



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

CURIOUS MINDS GHANA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms	1
Introduction	2
Executive Summary	3
Acknowledgments	8
Strategic Goal 1 – Empower 500,000 young people across Ghana by 2023.	9
Strategic Objective. Establish the presence of Curious Minds Clubs in Western and Central region by 2023.	9
1.1. GREP - Girl Power Project 4 Change	9
Strategic Goal 2. Advocate for an enabling environment for young people to develop within the frameworks of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.	16
Strategic Objective: Advocate for the abolition of harmful cultural practices, norms, and traditions that affect the development of young people.	16
2.1. Youth public and policy advocacy to end harmful practices	16
2.2. Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking (ChaCLaT Project)	22
Strategic Objective: Strategically position CM as the leading young people's advocacy organisation.	31
2.3. My Data Our Health Campaign	31
Strategic Goal 2. Advocate for an enabling environment for young people to develop within the frameworks of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.	40
2.4. Research and Advocacy for Women's SRHR especially Abortion Rights	40

ACRONYMS

AIDS
AU
ChaCLaT
CLaT
CM
CSOs
GAR
GBV
GES
GHS
GREP
HDG
HIV
KNUST
M&E
MPs
MSI
NDPC
NEC
NGOs
PPAG
PTAs
RFSU
ROC
SDGs
SEK
SGBV
SRHR
STAR

UN
UNFPA
UNICEF
USAID
USD
VAWC
WHA
WHO
YAG
YET4H

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
African Union
Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking
Child Labour and Trafficking
Curious Minds
Civil Society Organizations
Greater Accra Region
Gender-Based Violence
Ghana Education Service
Ghana Health Service
Gender Rights and Empowerment Programme
Health Data Governance
Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
Monitoring and Evaluation
Members of Parliament
Marie Stopes International
National Development Planning Commission
National Executive Committee
Non- Governmental Organizations
Planned Parenthood Association-Ghana
Parent Teachers' Association
Swedish Association for Sexuality Education
Right of the Child
Sustainable Development Goals
Swedish Krona Equals
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and
Responsiveness
United Nations
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Children's Fund
United States Agency for International Development
United States Dollars
Violence Against Women and Children
World Health Assembly
World Health Organization
Youth Advocacy Guide
Young Experts Tech for Health

INTRODUCTION

This report is a programmatic representation of the projects Curious Minds implemented in the 2023 programmatic year. During the period, Curious Minds implemented four (4) projects contributing to its goals in the organisational strategic plan. These goals are listed below;

- *Goal 1 – Empower 500,000 young people across Ghana by 2023.*
- *Goal 2 – Advocate for an enabling environment for young people to develop within the frameworks of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union’s Agenda 2063.*
- *Goal 3 – Build a thriving and self-sustaining organisation by 2023.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Girl Power Project for Change

This project sought to build the capacities of selected young girls and women, in SRHR. The project also created platforms like radio discussions, community outreaches, colloquia, outside broadcast sessions, and stakeholder engagements for young girls and women to regularly engage on issues of SRHR.

Through this project, thirty (30) girls from four (4) communities, namely, Ampanyi, Agbakofe, Fievie-Dugame, and Komenda in the Central and Volta Regions, received training on basic broadcasting skills, SRHR (STIs), including HIV/AIDS, self-esteem, effective parent-child communication, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), unsafe abortion, contraceptives, and where to access commodities and services, myths and misconceptions amongst others.

Community entry visits were conducted to formally engage community gatekeepers and also solicit their support for successful project implementation. Airtime was secured on Radio Central in Cape Coast and Freedom FM in Sogakope to enable direct and indirect



Youth Public and Policy Advocacy to End Harmful Practices

The Youth Public and Policy Advocacy Campaign to End Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Abuse, and Early Marriage by UNICEF, executed by Curious Minds Ghana, was a project implemented from June to October 2023. The goal of the project was to contribute to a reduction of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child marriage, harmful practices, and improvement in sexual reproductive health and rights across Ghana through meaningful youth participation, community empowerment, and awareness engagements by the end of 2023.

The project carried out several activities, including UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide capacity building training for advocates and organisations, localization of the UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide, colloquia, radio programs, parliamentary engagement, digital media campaigns, and programme monitoring and communication to end harmful practices.

Notable successes chalked for this project include the direct engagement of 1,148

people in policy advocacy at the national level to eliminate harmful practices; this includes 66 youth advocates and youth organisations trained with the UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide, who also stepped down the knowledge gained from the training to seventy (70) of their peers and one other CSO. Ten (10) of these directly trained youth advocates played a role in developing the localized version of the youth advocacy guide. Five successful inter-gen colloquia were held nationwide, engaging traditional leaders, state institutions, and young people, which served as platforms for concerns to be raised and addressed, and informed the parliamentarian's engagement.



Six Parliamentarians were engaged and reinforced their deeper commitments to taking legislative actions for the right of adolescent girls, including the implementation of the Ghana Education Service's guidelines to prevent adolescent pregnancy and facilitate the re-entry of adolescent mothers to schools, and the increased coverage of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty cash transfer programme as well as the bill passed to scrap import taxes on sanitary products. The digital media campaign made significant strides, consisting of 289,532 total impressions and a total engagement of 24,034, highlighting that our mission was heard far and wide, with our youthful target resonating with the messages passed on our various digital media platforms.

Despite these successes, challenges encountered during implementation included long bureaucratic processes in getting parliamentarians and the insufficient time available for the Youth Advocacy Guide training, due to budgetary constraints. This affected the study's pace and participants' concentration levels during the training.

Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking (ChaCLaT) Project

The Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking (CHaCLaT Project) was proposed as a response to numerous human rights challenges of coastal children which hinder them from living fulfilling lives. The project was implemented in Azizanya, Chorkor, and Tema New Town communities. The project seeks to ensure a reduction of Child Labour and Trafficking (CLaT) along the fishing communities in the selected coastal districts through child, adolescent, and community empowerment as well as sensitization engagements by the end of 2023. To achieve this goal, the project will expand community awareness and knowledge of the existence and dangers of Child Labour, and Human Trafficking by setting up a weekly radio broadcast in the implementing districts



which was facilitated by children and adolescents trained in radio broadcasting. Listening clubs were formed in the communities to facilitate discussions on these issues and to ensure community participation.

Right of the Child (ROC) clubs were formed to serve as a learning hub where children and adolescents benefit from various capacity-building and learning sessions. These sessions helped increase knowledge among children and young people in and out of school with relevant knowledge on human rights laws, especially child labour and trafficking in Ghana. The community was also engaged through multiple media platforms to sensitize community members (PTAs/ traditional, religious leaders, and parents/ guardians) on children's rights, child labour, and trafficking. Through the ROC clubs, the confidence of the children and adolescents was built to take on leadership roles as peer educators in the Rights of the Child (ROC) clubs, become change agents in their communities, form ROC clubs in project districts and train children on basic broadcasting skills, ethics, and report writing skills.

My Data Our Health Campaign

“My Data Our Health” is a global campaign led by the Transform Health Coalition, executed in Ghana by Curious Minds. The initiative aimed to raise awareness among the public and policymakers regarding health data governance, urging politicians to prioritize this issue and encouraging civil society engagement to sustain pressure on the government. Various community-based, social media, national, and regional activities were launched to achieve these goals. During the campaign, eleven (11) media personnel received training on health data governance to produce relevant stories across different platforms.



Additionally, ten (10) social media influencers collaborated with two (2) health practitioners to amplify the campaign's messages online. An advocacy meeting convened stakeholders from Civil Society Organisations, youth groups, and marginalized communities to strategize on advocating for health data governance at the World Health Assembly.

