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**NETWORK OF WOMEN IN GROWTH  
(NEWIG), GHANA.**

**ANNUAL REPORT (2009)**

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# **CORPORATE STATEMENT**

## **VISION**

NEWIG has a vision of a society in which men and women are accorded equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for sustainable development.

## **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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WEBSITE: [www.newig-empowerment.org](http://www.newig-empowerment.org)

## **Introduction**

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

NEWIG was duly registered on 9<sup>th</sup> 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 / Women Rights 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.

● Leadership / Women’s Political Empowerment

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 Otu	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 / Social Worker	0244 981846

**Administration**

Three permanent workers run NEWIG secretariat: the Executive Director, the Assistant Project Officer and the Office Assistant. The voluntary services of the Project Officer, Finance Coordinator and four Field Officers are called for as at when needed.

## Executive Director's Message

The growth of NEWIG over seven years has been fruitful in spite of its financial challenges. This is due to the fact that to date, the organization does not have receive regular grants from donor agencies. Most of our expenditures are self financed. From a humble beginning of operating from a single room office in Accra, we have built a women empowerment centre which houses a sales shop, a conference room, mini library, offices, practical workshop as well as residential accommodation at Tefle, in the South Tongu District. This project was funded by French Embassy, individual philanthropists and NEWIG.

Due to the construction project, much of our time and resources were channeled to the project hence only few training activities took place: Entrepreneurial skills trainings in soap and cosmetics, beads jewelry and textiles were organized for women in Afienuya, Kadjebi, Dabala, Lolitoe and Tefle. Unfortunately there were no activities in our other functional areas

To build the capacity of the staff members, NEWIG participated in several workshops locally. To mention but a few, Accountability Workshop by Action Aid, Ghana; Aid Effectiveness Forum by NETRIGHT; Property Rights of Spouses Bill by WISE; Global Partnership for Global Benefits by Free World Foundation



I wish to express the NEWIG African Women French Embassy, Awytie Foundation Executive Director they offered the generosity and kind

sincere gratitude of management to the Development Fund, Action Aid Ghana, and the NEWIG for the financial support organisation. The 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.

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. 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).

I wish you a prosperous New Year.

Mawusi Nudekor Awity  
Executive Director

## **Highlights of activities undertaken**

### **1. Youth Empowerment Seminar**

A training seminar dubbed “Empowering the Youth for a Sustainable National Development” was organized from 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 for students of Corpus Christie Senior High School in Tema and Burma Camp Secondary Technical Institute in Accra. The students were taken through various topics on Adolescence; Creativity; Discovering your Potentials and Talents were treated. Also in attendance were staff members of the institutes. The aim of the programme was to equip the students with ideological tools to help direct them towards self empowerment. This programme was self-sponsored.

### **2. Entrepreneurial Skills Training:**

A month long training workshops on soap and cosmetics processing; beads jewelry; tie-dye making was organized from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2009 for 40 women in Tefle; 35 women in Dabala ; 25 women in Lolitoe. Participants were introduced to manufacturing processes of eco-friendly bathing soap known as Alafresh using only natural materials such as alatasoap, pure honey, fresh aloe vera, fresh lemon juice and leaves as well as coconut oil and shea butter.

Bubble soap making was also introduced to the participants. Medicated and washing soaps were not left out. For the preparation of these ones both natural and chemical ingredients are used. In 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. The manufacturing processes of indigenous Guinea tie-dye making using synthetic as well as natural dyes were introduced to the trainees. Additionally, the training on modern beads jewelry kept the programme high spirited.

The participants were again 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 funded by French Embassy.



during the training

The picture shows the some of the products made

## **2. Entrepreneurial Skills Training:**

A training workshop on soap and cosmetics processing was organized from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 for 30 women at Kadjebi in the Volta Region. Participants were introduced to manufacturing processes of eco-friendly bathing soap known as Alafresh using only natural materials such as alatasoap, pure honey, fresh aloe vera, fresh lemon juice and leaves as well as coconut oil and shea butter.

Bubble soap making was also introduced to the participants. Medicated and washing soaps were not left out. For the preparation of these ones both natural and chemical ingredients are used. This training was sponsored by Action Aid Ghana.



Participants busy preparing soap mixture; the right picture are finished products on display

## **3. FSD/NEWIG WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CENTRE Project at Tefle.**

The project officially inaugurated on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2009. This project was financed by French Embassy, friends of NEWIG and NEWIG.

## **4. Business Management Workshop:**

A business management workshop was run for 30 members of the Tema Foodstuff-sellers Association on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. They were also given a grant of three thousand Ghana cedis GH¢3,000 to support their petty trading. This programme was supported by African Women Development Fund.



NEWIG Executive Director explaining a point to participants

### **5. Entrepreneurial Skills Training:**

A training workshop on soap and cosmetics processing was organized from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 for 39 women in Afienya in the Greater Accra Region. Participants were introduced to manufacturing processes of eco-friendly bathing soap known as Alafresh using only natural materials such as alatasoap, pure honey, fresh aloe vera, fresh lemon juice and leaves as well as coconut oil and shea butter.

Bubble soap making was also introduced to the participants. Medicated and washing soaps were not left out. For the preparation of these ones both natural and chemical ingredients are used and all these processes are innovations of NEWIG. This training was sponsored by African Women Development Fund.



Participants busy preparing soap mixture; in the right picture, the prepared soap is being cut into various shapes and sizes.

## **6. Business Management Workshop:**

A self-sponsored business management workshop was run for 30 members of the Tefle Kekeli Women Group on the 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.



Participants listening attentively to the resource person at the workshop

### **NEWIG's major sources of income for 2009 were from:**

- \* Commitment fees charged
- \* Sale of products NEWIG made
- \* Services the organisation rendered
- \* Grants from donors: Awytie Foundation, French Embassy, African Women's Development Fund and Action Aid Ghana
- \* Fundraising activities
- \* Grants from Executive Director

### **Challenges:**

- \* 3-phase electricity power supply
- \* 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.

**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>AMOUNT GH¢</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>AMOUNT GH¢</b>
1. Fundraising	24,000.00	1. Utilities	5,780.00
2. Donations, Grants and Contributions	220,135.86	2. Materials	7,000.00
3. Sale of products	5,525.18	3. Allowances	3,000.00
		4. Printing & stationery	165.09
		5. Telephone, postage, fax & internet	1,851.00
		6. Fuel & Lubricants	1,125.00
		7. Repairs & maintenance	450.00
		8. Photographs	20.00
		9. Travelling & Transportation	5,600.00
		10. Refreshment	170.00
		11. Honorarium	800.00
		12. Vehicle Hire	1,160.00
		13. Audit fee	230.00
		14. Bank charges	133.24
		15. Registration & licenses	300.00
		16. General expenses	486.05
		17. Resource Centre construction	241,275.50
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>249,661.04</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>276,095.88</b>