

PROMOTING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP FOR CHANGE



**STAR GHANA
FOUNDATION**

Foreword



For Ghana to flourish and thrive, the cornerstones of active citizenship, women's empowerment, democracy and an accountable and responsive state must be firmly in place. From 2010, the STAR Ghana programme has worked tirelessly towards these ends with funding from UK aid from the UK Government, the European Union, Danida from the Danish Government and USAID.¹

I have witnessed how STAR Ghana has played its part in the development of our country. I have been inspired by our grant partner organisations who, thanks to STAR Ghana, are better equipped to articulate citizens' concerns to the state, resulting in positive changes to policy, services and practice. These positive changes have translated into transformed lives – including children in school learning; women taking control of their livelihoods; rural communities getting a fairer share of development gains; citizens participating in inclusive and peaceful elections; and citizens and businesses taking a stand against corruption. Many of the 439 projects that have been supported by STAR Ghana continue to produce results even after the end of funding.

The launch of the STAR Ghana Foundation as an independent organisation in November 2018 is a landmark event. Led by the Steering Committee, the launch is the realisation of the ambitions and commitment of many people and diverse organisations, including the Funders' Committee representing our core donors, the programme management consortium led by Christian Aid and, most importantly, the citizens of Ghana.

The way ahead

We are very ambitious for the future. We remain committed to our ultimate goal of ensuring that all citizens, regardless of gender, disability, age or location, are empowered to participate in decisions and raise concerns. We will continue to support a vibrant civil society to engage constructively with government and drive forward a transformative development agenda that will leave nobody behind.

For our transition from a donor-funded programme to an independent, Ghanaian-led organisation to be a success, we must ensure that we remain relevant and are able to mobilise resources from a wide range of funders to secure our future and deliver on our ambitious plans. As the STAR Ghana Foundation embarks on this new chapter, we bring a strong focus on achieving outcomes at scale through proven programme design and management.

The future of philanthropy in Ghana

The STAR Ghana Foundation will play a lead role in supporting the future development of philanthropy in Ghana. We are exploring the potential of social investment and enterprise to encourage smarter, more innovative and effective programming focused on results. We will work with national and international organisations and donors to champion the highest standards in fundraising.

On behalf of the STAR Ghana Foundation, I thank you for your active support over the past eight years and welcome your collaboration as we work together to achieve an equitable and prosperous Ghana.

Dr Esther Ofei-Aboagye, Chair, Steering Committee, STAR Ghana

¹ USAID funding from 2010-2015.

Our vision

A well-informed and active Ghanaian citizenry able to contribute to transformational change that advances democracy, accountability and social inclusion.

About STAR Ghana Foundation

STAR Ghana Foundation belongs to *all* Ghanaians. We create platforms for ordinary people, particularly the most marginalised in society, to become active citizens who demand positive change in their lives and communities.

We work with civil society to connect their interests with others, and help to ensure all voices are heard by decision makers, both local and national. Our work with government aims to create a state that is responsive and accountable to its citizens by promoting constructive dialogue at district, regional and national levels.

As a Ghanaian-led, independent organisation, we are an example of Ghana going beyond dependence on aid, supporting locally grown solutions to advance Ghana's development and contributing to sustainable and inclusive change.



Our thematic areas include:



gender equality and social inclusion



inclusive governance and elections



accountable service delivery and anticorruption



media and the right to information



active citizenship, civil society sustainability and philanthropy

STAR Ghana has experience of working with major international institutional funders, including USAID, UK aid, EU and DANIDA. We have managed funds worth more than \$70m (GHS348m) since 2010 and have an impressive track record in delivering a successful programme that has supported 232 partner organisations across every district in Ghana. With an established network across civil society, media and government, we have experience of galvanising change which addresses pressing development and social challenges.