Curious Minds also engaged with politicians, including a courtesy visit to a Member of Parliament in Wa East, to promote dialogue on health data governance within legislative circles and among constituents. Town hall meetings were held as platforms for community members to voice their concerns, fostering discussions on the need for a health governance framework to achieve Universal Health Coverage in Ghana. Further activities included stakeholder meetings with regional health authorities and engagements with the National Development Planning Commission, and members of parliament to garner support for a global health data governance framework proposed by the WHO. Commitments were made to advocate for this cause at the highest levels of government. Despite efforts to involve various stakeholders and increase citizen participation in the campaign, not all trained journalists were able to produce expected stories due to the technical nature of the topic.

Additionally, some Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) couldn't fully commit to the coalition due to the prioritization of other initiatives, highlighting the ongoing struggle for attention to health data governance in mainstream conversations and government support for global frameworks.



Research and Advocacy for Women's SRHR especially Abortion Rights

The RFSU-supported Research and Advocacy for Women's SRHR, particularly the Abortion Rights project, began implementation in 2018 and ended in 2023. The project's objectives were to empower women, create an environment that values their autonomy, and give them the freedom to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, including having access to safe and legal abortion services. Under the project, Curious Minds established in-school clubs, reconstituted its National Executive Committee (NEC), and funded independent chapter club advocacy campaigns. As a result, progress was achieved in membership growth, and the establishment of new chapter clubs. Ten podcast episodes focusing on sexual and reproductive health and the rights of women and girls were produced and published.

Additionally, radio discussions on various reproductive health issues raised awareness and engaged stakeholders. Research was conducted in the Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem District and Cape Coast Municipal of Ghana, to highlight women's decision-making power over their sexual and reproductive health rights, particularly regarding safe abortion services. Key findings were disseminated in the Central and Greater Accra regions, reaching 120 key partners and an estimated 400 community members. Community outreaches reached approximately 400 individuals, educating them on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The SRH chat in Zebilla provided a platform for open dialogue and education on sexual choices for 55 young people. Capacity-building training empowered 22 women to address SRHR issues within their communities. A Creative art event promoted advocacy on SRHR and gender-related issues. Furthermore, forums were held to engage men in discussions regarding SRHR issues and their role in promoting them. Despite these achievements, several challenges were encountered, including delays in project timelines, technological barriers, inflation affecting project costs, and dwindling interest in CM activities among Chapter Club members.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Curious Minds wants to express her profound gratitude to volunteers and staff in the finalization of this year's Annual report. We also acknowledge the enormous efforts of the various project officers in preparing the project-specific reports and the secretariat for putting the final report together. We are further grateful to all our strategic partners who have worked closely with us during the reporting period. These include the Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Service, National Population Council, Ministry of Education/Ghana Education Service, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, UNICEF, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, PPAG, Ghana SRHR Alliance for Young People, TetraTech, YET4Health, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education(RFSU), UNFPA, STAR Ghana Foundation, Girls Not Bride, Alliance for Reproductive Health, Hope for Future Generation, Parliament House of Ghana, National Youth Authority, Willows Foundation, Ipas, and other CSOs. We also acknowledge the financial contributions of our Donors, UNICEF, STAR Ghana Foundation, RFSU, Transform Health, and TetraTech/USAID for their continuous support. It is hoped that the Curious Minds Team of Volunteers, Stakeholders, and Staff will continue to sustain this commitment at the operationalization and implementation of the Curious Minds programmes as this will contribute to the SRHR well-being of Ghanaians, especially young people.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1

EMPOWER 500,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS GHANA BY 2023.

Strategic Objective: Establish the presence of Curious Minds Clubs in Western and Central region by 2023.

1.1. GREP - Girl Power Project 4 Change

I – PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Project title: The Girl Power Project 4 Change
2. Goal: This project seeks to build the capacities of selected young girls, including women, in SRHR. The project also seeks to create platforms like radio discussions, community outreaches, colloquia, outside broadcast sessions, and stakeholder engagement for young girls and women to regularly engage on issues of SRHR.
3. Unit: Programmes
4. Fund type: Restricted: STAR Ghana
5. Specific objectives:
 - Increase knowledge among young girls in schools and women in communities on SRHR to make informed choices.
 - Increase access to SRHR services, and the creation of safe spaces and platforms for young girls and women on SRHR
 - Sensitise parents, guardians, traditional and religious leaders, and leaders show better understanding and support for SRHR, issues in their communities
 - Support provided by key stakeholders like GES, GHS, and district assemblies for the creation of safe, inclusive, and friendly environments in schools, health facilities, and communities for young girls and women to access SRH services and information.
6. Total budget: USD 25,000
7. Start date: September 2022
8. End date: March, 2023
9. Management location: Secretariat
10. Implementation Location: Central and Volta Regions (Komenda, Ampenyi, Fievie and Agbakope)

II. INDICATORS

Specific Objective 1: Increased knowledge among young girls in schools and women in communities on SRHR to make informed choices.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of girls and women reached with SRHR information to make informed choices	0	500	1756	The overachievement was as a result of the active participation of the girls and women in the community-based activities.
Specific Objective 2: Increase access to SRHR services, and the creation of safe spaces and platforms for young girls and women on SRHR.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of community outreaches held	0	4	4	The four outreaches were conducted in the project community with the support of service providers from the partner facilities.
Number of women and girls receiving SRHR services in partner facilities	0	1000	400	Although the patronage of the outreaches was encouraging only few women and girls received SRHR services as a result of inadequate commodities.
Specific Objective 3: Sensitise parents, guardians, traditional and religious leaders to show better understanding and support SRHR issues in their communities.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of parents, guardians, and traditional and religious leaders sensitised to show better understanding and support for SRHR	0	10,000	11,500	The increase in the number was occasioned by the huge turnout by community members to the community outreaches and outside broadcast sessions held in the project communities, and the reach of the radio programmes.

Specific Objective 4: Support provided by key stakeholders like GES, GHS, District Assemblies for the creation of safe, inclusive and friendly environments in schools, health facilities and communities for young girls and women to access SRH services and information.					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
Number of stakeholders participating in Colloquium	0	10	10	All colloquia were successfully implemented.	
Number of people participating in colloquium	0	100	136	The overachievement was due to the high acceptance of the project which resulted in an increase in participants at the colloquium.	

III. ACTIVITIES & BUDGET

Specific Objective 1: Increase knowledge among young girls in schools and women in communities on SRHR to make informed choices.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.1. Training for 30 young girls in SRHR, broadcasting skills in Central and Volta Region	Number of capacity-building sessions held.	2	2	32,400	31,260	We were able to carry out the 2 proposed workshops. Thanks to the support of the community leaders and members. The expenditure in the budget was a result of the decreased cost of the conference package cost in both project regions.
1.2. Hold weekly radio discussions (15 in each region) on SRHR in the Central and Volta Regions.	Number of weekly radio programmes held.	30	30	56,250	22,750	The partner radio stations engaged wanted to be part of the process leading to them giving us a discounted price for the airtime slot in both project regions. The surplus was repurposed to support other activities.

III. ACTIVITIES & BUDGET

Specific Objective 1: Increase knowledge among young girls in schools and women in communities on SRHR to make informed choices.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.3. Undertake 4 community entry visits in the Central and Volta regions.	Number of community entry visits held.	4	4	10,800	10,800	We were able to carry out the 2 proposed workshops. Thanks to the support of the community leaders and members. The expenditure in the budget was a result of the decreased cost of the conference package cost in both project regions.
Specific Objective 2: Increase access to SRHR services, and the creation of safe spaces and platforms for young girls and women on SRHR.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
2.1. Undertake social media campaigns on SRHR.	Number of social media campaigns on SRHR held.					
2.2. Organise four (4) outside broadcast sessions and community outreaches on SRHR.						
Specific Objective 3: Sensitise parents, guardians, traditional and religious leaders to show better understanding and support for SRHR issues in their communities.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
3.1. Organise community outreaches in project districts	Number of outreaches organised	4	4	0.00	0.00	All 4 community outreaches were carried out successfully with the help of the young ambassadors trained. We did not record any variance under this activity.

