



FEWORLDWORLD INTERNATIONAL



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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1.0 Message from the Council Chairperson and the Executive Director

This year happens to be the 9th year since Freeworld International was established. We are excited to be in existence serving vulnerable people in rural communities. We hope to continually develop and implement exciting and impactful development programs, targeting the Youth, Women and Children.

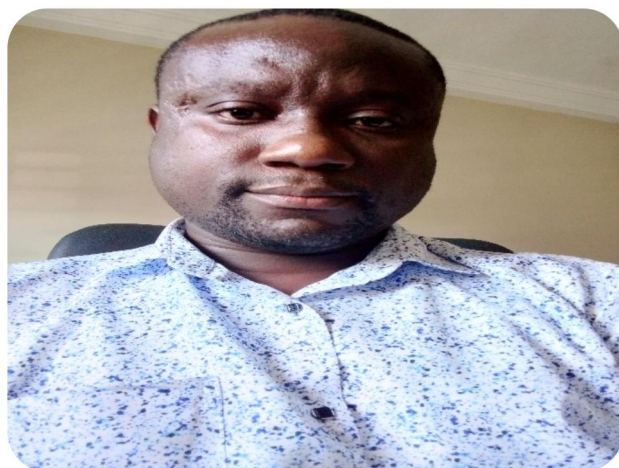
This year was basically a build-on of the interventions implemented in 2020. The innovative strategies that were developed during the final reflective meeting in 2020 really paid. Thanks to our staff and volunteers, it was another remarkable performance during the year. Your dedication and support is invaluable.

We are happy to have completed the full Village Savings and Loans (VSLA) training for 13 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) across the five Family Strengthening Project communities. All VSLAs have Bank Accounts now and we are going to work hard in 2022 to guide the leaders to sustain the VSLA coupled with intensive monitoring. We expect to see these VSLAs still working hard to support their members beyond the end of the Family Strengthening Project in 2023.

Special thanks to SOS Children Villages Ghana who have recognized the importance of our work through the Family Strengthening Project by equipping us with resources to deliver complete training to the VSLAs, including other training activities in the areas of health, Agriculture and Business Management that were led by Freeworld during the year. In the year 2022, we look forward to building a business case for the VSLAs coupled with intensive monitoring activities.

Special thanks to the Council Members for their supervision, guidance and support. Their efforts have really been instrumental in our successes this year.

While there are still many challenges and more work before us, we are certain to fulfilling our profound vision for the foreseeable future.



2.0 Introduction

We are always glad when it gets to this point in our development journey. A time to account and/or share our progress with stakeholders. It is in line with this that we share this 2021 Annual Report. It highlights our activities for the year (November 2020 to October 2021), our achievements, inspiring stories from our beneficiaries, challenges, Financial and Funding Summary, and our forward plans. While it reflects the works of Freeworld International from 1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021, it serves as both an accountability and learning resource for our supporters, partners, staff, donors and networks at the Local and International levels. The content of this report is an account of how far we have come this year to achieve social justice, poverty eradication, good health and improved agricultural practices.

2.1 Highlights in the 2021 Annual Report

- With SOS Children Villages Ghana's support via their Family Strengthening Project (FSP), we have formed and completed the training of 13 Village Savings and Loans Associations for both Youth and Women.
- With SOS Children Villages Ghana's support, we implemented 63 activities centered on VSLA Methodology, Health, Poverty Eradication, Business Management and Agriculture were implemented across the five FSP Communities.
- One VSLA supported its members with a total loan of GH¢ 4,200 (\$ 677.4) to start a business of their choice.
- There was a 12% decrease in funding for the organisation.
- There was an 83% increase in the VSLA contributions.