STAR Ghana Foundation is an independent registered company limited by guarantee. The Governing Council is responsible for its overall management and strategic oversight and direction, while the Programme Management Team, based in Accra, manages the day-to-day running of the programme. STAR Ghana Foundation is non-partisan and works to the highest standards of transparency in our management systems and reporting. We uphold the highest standards for our work, with strong technical expertise, robust financial and programme management, and quality administration systems.

During the transition phase (2018-2020) the STAR Ghana Foundation will continue to be funded by UK aid, DANIDA and the EU, and managed by a consortium led by Christian Aid with Humentum, the Overseas Development Institute, Social Development Direct, Nkum Associates and On Our Radar.

Who we work with



Members of the Youth Parliament from the Yendi Youth Centre have provided a voice to share the views of young people with local authorities.

Ghanaian civil society

We believe that a vibrant civil society has the power to unlock transformational and lasting solutions to Ghana's development challenges. Ghana has a strong tradition of civil society organisations working to better the lives of citizens. However, limited resources and capacity, duplication and disjointed efforts are holding Ghana back from achieving its full potential.

The STAR Ghana Foundation is a resource for civil society, attracting additional funding to the sector, capturing, promoting and disseminating learning, and brokering relationships between diverse stakeholders within and outside of civil society.

Since our inception, we have become recognised as a convener, coordinator and catalyst, bringing civil society together with state actors and the private sector to address key issues such as Ghana's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the NGO Bill, women's empowerment, disability, youth unemployment, access to healthcare and anti-corruption.

We have helped to strengthen civil society organisations to deliver in a range of ways, including through grants, technical support and capacity building.

Traditional authorities

STAR Ghana and our partners have worked with traditional authorities to address a range of issues, including the abuse of women's rights, access to basic education for girls and children with special educational needs, early and forced marriage, and the participation of women and youth in local governance. Over the past year, 15 traditional authorities have implemented significant measures on these issues, thanks to the advocacy efforts of our partners and citizens.

Star Ghana has become recognised as a convener, coordinator and catalyst, bringing civil society together with state actors and the private sector to address key national issues.



Prof Akilagpa Sawyerr, former chair of STAR Ghana's Steering Committee, and Rt Hon Prof Mike Ocuaye, Speaker of Parliament, mark the signing of the MOU between STAR Ghana and Parliament.

Working with Ghana's Parliament

STAR Ghana Foundation is working to help improve the effectiveness and functioning of Parliament to carry out its mandate.

Our approach includes a focus on helping to strengthen the Leadership of the House, the Parliament Service and key select committees.

STAR Ghana acts as a bridge builder, fostering links between Parliament and civil society. Over time, we have seen parliamentarians become more responsive on engaging with civil society and the perspectives of citizens. For example, collaboration between the Government Assurances Committee and our partner Penplusbytes led to the creation of a digital platform that enabled citizens to monitor progress of government promises in areas such as health and education.

Through a combination of technical services and grant funds, we are helping six select committees to progress and deliver their workplans (Education, Health, Local Government and Rural Development, Gender and Children, Government Assurances and the African Parliamentarian Network Against Corruption).

STAR Ghana has provided support to ensure continuity during the induction of new MPs by embedding institutional knowledge and is helping to revise the standing orders.

'STAR Ghana has helped the work of the Government Assurances Committee to draw its own programme. We hold public hearings for officials who have made promises and visited to check that promises have been fulfilled.'

Hon Emmanuel Bedzrah, Member of Parliament for Ho West Constituency

Parliament for the people

With support from STAR Ghana, Odekro created a parliamentary monitoring website which makes it easier for citizens to understand what is going on in Parliament. It is helping to hold MPs accountable to their constituents by publishing information about attendance, voting records and speeches for each MP.

Private sector partnerships

Throughout our journey, we have consulted and worked closely with diverse companies and industry associations on a wide variety of shared interests. For example, we worked with the Institute of Chartered Accountants who successfully advocated for the adoption of international public sector accounting standards as part of public financial management reforms. Through our partnerships with the Chamber of Pharmacy, the Private Enterprise Federation and the Association of Ghana Industries, we are working to tackle corruption and improve accountability.