Specific Objective: 4. Support provided by key stakeholders like GES, GHS, District Assemblies for the creation of safe, inclusive and friendly environments in schools, health facilities and communities for young girls and women to access SRH services and information.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
4.1. Organise 1 regional colloquium on SRHR in the Central region	Number of regional colloquia organised	1	1	9,300	21,950	The variance in the budget resulted from an increase in the number of participants and stakeholders engaged for greater impact on the project.
Programme Management						
1. Publicity - project branded logo, souvenirs, pull-up banners, etc.	Number of project publicity items produced.	3	3	5,100	5,100	Project branded logo, souvenirs, and pull-up banner were successfully created. We did not realize any variance.
2. Organise project monitoring visits	Number of monitoring visits held.	4	4	6,200	6,200	Monitoring visits were successfully undertaken.
PROJECT SOB						

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

What are the main achievements?

Thirty (30) girls and women from the four communities benefited from capacity-building training that focused on SRHR (STIs including HIV/AIDS, self-esteem, effective parent-child communication, sexual and gender-based violence, unsafe abortion, contraceptives and where to access commodities and services, basic broadcasting skills, and understanding what advocacy is). The training cleared most myths and misconceptions around the issues of SRHR, effectively communicating with parents, knowing what sexual and gender-based violence is, and where to seek support for sexual and gender-based violence victims. It also allowed them to clarify any SRHR issues they did not understand. With the knowledge gained, these girls led the outside broadcast sessions/community outreaches that were held in the four beneficiary communities. These activities enabled project beneficiaries to interface with community leaders and members to discuss issues of importance to them. The platform enabled the girls to openly discuss teenage pregnancy issues, child marriages, parental neglect, education, drug abuse, and gender-based violence in their communities. The outside broadcast sessions/community outreaches also hosted resource persons from the district health and education offices.

The team hosted Clara Osei-Boateng, the Governance Advisor of the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office; she interacted with the project beneficiaries from Ampanyi. Madam Clara Osei – Boateng in her interaction, sought to know the issues the girls had received training on and what they had learned. The girls indicated that they have had training in the areas of teenage pregnancy, STIs, Self-esteem, basic broadcasting skills, and advocacy.

The girls further stated that the training had been very helpful to them because they were able to communicate with their peers to abstain from sex. One of the girls at the meeting said she introduced her friend to safe sex practice by introducing her to condom use because she realised her friend could not abstain completely from sex.

What worked well? Why?

The decision of the queen mother of Fievie-Dugame, Mama Agbi, to support the girls from Fievie-Dugame and Agbakofe has resulted in a mentorship programme she has decided to undertake in both communities. The queen's mother expressed the desire to hold regular mentorship programmes for the girls. She indicated that she desired to see young girls from the district attain a university education.

What did not work so well? Why?

Participants in the capacity building training had challenges arriving at the venue early; training sometimes commenced a few hours late. Another challenge is the demand for financial compensation from community members who assisted with activity implementation, especially in the Central Region.

What would you do differently if implementing this kind of project in the future?

Future capacity building training should be made residential, this will ensure the judicious use of time and also prevent the unplanned delays that caused the training to drag because it started late.

Success story

The queen mother of Fievie – Dugame, has dedicated herself to successfully implementing this project. She took a lead role in mobilizing the girls to educate other young people in the community. She actively supports them during their pre-production meetings. She believes that the success of the girls is hers too.

A direct beneficiary of the project from Fievie – Dugame has formed a club in her church; she provides training on advocacy, self-esteem, STIs, amongst others, to her students. Some girls from all the beneficiary communities have expressed their desire to join the Girl Power 4 Change Project.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

ADVOCATE FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND THE AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063.

Strategic Objective: Advocate for the abolition of harmful cultural practices, norms, and traditions that affect the development of young people.

2.1. Youth public and policy advocacy to end harmful practices

I – PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Project title: Youth public and policy advocacy to end harmful practices
2. Goal: To contribute to a reduction of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child marriage, harmful practices, and sexual reproductive health and rights across
3. Ghana through young people, community empowerment, and awareness engagements by the end of 2023.
4. Unit: Programmes
5. Fund type: Restricted: UNICEF
6. Specific objectives:
 - To expand national awareness of the existence and dangers of harmful practices like GBV, and the importance of SRHR through weekly radio discussion.
 - 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.
 - To develop an online course for youth advocacy
7. Total budget: USD 53,000.00
8. Start date: June 2023
9. End date: October, 2023
10. Management location: Secretariat
11. Implementation Location: Nationwide

II. INDICATORS

Specific Objective 1: To expand national awareness of the existence and dangers of harmful practices like GBV, and the importance of SRHR through weekly radio discussion.					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
Number of estimated listeners from weekly radio programmes.	0	250,000	20,750,000	The overachievement was as a result of the active participation of the girls and women in the community-based activities.	
Number of young people participating in Social and digital advocacy campaign.	0	250,000	289,532	The social and digital media advocacy campaign tapped into the reach of other activities under the project to increase the number of young people reached.	
Specific Objective 2: To create safe spaces/platforms where young people can interact with key stakeholders on the eliminating harmful practices at the regional and national levels.					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
Number of people reached through awareness creation.	0	600	902	The increase in the actual outcome is as a result of the addition of one (1) community-based colloquium and the overwhelming interest expressed in the colloquia by the young people and stakeholders engaged.	
Specific Objective 3: 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.					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
Number of MPs, local leaders, young people, etc reached via advocacy engagements.	0	14 MPs 30 young people	6 MPs 6 young people	Parliament was on recess at the time of implementing this activity, making it difficult for us to engage with the initially planned 14 MPs. The budget involved in engaging the MPS did not allow for having more young people during the engagement	

Specific Objective 4: To equip youth advocates, and organisations with the capacity needed to champion advocacy campaigns that affect change.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of youth advocates and organisations that received capacity building on advocacy.	0	20 youth advocates 30 organisations	37 youth advocates 29 Organisations	The interest of youth advocates in the capacity building led to the increase of participants trained.
Specific Objective 2: To create safe spaces/platforms where young people can interact with key stakeholders on the eliminating harmful practices at the regional and national levels.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of developed localized youth advocacy guide	0	1	1	

III. ACTIVITIES & BUDGET

Specific Objective 1: To expand national awareness of the existence and dangers of harmful practices like GBV, and the importance of SRHR through weekly radio discussion.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.1.Organise social media awareness and advocacy campaigns on eliminating harmful practices.	Number of social media awareness and advocacy campaigns on eliminating harmful practices organised.	1	1		56,200.00	Exceeding the expected target for the radio program listenership was as a result of airing the radio programs on the national radio station which has a wide range of weekly listenership.
	Number of young people participating in social and digital advocacy campaigns.	250,000	289,532			
1.2.Organize weekly radio programs nationwide on child marriage, GBV, and VAWC	Number of weekly radio programs organised	20	20		50,000.00	The social and digital media advocacy campaign tapped into the reach of other activities under the project to increase the number of young people reached
	Number of estimated listeners from weekly radio programmes	250,000	20,750,000			