Leadership and Constitution Development Training for Youth at Adadientem

Photo: Vera Yeboah, Freeworld International

2.2 Who We Are and what We Do

Freeworld International (FI) has been on the forefront of solving developmental challenges in rural and urban communities in Ghana for the past 8 years, working together with dedicated Volunteers and Staff in the Southern part of Ghana. FI specialises in the use of participatory approaches to effectively engage youth, women and children living in impoverished communities as well as duty bearers to jointly discuss and find sustainable solutions to challenges identified in the areas of Education, Health, Agriculture, Women/Youth Empowerment and Social Injustice. By doing this, we aim to understand, tackle and overcome the structural systemic causes of poverty, diseases, illiteracy, and social injustice. We believe that transformative change is possible for our communities particularly for Youth, Women and Children living in poverty and facing exclusion.

We focus our programs on addressing violence against women, addressing child abuse, strengthening resilient livelihoods, economically empowering women and youth, promoting healthy lifestyles, safer sexual practices and sustainable agricultural practices, and improving literacy and numeracy skills of basic school pupils (including out of school children).

2.3 Where We Work

We have worked in the Eastern Region, Western Region and currently working in the Ashanti Region. We have volunteers spread across these regions. Even though, we are currently working in partnership with SOS CV Ghana in the Ashanti Region, we are open to working in any part of Ghana.

1 Partner

12 Volunteers

1 Project



Leadership and Constitution Development Training for Youth at Onwe

Photo: Vera Yeboah, Freeworld International

3.0 Our Strategic Context

The Village Savings Loans Association (VSLA) has proven to play an important role in meeting the needs of women whose principal purpose for accessing finance is to help them manage household cash flow, respond to life-cycle events or invest in small income-generating activities. During the year, a total of 13 VSLAs that had been formed across the five (5) FSP Communities in 2020 went through the full VSLA Training (Formation Principles, Bookkeeping, and Leadership and Constitution Development). Their

savings grew significantly during the year and one (1) VSLA gave loans to five (5) members to expand their businesses. In 2022, expect more VSLAs to advance loans to their members.

The world in which adolescents live has changed dramatically in the last 25 years and the response to their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights has evolved in important ways. Many of the young people in the FSP Communities are at risk or already struggling with the consequences of an unplanned pregnancy or a Sexually Transmitted Infection (S.T.I.), including HIV/AIDS. To minimize these risks and secure a healthy future for adolescents and youth, they were taken to two **Adolescent Corners** in Ejisu and KNUST Campus to expose them to the SRHR Services these adolescent Corners offer. This was an important step as it built on the initial workshops held in 2020 and provided opportunities for Youth and Adolescents to directly talk to SRHR Service Providers and access their services when the need arises. Anecdotal evidence suggests that 20 of the Youth and Adolescents that were part of the visit to the Adolescent Corners have called the Service Providers to book appointments to access their SRHR Services. This is a very important step as it will contribute immensely to teenage pregnancies in the FS Communities.

In Ghana, clean-up exercises have not only proven to prevent the outbreak of communicable diseases but also a media to mobilize people to participate in solving their sanitation issues, thereby contributing to local development. Especially, in this COVID-19 Pandemic, clean-up exercises help communities to get rid of the scourge of coronavirus. During the year, clean-up exercises were organized in two communities to build the capacity of vibrant youth groups in the target communities to lead clean-up campaigns in their communities. This activity influenced the Youth and Caregivers to lead clean-up campaigns in the communities during the Christmas Holidays.

In today's competitive landscape, it is more important than ever to stay on top of the latest technologies and innovation as they continue to evolve at light speed. In Ghana, poor packaging has been identified as one of the major reasons for the failure of locally manufactured goods to compete favourably with imported goods or even be accepted on the international market. Poor and inadequate packaging also contributes to excessive product damage, post-harvest losses and contamination of food, leading to disease transmission. During the year, Caregivers were trained on packaging and value addition to enable them to add value to their products. This training made some caregivers add value to their produce. Many of the caregivers started processing the pepper and uniquely packing garden eggs. In 2022, we expect more value addition initiatives from the caregivers.