'The initiative supported by STAR Ghana has allowed us to engage in coalitions and to bring people and partners together to be part of the fight against corruption. The private sector is now engaged with religious leaders and traditional authorities in a way that they never thought possible. This is a new approach to fighting corruption because citizens think they are not part of the fight, so the STAR Ghana project has allowed us to engage citizens by bringing across the cost of corruption to them.'

Nana Osei-Bonsu, Chief Executive Officer, Private Enterprise Federation

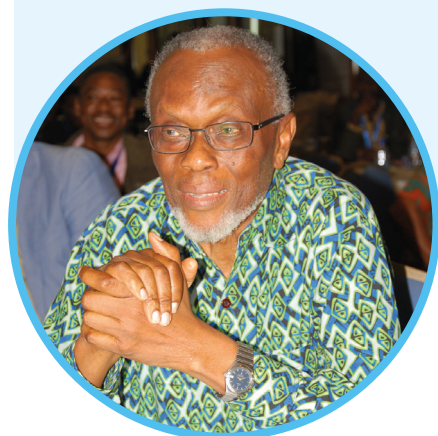
District assemblies

With support from STAR Ghana, our partners are working to increase the accountability and responsiveness of district assemblies to citizens' demands and participation in accessing quality services. For example, the Wassa West District Assemblies increased the representation of people with disabilities in the management of District Assembly Community Funds, resulting in positive feedback from people with disabilities. Their views have been heard and they have found the District Assembly is more responsive to their needs.

STAR Ghana's journey

2010: The STAR Ghana programme launches, with support from UK aid, USAID, DANIDA and the EU. It had a vision to improve the quality of life for all Ghanaians through improved governance in the delivery of public goods and services.

Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr (below) appointed to chair the Steering Committee.



2010

233
Partners received grants

439
Projects supported

\$48m
Awarded in grants

2010-2015: 167 organisations, including civil society, media, community-based organisations and Parliament, receive grants and support from STAR Ghana.

Partners supported by STAR Ghana played key advocacy roles in the passage of the Renewable Energy and Petroleum Revenue Management Bills and the content of the National Gas Pricing Policy and the Master Gas Plan.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana, was successful in advocating for the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards as the Financial Reporting Framework in the public sector thanks to support from STAR Ghana. Grant partners were instrumental in the development of the Code of Conduct for public officers.

2015: STAR Ghana enters a second phase, supported by UK aid, DANIDA and the EU, and managed by an international consortium led by Christian Aid with Humentum, SDDirect, ODI, Nkum Associates and On Our Radar.

STAR Ghana adopts the 3Cs & L approach:

- Convene, catalyse and coordinate citizens' actions.
- Learn and share lessons, innovations, and replicable and scalable models.



2015

Access to essential services
56 projects
\$10.6m

Natural resource and environmental governance
37 projects
\$3.4m

Inclusive governance & accountability
80 projects
\$6.8m

2016: STAR Ghana contributed to peaceful and inclusive elections. Women became more aware of their civic responsibilities and were able to play a full part in the elections, thanks to the work of one of our partners Global Action for Women's Empowerment. Women's participation increased from 46% in 2012 to 65% in 2016 in project areas.

‘[Most of] us women were able to vote, which hasn't happened before. The education we got made us change our minds.’

Enyonam Danyo, community member and first-time voter.



2016

2017: Nationwide consultations in 10 regional capitals with key stakeholders on the future of STAR Ghana.



2017

2018: The programme becomes the STAR Ghana Foundation, a national, independent organisation under local leadership, to promote active citizenship for change. Our vision is a well-informed and active Ghanaian citizenry able to contribute to transformational change that advances democracy, accountability and social inclusion.



