

Widows and Orphans Movement (WOM)

MOTTO: TRUST IN GOD –

P. O. Box 582, Bolgatanga U-E/R – Ghana, West Africa

Tel: 233-03820-24536 or 0244-956370; Website: womghana.org; Email: womghana2000@yahoo.com



Widows and Orphans Annual Report 2011

WOM's Vision

Widows and orphans without tears and intimidation

WOM's Mission

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



Theme: David encouraged himself and David required of the Lord-1Samuel 30:6-8. Some Bibles say and God encouraged David: our prayer is that widows and their orphans should encourage themselves or our God should encourage us but we are to ASK the Lord too, what we should do in 2012.

Acknowledgement: We want to acknowledge Action Aid Ghana, WOM's Board members, St. Paul de.V, Accra Community Church, VSO, BUERGER Committee Stein Hagen, EDIAF, Amnesty International, World Vision, Oxfam, Mrs.Limann ,Professor Grace Parkin,Mr.Baba Yabdown and Dr,Isaac Akanko for making it possible for us to work this year. We also want to acknowledge the commitment of the staff of WOM and very hard working volunteers Angelle Bryan, Jimimah Aarakat, Lisa Sambeek , Nicole Wasbeek and all our attaches Hana Ayanga, and co. May the good Lord give us strength to continue the work in 2012 as we did last year.

Personnel

No	Name	Office	Position
1	Betty Ayagiba	Directing the affairs of WOM	Director
2	Esther Ayogo	Sponsorship, HIV/Aids projects	Sponsorship Officer
3	Gifty Abalansa	Micro Credit Project	Micro credit Officer
4	Clement Tibil	Accounts	Accountant
5	Fati Abdulai	In School	---
6	Desmond Harrison	Shea Butter HIV/Aids projects	Shea Project Officer
7	Angelle Brayn	Fundraising and Communications	Volunteer VSO
8	Jemimah Aarakat	O.D and Education	Volunteer VSO
9	Glady's Njeri	Term ended in June	Volunteer VSO
10	Lisa Sambeek	Term ended in December 2010	Meet Africa
11	Nicole van Wasbeek	Micro Credit	Volunteer Meet Africa
12	Lariba Akasabega	Sweeper	Cleaner
13	Kolbil Dong	Watch man	Security Officer
14	Mahama	Watch man	centre

WOM accepted Mr. Awal Ahmed's resignation from his post as Gender Officer which he held from 2008-2011. The vacancy was advertised recently and interviews have been scheduled with a Panel comprised

of Board Members. The successful candidate will hopefully take up his/her appointment by the end of January 2012.

Mr. Mahama the shepherd man was also dismissed for stealing corn to sell for alcohol.

Miss Veronica Addae was also interdicted due to failure to account for more than six hundred Ghana cedis of Micro Credit funds.

Summary

The year 2011 has been a year of great challenges but we are grateful to our God who gives us victory in every situation. WOM was able to carry out all her activities of the year. Despite several economic and social challenges, WOM also won an international human rights award in April 13th 2011 from CHRAJ. WOM could not organize end of year get together for needy widows in 2011 because of lack of funds. The bad road to our farm and the very busy schedule of our programs has affected our only pickup. At the moment, the four wheel part was destroyed and had to be removed and our prayer is that it is fixed before the rainy season. Three Chiefs were awarded this year by WOM/AAG at the International Widow's Day for their immense contribution in reducing the suffering of the widow in their communities. More widows are gaining their liberation.

This is what a widow said in my office when her husband's house of 19 rooms in Kumasi was reclaimed for her in court. "Madam if this office had not existed some of us would have died and died again".

Current Programs

Human's Rights Education, HIV/AIDs, Orphans Education, Income Generating Activities (shea butter processing, pomade, Craft, Farming) and MicroCredit,

Formation of New Groups: Even though WOM has visited some groups to advise them, no new groups have been officially added because of the already high number of existing groups.