The evidence supporting the importance of soft skills is strong. Their importance is backed by a solid research base and supported by stakeholders including employers, youth, and experts; there is evidence they are important across sectors and diverse world regions. Soft skills can be observed in the workplace and is developmentally appropriate for youth to cultivate. During the year, the training on soft skills really improved the chances of youth getting favours from their supervisors and employers. 10 youth confirmed that their supervisors like them so much because they demonstrated punctuality, patience, dedication and honesty after their training at their workplace. As a result, they are likely to get favours from their supervisors.

Young Boys and Girls need to keep themselves clean to remain healthy and to feel good about themselves. Good personal hygiene will help boost their self-esteem and confidence. With so much work involved in

ensuring young boys and girls are educated to a high standard, teachers cannot be expected to look after their personal hygiene and grooming as well. Yet even the most intelligent child or teenager will be disadvantaged if they let themselves down by failing to look after their appearance or indulging in dirty habits. Body odour; bad breath; greasy, unkempt hair and long, dirty fingernails are just some of the common examples of a lack of basic self-care. Therefore, it was worth considering teaching young boys and girls this important life skill. This basic self-care was addressed during the workshop on personal hygiene in the FSP Communities. During the year, 30 Adolescents were confirmed to have adopted the personal hygiene practices taught at the training, especially, bathing and brushing their teeth twice a day. These life skills have proven to be important for making Adolescents grow to be healthy and responsible adults.



Business Management Training for Youth at SOS Conference Room-Ejisu

4.0 Achievements

1. Completion of the Training of 13 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs).

This year we were able to fully complete the VSLA Methodology training **for a total of 13 VSLAs**. This marks the end of the training of VSLAs as far as the Family Strengthening Project (FSP) is concerned. They have been taken through VSLA Formation Principles, Bookkeeping Practices, Leadership and Constitution Development. These skills and knowledge they have received will propel them to sustainability.

2. Improved Total VSLA Contributions

All VSLAs have bank accounts and have made a total contribution of **GH¢ 30,000 (\$4,839)** into their group accounts. **This is an 83% increment as compared to 2020 which was GH¢ 5000 (\$1071.4).** The contributions are expected to increase by 70% in 2022. Moving forward, VSLAs will be guided to invest in profitable assets and/or undertake viable income generating projects to earn good returns on their savings.

3. Six (6) People have received Loans from the Association

Previous FSP beneficiaries could not give loans to their members because their contributions were low and attendance to VSLA meetings were poor. However, this is not the case in this project. One of the VSLAs gave a total of **GH¢ 4,200 (\$ 677.4)** to six (6) its members to expand their businesses. This is the first group of people to have received loans from their VSLA. This was made possible due to the training and guidance they received from Freeworld International. In 2022, we expect to see more caregivers benefiting from the VSLAs.

4. Increase in Uptake of SRHR Services

One of the major challenges in the FSP Communities is teenage pregnancy. As a result of the training in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and the visits to Adolescent Corners, there has been a drastic improvement in the uptake of SRHR services. Ejisu and KNUST Adolescent Corners reported a 20% increment following the introduction of our beneficiaries to their Corners. We expect more Youth and Adolescents to access the SRHR services in the aforementioned adolescent corners.

5. Improved Hygiene Practices

There has been a massive improvement in the hygiene practices in the FSP Communities. Youth and Adolescents led clean-up campaigns in two of the FSP Communities while 30 Adolescents were confirmed to adopted personal hygiene practices that are important for their health and growth.



Linking Youth to VSLA Training at Kubease

Photo: Louisa Dziwornu

5.0 Inspiring Stories from Our Places of Work



Adom George,
Secretary,
Nyame Akwan Association,
Adadientem

Through the VSLA, I was able to get a loan of GH¢ 300 (\$ 7.7) to support my graduation from Diploma in Basic Education Program. It would have been very difficult for me to graduate. I am now a fully qualified teacher. Thanks to the VSLA introduced by Freeworld International.



