to take action."

Ekow Quansah from Citi Online shared, "The training has built my knowledge and made me more conscious of the information I give out when accessing health services digitally."

One of the journalists who attended the health data training shared his experience in an article on health data governance and the security of patients' information. This article was published to educate readers and encourage them to take action. It provided a relatable story about the importance of protecting health data, helping the public better understand the challenges and potential solutions.

Research and Advocacy for Women's SRHR especially Abortion Rights

Title: Research and Advocacy for Women's SRHR especially

Abortion Rights

Donor: RFSU (Swedish Association for Sexual Education)

Location: Central Region: Elmina, Cape Coast / Greater Accra

Duration: 2018 – December 2023



Project Description

This project aimed to empower women by fostering an environment that supports their autonomy, enabling them to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health rights, particularly safe and legal access to abortion services. The project engaged multiple stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs), pop culture influencers, and community leaders to champion SRHR, especially abortion rights.

Goal: To cultivate a society where women are empowered, fostering an environment that supports their autonomy and enables them to freely make informed choices concerning their sexual and reproductive health rights, including the right to access safe and legal abortion services.



- Increase organisational capacity and structure to achieve programme objectives.
 - 2 Increase understanding of young women's SRHR in the Central Region
- **3** Key CSO partners advocate about SRHR, especially abortion rights
 - 4 Pop culture personalities are champions of women's SRHR, especially abortion rights
- **5** Community leaders are champions of women's SRHR, especially abortion rights.

Key Activities Implemented

In-School Clubs & NEC

Established **new chapter clubs**, supported chapter advocacy campaigns, and reconstituted the National Executive Committee to ensure smooth operations.

Podcasts & Radio Discussions

Produced 10 podcast episodes and multiple radio programs to raise awareness on women's SRHR, focusing on abortion rights.

Research

Conducted studies in the Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem District and Cape Coast to assess women's decision making power regarding SRHR, particularly abortion. Key findings were shared with over 120 partners.

Community Engagement

Outreaches to 400 individuals in local communities and organized SRH chats for 55 young people, focusing on SRHR education.

Capacity Building

Provided training for 22 women, empowering them to advocate for SRHR in their communities. Additionally, forums engaged men in discussions around SRHR.

Creative Arts for Advocacy

Organized events using poetry, music, and dance to promote advocacy for SRHR and gender-related issues.



Result (Outcomes)

Increased Understanding of Young Women's SRHR

A total of **597 people** were reached with enhanced understanding of young women's SRHR. This was achieved through various activities including community outreaches, SRH chats, women's support group training, and dissemination events.

Increased Platforms for SRHR Discussions

A total of **32 platforms** were used to discuss and disseminate SRHR issues. This included community outreaches, social media engagement, SRH chats, podcasts, radio programs, and dissemination activities.

Advocacy on SRHR by Key CSOs

10 radio programs featuring CSO partners and focusing on women's SRHR, including abortion rights, were successfully aired.

Pop Culture Personalities Advocating SRHR

65 people participated in the creative art event (poetry, rap, music, and dance). The event successfully promoted advocacy for SRHR, gender, and related issues.

Community Leaders Championing Women's SRHR

28 community leaders committed to supporting women's SRHR. This included male leaders from Cape Coast and Elmina who participated in men's forums, advocating for SRHR.

Process (Outputs)

Community Outreach Campaigns

A total of **4 community outreaches** were organized across the project region, engaging local communities in discussions about young women's SRHR and ensuring widespread awareness.

Capacity Building for Chapter Club Members

23 Chapter Club members were trained through a combination of in-person and online capacity-building sessions.

Radio and Social Media Engagement

10 radio programs were broadcast featuring CSO partners and their advocacy efforts on SRHR, including abortion rights. Additionally, 4 social media platforms were used to engage with the public, including a successful SRH chat session with 55 active participants.

Creative Art Event for SRHR Advocacy

A creative art event promoting SRHR and gender issues was organized, with 65 participants. This event featured performances including rap, poetry, music, and dance.

Stakeholder Engagement through Men's Forum

2 forums were organized with 28 influential male leaders participating. These forums helped engage community leaders in advocating for women's SRHR and abortion rights, leading to increased community support.

Testimonies and Notable Quotes

Success Stories

Richard Sylvester Ackon shared a profound shift in the community's perception of parental responsibilities. Previously, there was a clear divide, with men believing that raising children was solely the woman's responsibility, as they worked at sea to provide for the family. However, through the educational interventions, parents now recognize that both parents share the responsibility of raising children to become responsible citizens. This change highlights a positive shift towards shared family duties and gender equity in caregiving. Empowering Women with Knowledge on Sexual Violence

Mariama, a beneficiary of the women's support group training, reflected on how the program educated her on crucial aspects of sexual violence reporting. She shared, "I have learned things I did not know before, such as the need to avoid taking a shower right after rape to preserve any evidence when going to report to the police." This valuable information helps survivors take the correct steps to preserve evidence and seek justice, showcasing the program's impact in empowering women with critical knowledge.

Rosemary, another participant in the women's support group training, spoke about the profound impact the training had on her understanding of abuse and her rights. She said, "Before it, I had limited knowledge. For instance, if you are living with a partner who is mistreating you and he persists after speaking to him, you can report him to the authorities. It has also helped me to understand what forced sex means. If someone tries to force sex, you can report them to the authorities." This learning enables women to better recognize and act against abusive situations, furthering their rights and protection.

Samuel Kwabena Badu Aquah, an assembly member, shared the positive shift in community participation: "Following our most recent interaction with the community, I've noticed community members becoming more involved in each activity. This has also led me to believe they are beginning to understand the information they receive. During the last activity, community leaders who convened at the event shared their opinions, and following it, youth were also included; that program was so superb. The community members even suggested that these events occur at least every three months to benefit the community." This shows that community members are not only gaining awareness but are also actively advocating for more frequent educational initiatives, which will sustain long-term behavioral change

PARTNERS

OUR PARTNERS

Curious Minds Ghana remains committed to being a catalyst for sustainable change, ensuring that young people, especially the most marginalized, have a voice in decision-making and access to opportunities that shape their future. We believe in the power of partnerships to drive impact, working alongside stakeholders from all sectors to advance youth development, sexual and reproductive health rights, media literacy, and good governance.

For over two decades, Curious Minds Ghana has empowered young people through advocacy, media engagement, policy influence, and community-based initiatives. But we don't do this work alone. Our partnerships with government institutions, civil society organizations and international agencies strengthen our ability to create meaningful change.

In 2023, our work was made possible through the support of key partners, including Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, UNICEF Ghana, US Agency for International Development, Transform Health, Riksforbundet For Sexuell Upplysning (Swedish organization for sexual enlightenment), among others. These partnerships provided critical resources, technical support, and platforms to amplify youth voices and drive advocacy efforts.

At the heart of our success are our passionate volunteers, members, and allies, young people who dedicate their time, skills, and energy to championing youth rights and development. Whether through media advocacy, community outreach, research, or policymaking, they are the driving force behind our impact.

Curious Minds Ghana will continue to foster strategic collaborations to ensure that young people are informed, engaged, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to national and global development. Together, we can build a future where every young person has the opportunity to thrive.

















CONTACT US

Our Address

3 Damba Close, Chaban - Sakaman Accra-Ghana, West Africa.

Phone

Office: +233 (030) 222 53 09 Mobile: +233 (024) 453 81 68

