

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
NETWORK OF
WOMEN IN
GROWTH (NEWIG)
GHANA. 2007

CORPORATE STATEMENT

VISION

The vision of NEWIG is to be an internationally recognized non-for-profit agency for building the capacity of the vulnerable.

MISSION

NEWIG's mission is to improve the socio-economic and political status of women in Ghana, particularly the poor, marginalized and vulnerable.

GOALS

- ❖ To get women into gainful employment.
- ❖ To empower women to attain and play leadership roles in society.
- ❖ To make women aware of their rights.

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Introduction

Network of Women in Growth (NEWIG), Ghana was founded by Mawusi Nudekor Awity on 8th January 2002 in response to contributing her quota to fighting economic, social and political poverty especially among Ghanaian women.

NEWIG was duly registered on 9th September 2003 and has formed three women groups in Accra, Hamile in the Upper West Region and Tefle in the Volta Region.

The organisation's main goals are:

- To get women in gainful employment and good health.
- To empower women to attain and play leadership roles in society.
- To empower women through functional literacy and entrepreneurial skills training.
- To make women aware of human and legal rights.

Activities

- Entrepreneurial Training and Capacity Building Programmes

Under our entrepreneurial development programmes, we organise trainings in Enterprise Creation and Business Management for women to recognise and avail themselves of business opportunities as well as sharpening their entrepreneurial and managerial skills for better business management.

- Gender Trainings and Maternal Health Care

NEWIG organises seminars and workshops on Gender and Women's Leadership Trainings. It also involves trainings in Domestic Violence, Gender and HIV/AIDS. We also run programmes which encourages changes in health-related behaviours and attitudes of women.

- Political Trainings

Fora, seminars and workshops on Political Leadership Skills Building especially for women at the grassroots level and Good Governance are areas NEWIG implements its political empowerment programmes.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is responsible to assist and monitor the activities of the organisation. The Board consists of five women and two men.

NAME	DESIGNATION	PROFESSION	PHONE
Nana Oyetia	Chairperson	Health Consultant	024 4280092
Dr. Joyce Asibey	Member	Retired Educationist	021 500474
Lt. Col Charles Awity	Member	Army Officer	024 4312563
Mad. Esi Vandyke	Member	Agric. Expert	024 9820821
Ms. Abena Out	Member	Business Development Consultant.	020 8150750
Mr. Thomas Agbo	Member	Social Worker/ Retired Educationist	024 3101530
Mawusi Nudekor Awity	Member / Secretary	Small Business Development Expert	0244 981846

Administration

Three permanent workers run NEWIG secretariat: the Executive Director, the Assistant Project Officer and the Office Assistant. The services of the Project Officer, Finance Coordinator and four Field Officers are called for as at when needed. Due to organisation's weak financial position in 2007, the staff members offered their services on voluntary basis.

Executive Director's Message

The year 2007 was quite a fruitful year for NEWIG. Despite the financial difficulties NEWIG experienced, it was able to acquire some modern office equipment, a fully-equipped 30-seater conference room and a new office in Tefle in the South Tongu District. Thanks to the management of Awytie Foundation, NEWIG Executive Director, and the staff members of NEWIG who offered free services. Their resources made it possible for the organization to acquire these assets.

NEWIG organized quite a number of economic empowerment programmes in some parts of the country. An entrepreneurial skills training was organized for some selected unemployed female university graduates; soap and cosmetics processing workshops for some women in Hamile and Nandowli in the Upper west Region; soap and cosmetics processing workshops for some women in South Tongu District.

A Women's Empowerment Seminar was also organized for National Service Personnel in Sogakofe in the Volta Region as well as a presentation of food supplements, soap, textiles and toiletries was made to some AIDS patients in South Tongu. A seminar on maternal health care in Tefle was also part of this year's programme of activities.

To build the capacity of the staff members, NEWIG participated in several workshops both locally and internationally. To mention but a few are Accountability Workshop by Action Aid, Roundtable Partnership; Equality Seminar by Development; Conference in United International; Leadership Seminar



Ghana; Microsoft Conference for Promoting Gender Abantu for Women Deliver Kingdom by Care Women in by U.S. Embassy.

This year two formed and organization. The inaugurated was the Group in Hamile and South Tongu Kekeli Nyornu Haborbor in Tefle. The groups will facilitate the programmes of NEWIG in their districts as well be the agents of change in their various vicinities.

women groups were inaugurated by the first one to be Dayee Women's the second was the

Quite a substantial amount of monies as compared to that of 2006 was realized from consultancy services; catering services; sale of products; fundraising activities. The organization was contracted to offer some business management trainings for other NGOs such as Hope for Future Generation and GRASPS.