David Ofori,
Treasurer,
Hyeberesesafo Association
Adadientem

My Children were not neat and fell sick often. This has changed completely. They rarely fall sick and have demonstrated new Hygiene Practices that surprise me. They now brush their teeth and bathe twice a day. Thanks to Freeworld International for their pieces of training on Healthy lifestyles and Personal Hygiene, my family is healthy.



Patrick Mensah,
FS Youth,
Onwe.

I used to have unprotected sex resulting in unwanted pregnancies. Now, this has changed. I now insist on contraceptive use with my partner. Thanks to Freeworld for the exposure to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. I can plan my family well and enjoy my life in good health.



Sarah Fosu

Secretary

Yen Mma Daakye Association

Onwe

I did not like saving because I thought it was not useful. Through the VSLA Training, I learnt the importance of saving. As a secretary to one of the VSLAs that is thriving in my community, I have been able to apply the Bookkeeping training I received from Freeworld to my petty trading business. This sound bookkeeping practice has enabled me to effectively manage the grant I received from SOS FS Project.



Vida Antwi

Caregiver

Adadientem

The VSLA has been so useful to me. I got GH¢ 1000 (\$161.3) from my Association to start my business and it is thriving. My income has improved and I can now take good care of my children. Previously, I took a loan from a Financial Institution and I ended up paying more than 50% as interest. My Association only charged 10% and the repayment schedule is flexible. I am a happy person now. Thanks to Freeworld International for introducing the VSLA in my community. Many thanks to my Association leaders for the sterling leadership they have provided to the Association.

6.0 Program of Activities

During the year, a total of **63 activities** were delivered across five (5) FSP communities in Ejisu Municipal. The activities were all part of the Family Strengthening Project (FSP) being implemented in partnership with SOS Children Villages in the Ashanti Region of Ghana in five communities. The 63 activities were delivered to:

185 Caregivers (20 males and 165 females) were reached in 2021

251 Youth/Adolescents (156 males and 95 females) were reached in 2021

The communities are Ejisu, Onwe, Assienimpong, Adadientem, and Kubease. The activities were mainly workshops and other activities and they covered relevant topics targeting Adolescents, Youth, and Caregivers and they included the following:

- Baseline study to determine the income level of Caregivers.
- Clean Up Exercises
- Value Addition
- Life Skills for Children
- Visit Youth Friendly Centers
- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Personal Hygiene
- Soft Skills
- Meeting with Caregivers
- Alternative Businesses
- Linking Youth to VSLA
- VSLA Formation, Bookkeeping Practices and Constitution Development

An overview of the activities delivered during the year was as follows:

- A Study to determine the income levels of Caregivers in all five communities
- 2 Clean Up Exercises were held for Youth and Caregivers in two communities
- 5 Training sessions on Value Addition were held for Caregivers in all five communities
- 7 Training sessions on Life Skills were held for children in all five communities
- A visit was organized to Youth-friendly Corners/ in Ejisu and KNUST Campus for selected Youth and Adolescents from all five communities.
- 5 Training sessions on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) were held for Youth Peer Educators in all five communities
- 5 Role Play Sessions on Peer Counselling in SRHR were held for Child Rights Clubs Members in all five communities.

- 5 Workshops on Personal Hygiene were held for Child Right Clubs in all five communities.
- 2 Training sessions on Soft Skills were held for Youth in two communities.
- 5 Meetings were held with VSLAs to discuss matters arising in their activities
- 5 Training sessions on Alternative Businesses were held for Caregivers in all five communities
- 4 Workshops were held to introduce Youth to VSLAs in all four communities
- 3 Training sessions were held on Bookkeeping Practices for Youth VSLA in three communities
- 3 Training sessions were held on Leadership and Constitution Development for Youth VSLAs in three communities
- 5 Workshops on VSLA Formation Principles were held for Youth in all five communities
- 5 Workshops on VSLA Formation Principles were held for both new and existing Caregivers in all five communities.

