



MINISTRY OF FINANCE



EUROPEAN UNION

## EU's CSO RISE projects support COVID relief actions across Ghana

The national efforts against the COVID 19 pandemic continues unabated as the Government of Ghana in collaboration with various development partners and private organisations are pulling resources together to reduce the spread of the virus; At the heart of these sustained efforts is the European Union (EU).

Through its Civil Society Organisations in Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development (CSO-RISE) Programme, the European Union has been rolling out interventions in project districts to support efforts against the spread of the Covid-19 disease. Since May 2020, the project partners have been re-aligning their activities to meet critical and immediate needs of the project beneficiaries due to the onslaught of the pandemic.



Working collaboratively with the funding agency, the four grant partners - ActionAid Ghana; Centre for Local Government Advocacy; Cerath Development Organisation and the Cooperazione Internazionale Sud - have implemented stopgap support initiatives to

provide a-much-needed assistance to communities whose livelihoods were gravely affected by the national restrictions to curtail the spread of the Covid-19 disease.

This iterative programme implementation approach is a testament to the EU's responsiveness and flexibility in rolling out social interventions in Ghana. The CSO RISE Programme links sustainable agriculture, social protection, and decent work to improve the living conditions of the most deprived. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are the vehicles on which the programme is being catalysed to positively contribute to government's policy priorities through effective advocacy and the implementation of sustainable projects within their respective catchment areas.

*PRODESOP Project by the Centre for Local Governance and Advocacy (CLGA)*

The PRODESOP Project, which is leveraging the ginger and fish value chains in the Kintampo Municipality, the Kintampo South District, the Pru East and West Districts extended Covid-19 support to over 500 beneficiaries. The intervention entailed the distribution of consumables such as nose masks, veronica buckets, liquid soaps and other essentials. Extensive public education was also carried out through community interactions and local radio broadcasts to create awareness on the ways to prevent the spread of the infection among residents.



Relief items are presented to a beneficiary in the Pru East District



The project further provided groceries to the beneficiaries to address the economic challenges that had been wrought by the pandemic. The CLGA continues to collaborate with district assemblies and traditional leaders to ensure communal ownership of and support for the Covid-19 protocols.

#### *Sustainable Livelihoods Project by the Cooperazione Internazionale Sud*



*Beneficiaries of one of the Covid-19 learning sessions*

The Sustainable Livelihood Project aims to contribute to reducing the economic, social and climate change-related vulnerabilities of rural communities in the savannah ecosystem within 30 municipalities and districts across six regions - Bono East, Bono, North East and Northern, Upper West and Upper East. As part of the project's efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, Covid-19 prevention kits containing hand sanitizers, soaps, reusable masks and washing stations were distributed to 360 households in the Bono, Bono East and Northern Regions. The districts that benefitted from the kits were: Atebubu Amantin, Pru East, Kintampo North, Kintampo South, Techiman North, Sene East, Sene West and Tolon. The project further integrated the Covid-19 preventive protocols into its WASH campaigns to raise awareness on the virus in the Upper East and Upper West regions by engaging 4,500 beneficiaries. Community radio discussions and messages were also utilized to reach out to a broader audience to minimize infections and related morbidity.

#### *Power to the Fishers Project by the Cerath Development Organisation*

The Power to the Fishers project is focused on enhancing the socio-economic livelihoods of fishing communities within Ghana's coastal zones in the Awutu Senya, Gomaa West, Effutu, Ekumfi, and Shama districts. Contributing to the campaign against the pandemic, the project engaged the communities on the need to adhere to the Covid-

19 protocols. The discussions were used to address misconceptions about the virus and allay fears of residents. In addition to the education and knowledge sharing, the project team donated relief items and personal protective equipment to the communities. Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) were distributed to beneficiaries while a total of 562 fisherfolks benefited from the COVID-19 safety protocols workshops and the relief donations.



Beneficiary communities were conscientized about the need to adhere to the Covid-19 protocols

### *The Northern Ghana Integrated Development Project by ActionAid Ghana*

The Northern Ghana Integrated Development Project is implementing initiatives to reduce rural poverty in northern Ghana through the promotion of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. The project is reaching beneficiaries across 15 districts focusing on improved extension services delivery, increased awareness on rights to access fertile farmlands, social protection, and decent work. As Covid-19 tore through communities, the project embarked on a vigorous awareness creation campaign among community dwellers using community radio, information vans, and social media to reach beneficiaries. The project also provided consumables such as nose masks, hand sanitisers, and bar soaps to beneficiaries. One critical support given to the women was the distribution of sanitary items to 4,000 women from 100 communities selected from 750 households. These women and persons with disabilities further received livelihood



support items such as bags of rice, bottles of oil, tins of cocoa beverage and sugar. The district assemblies and health centres in all the fifteen (15) project districts also received similar support to rein in the disease.



A beneficiary with her relief items

### *CSO RISE Programme*

Together, the EU and grant partners ensured that communities and beneficiaries were carried along in the national efforts towards bring the Covid-19 under control. Meanwhile, the grant partners continue to pursue the objectives of supporting inclusive growth and reducing social inequalities among beneficiaries.

The CSO RISE programme is a partnership between the EU and the Government of Ghana under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance, which hosts the National Authorisation Officer (NAO). The NAO is providing the requisite backstopping for the implementation of the grant projects through a Technical Assistance Team (TAT)