



Situational Reports of Civil Society's response to COVID-19 in Ghana

COVID-19 SITREP



WASH YOUR HANDS



USE SOAP



AVOID CROWDS



WEAR MASK



AVOID HANDSHAKE



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

MAY 2020

ABOUT THE GHANA COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT

The response to fight COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana has been largely led by the government with little or less input from the civil society sector. However, experience from the Ebola epidemic cases in Sierra Leone has shown significant successes in the role and efforts of the civil society sector, which include the faith-based organisations and traditional/community leaders, in fighting the pandemic, particularly where these efforts involve significant changes to social and religious practices and norms. It is against this background that the STAR-Ghana Foundation is steering a programme of actions to complement and deepen planned and ongoing efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The '**Ghana Covid-19 Response Project**' (CRP) supports coordinated civil society actions around Covid-19 prevention, management and mitigation.

This project is supported by STAR Ghana Foundation with support from:



ABOUT THE COVID-19 SITREP: CURRENT SITUATION

Since the emergence of COVID 19 in Ghana, the government of Ghana has enacted several measures to contain and prevent the spread of the virus. The three continuous weeks of partial lockdown for residents in Accra and Kumasi and closure of borders which was instituted by the government brought hardship to many vulnerable and the general populace at large. In addition, the spread of fake news and mistrust of government management of COVID-19 funds have highlighted the urgent need for CSOs and other civil society actors to monitor and track the allocation and utilisation of these resources. This Situation Report, therefore, harvests and documents CSOs responses to this crisis.

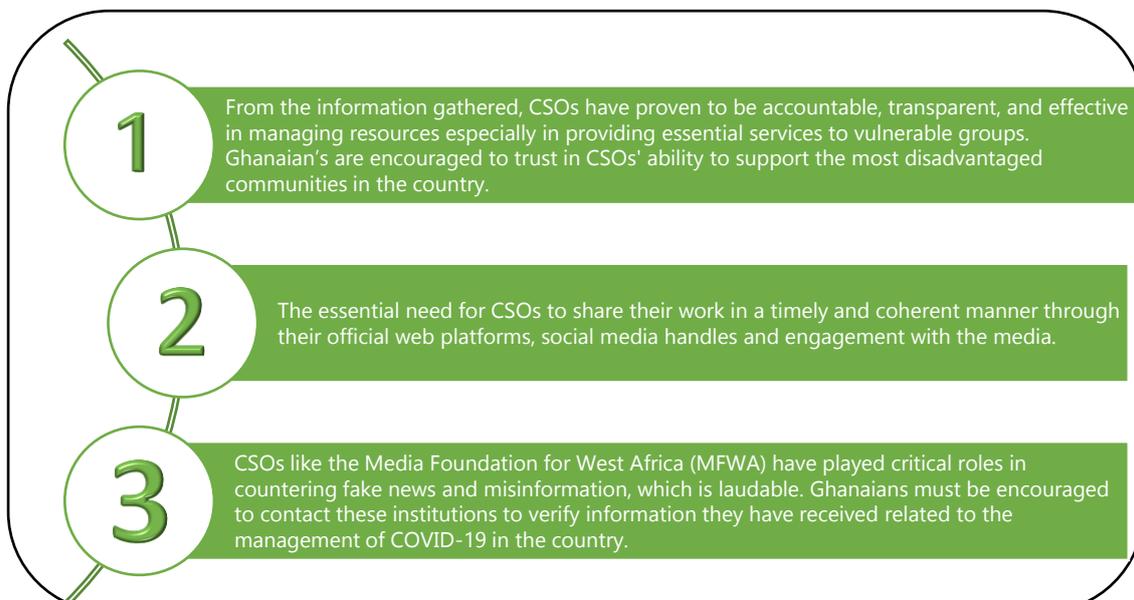
Disclaimer:

WACSI accepts no responsibility for suitability of any materials submitted by the contributors of this publication. WACSI assumes no responsibility or liability for errors or inaccuracies. Contributors accept all responsibility for opinions expressed.