The activities implemented from November 2020 to October 2021 are indicated below:

November, 2019

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
11 th -21 st November, 2020	Baseline Study to determine income level of Caregivers in FS Project Communities.	Males: 10 Females: 89 Total: 99	to gather baseline data regarding the revenue, expenditure, and savings practices of the caregivers in the FS Project Communities.
30 th November, 2020	Training on Value Addition for Caregivers at Kubease	Males: 5 Females: 19 Total: 24	to train the Caregivers on how to add value to their products.
30 th November, 2020	Training on Value Addition for Caregivers at Adadientem	Males: 7 Females: 32 Total: 39	

During the month, there were also a series of staff planning meetings to discuss and plan for 2021 activities.

December, 2019

1 st December, 2020	Visit to Youth friendly Centres with FS Young Boys and Girls	Males: 42 Females: 27 Total: 69	1. Expose young boys and girls in FS Project Communities to places where they can access the services needed to protect their sexual reproductive health.
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			2. Provide accurate information to young boys and girls living in FS Project Communities on their sexual reproductive health and rights.
2 nd December, 2020	Training on Value Addition for Caregivers at Onwe	Males: 1 Females: 49 Total: 50	1. Equip caregivers with the requisite knowledge and skills in effective packaging to deliver essential services to their customers. 2. Enhance the quality of caregivers' products and improve their market competitiveness and 3. Equip caregivers with good customers' service skills.
2 nd December, 2020	Training on Value Addition for Caregivers at Assienimpong	Males: 2 Females: 54 Total: 56	
3 rd December, 2020	Training on Value Addition for Caregivers at Ejisu	Males: 0 Females: 16 Total: 16	
4 th December, 2020	Youth Clean Up Exercise at Assienimpong	Males: 82 Females: 118 Total: 200	to build the capacity of vibrant youth groups and caregivers in Assienimpong and Onwe to lead cleanup campaigns in Ejisu Municipality.
4 th December, 2020	Youth Clean Up Exercise at Onwe	Males: 90 Females: 108 Total: 198	
Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
13 th December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-2 for Children at Onwe	Males: 21 Females: 30 Total: 51	To equip FS Children with basic life skills competencies which can help them succeed later in life.
14 th December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-1 for Youth at Onwe	Males: 25 Females: 26 Total: 51	
15 th December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-1 for Children at Assienimpong	Males: 30 Females: 21 Total: 51	
20 th December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-2 for Youth at Assienimpong	Males: 21 Females: 24 Total: 45	
16 th December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-1 for Children at Kubease	Males: 34 Females: 20 Total: 54	

17 th December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-1 for Children at Ejisu	Males: 34 Females: 11 Total: 45	
18 th December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-1 for Children at Adadientem	Males: 37 Females: 13 Total: 50	
23 rd December, 2020	Workshop on Life Skills-2 for Children at Adadientem	Males: 31 Females: 17 Total: 48	
19 th December, 2020	Training of Trainers for Youth Peer Educators on SRHR at Adadientem	Males: 15 Females: 10 Total: 25	The training sought to empower Youth Peer Educators to educate their peers on: • Places where they can access needed services needed to protect their sexual reproductive health. • Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.
19 th December, 2020	Training of Trainers for Youth Peer Educators on SRHR at Kubease	Males: 6 Females: 18 Total: 24	
21 st December, 2020	Training of Trainers for Youth Peer Educators on SRHR at Onwe	Males: 15 Females: 10 Total: 25	
22 nd December, 2020	Training of Trainers for Youth Peer Educators on SRHR at Ejisu	Males: 15 Females: 10 Total: 25	
23 rd December, 2020	Training of Trainers for Youth Peer Educators on SRHR at Assienimpong	Males: 7 Females: 20 Total: 27	
Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
19 th December, 2020	Role Play Sessions on Peer Counselling in SRHR for Child Rights Club at Ejisu	Males: 26 Females: 9 Total: 35	aimed at empowering Children and Youth in the Child Rights Club as Counsellors for SRHR Education to their peers in their communities and schools.
21 st December, 2020	Role Play Sessions on Peer Counselling in SRHR for Child Rights Club at Kubease	Males: 20 Females: 23 Total: 43	
21 st December, 2020	Role Play Sessions on Peer Counselling in SRHR for Child Rights Club at Adadientem	Males: 6 Females: 34 Total: 40	
22 nd December, 2020	Role Play Sessions on Peer Counselling in SRHR for Child Rights Club at Assienimpong	Males: 11 Females: 25 Total: 36	
22 nd December, 2020	Role Play Sessions on Peer Counselling in SRHR for Child	Males: 25	