Specific Objective 2: To create safe spaces/platforms where young people can interact with key stakeholders on the elimination of harmful practices at the regional and national levels.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
2.1. Organise 4 regional and two national level colloquia for young people to interface with policymakers on the elimination of VAWC, GBV, child marriage and harmful practices	Number of awareness creation events organised: colloquia	4	5			Reprogramming of the funds allocated for the MPs engagement to support the one extra community-based colloquium led to the increase in the budgeted amount for this activity.
	Number of people reached through awareness creation.	600	902	110,400.00	129,024.25	The additional colloquium was a result of approved reprogramming due to difficulty in accessing parliamentarians because parliament was on recess. The increase in the actual outcome resulted from the addition of 1 community-based colloquium and the overwhelming interest expressed in the colloquiums by the young people and stakeholders engaged.
Specific Objective 3: Sensitise parents, guardians, traditional and religious leaders to show better understanding and support for SRHR issues in their communities.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
3.1. Organise community outreaches in project districts	Number of engagements / meetings organised with parliamentary Standing Committees, on Gender and Children, and Finance	1	1			This activity was funded by the organisational budget as the original funds were reprogrammed to support the colloquium. This was so because we had not received a positive confirmation from the parliament at the time of reprogramming as they were still in recess.
	Number of Members of Parliament(MP), local leaders, young people, etc reached via advocacy engagements.	14 MPs 30 young people	6 MPs 6 young people	31,400.00	0.00	Parliament was on recess at the time of implementing this activity, making it difficult for us to engage with the initial 14 MPs planned.

Specific Objective : 4. To equip youth advocates, and Organisations with the capacity needed to champion advocacy campaigns that affect change.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
4.1. Organise a capacity-building workshop on YAG for 50 youth advocates and organisations	Number of capacity-building workshops organized.	3	3	301,128.22	301,128.22	Reprogramming of the funds allocated for the MPs engagement to support the one extra community-based colloquium led to the increase in the budgeted amount for this activity.
	Number of youth advocates and organisations that received capacity building on advocacy	20 youth avocates 30 youth organisations	37 youth advocates 29 organisations			The additional colloquium was a result of approved reprogramming due to difficulty in accessing parliamentarians because parliament was on recess. The increase in the actual outcome resulted from the addition of 1 community-based colloquium and the overwhelming interest expressed in the colloquiums by the young people and stakeholders engaged.
Specific Objective 5 : To develop an online course for youth advocacy						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
5.1. Develop a localized UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide /U-Reporting	Number of localized UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide /U-Reporting developed	1	1	77,475.75	77,475.75	
Programme management						
1. Monitoring and communication	Number of monitoring visits organised	1	1	GHC 35,775.00	GHC 15,996.78	A fraction of funds allocated for the programme monitoring was used to support extra costs incurred for some activities.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

What are the main achievements?

- Established two radio programmes on Radio Ada and Obonu FM to educate Azizanya, Tema Newtown, Chorkor, and their environs on the dangers of CLaT
- Rescuing survivors of CLaT and reintegrating them back into their families and the society as a whole, in collaboration with the District-Wide Anti-CLaT Network.
- Increased confidence in young people, due to continuous peer-to-peer engagement.

What worked well? Why?

The involvement of the ChaCLaT ambassadors and District-Wide Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking network in planning of activities worked well and it enhanced maximum cooperation and participation.

What did not work so well? Why?

- The timeliness of activities in the communities mostly did not go as planned, because there was low commitment of some of the project beneficiaries at some point.
- The back and forth with approval for social media content before rolling out delayed social media activities for the project.
- Having an unexpectedly large number from the community participating in an activity affected logistics which caused misunderstanding between project staff and community members.
- What would you do differently if implementing this kind of project in the future?
- We will develop different strategies for communities that had low commitment with time, to upgrade the commitment level.

Success story

Through the consistent advocacy and sensitization on CLaT, a case involving an 8-year-old boy, who was brought from Takoradi and was staying with his grandparents was brought before the Network. According to sources, he often sneaked out of the house to go and stay with squatters in Tema, because he was not satisfied with the provisions made at home. He joined a couple of young people living in slums and was exposed to abusive behaviors. The issue got to the attention of the social welfare personnel on the network in partnership with the assemblyman and the police, he was reached and settled in his school. His biological father was traced and was made to report to the social welfare office with monthly upkeep money for the child. This intervention has prevented the destruction of the child's bright future, and the child is now thriving.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

ADVOCATE FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND THE AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063.

Strategic objective: advocate for the abolition of harmful cultural practices, norms, and traditions that affect the development of young people.

2.2. Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking (ChaCLaT Project)

I – PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Project title: Children Against Child Labour and Trafficking (ChaCLaT Project)
2. 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.
3. Unit: Programmes
4. Fund type: Restricted (USAID)
5. Specific objectives:
 - To increase children's knowledge and community awareness of the hazard of child labour and trafficking through local media and advocacy actions 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
6. Total budget: USD 44,505
7. Start date: March,2023
8. End date: December, 2023
9. Management location: Secretariat
10. Implementation Location: GAR

II. INDICATORS

Specific Objective 1: To increase children's knowledge and community awareness of the hazards of child labour and trafficking through traditional media and advocacy by the end of 2024.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of radio programs produced in the local dialect.	0	2 radio programs	2 radio programs	Expected results were met because plans were followed and funds were available.
Specific Objective 2: To establish safe spaces for young people to interact with key stakeholders from diverse sectors and levels by the end of 2024.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of safe spaces created.	0	Three (3) colloquia	Three (3) colloquia	Expected results were met because plans were followed and funds were available.
Number of commitment statements /actions made by stakeholders to address the concerns of children and adolescents on Child Labour, and Trafficking.	0	Five (5) commitment actions or statements made by key stakeholders to address concerns of children and adolescents on CLaT.	Eight (8) commitment statements made by stakeholders.	The contents of the CLaT project caught the attention of many stakeholders, of which they willingly gave their commitments to seeing this project succeed.

Specific Objective 3: To provide explicit knowledge about child rights to children, adolescents (both boys and girls), and communities in coastal fisheries communities in Ghana, particularly concerning child labour and trafficking by the end of 2024.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of ROC champions trained to educate their peers.	0	30	30	Expected results were met because plans were followed, funds were available, and parents willingly allowed their wards to participate in the training.
Number of people trained on Child Labour and Trafficking in Safe spaces/ platforms.	0	500	375	There was no budget allocation for this indicator for which reason we were unable to meet the target.
Specific Objective 4: To facilitate community-based interventions for addressing child labour and trafficking in fisheries by the end of 2024.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of community members (including PTAs, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and parents/guardians) educated on children's rights, child labour and trafficking	0	2000	1211	The underachievement resulted from the low participation of some community members in the community-based activity at the beginning of the project implementation.
Number of community leaders pledging to act to curb child labour and trafficking,) in project districts.	0	3	7	The nature and contents of the CLaT project caught the attention of most community leaders, hence, their willingness in pledging their support to curb CLaT.