Collaborators

WOM has a strong belief in collaboration with other NGO's and CBO's to learn and share. WOM has review meetings with other partners of AAG where we present our reports and work plan for the quarter. At these review meetings we learn a lot. WOM does well to attend workshops where new friends are made. WOM has good working and social relationships with her internal and external collaborators. At grass roots level, WOM has a very good and strong relationship with the Chiefs, Tindanas, women leaders and the youth. In 2012 WOM will work to collaborate more with the newly installed queen mothers.

WOM/AAG programs carried out for the year.

Action Aid is an international anti-poverty agency working in over 40 countries, taking sides with poor people to end poverty and injustice with her partners. Action Aid Ghana has been working with WOM from 2001 and WOM is a core partner to this faithful partner. She has not only been faithful in supporting WOM yearly with funds but has built the capacity of the staff and her widows. Our only issue is that they work only in one District with us on women's rights.

AAG DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Objectives- *Reduce Violence against women*

1. *To improve women's participation in leadership and decision making*
2. *To create opportunity for COMBAT to share their experiences.*
3. *To improve the knowledge of four hundred (400) girls on their rights and responsibilities.*
4. *To reduce maternal mortality rate in the Region.*

Core Interventions

1. *Participatory Analysis and awareness.*
2. *Advocacy and campaigning*
3. *Addressing the immediate needs*
4. *Strengthening Capacity*



Activities Carried Out

- ⌘ *Reconstruction of corn mill structures of Duusi, Sakote and Datuko*
- ⌘ *Identify and facilitate training on leadership and decision making skills for 50 young women*
- ⌘ *Support 91 mother- to-mother club members to farm soya beans.*
- ⌘ *Demonstrate the preparation of wean mix to six groups in six communities.*
- ⌘ *Celebration of the International Widows Day (23rd June)*
- ⌘ *Training of 20 young widows and school dropouts in dress making and cloth weaving*
- ⌘ *Sensitization of girls clubs on the rights and responsibilities of children carried out in the Talense-Nab dam Districts during the months of October and November 2011.*
- ⌘ *Organized an engagement forum between girls and the PTA, and the district directorate of GES.*
- ⌘ *Review meeting for COMBAT from four communities*
- ⌘ *Organized legal awareness training for 50 Magazias Traditional leaders, Tindanas and opinion leaders.*
- ⌘ *Graduation of 10 orphans who have gone through a three year dress making training.*
- ⌘ *Organized Review meeting for AAG and partners.*

⌘ *Embark on 16days activities against*

WOM/Amnesty International programs carried out for the year

The goal of Amnesty International is to improve Human Rights for the most disadvantaged by empowering communities in Ghana to improve and defend their human rights. This goal provided an opportunity for WOM to work on the following issues in 2011;

- ❖ *Strengthen two communities' human right Advocacy clubs.*
- ❖ *Organize community sensitization forum on human rights, land rights etc.*
- ❖ *Organize advocacy forum for traditional leaders and duty bearers to reform cultural practices that infringe human rights.*
- ❖ *Form and strengthen Human rights monitoring structure.*



Methodology

- ❖ *Identification and train selected community members on participatory theatre and other innovative methods to advocate against human rights.*
- ❖ *Community members to develop criteria for the selection of team monitor and resolve human rights violation where appropriate. Sensitization for the need for such structure will proceed*
- ❖ *Develop the use of Drama, posters, and other forms of participatory theatre.*
- ❖ *Hold engagement meeting with power holders, traditional leaders and state agencies to bring about change in traditional practices that lead to gross violation of women's rights.*



This widow weaves baskets and sells charcoal. Before she had a bicycle, she had to pay transportation costs to get to market and often would get to the market too late to get the best price for goods. Having a bike has helped her to save time and transport costs. She now also has the skills to fix a puncture or repair her gears.