For more information, write to:

West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) No. 9 Bamboo Street (Formerly Bingo Street), East Legon P.O. Box AT 1956, Achimota Accra, Ghana
Email: research@wacsi.org Tel: +233 (0) 303 937 26

KEY LESSONS DERIVED FROM THE WORK OF CSOs (MAY 2020)





STAR GHANA COVID 19 RESPONSE SITUATIONAL REPORT

Partners	Actions	Contents
Objective 1: To increase and improve on citizens' access to accurate, timely, inclusive and relevant information on COVID-19 and response Actions		
STAR GHANA COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT PARTNERS	Caritas Ghana created Alliance platforms and embark on mass dissemination of informative educative materials to create awareness on COVID-19	Caritas Ghana formed 8 regional level FAITH in Ghana Alliance Platforms to create awareness on COVID-19 and on Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) implementation. The 8 regional FAITH in Ghana Alliance Platforms disseminate Civic Education materials and infographics on COVID-19 and demystifying fake news on COVID-29 using mass network on FBOs, radio and online networks. <i>Source: April report to Star Ghana</i>
	Ghana Federation of Disability organisations (GFDO) recommended, developed and engage with PWD and OPWD on targeted information to the disable.	On 21 March 2020, GFDO sent out recommendations on how to create awareness on coronavirus to target persons living with disabilities. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/2TYRWCu</i>
		In April, the GFD developed 10,000 COVID-19 information educative materials including videos for people with disabilities. The GFD also organised a meeting with selected leaders of PWD and OPWD to share ideas and advice on priority areas on COVID-19 to work on to engage the impairment groups. <i>Source: April report to Star Ghana</i>
	The Media Foundation West Africa (MFWA) document information on COVID-19 fake news, hotspots, alleviation Programme Fund and COROFACT.	On 7 May 2020, the MFWA publish a fake news claiming that the Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana has received personal protective equipment (PPEs) from the Government to aid them in compiling a new voters' register amid the COVID-19 pandemic. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/3d1OHS0</i>
		The MFWA published a statement on the indicated confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ghana. The MFWA documented that 26 districts sin Greater Accra region have been affected indicating eight areas as hotspot zones. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/2AsbSGP</i>
		The MFWA shared information on the alleviation of the Coronavirus Alleviation Programme (CAP) fund which worth six hundred million cedis. The fund support enterprises to limit the negative effects of COVUD-19 pandemic on their business. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/3diIGC2</i>
		On 19 May 2020, fact-check Ghana found a misleading publication by 442Ghana on 'Effects of COVID-19; Our Women Footballers are getting impregnated- Women League Chairperson' which revealed that a major effect of COVID-19 on women's football in Ghana is that, the footballers are getting pregnant. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/2Ap30lg</i>
As at midday of 29 May 2020, data available from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Africa suggests that South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Morocco, Ghana, Cameroon, Sudan, Guinea and Senegal are the top 10 countries in Africa with the highest confirmed cases of COVID-19. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/3diyTKX</i>		
The Executive Director published an article of COVID-19 impacts and civil society role	The executive director of WACSI, Nana Afadzina, published an article expounding on the impact of COVID-19 on CSOs funding, technology and programming. The director highlighted the role of NGOs and CBOs in supporting the vulnerable in West Africa. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/2U9moKo</i>	
OTHER CSOs AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	ACT Alliance organise a global campaign on COVID-19	The ACT Alliance on 22 May 2020 joined over 600 CSOs in a campaign to endorse Citizen Action on COVID19. The campaign was organised across the world to encourage citizens to tackle COVID-19 in unity to build back better and achieve the Global Goals. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/36P2fyc</i>
	National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) developed Educative informative materials	The NCCE published three videos on 4, 15 and 18 May 2020 to advice, admonish and demonstrate the appropriate ways to wear Face Mask as a preventive measure for the coronavirus pandemic. <i>Sources: https://bit.ly/2XIsX7m , https://bit.ly/2ZVyMRF, https://bit.ly/2XIO8x4</i>
The chairman of NCCE, Ms Josephine Nkrumah, delivered a message on 10 May 2020 to admonish the general public to uphold discipline and positive mindset in the fight against COVID-19. <i>Source: https://bit.ly/2U0j1p0</i>		