III. ACTIVITIES & BUDGET

Specific Objective 1: To expand community awareness of the existence and danger of gender-based violence and child labour and trafficking by creating two (2) radio programs in Ga and Dangme in the two project districts to serve as an advocacy tool that allows children to express their opinions on issues of their development by the end of 2024.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.1. Form partnerships with selected radio stations in project districts to secure airtime for radio broadcasting.	Number of selected radio stations partnered with.	2	2	0.00	0.00	Due to the relationship, Curious Minds has built with the selected radio stations over the years, it made securing the airtime less challenging.
1.2. Hold 1 capacity-building training session on child labour and trafficking, basic broadcasting, and social media skills for selected children and adolescents (ROC leaders) in project districts.	Number of youth advocates and organisations that received capacity building on advocacy	1	1	116,050.00	111,899.96	The underspending of funds allocated for this activity resulted from our ability to receive discounted prices from the registered vendors we engaged for the capacity-building workshop.
1.3. Form community ROC listening clubs to facilitate live discussion during radio broadcasts.	Number of community listening clubs formed.	3	3	22,900.00	29,120.00	The increase in the number of young people engaged in the ROC listening clubs and the increase in the cost of items used for the successful implementation of this activity led to the overspending of the budget under this activity, however, savings made from other activities were used to support the over-expenditure.
1.4. Commence the production of 20 episodes (30 minutes weekly discussion) of radio discussion.	Number of production episodes recorded.	20	15	73,000.00	28,350.00	We successfully produced 15 radio episodes as indicated in the project plan. The remaining 5 will be completed in the first quarter of 2024. Due to the relationship, Curious Minds has built with the selected radio stations over the years, we were able to secure a discount that significantly reduced the cost of airtime.

Specific Objective 1: To expand community awareness of the existence and danger of gender-based violence and child labour and trafficking by creating two (2) radio programs in Ga and Dangme in the two project districts to serve as an advocacy tool that allows children to express their opinions on issues of their development by the end of 2024.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.5. Hold weekly Children/ Adolescent-led radio discussion.	Number of weekly children /adolescent-led radio discussions held.	20	15	0.00	0.00	According to the project plan, fifteen (15) are to be done by the close of the year 2023.
Specific Objective 2: To create safe spaces/platforms where children and young people from the project districts can interact with key stakeholders at the local, district, national, and international levels.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
2.1. Hold one (1) regional colloquium on child labour and trafficking.	Number of national colloquia held on commemoration days.	1	1	21,450.00	12,500.00	We successfully carried out the regional colloquium at Ada. The Anti-CLaT district network and community leaders played an instrumental role in helping us negotiate discounted prices from vendors we engaged under this activity which led to the underspending of the budget allocated for this activity.
2.2. Hold 2 national colloquia on children's development issues such as child labour and trafficking, on national commemoration days (AU Day of the Child, National Children's Day, and the International Day of the Girl Child).	Number of national colloquia held on commemoration days.	2	2	42,900.00	34,200.00	We successfully carried out 2 national level colloquia at tema and Accra-Dzorwulu. The assistance of the district wide network helped us negotiate for discounted price from vendors engaged hence the under-expenditure which was used to support other activities for greater impact.
2.3. Undertake social media campaigns on child labour and trafficking.	Number of production episodes recorded.	0	50 posts made across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter achieved the following results: -12,391; 1,348; 2,333	27,000.00	25,615.25	Discounted prices on items procured from vendors led to the underspending of the budget allocated for this activity.

Specific Objective 3: To educate 500 children and adolescents (boys and girls) in and out of school with explicit knowledge about their rights, particularly child labour and trafficking in Ghana through the establishment of Right of the Child (ROC clubs) that will facilitate peer-to-peer engagement by the end of 2024.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
3.1. Establish 3 ROC listening clubs in project districts..	Number of ROC listening clubs established.	3	3	22,900.00	29,120.00	The variance was as a result of the inclusion of sub activities to this budget line like the hold weekly ROC meetings and training sessions and the step down trainings which were not included in the earlier budget.
3.2. Hold weekly ROC meetings and training sessions.	Number of weekly ROC meetings and training sessions	20	26	.00	.00	Due to the extensive nature of the training manual and their understanding of the manual being a priority, the team held more training than expected, on the field to achieve this aim.
3.3. Hold 4 step-down training sessions by Core ROC members for ROC Listening Club members in each project community.	Number of step-down training sessions held.	12	18	.00	.00	The unavailability of some participants in the training sessions led to an extension to make up for the sessions missed.
Specific Objective 3: To educate 500 children and adolescents (boys and girls) in and out of school with explicit knowledge about their rights, particularly child labour and trafficking in Ghana through the establishment of Right of the Child (ROC clubs) that will facilitate peer-to-peer engagement by the end of 2024.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
Hold 3 community entry visits and 3 project inception meetings in project districts with state and non-state actors.	Number of community entry visits and project inception meetings	3	3	0	10,950.00	There was no planned budget for this activity but savings made from other budget lines was used to support the successful implementation of this activity.
Form and inaugurate a District-Wide Anti Child Labour and Trafficking Network.	Number of District-Wide Anti Child Labour and Trafficking Networks formed and inaugurated.	3	3	28,000.00	36,140.00	The over-expenditure under this budget was a result of more engagement with the district-wide anti-child labour network to enable the network to meet periodically to meet their targets.
Hold quarterly District-Wide Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking Network meetings for various partners to give updates on the work.	Number of quarterly District-Wide Anti Child Labour and Trafficking Network meetings held.	9	9	0	0	With the commitment from the Network members, it was less of a challenge to hold the planned quarterly meetings. This indicator used the same budget as the formation of the network groups as this indicator falls under follow-up activities under the formation of the district-wide anti-child labour network in the project district.

Specific Objective 3: To educate 500 children and adolescents (boys and girls) in and out of school with explicit knowledge about their rights, particularly child labour and trafficking in Ghana through the establishment of Right of the Child (ROC clubs) that will facilitate peer-to-peer engagement by the end of 2024.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
Hold 6 community sensitization fora in the project districts.	Number of community sensitization fora held.	6	9	0	0	More was achieved than planned because topics that had to be covered were not covered within the planned six (6), hence the need for extensions. This activity depended on the budget for the In-community outside broadcast and some savings from other activities as there was no budget allocated for the activity.
Hold 3 quarterly In-Community outside Broadcast sessions: with resource persons in project districts.	Number of quarterly In-Community Outside Broadcast sessions held.	4	3	41,000.00	46,280.00	According to the project plan, three (3) have to be achieved by the end of 2023. The remaining one (1) is to be done in the first quarter of 2024. The over-expenditure for this activity was a result of inclusion of the community sensitisation under this budget line
Programme management						
Conduct monitoring visits to project sites.	Number of visits conducted.	2	2	10,000.00	7,550.00	The underspending of this activity was a result of the cutting down of costs to support the community sensitization activity.
Organise review meeting with project stakeholders.	Number of review meetings organized.	1	1	10,000.00	0	This activity is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.
Project sob						

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

What are the main achievements?

- Established two radio programmes on Radio Ada and Obonu FM to educate Azizanya, Tema Newtown, Chorkor, and their environs on the dangers of CLaT
- Rescuing survivors of CLaT and reintegrating them back into their families and the society as a whole, in collaboration with the District-Wide Anti-CLaT Network.
- Increased confidence in young people, due to continuous peer-to-peer engagement.

What worked well? Why?

The involvement of the ChaCLaT ambassadors and District-Wide Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking network in planning of activities worked well and it enhanced maximum cooperation and participation.

What did not work so well? Why?

- The timeliness of activities in the communities mostly did not go as planned, because there was low commitment of some of the project beneficiaries at some point.
- The back and forth with approval for social media content before rolling out delayed social media activities for the project.
- Having an unexpectedly large number from the community participating in an activity affected logistics which caused misunderstanding between project staff and community members.
- What would you do differently if implementing this kind of project in the future?
- We will develop different strategies for communities that had low commitment with time, to upgrade the commitment level.

Success story

Through the consistent advocacy and sensitization on CLaT, a case involving an 8-year-old boy, who was brought from Takoradi and was staying with his grandparents was brought before the Network. According to sources, he often sneaked out of the house to go and stay with squatters in Tema, because he was not satisfied with the provisions made at home. He joined a couple of young people living in slums and was exposed to abusive behaviors. The issue got to the attention of the social welfare personnel on the network in partnership with the assemblyman and the police, he was reached and settled in his school. His biological father was traced and was made to report to the social welfare office with monthly upkeep money for the child. This intervention has prevented the destruction of the child's bright future, and the child is now thriving.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

ADVOCATE FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND THE AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: STRATEGICALLY POSITION CM AS THE LEADING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVOCACY ORGANISATION.