WOM was successful in an application to the Village Bicycle Project (VBP) to run a pilot project involving 6 communities. As a result, 120 widows, who previously had to walk miles to trade at market or visit WOM's offices, were provided with bicycles.

VBP, a U.S. based scheme, offers high quality used bicycles at subsidized prices to rural communities in Ghana. Their bicycles come from many locations including England, the United States, Australia and Canada. In order to qualify for a subsidized bicycle, participants pay a small sum and must attend a one-day workshop in basic bicycle maintenance and repair. The workshops are taught by experienced instructors who are also bicycle mechanics.

The enthusiasm for the scheme and the commitment from the widows was tremendous. Both WOM and VBP took valuable lessons from the pilot and if WOM is chosen to run another project next year, the lessons learnt can be applied to ensure the smooth running of the scheme for another group of widows.

WOM/OXFAM Programs for 2011

- 1) Training of Quality shea butter and Gender for women.*
- (2) Organize workshop for chief, Tindanas, women leader etc.*
- (3) Sensitization meeting on the importance of shea trees.*

WOM/WFP Programs for 2011

Educating 33 widows groups on HIV/Aids, Personal Hygiene, marketing groups Dynamics and supporting these groups with food. 315 bags of corn, 36.25 bags of salt and 19 gallons of vegetable oil. Supporting one widows group with Shea butter processing machine.

WOM/WORLD VISION Program for 2011

Objective: Support and train 20 widows to rear and own animals.

When WOM carried out the normal year PRRP with Action Aid, the rearing of small ruminants came out strongly that it helps the widows greatly. WOM sought to obtain funding support for this and wrote a proposal to World Vision, which was subsequently approved. Two goats each were given to 40 widows from two groups Wakii and Gorogo.



WOM/EDIAF Program for 2011

On submission of a proposal, WOM succeeded in making a 120 acre farm at Sakote. WOM is gradually transplanting mango seedlings every year to cover the entire space of the 120 acres.

This year WOM has transplanted 3,000 mango seedlings and has intercropped with maize, (five acre) soya-beans (five acre) and groundnuts (2 acres).

The interdiction of the three top leaders of EDIAF last year greatly affected the program and slowed progress with the farm, but a great deal of effort, determination and persistence on WOM's part is helping to get the project back on track.

WOM/St Paul de V Program

WOM got to know Almuth when she was working with German Development Service in her early years. Getrud Schuaber, Almuth's mother came to Ghana and had the chance to visit WOM. When she returned to Germany she assisted WOM in getting connected to St. Paul's which has been supporting WOM every year. This year in the addition to the funds, the program sent some second hand clothes and bicycles to

six organizations including WOM. We went to Accra for the items. The second hand clothes were given to people with Disabilities in Bongo whilst the bicycles were given to some deserved basket weavers groups. This will help them bring their baskets early to us when there is an order. It was through the same Almuth we got to know BUERGER KOMITTEE STEINHAGEN also in Germany.

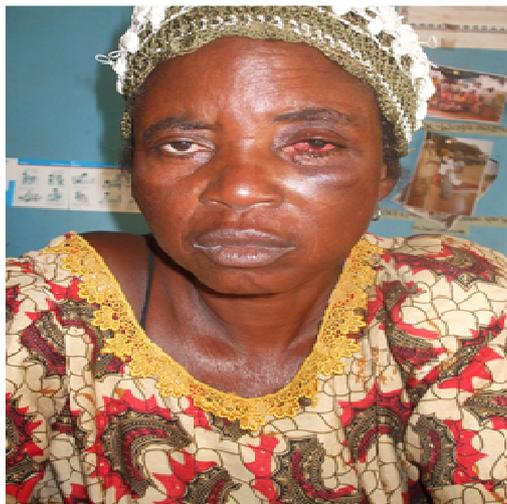
Domestic Violence Project

WOM has this year accommodated two widows and two Orphans in the Shelter for six months for protection. Nine other cases were settled at the DOVVSU CHRAJ and WOM's office.