	Rights Club at Onwe	Females: 15 Total: 40	
2 nd December, 2020	Workshop on Personal Hygiene for Child Right Club at Adadientem	Males: 20 Females: 17 Total: 37	to teach Child Rights Club Members about personal hygiene issues and its relevance.
3 rd December, 2020	Workshop on Personal Hygiene for Child Right Club at Ejisu	Males: 19 Females: 13 Total: 32	
16 th December, 2020	Workshop on Personal Hygiene for Child Right Club at Onwe	Males: 21 Females: 19 Total: 40	
17 th December, 2020	Workshop on Personal Hygiene for Child Right Club at Assienimpong	Males: 20 Females: 17 Total: 37	
30 th December, 2020	Workshop on Personal Hygiene for Child Right Club at Kubease	Males: 18 Females: 22 Total: 40	
14 th December, 2020	Workshop on Soft Skills for Youth-Onwe	Males: 3 Females: 9 Total: 12	aimed at equipping FS Youth with basic soft skills and competencies which are required for life and work.
15 th December, 2020	Workshop on Soft Skills for Youth-Assienimpong	Males: 7 Females: 9 Total: 16	

February, 2021

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
2 nd February, 2021	Formation of VSLA for FS and Covid-19 Youth at Assienimpong	Males: 2 Females: 7 Total: 9	to introduce the concept of VSLA to the Youth in FS Communities and assist them to form groups whilst providing them with opportunities to identify a suitable financial institution to keep their group savings.
24 th February, 2021	Formation of VSLA for FS and Covid-19 Youth at Adadientem	Males: 1 Females: 10 Total: 11	
25 th February, 2021	Formation of VSLA for FS and Covid-19 Youth at Ejisu	Males: 4 Females: 12 Total: 16	
26 th February, 2021	Formation of VSLA for FS and	Males: 2	

	Covid-19 Youth at Kubease	Females: 7 Total: 9	
27 th February, 2021	Formation of VSLA for FS and Covid-19 Youth at Onwe	Males: 3 Females: 5 Total: 8	

April, 2021

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
26 th April, 2021	Formation of VSLA/VSLA Principles Review at Ejisu	Males: 1 Females: 22 Total: 23	The main objective of the workshops were to introduce the concept of VSLAs to the new FS Caregivers and add them to the existing VSLAs in the communities while refreshing the memories of the existing VSLA members on the VSLA Methodology.
27 th April, 2021	Formation of VSLA/VSLA Principles Review at Adadientem	Males: 8 Females: 20 Total: 28	
27 th April, 2021	Formation of VSLA/VSLA Principles Review at Assienimpong	Males: 0 Females: 57 Total: 57	
28 th April, 2021	Formation of VSLA/VSLA Principles Review at Kubease	Males: 4 Females: 15 Total: 19	
30 th April, 2021	Formation of VSLA/VSLA Principles Review at Onwe	Males: 1 Females: 49 Total: 50	

July, 2021

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
1 st July, 2021	Meeting with Caregivers to discuss matters arising from VSLA at Kubease	Males: 4 Females: 23 Total: 27	The main objective of the workshop was to address the misconceptions and other negative reports about the VSLA.
5 th July, 2021	Meeting with Caregivers to discuss matters arising from VSLA at Onwe	Males: 1 Females: 89 Total: 90	
6 th July, 2021	Meeting with Caregivers to discuss matters arising from VSLA at Essienimpong	Males: 1 Females: 78 Total: 79	
7 th July, 2021	Meeting with Caregivers to discuss matters arising from VSLA at Ejisu	Males: 0	

Reporting Period: November 2020-October 2021.