2.3. My Data Our Health Campaign

I - PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Project title: My Data Our Health Campaign
2. 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.
3. Unit: Advocacy and Communications
4. Fund type: Restricted
5. Donor: Transform Health Coalition
6. Specific objectives:
 - 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.
7. Total budget: USD 10,000.00
8. Start date: March 2023
9. End date: October 2023
10. Management location: Secretariat
11. Implementation Location: Nationwide

II. INDICATORS

Specific Objective 1: Create greater awareness among the general public, media, and lawmakers on health data by April 2024.					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
Number of media professionals trained in health data governance and the number of media stories on health data generated as a result.	0	1 workshop, 10 stories	1 workshop, 8 stories	The platform was created to reach out to more professionals with the training but the subject seemed technical and not a priority to most people, so not all the stories were produced.	
Number of stakeholder meetings organised with the Parliamentary Select Committee to discuss Health Data Governance	0	1	1	Seven (7) members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on health were engaged in a meeting in which and they made various commitments to increase political will towards health data governance in Ghana.	
Specific Objective 2: Make politicians pay more attention to this issue and show greater leadership in pressing for health data governance (increase political will).					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
Number of advocacy meetings with the Minister of Health and Parliamentary Committee on Health.	0	1	1	One meeting was organised with the Upper West regional directorate of Ghana Health Service and the regional office for the Ministry of Health to lobby them to engage the national secretariat to sponsor a resolution on Data Governance at the World Health Assembly (WHA).	
Number of Visits with MPs in their constituencies to raise awareness on the issue of health data governance.	0	2	1	One (1) visit was undertaken instead of the planned two (2) because of budgetary constraints as a result of exchange loss incurred.	

II. INDICATORS

Specific Objective 3: 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 in order to generate sustained demand on the government to act.					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
2.1. Undertake an advocacy meeting with the Minister of Health and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health to sponsor or support health data governance at the World Health Assembly.	0	1	1	One (1) advocacy meeting was held with representatives from MSI Reproductive Choices Ghana, Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana, African Institute for Population and Development, Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations, Federation of Ghana Medical Students' Association, Hope for Future Generations, University Students' Association of Ghana, and Act for Change.	
Number of consultative meetings with the National Development Planning Commission to include health data governance into Ghana's Medium-Term Development Strategy.	0	1	1	The meeting featured the Acting Director for the Development Policy and Planning Division and three other Senior Planning Analysts who represented the NDPC	
Number of meetings organised with the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service to begin discussions on the need for technical standards in engaging CSOs on health data governance in Ghana, evidenced by a meeting report.	0	1	1	Together with other CSO representatives, the meeting focused on the need for increased and improved engagements of CSOs in all local, regional, and national conversations on Health data governance.	

III. ACTIVITIES & BUDGET

Specific Objective 1: Create greater awareness among the general public, media, and lawmakers on health data by April 2024.

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.1. Organise one (1) workshop to build the capacity of selected media professionals on health data governance.	Number of media professionals trained in health data governance.	10 Journalists	11 Journalists	GHS 21,600.00	GHS 22,350.05	The platform was created to reach one (1) more professional with the training instead of the original ten (10) planned. The variance in the budget was as a result of the increase in the cost of the conference package.
1.2. Generate media stories on health data governance in Ghana.	Number of media stories on health data generated as a result.	10 news reports.	8 news reports	GHS 00.00	GHS 00.00	The subject seemed technical and not a priority to most people, so not all expected stories were produced.
1.3. Train and engage three (3) social media influencers across Ghana on health data governance to speak on the issues of health data.	Number of social media influencers trained and engaged to make periodic posts on health data governance on their platforms.	3	10	GHS 7,900.00	GHS 14,000.00	Other volunteers engaged in other projects were leveraged to join the campaign, hence seven (7) more influencers joined the action. The increase in the total number of participants and the introduction of new budget lines influenced the variation.
1.4. Hold stakeholders meeting with members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health Data Governance in Ghana.	Number of stakeholder meetings organised with the Parliamentary Select Committee to discuss Health Data Governance.	1	1	GHS 20,300.00	GHS 12,200.00	Seven (7) members of the Parliament were engaged in a meeting that saw them making various commitments to increase political will towards health data governance in Ghana.
1.5. Undertake two (2) visits with MPs in their constituencies in Ghana to raise awareness on the issue of health data governance.	Number of Visits with MPs in their constituencies to raise awareness on the issue of health data governance.	2	1	GHS 32,600.00	GHS 42,500.00	1 visit was undertaken instead of the planned 2 because of budgetary constraints as a result of the exchange loss incurred. The location of the available MP and the number of participants from the constituency engaged increased the cost involved in the activity.

III. ACTIVITIES & BUDGET

Specific Objective 2: Make politicians pay more attention to this issue and show greater leadership in pressing for health data governance (increase political will).						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
2.1. Undertake an advocacy meeting with the Minister of Health and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health to sponsor or support health data governance at the World Health Assembly.	Number of advocacy meetings with the Minister of Health and Parliamentary Select Committee on Health.	1	1	GHS 9,000.00	GHS 0.00	One meeting was organised with the Upper West regional directorate of Ghana Health Service and the regional office for the Ministry of Health to lobby them to engage the national secretariat to sponsor a resolution on Health Data Governance at the World Health Assembly. This activity was organised on the back of another activity hence no expenditure
2.2. Hold a national forum on health data governance with government publicly recognising the importance of engaging civil society	Number of national forums on health data governance with government publicly pledging to engage CSOs at all levels in any global, regional, or national processes relating to health data governance and/or sign on to a CSO engagements guideline	1	0	GHS 13,700.00	GHS 00.00	Activity funds are repurposed into other activities to maximise impact.

Specific Objective 3: 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.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
3.1. Organise a stakeholder meeting with youth organisations, marginalised communities, and other organisations that work on adolescent girls and young women to integrate health data governance into their sets of demands to the government.	Number of advocacy meetings organised with youth organisations, marginalised communities, and other organisations	1	1	GHS 7,450.00	GHS 0.00	One advocacy meeting was held with various organisations that work with/for marginalised communities, adolescent girls, youth, and women. This activity was merged with another activity for greater impact due to budget constraint.
3.2. Build a coalition of CSOs to demand effective implementation of health data governance in Ghana.	Number of CSOs forming the membership of the Coalition on Health Data Governance in Ghana.	10	8	GHS 12,600.00	GHS 15,050.00	The organisations engaged were interested in the area but did not consider it a priority, so they could not commit to the agenda on Health Data Governance.
3.3. Hold consultative meetings with the National Development Planning Commission to include health data governance into Ghana's Medium-Term Development Strategy.	Number of consultative meetings with the National Development Planning Commission to include health data governance into Ghana's Medium-Term Development Strategy.	1	1	GHS 8,720.00	GHS 0.00	The meeting saw a dialogue between Curious Minds and reps from NDPC led by the Acting Director for the Development Policy and Planning Division on the need for health data governance to be tabled as a priority area for Ghana's development plan and strategy. The funds for this activity were repurposed since the activity happened virtually.
3.4. Organise a meeting with the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service to begin discussions on the need for enhancing technical standards in engaging CSOs on health data governance in Ghana.	Number of meetings organised with the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service to begin discussions on the need for technical standards in engaging CSOs on health data governance in Ghana held as evidenced by a meeting report.	1	1	GHS 8,030.00	GHS 9,300.00	Seven (7) members of the Parliament were engaged in a meeting that saw them making various commitments to increase political will towards health data governance in Ghana.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

What are the main achievements?