	<p>Ghana Health Service (GHS) shared information on COVID-19</p>	<p>On 26 April 2020, the NCCE upscaled its anti-COVID-19 public education campaign to educate Ghanaians that the coronavirus was not a myth but a reality with no known vaccine. The NCCE adopted a community language advocacy approach to reach out to people in the language they understand. <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/2ZZRJCO</p> <p>The NCCE on its 19th Annual Constitutional Week released a press statement admonishing Ghanaians to fight against COVID-19 with civic responsibility. The NCCE urged Ghanaians to comply with all the safety protocols put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of infection. <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/371bwU9</p> <p>The GHS published four press releases on the authority's preparedness for the 2019 Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) outbreak. The GHS has also developed a coronavirus preventive video on their website providing educative information on the virus. In addition, the GHS provides up to date live update on the recorded cases of COVID-19 in Ghana. <i>Sources:</i> https://bit.ly/2XW2GD0, https://bit.ly/3dnvuuD, https://bit.ly/3eCY5vT, https://bit.ly/3013CbF</p> <p>The Ghana Health Service (GHS) has developed a coronavirus preventive video on their website providing educative information on the virus. The video projects brief information on how travellers and the general public can protect themselves and stay safe in this period of COVID. <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/2Mh9PIj</p>
<p>Objective 2: To support communities, NGOs and other citizens' groups develop and implement initiatives at local and national levels for supporting vulnerable groups and the implementation of national and local response plans</p>		
<p>STAR GHANA COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT PARTNERS</p>	<p>Caritas Ghana supports the vulnerable and rolled out the emergency response plan</p> <p>GFDO Advocates for the inclusion of PWDs in the emergency response to Covid-19</p> <p>The Ghana SDG platform raised awareness of COVID-19 and coordinates CSOs effort to fight COVID.</p> <p>Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) support frontline workers through World Vision</p>	<p>Caritas Ghana on 16 and 22 May 2020 donated food items to vulnerable affected by COVID-19 in Madina and Ashaiman. <i>Sources:</i> https://bit.ly/3cg36Jz, https://bit.ly/2XTDWuQ, https://bit.ly/3do9yPH, https://bit.ly/2ZTVpGh</p> <p>Caritas also supported 160 families in old Fadama with token worth GHC 20, 000. <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/2X95HQO</p> <p>Caritas Ghana through the FAITH in Ghana Alliance formed the COVID-19 emergency response team (ERT) in 8 regions in Ghana to roll out the interfaith Emergency Response plans in the form of mobilisation of vulnerable of people in the commercial cities of Accra, Kasoa and Kumasi. <i>Source: April report to Star Ghana</i></p> <p>GFDO and the National Council on Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) have met with the President on 24 March 2020 to propose some guidelines for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the government's emergency response to the Coronavirus and the related information shared with the public. <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/3fcJ2cD</p> <p>CSO Platform on SDGs Ghana on 26 May 2020 organised a webinar to discuss how COVID-19 pandemic has impacted children. The webinar made recommendations to inform policy response and mitigate the impacts of COVID-29 on children living in poverty. <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/3dqVTaF</p> <p>The SDG platform reported that the COVID-19 Response Fund had received GHS 114, 612.62 cash donations from 72 CSOs and CS actors across the country. A donation of 230 bags of 25kg rice, 210 gallons of 5L oil, 230 bags of water and some vitamin C were presented to the aged, street children, Persons with Disabilities and mental health patients. <i>Sources:</i> https://bit.ly/2Uez5Ud, https://bit.ly/372MvaV</p> <p>CHAG has received support from World Vision for the benefit of frontline health workers. At a handing over ceremony on 21 April 2020, World Vision presented CHAG with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) valued at 60,000 GHS (equivalent to over \$10,000). <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/37oyCUD</p>
<p>OTHER CSOs AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES</p>	<p>Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) present Personal Protective Equipment to Farmers</p>	<p>PFAG on 29 My 2020 presented Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to farmers in selected districts in Volta and the Oti regions. <i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/2XAibBC</p>