I wish to express the sincere gratitude of NEWIG management to The African Women's Development Fund, British High Commission Small Grant Scheme, Ghana AIDS Commission, Awytie Foundation and the NEWIG Executive Director for the

financial support they offered the organisation. The generosity and kind support of NEWIG staff members have made it possible for NEWIG to be where it is now. I cannot forget to mention the NEWIG Ladies Clubs, whose members have been very supportive in offering voluntary services. I graciously acknowledge the financial and administrative support of Lt. Col. Charles Awity.

In my concluding remarks, I wish to appeal to donor agencies, philanthropists and corporate bodies to help NEWIG sustain its efforts by reaching out to more. For the next year **NEWIG** is committed to ensure that the achievement of MDG s 4 and 5 remain a high priority on our agenda. This is because NEWIG was a member of the Ghana Delegation (representing Civil Society Organisation) that participated in the Ministers' Forum, Women Deliver Conference that took place in East London in October. After two days of deliberations the Ministers Forum came out with a **Statement** calling on all leaders to help save the lives and improve the health of women, mothers, and newborn babies around the world as well as invest in women. It is therefore expedient for NEWIG to contribute her quote to achieve the very goals we set at the Ministers' Conference. To achieve this, the following programmes will be our top priorities:

- Trainings on eco-friendly mosquito repellent soap and ointment processing using neem seed oil. The usage of these products will prevent mosquitoes from biting people thereby preventing malaria which is a devastating disease. This will also serve as a means of income for women.
- Formation of sustainable health clubs in basic and second cycle schools in the poor rural areas. Monthly trainings on health care will be offered for 6 months
- Training community volunteers in basic health care and nutrition
- Provide basic health services to women in very remote areas
- Organise durbars on accessible and affordable family planning, how to prevent and manage unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortion (safe motherhood and maternal care).
- Establish a Resource Centre (encompassing a workshop and sales shop) for women in the South Tongu District. Apart from the centre serving as a production site for the women, it will also serve as a training centre for the some of the trainings and meetings NEWIG organises for the women in the district. It will also serve as an information centre where women can access information on gender issues.

I wish you a prosperous New Year.

Mawusi Nudekor Awity
Executive Director

Highlights of activities undertaken

1. Entrepreneurial Skills Training:

A training workshop on soap and cosmetics processing was organized from 2nd – 13th March, 2007 for 91 women in Hamile and Nandowli in the Upper West Region. Participants were introduced to manufacturing processes of eco-friendly bathing soap known as Alafresh using only natural materials such as alata soap, pure honey, fresh aloe vera, fresh lemon juice and leaves as well as coconut oil and shea butter.

Bubble soap making to the participants. washing soaps were preparation of these chemical ingredients different types of soap cosmetics such as body pomade were processes are NEWIG.



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The participants were taken through packaging and labeling lessons to enhance the beauty of their products. They were also led through discussions on qualities of a successful entrepreneur and sharing of ideas on business opportunities. The training was co-funded by British High Commission Small Grant Scheme and NEWIG. A key outcome of this programme is the formation of the dynamic Dayee Women's Group in Hamile. This group is seriously into the soap production which they mostly sell in neighboring Burkina Faso.

2. Entrepreneurial Skills Training:

In May 2007, NEWIG initiated an entrepreneurial skills training programme for unemployed female university graduates to enable them own their own sustainable businesses. 25 beneficiaries were taken through the following disciplines: Screen printing, soap and cosmetics, hat making, beads jewelry, floral and wreath making, interior decoration, cake decoration, and beauty therapy. There were also lessons on entrepreneurship, leadership skills and the art of public speaking.



Some of the finished products of the participants displayed

The participants were taken through packaging and labeling lessons to enhance the beauty of their products as well as how to display products to attract customers. NEWIG plans to make this a yearly programme due to the positive achievements chalked. The project was co-funded by The African Women Development Fund and NEWIG. The training ended on 29th June, 2007



Group picture of the graduates with Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye at their graduation

3. Entrepreneurial Skills Training:

A training workshop on processing was organized for 59 women in Galotse in the the Volta Region. introduced to of eco-friendly bathing using only natural alata soap, pure honey, lemon juice and leaves as shea butter.