A widow has reclaimed back her husband's 19 room house from her husband's relatives in court.

Another widow was compensated with GH¢600 when the big men of the Region begged for Mercy to be shown to the chief because of his ignorance.

At the moment we have two cases in court. One widow was accused of being a witch by a Church and the other widow was sent there by her late husband's brother because he wants



the widow to leave her nice food bar.

The COMBAT in the communities (trained by WOM and her Donors) have settled many cases Within their areas. A widow was beaten by the husband's brother because she refused to marry him. Through the intervention of WOM and the COMBAT, the case was settled in the community and the woman was compensated. They are now living in peace.

Education

WOM started supporting 100 children each year with AAG in 2001: but when AAG made the decision in 2004 to work in only one District, the number decreased until we finally stopped because of funds. A volunteer from CUSO (Christine Taylor) revived the program in 2005 and she has been raising funds for this program back in Canada. The number further decreased every year because of limited funds. This year, even though we only have funding to support 60, we ended out supporting 75. We will need more hands to raise funds for the education of these children which is a long term end to many of the

problems the widows are now going through. Two of our orphans Nsohlebna and Ruth were admitted to the Tamale SOS home in 2011

HIV/AIDS Program

With the Program of WFP widows and orphans affected and infected with HIV/AIDS were supported with corn oil and salt. Some of them also benefitted from the Bicycle Project.

Micro Credit: WOM/Swiss Hand Project

With the support of Swiss Hand from Switzerland, WOM has been giving loans to the widows for the past four years. This year WOM has supported 128 widows and orphans with loans. Loans disbursed totalled GH¢33,950.00 and Loans received was GH37,852.60. This fund is too small for the many widows: we wished we had more funds to support more widows. We have 95% coverage rate.

Income Generating Activities

WOM organizes many activities to support widows, their children and the office. This is why she is farming. A lot of widows are weavers and 98% of the money from the cloth we sell goes to the weavers whilst 1% is used to put leather and the last 1% is for the office. This year WOM has exported close to 3,000 baskets to USA. People are also getting to know about the quality pomade we make. One of our customers, Madam Hazia Alima in Accra has ordered GH¢650.00 within 3 weeks and is offering to be our supplier in Accra for the promotion of the pomade and to make money for the organization as part of her contribution to the widows and their children. Anyone who buys the pomade comes back to buy: we would like to secure funding to more effectively market our products to the wider media, such as television advertising.

Achievements

WOM has won another international human rights defenders award from CHRAJ on the 13th April 2011 making in all six awards.

Despite all the ups and downs of the mango plantation WOM was able to harvest a five acre corn which may fetch her 20 bags of corn and three bags of groundnuts.

WOM has exported more than 3000 baskets to USA this year.

Ten Orphans who were on our three year dress making training graduated on the 29th December 2011. Each one of them has been given a new sewing machine and a capital of GH¢50.00



Challenges

The agents who worked with EDIF in 2010 on clearing the land and growing sunflower brought challenges between WOM and the community. This was resolved through several meetings. Before the problem was solved, the community members refused to help us and allowed their animals eat WOM five acre soya beans plantation.

Our second hand pickup that was given to us by The Church of Pentecost has never rested even a day .It does a lot of work and is now weak so it consumes a lot of funds on maintenance and fuel. At the moment the four wheel parts have spoiled and have been removed. We wished we had a new pick up.

WOM is still working hard towards sustainability and to support the salaries of her staff and projects. During leaner periods, the Director and the Accountant work without salary.

The multipurpose machine that could process 20 to 50 bags of shea nuts, soya beans and groundnuts into oils per day and could employ more than 100 widows is still standing unused because of lack of funds.

The fencing of WOM's 15 plots that could have generated funds for WOM through animal rearing and liberated her financial hardships still remain unfenced.

The need for two more workers to handle the farming and domestic violence projects

The six rooms of the shelter are still standing for the past five years and have not yet not roofed.