**STAR GHANA
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2018

Peaceful and credible elections

111 projects
\$9.2m

Gender equality and social inclusion¹

49 projects
\$4.2 m

¹In addition to awards granted under this thematic component, gender equality and social inclusion has been mainstreamed across all thematic areas and many projects focus on socially excluded groups.

Strengthening media civil society collaboration

37 projects
\$3.1m

Civil society sustainability

35 projects
\$3.7m

Anticorruption

33 projects
\$2.8m

Parliament

\$4.3m

Gender equality and social inclusion

Realising potential

‘My ambition is after I have finished my course, I will go back to my community and set up a workshop and train other young women and men to be self-employed motor mechanics. My advice to other young people with disability is: don’t be in hiding, but find the help you need and take part in programmes like Femsteh and St Mary’s Vocational School.’

Zakaria Azara, aged 20



Many citizens are trapped in an inter-generational cycle of poverty because of their gender, disability, age, ethnicity or simply because of where they live. We want to change that and ensure that every citizen has equal access to the opportunities, resources and services they need to reach their full potential. Gender equality and social inclusion are, therefore, at the heart of the STAR Ghana Foundation.

Our perspective on gender equality is focused on ensuring that women and men, boys and girls, are empowered to pursue their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and are valued as equal and active participants in the wellbeing of their households, workplaces, communities and societies.

Our approach includes investments and initiatives targeted towards the removal of barriers to participation, power and governance, advancing access of individuals and groups to development opportunities. We have achieved this through grant support for partners that are building collective action and movements for advocacy, learning and engagement.

STAR Ghana has brought together grant partners working on similar issues to carry out joint policy work and share best practice around themes, including economic rights and empowerment; access to health and essential services; human rights promotion and protection; and inclusive governance, accountability and participation.

Land rights for women

By traditional custom, women have fewer opportunities than men to own land and are limited to leasing land through husbands or other male family members. Therefore, many women are excluded from investing in land to grow their own enterprises, especially in the farming sector in rural areas.

STAR Ghana convened three grant partners to engage with the Lands and Forestry committee to influence the drafting of the national Land Bill using evidence from citizens’ consultations, ensuring that the clauses around ownership work in favour of women and people with disabilities. We are supporting our cluster of grant partners to engage with traditional leaders around land rights.

Inclusive access to services

Civil society organisations have enabled citizens, especially the most marginalised, to demand access to services such as education and health. STAR Ghana provided \$10.6m to support 56 organisations working to improve access to quality education, health and justice services. We have a particular focus on strengthening and scaling up existing local governance initiatives, and helping to shape improvements in national policy and practice.



Vocational skills training provided for young women as part of the Let Girls Learn: End Child Marriage project.

A movement for change

STAR Ghana Foundation aims to bring together like-minded organisations to work together around pressing social challenges. We have fostered the development of a civil society movement for citizens on inclusion, drawing together more than 140 organisations and individuals to campaign for disability-friendly access to public buildings. Through their joint action, these organisations are raising public awareness and demanding that the government keeps its promise to ensure that all new and existing buildings are accessible to people with disabilities.

Our grant partner and national broadcaster TV3 broadcasts a regular primetime report called *Mission*. Their reporters have travelled across the country listening to the voice of citizens and exposing stories where people have faced barriers to accessing quality education and health services. By spotlighting these issues, TV3 has helped to trigger action by decision makers, which has led to improvements in service delivery in many cases.

To date, there have been 972 *Mission* stories and 402 *Mission Gets Results* features, where reporters have followed up their initial reports to showcase positive changes, along with eight *Mission* awards.

In 2018, we announced an investment of \$1.6m awarded to 24 organisations working to improve delivery of services and local governance at local and district level, influencing nationwide policy change.

Peaceful and inclusive elections

STAR Ghana works to advance a healthy, functioning and inclusive democracy. We are non-partisan and work with others to ensure that our democracy works for all Ghanaians. We support initiatives aimed at making elections peaceful and focused on issues that matter to all citizens.