Bubble soap making was participants. Medicated not left out. For the both natural and chemical all, five different types of soap making as well as cosmetics such as shampoo hair and body pomade were taught and all these processes are innovations of NEWIG. This training was self sponsored.



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4. Women's Empowerment Seminar:

A seminar dubbed Women's Empowerment; A Right or a Privilege was organized for National Service Personnel operating in the South Tongu District at Sogakofe on the 25th July, 2007. This programme was self sponsored.

5. Soap and Textiles Production Training:

35 women and two men were trained in various soaps and textile production in Tefle from 9th October 2007 to 11th October, 2007. This programme aimed at getting the people acquire these skills to enable them to start their own business instead of moving to the city for non-existing jobs. The training was funded by NEWIG.



Finished products displayed for exhibition

6. People Living with HIV/AIDS Project:

With financial AIDS was able to the following infected women; 5 maxi bags of fabrics, 13 cartons of ceremony took District October, 2007.



support from Ghana Commission, NEWIG make a presentation of items to 59 HIV/AIDS persons who were mostly packets of toilet rolls, 3 rice, 50 pieces of tie dye boxes of assorted soaps, 5 cooking oil. The place at the Sogakofe Assembly Hall on the 12

Mr. Alhassan, Deputy Coordinating Director of South Tongu District Assembly makes a speech after the presentation.

7. Enterprise Creation Seminar:

A seminar on Enterprise Creation was organized for 25 women and 5 men in Sokpoe in the South Tongu District on 7th December, 2007. It aimed at encouraging the participants to utilize the skills taught them to start their own businesses instead of idling about. The programme was self sponsored.



Mawusi Nudekor Awity delivers a lecture to the participants.

8. End of Year Programme of Activities:

1. On 29th December, 2007, NEWIG officially inaugurated the Kekeli Nyornu Harborbor, a women's group currently made up of 45 women from various parts of South Tongu District who will serve as facilitators of NEWIG programmes in the district.



Some members of Kekeli Nyornu Harborbor at the inauguration ceremony

2. The South Tongu branch office of NEWIG was also officially opened at Tefle.



Mrs. Victoria Mensah cutting the tape to officially open the office

3. A buffet lunch was organized for about 300 elderly women and men drawn from some parts of South Tongu to enable them feel management in society at large. It was also to treat them to a session they had not had enjoy for many years. The programme took place at Tefle and it was funded by NEWIG.



A section of the invitees

NEWIG's major sources of income for 2007 were from:

- * Commitment fees charged
- * Sale of products NEWIG made
- * Services the organisation rendered
- * Grants from donors: British High Commission in Ghana, Abantu for Development, Awytie Foundation, Ghana AIDS Commission, The African Women's Development Fund
- * Fundraising activities
- * Grants from Executive Director

Challenges:

- * Inability to fully deliver due to lack of institutional support.
- * Vehicle to facilitate work especially in the rural areas.
- * Under-staffing due to lack of funds.

Conclusion:

Despite all these difficulties, the organisation is poised to work harder to empower the marginalized, poor women. For the next year 2008 NEWIG is committed to ensure that the achievement of MDG s 4 and 5 remain a high priority on our agenda, not forgetting political workshops to encourage more women to stand for parliamentary elections; Bi-annual 5 months Entrepreneurial Development Training for unemployed university female graduates; Gender Violence & HIV/AIDS. The organisation is therefore appealing to individual and organisation for assistance to achieve its goals.

2007 Financial Report**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 2007**

Income details	Amount in GH¢	Expenditure details	Amount in GH¢
1. Fundraising	2,646.83	1. Rent	5,704.61
2. Donations, Grants and Contributions	29,11	2. Materials	17,22
3. Commitment fees	1.69	3. Allowances	2.68
4. Sale of products		4. Seminar expenses	1,816.94
	1,330.44	5. Graduation expenses	437.31
	15,83	6. Printing & stationery	2,352.02
	1.69	7. Telephone, postage, fax & internet	487.22
		8. Fuel & Lubricants	676.22
		9. Repairs & maintenance	
		10. Publicity	998.24
		11. Photographs	1,163.21
		12. Travelling & Transportation	996.74
		13. Dues	24.98
		14. Refreshment	
		15. Honorarium	187.93
		16. Vehicle Hire	
		17. Audit fee	104.12
		18. Bank charges	
		19. Office equipment	679.85
		19. General expenses	
		20. New Office acquisition	4,018.34
		TOTAL	
TOTAL	48,920.65		

			957.92
			239.48
			53.77
			4,289.88
			703.83
			6,072.47
			49,18
			7.76