	<p>People 4 Health calls the President to ensure accountability of his commitment to health workers</p>	<p>People 4 Health Project called the government to ensure accountability, equitability and sustainability of the President of Ghana's commitment made to provide package of incentives for frontline health workers.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/3gLeaBz</p>
	<p>The Muslim community supports vulnerable people with an amount of GHC 130 000</p>	<p>The National Chief Imam on behalf of all the Muslims community presented a cheque of GHC 130 000 to the Covid-19 National trust fund. The donation from the Muslim community is to alleviate the devastating effect of the pandemic.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/3cdqQxH</p>
<p>Objective 3: Increase the transparency, responsiveness and accountability of government and its relevant agencies to citizens around the development and implementation of Covid-19 response plans, including the utilisation of resource.</p>		
<p>STAR GHANA COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT PARTNERS</p>	<p>Penplusbytes advocates for transparency and encourage citizens monitoring of COVID-19 response</p>	<p>From 11 March until now, Penplusbytes published informative messages on social media platforms, mainly Facebook and Twitter, to enable citizens to monitor COVID-19 activities.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/3drspcF</p> <p>On 15 May 2020, Penplusbytes published an infographic and a message on Facebook to encourage citizens to share their feedback, experiences, suggestions and complaints with the People for Health Project.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> https://bit.ly/2yVkfdl, https://bit.ly/3eY1eaZ</p> <p>On Thursday 21 April, the Coalition on the Right to Information, Ghana, issued a press release which was published on Penplusbytes' Facebook and Twitter pages to call on the government of Ghana to respect the right of information and to comply with its obligations under the Right to Information Action (RTI). This initiative provides citizens with some reliable mechanisms to monitor governmental engagements related to transparent information during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/2ZL9zJP</p>
	<p>The Ghana SDG platform gathers citizens perspectives, feedback and advocate for more education on COVID-19</p>	<p>The CSO Platform on SDGs in partnership with the STAR Ghana Foundation produced and disseminated a survey to assess the impact of government COVID-19 responses on communities and the efficiency, transparency and accountability of such measures.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/36TN2Mg</p> <p>In April, the SDG platform organised virtual and physical consultations at the regional and zonal level. The consultation was aimed at collecting citizen's feedback on government response in policy and services to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p><i>Source: April report to Star Ghana</i></p> <p>On 5 May 2020, the CSO Platform called the government of Ghana to strengthen its efforts on public education related to COVID-19. It further encouraged the government to allocate funds and logistics to the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) to enable the institution to fully play its role.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/2MoCds4</p> <p>On 29 March 2020, the CSOs Platform on SDGs called the government to organise a multi-stakeholder forum to mobilise resources for the national response on COVID-19. According to the platform, this forum should notably include civil society organisations to manage the COVID-19 Fund.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/3crS8QU</p>
<p>OTHER CSOs AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES</p>	<p>SEND Ghana advocates for transparency, social protection and invites Ghanaian CSOs to respond to African CSOs COVID-19 survey</p>	<p>SEND Ghana invited Ghanaian CSOs to fill the questionnaire produced by African NGOs and EPIC-Africa. The survey is aimed at assessing the impact of COVID-19 on African Civil Society Organisations.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> https://bit.ly/3cosZqA, https://bit.ly/2MrXtNC</p> <p>SEND Ghana created the SEND West Africa COVID 19 Update to monitor state, public and community responses. The section on state and public responses provides citizens with reliable tools to monitor how the government and its agencies are responding to the pandemic.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> https://bit.ly/2M7Wimz, https://bit.ly/36Yfcpw, https://bit.ly/3eK5TMp, https://bit.ly/2Yba7X5, https://bit.ly/3dHhdZX</p> <p>On 22 May 2020, SEND Ghana published a press statement to call on the government to comply with the demands of Ghanaian citizens for more investment into social protection, based on a SEND Ghana survey realised prior to the pandemic.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/36RUjfl</p>