The weavers will be graduating March 2012 and the center will be empty until we get funds to continue the training and give refresher courses to many of our trainers.

Widows are already reporting to the office of not having food to eat because their farm yield was poor.

Visits

The Director was able to visit the Nandom-Ko widows group (in the Upper West Region) who invited her to join them celebrate their St. Monica's day. More than 400 widows attended this meeting .They invited Government officials, queen mothers and the Assembly members of their community. It was a

celebration where they had the chance to express their problems to the Duty bearer, listen to the word of God's and ended the day with dancing and busing with the plenty pito they brewed for the occasion.

Way forward.

WOM plans to write more proposals for the fencing of the mango plantation and center for rearing of small ruminants.

WOM will write proposals for funds to go into more serious shea butter processing involving the multipurpose machine and 13 groups that all have grinding mills.

WOM will farm more groundnuts and soya-beans to feed the multi- purpose machine.

WOM will raise more funds to support more children to go to school.

Explore in the Baobab tree by inviting somebody from Burkina to come and teach us how to make money from the leaves, seed and powder of the Baobab tree.

Raise GH¢1,500.00 Invite somebody from Volta Region to come and teach us how to make beads from broken bottles.

Conclusion

WOM is admired by many but more is yet to be done. There are more wild trees like shea nuts that are grown in the Region that can be used to process oils yet nothing is done to it. WOM is prepared to exploit more of these natural resources that are being used in countries like Burkina. WOM will continue to defend widows with the numerous challenges and will always work harder than the previous year.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011.

Income and expenditure, (Donation, Grants, and self generator funds).

Donor/individual	PURPOSE/ACTIVITY	AMOUNTGH¢	REMARKS
Action Aid Ghana	Provide financial support for two review and reflection sessions of COMBAT.	1,536.00	Successfully implemented and reported to AAG
Action Aid Ghana	Provide apprenticeship training in cloth weaving for 20 young Widows and Orphans.	7,360.00	Successfully implemented and reported to AAG
	Organize training for three existing COMBATs in first aid administration	2,449.00	Successfully implemented and reported to AAG

	<i>and conflict Management.</i>		
	<i>Organize legal awareness training for 50 women (magazias, traditional leaders, and Tindanas.)</i>	<i>2,116</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Reconstruction of corn mill structures at Duusi, Sakote and Datoku.</i>	<i>4,662.00</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Embark on 16days activities against</i>	<i>2,080.00</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Identify and facilitate training on leadership and decision making for 50 young women.</i>	<i>1,581.00</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG.</i>
	<i>Partners quarterly Review and planning meeting</i>	<i>1,482.00</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Organize 6 food demonstration for mother to mother support group</i>	<i>830.00</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Support 200 mother to cultivate legumes(cow pea, soya bean)</i>	<i>9,220</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Organize a district girl's conference for 200 in school and out of school.</i>	<i>11,284</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Organize a durbar to mark International day.</i>	<i>5,070.00</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Provide apprenticeship training in cloth weaving and seamstress for 20 out of school girls.</i>	<i>8,007.00</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to AAG</i>
	<i>Institutional support</i>		<i>Successfully implemented and</i>