We have supported more than 89 projects and initiatives that contributed to achieving peaceful and credible presidential and parliamentary elections in 2012 and 2016.

Our approach included support for activities before, during and immediately after elections, with a particular focus on voter education, peace and security, issue-based campaigns, observation and monitoring, and inclusive participation. We supported strategic initiatives which helped to build trust and the credibility of the election process by improving collaboration, systems and processes.

STAR Ghana supported partners to provide civic and voter education using social media, radio, events and materials to educate people why they should vote, how to vote and how to engage in positive debate with others. Many of our grant partners have demonstrated considerable success in ensuring marginalised groups, such as people with disabilities, women and youth, actively participate in the election process.

Media and music

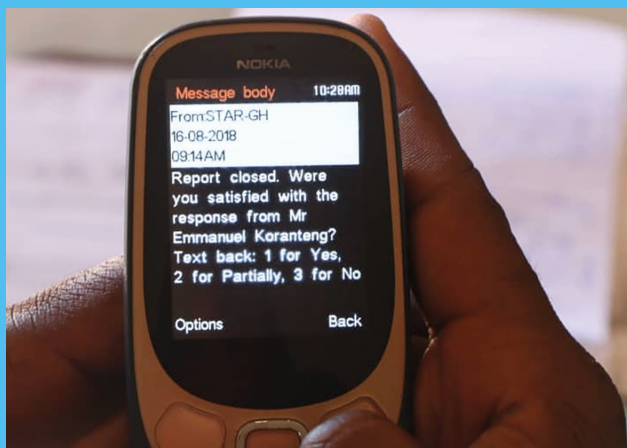
STAR Ghana worked with national and local media organisations to ensure that voters had full and accurate information, and could participate in debates and dialogue with prospective candidates. We sponsored the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast the influential presidential debates for the 2012 and 2016 elections.

The Musicians' Union of Ghana showed how music can influence a generation and serve as a tool for national unity. The union, which has 4,200 members, held peace walks, secured radio airplay for peace songs on stations nationwide and held three concerts reaching a national audience, especially young people.

Cracking down on hate speech

The Media Foundation for West Africa's work reduced incidents of hate speech, contributing to peaceful elections. With our support, they monitored radio stations nationwide and reported on the use of offensive campaign language on air. Hate speech reportedly fell by 75% from April to December 2016 on 70 radio stations across the country.

Digital election special: STAR Ghana's SMS Voices platform



Ghanaians could use the SMS Voices platform to raise election issues.

STAR Ghana's SMS Voices platform enabled trained citizen representatives, particularly in remote and marginalised communities across six districts, to raise election issues with the Electoral Commission, National Commission on Civic Education and the Ghana Police Service, who took action as a result.

Blogging Ghana's *Ghana Decides 2.0: The Voices* campaign promoted the voices of young and marginalised people online providing a platform for comprehensive coverage and discussion of key issues around the election.



Election peace and security



STAR Ghana has supported projects and initiatives that contributed to achieving peaceful elections.

Interfaith groups came together to form the Forum for Action on Inclusion, Transparency and Harmony (FAITH) platform, which focused on ensuring that all political parties accepted the outcome of the 2016 election. This included using community radio and dialogue to mediate in election-related disputes. Over 12 million Ghanaians were reached by religious leaders, who used community radio, church services and Friday prayers in mosques as platforms to share positive messages with congregations about their duties as citizens during the election process.

Fighting corruption



STAR Ghana has supported 33 projects where partners take collective action to tackle corruption.

Corruption affects us all, holding back Ghana's development and fuelling inequality. We work with citizens, companies and civil society to combat corruption and create lasting change.

Through our anticorruption work, we are helping to develop models proven to work in the promotion of transparency and accountability. We have brought together a wide range of stakeholders from community, civil society, media, research and private sector organisations to create and test initiatives aimed at tackling corruption in the delivery of public services, supply chains, extractives and many other areas.