- The topic of health data governance was introduced to mainstream media through stories produced by trained journalists.
- Community members became conscious of their health data and its protection through the town hall meeting on health data governance.
- Parliamentarians committed to advocating for health data governance and security after engagement with them.
- Below are some statements made by the Ghanaian Parliamentarians.

“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 judgemental 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.

- Civil Society Organisations joined the campaign to demand health data governance.
- Political figures bought into the advocacy to demand a health data governance framework.
- Health Data was put on the radar of the National Development Planning Commission to be considered a priority by the government.

What worked well? Why?

- Training the journalists before other engagements shaped the kind of stories that

were produced.

- Engaging the Members of Parliament through networks from the established HDG Coalition.
- Engaging an MP before the town hall meeting allowed influential political figures to take part in sensitising the community members.

What did not work so well? Why?

- Not having a specific activity for the coalition to undertake undermined the commitment of the CSOs involved.
- The quest to engage national stakeholders directly dragged the implementation timelines.
- Engaging individuals of some media organisations instead of the organisation heads.

What would you do differently if implementing this kind of project in the future?

- Target specific individuals to work with from the organisations rather than the entire organisation.
- Involve more grassroots directly to also demand action from their political leaders.

Success story

- Community members could relate with and share their experiences about health data during the town hall meeting at Wa East.
- Most of the trained journalists shared their excitement about the topic of health data because they realised how it affects them, yet, not much is being said in the media spaces. These were some of the remarks.

“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. It’s good we had this so we can raise more awareness and get people to take action. Personally, it has made me more conscious, so anytime an issue of that nature comes up, I would know how to go about it”- Gabriel Obodai Torgbor Ashong, Metro TV/ Ablade TV.

“Aside from the fact that I will report on the topic, it has built my knowledge and consciousness about the kind of information I give out when accessing health information or services digitally and also how to respond to notifications from the health apps and institutions that operate digitally”
- Ekow Quansah, Citi Online.

- One of the trained journalists expressed an experience he had in an article after the training on health data governance and the security of patients’ data, which was published to serve the audiences with some realities they could relate to in the story to get them to act.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

ADVOCATE FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND THE AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063.

2.4. Research and Advocacy for Women's SRHR especially Abortion Rights

I – PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Project title: Research and Advocacy for Women's SRHR especially Abortion Rights
2. 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.
3. Unit: Programmes
4. Fund type: Restricted (RFSU)
5. Specific objectives:
 - Increase organisational capacity and structure to achieve programme objectives
 - Increase understanding of young women's SRHR in the Central Region
 - Key CSO partners advocate about SRHR, especially abortion rights
 - Pop culture personalities are champions of women's SRHR, especially abortion rights
 - Community leaders are champions of women's SRHR, especially abortion rights
6. Total budget: SEK 700,000
7. Start date: 2018- 2023
8. End date: December, 2023
9. Management location: Secretariat
10. Implementation Location: Central Region: Elmina, Cape Coast / Greater Accra

II. INDICATORS

Specific Objective 1: To Increase organisational capacity and structure to achieve programme objectives.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of key decisions made to increase organisational capacity and structure to achieve programme objectives.	0	3	4	The organisation up a management team consisting of all five (5) departmental heads to ensure the smooth running of the secretariat. The organisation successfully expanded our team by recruiting one Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist. This specialist has been playing a crucial role in measuring the impact of activities and identifying areas for improvement. The organisation added 7 staff numbers to strengthen our capacity to deliver impactful programs and reduce strain on existing staff. The organisation re-established the National Executive Committee (NEC) to ensure cohesive operations among Chapter Clubs.
Specific Objective 2: To Increase understanding of young women's SRHR in the Central Region.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of people with increased understanding of young women's SRHR	0	552	597	In addition to an estimated 400 people reached during the community outreaches, 22 during the women's support group training and 55 during the SRH chat, 120 people instead of the planned 75 were reached during the dissemination activities leading to an increase in the actual result.

Specific Objective 2: To Increase understanding of young women's SRHR in the Central Region.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of platforms where young women's SRHR was discussed and disseminated	0	31	32	In addition to four community outreaches, engagement on four social media platforms, one SRH Chat activity, ten podcast episodes, ten radio programs, and one women support group training, we conducted two dissemination activities instead of one
Specific Objective 3: To ensure that key CSO partners advocate SRHR, especially abortion rights.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of episodes and partners featured on air to ensure that issues of women SRHR including abortion are amplified by CSO partners.	0	10	10	All episodes were carried out as planned.
Specific Objective 4: Pop culture personalities are champions of women's SRHR, especially abortion rights.				
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance
Number of creative art events organised.	1	1	1	We organized an advocacy event for advocates and partners using poetry, rap, music, and dance, to promote advocacy on SRHR, Gender, and other related issues.
Number of people participating in the event.	0	60	65	This year we diversified the acts to be performed during this activity to include performances such as rap and dance. However, the total number of acts fell below our initial expectations due to a portion of the material failing to meet the necessary standards.

Specific Objective 2: To Increase understanding of young women's SRHR in the Central Region.					
Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Actual Result	Explanation of variance	
The number of community leaders committing to supporting women's SRHR, especially abortion rights.	3	4	28	We organised a ground-breaking initiative—a men's forum—that brought together influential male leaders from diverse communities. Specifically, in Cape Coast and Elmina, a total of 24 male leaders actively participated in the organised forums. This added to the number of leaders we were already collaborating with within the communities.	
Number of local authorities involved in RFSU activities project region.	0	3	5	The social welfare department and the chief and traditional leaders of Bantuma were the additional local authorities that were actively engaged in the RFSU activities.	

III. ACTIVITIES & BUDGET

Specific Objective 1: Create greater awareness among the general public, media, and lawmakers on health data by April 2024.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.1 Organise capacity building for new chapter club members and refresher training for existing members.	The number of capacity-building workshops organised.	2	3			The budget allocated for this activity was redirected to support the annual general meeting for greater impact and also to increase the number of Chapter Club members trained. Capacity-building sessions were included in the annual general meeting for selected chapter club members who attended. Also, a series of online capacity-building sessions were conducted for chapter club members.
	Number of Chapter club members trained.	20	23	10,000	0	
1.2 Support regional Chapter Club advocacy activities.	Number of Chapter Clubs supported.	4	8 news reports			During the year, a new chapter club was set up at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, leading to an increase in the number of chapter clubs we supported. The creation of a new chapter club at KNUST led to the over-expenditure of this activity. However, the exchange gain was used to support this over-expenditure to help us increase support for all our chapter clubs.
	Number of activities executed by chapter clubs.	4		8,000.00	10,720.00	
1.3. Organise Annual General Meeting.	Number of staff and volunteers participating in the Annual General Meeting (AGM).	32	32	57,000.00	74,042.00	The variance in the budget for this activity was a result of the high cost of the conference package and transportation costs. The exchange gained was used to support the successful implementation of this activity.

Specific Objective 1: Create greater awareness among the general public, media, and lawmakers on health data by April 2024.