		<p>On 30 April, SEND Ghana released a press statement to report on Ghana’s performance in the 2019 Open Budget Survey and to call the government on ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of COVID-19 funds.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/36RUIP2</p>
		<p>In a publication published on 5 May 2020, SEND Ghana highlighted the key efforts and limitations related to government relief and economic rehabilitations programmes. It called the government to engage more with the civil society to promote accountability and transparency in pro-poor programmes and COVID-19 relief packages.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/3002i95</p>
		<p>In a press statement published by My Joy Online, the organisation criticised government’s decision to demolish makeshift homes in Old Fadama. SEND Ghana considered the measure to be “insensitive to the plight of the people” in the time of COVID-19.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/2U0JUZM</p>

Objective 4: To harvest, document and share learning around Covid-19 responses

STAR GHANA COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT PARTNERS	WACSI organised a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 in the region	<p>The West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) organised a monthly webinar series to coordinate and engender regular civil society discussion and debate on the different impacts of COVID-19 on civil society and development effectiveness. The premiering was held on 20 May 2020 on the theme: “COVID-19 and Civil Society in West Africa: Assessing impact, responses and opportunities for post pandemic recovery”.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> https://bit.ly/CovidWebRep1</p>
--	--	---

CASE STORIES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM WEST AFRICA

Objective 1: To increase and improve on citizens’ access to accurate, timely, inclusive and relevant information on Covid-19 and response actions

Naymote in Liberia creates awareness and fosters community resilience

From 1 May 2020 Naymote launched its Community Action Platform Against COVID19 and implemented activities under awareness creation and mobilising community resilience with Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funding. 24,046 citizens from 225 communities across 17 electoral districts in Montserrado County were educated about covid19 preventive measures, signs and symptoms thanks to the partnership with 45 empowered Community-based organisations and networks across Montserrado County. The project also reached and educated 13,994 youth and 427 persons living with disabilities about COVID19 signs, symptoms, and preventive measures, notably through the COVID19 TV show on SATEC TV (online media) and posting of regular updates on COVID19 in Liberia. The project increased grassroots response to the fight against COVID-19 and enhanced community engagements and ownership

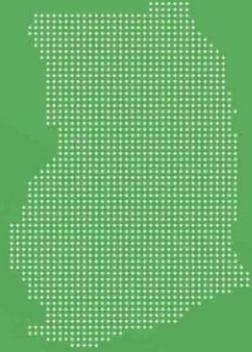
Objective 3: Increase the transparency, responsiveness and accountability of government and its relevant agencies to citizens around the development and implementation of Covid-19 response plans, including the utilisation of resource.

YIAGA Nigeria collates citizens perspectives on how government is responding to COVID-19

YIAGA Africa has developed a leading initiative in compiling citizens feedback on government response to COVID-19 into a “Citizens Feedback on Government Response to COVID-19 [Report](#)”. This report fosters accountability, transparency and responsiveness of government activities during the pandemic. The organisation deployed observers in 600 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across the country to monitor government responses related to COVID-19 and its impact on the communities. This included the distribution of relief materials, cash transfers, and other palliatives across the LGAs. It also tracked human rights abuses, gender-based violence, availability of essential services and potential impact of the pandemic on security.

<https://bit.ly/3eCZCIC>





COVID-19 SITREP

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



www.penplusbytes.org



CARITAS GHANA



This project is supported by
STAR Ghana Foundation
with thanks to
UKAid and European Union



@wacsi @wacsi wacsi WACSI



@STARChanaFoundation STAR GHANA star-ghana-foundation FOUNDATION