	<i>Programme monitoring.</i> <i>Personnel salary.</i> <i>Support to office stationery</i>	12,000.00	reported to AAG
	Subtotal	69,677.00	
	<i>Mango Plantation</i>	6,050.00	<i>Ongoing project.</i>
<i>Christine Taylor (Canada)</i>	<i>Supported the selected (60) orphans undergoing school and some vacationer training education.</i>	4,913.00	<i>Successfully implemented and reported.</i>
<i>Buerger Komitee Steinhagen-from Germany.</i>	<i>Support to graduate some Orphans who under gone 3 year training.</i>	1,100.00	<i>Signatories of Beneficiaries will be submitted to Donor.</i>
Amnesty International	<i>(1)Support legal awareness education amongst the widow groups, community opinion leaders, chiefs and Tindanas.</i>	9,441.00	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to Amnesty International and of some the activities are ongoing.</i>
Amnesty International	<p><i>(2)To reform five (5) negative cultural practices that infringe upon the human rights of women and girls in the Zanlerigu community by the end 2010.</i></p> <p><i>(3) To sensitize 50 Traditional Leaders, Power holders, Duty bearers and 600 community members on the human rights instruments, their linkages to women's rights and need to reform negative cultural practices by 2010.</i></p> <p><i>(4)To form, nurture and sustain one (1) community-based human rights advocacy club.</i></p>		
<i>Accra Community</i>	<i>Part payment of fertilizer for WOM to support some</i>		<i>Receipts submitted to Accra</i>

<i>chapel</i>	<i>Widows in farming.</i>	<i>900.00</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
<i>Baba Yabdow.</i>	<i>Support widow international day celebrations.</i>	<i>1,200.00</i>	<i>Receipts submitted to Baba Yabdow</i>
<i>St Paul De.V Through Gertrud. Schauber</i>	<i>Organise two day workshop on legal awareness education amongst some selected widow groups, opinion leaders, chiefs and Tindanas.</i>	<i>4,400.00</i>	<i>Success fully carried out Receipts and signatories will follow.</i>
	<i>Support 19 Orphans and Widows on the individual skills training And address marking.</i>	<i>6,800</i>	<i>Success fully carried out Receipts and signatories will follow</i>
<i>Madam Angelle Bryan</i>	<i>Supported an Orphan Veronica Adongo</i>	<i>70.00</i>	<i>Receipts submitted (to madam Angelle Bryan.</i>
		<i>290.00</i>	<i>Receipts submitted (to madam Angelle Bryan.</i>
<i>Oxfam</i>	<i>(1) Training of Quality shea butter and Gender for women. (2) Organize workshop for chief, Tindanas, women leader etc. (3) to sensitization meeting on the importance of shea trees</i>	<i>6,359.20</i>	<i>Successfully implemented and reported to OXFAM.</i>
<i>World vision</i>	<i>Support two widows groups with small ruminants at Wakii and Gorogo.</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>	<i>Signatories of Beneficiaries have been submitted to Donor.</i>

<i>Madam Elizabeth in UK</i>	<i>Support to Moses Asoo in SHS.</i>	<i>50.00</i>	<i>Receipt submitted to the Office.</i>
<i>Prof. Grace Parkin</i>	<i>Part payment of fertilizer for farming.</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>Paid dept for fertilizer bought for farm.</i>
<i>W.O.M generated income through pomade and tractor</i>	<i>This income supports 3 staff salaries, allowance to 5 other officers, supports Administration and payment for utility.</i>	<i>23,980.00</i>	<i>Some of the staff at times go without salaries because WOM spend so much on fuel for the farm.</i>
<i>Mrs. Fulera Limann.</i>	<i>Support groups processing shea butter</i>	<i>500.00</i>	<i>Signatories of Beneficiaries will be submitted to Donor.</i>
<i>St Marks United Church</i>	<i>Support to buy roofing materials for roofing House for trainees.</i>	<i>350.00</i>	<i>Receipt submitted.</i>
<i>WOM Exported 3,500 baskets and 1,500 in the local market. Totaling 5,000</i>	<i>Thirteen widow groups benefited from this order</i>	<i>70,000</i>	<i>390 women received cash of Ghc 179.49 each to buy raw materials for the basket order.</i>
<i>Sister Ayinebono. Korea.</i>	<i>Shea butter order of 3,000 Kg</i>	<i>9,000</i>	<i>Two Widow group received cash of Ghc 4,500.00 each to buy raw materials for the processing the shea butter order.</i>
	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>14,8603.20</i>	
	<i>Grant total</i>	<i>218,280.20</i>	