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
1.4 Organise Board Meeting.	Number of board meetings organised.	2	1	8,000.00	4,000.00	The board was unable to meet more than once due to a difference in schedule amongst the board members despite efforts from the secretariat. The underspending realised for this activity was a result of cutting down costs for the implementation of this activity to support other activities.
1.5. Develop social media packages for project support.	The number of Social media packages developed.	5	5	10,000.00	13,200.00	During the year, a new chapter club was set up at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, leading to an increase in the number of chapter clubs we supported. The creation of a new chapter club at KNUST led to the over-expenditure of this activity. However, the exchange gain was used to support this over-expenditure to help us increase support for all our chapter clubs.
	Number of impressions on social media activities.	0	41,332			

Specific Objective 2: Increase understanding of young women's SRHR in the Central Region.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
2.1 Produce Podcast episodes on women/ girls' bodily rights and development.	The number of podcast episodes produced and published on social media.	10	10	15,000.00	15,000.00	The board was unable to meet more than once due to a difference in schedule amongst the board members despite efforts from the secretariat. The underspending realised for this activity was a result of cutting down costs for the implementation of this activity to support other activities.
	The number of people reached with podcast episodes.	0	200			
2.2 Organise press engagements to communicate research findings/ advocacy campaigns.	Number of press engagements organised to communicate research findings and advocacy campaigns.	1	2	5,000.00	1,220.00	Press engagements were done in the Central and Greater Accra regions, respectively, in tandem with the two women colloquia. The team believed that an extra dissemination with partners in the capital would provide partners with information in planning and executing their various projects. The over-expenditure under this activity was a result of an increase in the cost of the conference package and the addition of extra budget lines to the activity for greater impact. We did not receive evidence of a news item published from one of the media houses invited
	Number of news items published on research findings.	6	5			

Specific Objective 2: Increase understanding of young women's SRHR in the Central Region.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
2.3. Organise a review of research and advocacy activities and develop a work plan for 2024.	Number of review meetings organised.	1	2			The review of the research was successfully implemented by the research team together with selected staff members who worked in collaboration with the research team. All members of the RFSU project were involved in the development of the 2024 work plan. Most of the review meetings were done virtually and during planning meeting times, leading to the underspending of this budget line.
	Number of people participating in the development of the 2024 work plan review meeting.	10	10	5,000.00	1,220.00	
2.4. Organise Women's Colloquia.	Number of press engagements organised to communicate research findings and advocacy campaigns.	2	2			We successfully involved a greater number of young individuals within the project communities than originally anticipated, leading to an increase in the number of participants and stakeholders engaged in the colloquium. An increase in the total number of participants and the high cost of items needed for the successful implementation of this activity led to the over-expenditure realised.
	Number of news items published on research findings.	75	120	40,000.00	47,549.00	

Specific Objective 3 : Key CSO partners advocate about SRHR, especially abortion rights.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
3.1 Feature and serialise heads/country directors/ executive directors in radio programs across the regions.	The number of radio programs aired.	1	2	25,000.00	25,000.00	There was no variance under this activity. The implementation of this activity was successful.
	Number of heads/country directors/executive directors hosted on radio program.	10	10			
3.2 Organise SRH chat on SRHR, especially bodily autonomy and abortion rights, and conversations with trailblazers in the gender conversation.	Number of press engagements organised to communicate research findings and advocacy campaigns.	2	1	18,000.00	25,940.00	The variance in the budget for this activity was a result of an increase in the number of participants engaged and the high cost of items needed and travel cost to the community for the implementation of the activity..
	Number of news items published on research findings.	50	55			

Specific Objective 4: Pop culture personalities are champions of women's SRHR, especially abortion rights						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
Organise follow-up capacity-building training on SRHR for women's support groups in project districts.	Number of capacity-building exercises organised.	1	1	20,000.00	28,420.00	An increase in the cost of the conference package and high inflation led to an increment in expenditure for this activity.
	Number of women and girls participating in training.	22	19			Although we trained 22 persons 2 were male from the Cape Coast chapter club
4.2 Organise creative art events for young people (poetry, music, and dance), to promote advocacy on SRHR, Gender, and other related issues.	Number of press engagements organised to communicate research findings and advocacy campaigns.	1	1	40,000.00	45,400.00	The variance in the budget for this activity was a result of an increase in the number of participants engaged and the high cost of items needed and travel cost to the community for the implementation of the activity..
	Number of people participating in the creative art event.	60	65			

Specific Objective 5 : Community leaders are champions of women’s SRHR, especially abortion rights.						
Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Expected result	Budget		Explanation of variance
				Planned	Actual	
5.1 Organise Fora for men within the project district to include men in the sexual and reproductive health and rights conversation.	Number of male community leaders participating in the fight for women’s SRHR.	12	12	16,000.00	3,200.00	This activity was done alongside community sensitisation and outside broadcasts. The budget allocated for this activity was added to support the community outreach and outside broadcast activity for greater impact and to allow for under-expenditure.
	Number of forums organised.	1	2			
Programme Management						
Conduct annual audit (Engage Auditor).	Project audit conducted.	1	1	18,000.00	18,000.00	An audit for the 2023 project period is currently underway.
Participate in international conferences (International Travel) (Global Hygiene Symposium in Singapore)	Number of international conferences participated in	1	1	18,000.00	35,000.00	The fluctuations in the Ghanaian cedis against the dollar led to the high cost of air tickets acquired for international travel.
PROJECT SOB						

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

What are the main achievements?

- Re-introduction of the National Executive Committee (NEC) to guide strategic directions and ensure cohesive operations with the chapter club.
- Funding independent chapter club advocacy campaigns to address localised issues.
- Empowerment of young women with knowledge and skills to share sexual and reproductive health information within their communities, and the active participation of some trained individuals in community outreach and radio programs.
- Raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health in the communities we were present in.

What worked well? Why

- Gender and Inclusivity: we ensured gender sensitivity and inclusivity in program implementation through tailored activities designed to address the diverse needs of all genders. Initiatives like men's forums and women's support group training were strategically crafted to tackle the unique challenges encountered by individuals of different genders.
- Collaboration and Partnerships: Building and maintaining effective partnerships with other NGOs, government agencies, and local stakeholders was essential to the project. Local liaisons made it easy to mobilise community members and our partnerships with other stakeholders such as PPAG.
- Community acceptance of the project has been phenomenal, and participation has been great.
- The recent Men's fora held in both Cape Coast and Elmina created the platform for men to speak openly about SRH issues they were uncomfortable with. They expressed happiness about the fora, allowing them to speak about these issues frankly.

What did not work so well? Why?

- We attempted to cover an extensive array of topics within a limited time frame during the women's support group training, so participants struggled to fully absorb the wealth of information provided.
- It was difficult to gather data on the impact of our activities since we did not implement a rigorous system for collecting data on the field.
- Due to the time of the Music and Art event, there was insufficient time to include discussions on pertinent themes within the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) space, with relevant organisations that could have significantly enriched and elevated the overall event experience.

What would you do differently if implementing this kind of project in the future?

- Enhance feedback collection by implementing mini-surveys after every activity.
- Extend the duration of women's training activities and make it a stay-in activity for effective learning outcomes.
- Choose a better time for the Music and Art Festival and potentially tailor the event to cater to a younger audience, focusing on junior high school students to effectively reach and engage that target demographic.
- Establish proper systems to monitor if participants are retraining others and the impact of our training efforts.
- Provide volunteers with orientation before they participate in activities to effectively engage them and optimize their contribution.

Success story

"There have been many changes in the community. For instance, in the past, parents would argue over whose responsibility it was to raise a child. The men would argue that since they worked at sea and provided for the family, raising a child was the woman's job. However, since we started this education, parents are beginning to understand that both parents are responsible for raising children to become responsible citizens." -Richard Sylvester Ackon (

"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." - Mariama (Women support group training beneficiary)

"The training has been highly beneficial. 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." -Rosemary (Women support group training beneficiary).

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. - Samuel Kwabena Badu Aquah (Assembly member of the Gegano electoral area).