Our 33 projects are enabling our grant partners to take collective action on anticorruption, change perceptions and behaviours, influence systemic change and create an enabling environment for business to grow.

An enabling environment for business

The STAR Ghana Foundation supports initiatives with private sector associations aimed at tackling corruption and improving accountability. The Chamber of Pharmacy is working on a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Watch initiative, which seeks a review of the procurement and registration of pharmaceutical products with the Food and Drugs Authority. The Private Enterprise Federation is engaging private sector and citizens to tackle corruption and improve the efficiency of services delivered by various agencies. Work is underway to improve transparency, health and safety, and accountability in the construction industry through our support of the Association of Ghana Industries.

We have brought together a wide range of stakeholders from community, civil society, media, research and private sector organisations to create and test initiatives aimed at tackling corruption.



Illegal mining is causing long-term environmental, social and economic damage.

United against galamsey

We used strategic funding to support six projects focused on the most significant issues facing Ghana today. Galamsey (illegal mining) damages communities and the environment, and robs Ghana of its natural resources. We supported the Media Coalition Against Galamsey to carry out a national advocacy campaign. This resulted in judges and prosecutors announcing that they would fully prosecute mining offences, and the establishment of an interparty parliamentary working group tasked to work with the Media Coalition Against Galamsey.

‘Galamsey is a crisis, affecting our today and tomorrow, poisoning our land, our water and our food. It needs to be of prime importance to everybody. We brought together media to take an advocacy role on galamsey, demonstrating its importance and holding leaders to account. We organised town hall meetings where we went to communities affected by illegal mining and provided an opportunity for them to ask questions direct to duty bearers.’

Kenneth Ashigbey, Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, and Chair of the Media Coalition Against Galamsey



STAR Ghana Foundation belongs to all Ghanaians.

Work with us

Advance Ghana's development by partnering with the STAR Ghana Foundation. We want to develop new and existing partnerships with organisations who share our vision for the future of Ghana.

As a Ghanaian-led organisation with a track record of working with the private sector, philanthropy, civil society, government and the media, we have designed and managed programmes and funds that deliver proven and sustainable results.

With the STAR Ghana Foundation, you will be investing in initiatives with civil society, which promote accountability, tackle corruption and support the development of an enabling environment for the economy to grow. Work with us to find local solutions that move Ghana beyond aid, promoting active citizenship for change.

Explore partnerships with the STAR Ghana Foundation by discussing your interests with our team. Please contact us at: info@star-ghana.org or +233 (302) 774488.

STAR Ghana Steering Committee

- Dr Esther Oduraa Ofei-Aboagye (Chair)
- Adelaide Addo-Fening
- Professor Agnes Apusigah
- Professor Akilagpa Sawyer (Chair, 2010-2017)
- Akoto Ampaw
- Hon Albert Kan Dapaah (2010-2013)
- Alhaji Osman Abdul-Rahman (2011-2015)
- Professor Audrey Gadzekpo
- Hon Emmanuel Bedzrah
- Francis Asong
- Hajara Mohammed
- Hon James Avedzie (2010-2013)
- Jemima Gordon-Duff (Co-chair, Funders' Committee)
- Clara Osei-Boateng (Co-chair, Funders' Committee)
- Hon Kwaku Agyeman-Manu (2013-2016)
- Hon Moses Anim
- Nana Asantewaa Afadzinu
- Peter Badimak Yaro
- Graham Gass (2010-2012)
- Joseph Allan Borgrebon (2012-2013)
- Jens Peter Dybark (2013-2015)
- Sonia Warner (2015-2017)
- Nic Lee (2017-2018)

Transition phase

During the transition phase (2018-2020), STAR Ghana will continue to be managed by a consortium led by Christian Aid with Humentum, the Overseas Development Institute, Social Development Direct, Nkum Associates and On Our Radar.

Photo credits

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With thanks to our funders:





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