		Females: 46 Total: 46	
2 nd July, 2021	Meeting with Caregivers to discuss matters arising from VSLA at Adadientem	Males: 4 Females: 42 Total: 46	
12 th July, 2021	Training Caregivers on Alternative Business at Adadientem	Males: 5 Females: 32 Total: 37	The workshop sought to rebuild the productive capacity and measures to increase the economic resilience of caregivers through earned income
14 th July, 2021	Training Caregivers on Alternative Business at Onwe	Males: Females: Total:	
15 th July, 2021	Training Caregivers on Alternative Business at Assienimpong	Males: 1 Females: 77 Total: 78	
15 th July, 2021	Training Caregivers on Alternative Business at Kubease	Males: 5 Females: 26 Total: 31	
16 th July, 2021	Training Caregivers on Alternative Business at Ejisu	Males: 0 Females: 46 Total: 46	

August, 2021

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
2 nd August, 2021	Linking Youth to Existing VSLA In Adadientem	Males: 1 Females: 10 Total: 11	To enable Youth VSLA to learn about practical issues in VSLA from the Caregivers VSLAs.
3 rd August, 2021	Linking Youth to Existing VSLA In Kubease	Males: 1 Females: 5 Total: 6	
4 th August, 2021	Linking Youth to Existing VSLA In Onwe	Males: 3 Females: 9 Total: 12	
6 th August, 2021	Linking Youth to Existing VSLA In Ejisu	Males: 3 Females: 16 Total: 19	
9 th August, 2021	Training on Bookkeeping Practices for	Males: 3	To introduce the concept of

	VSLA Youth at Onwe	Females: 8 Total: 11	election and the various election process, as well as assist the Youth VSLAs to develop good bookkeeping practices for the sustainability of their VSLAs in their community.
11 th August, 2021	Training on Bookkeeping Practices for VSLA Youth at Adadientem	Males: 2 Females: 16 Total: 18	
18 th August, 2021	Training on Bookkeeping Practices for VSLA Youth at Assienimpong	Males: 5 Females: 15 Total: 20	
Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
20 th August, 2021	Training on Leadership and Constitution development for VSLA Youth at Onwe.	Males: 4 Females: 7 Total: 11	To introduce the concept of election and the various election process, as well as assist the youth VSLAs to develop a constitution for a better governance of the VSLA.
21 st August, 2021	Training on Leadership and Constitution development for VSLA Youth at Assienimpong.	Males: 4 Females: 18 Total: 22	
23 rd August, 2021	Training on Leadership and Constitution development for VSLA Youth at Adadientem.	Males: 0 Females: 15 Total: 15	



Village Savings and Loans Association Monitoring at Adadientem

Photo: Vera Yeboah, Freeworld International

7.0 Lessons Learnt

In 2021, we looked at learning differently, mainly by reflecting on missed opportunities, the lessons we learned from these and how they would inform future work and approaches. One of the key lessons is that there is the need to intensify our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning activities. Even though Our MEL Budget is limited, the few we did during the year enabled us to address project implementation challenges, support beneficiaries, and capture lessons, successes and challenges. We need to increase the MEL Budget of our activities from 5% to 10% to be able to do this. Moving forward, all proposals will have 10% of the budget allocated to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.



A Visit to Youth Friendly Corner at KNUST

Photo: Albert Kwaku Abbeyquaye, Freeworld International

8.0 Strengthening Our Governance

During the year, the Council Chair spearheaded the development of a self-evaluation tool for the Council Members. The evaluations will be done at Council Meetings, discussed, and the way forward determined. Additionally, the Council appointed a new External Auditing Firm to audit the 2020 and 2021 accounts.

9.0 Challenges

Despite the success in implementing all these activities, there were without challenges. The key challenges encountered during the reporting period were:

1. **Inadequate funds:** Our only funding source at the moment is from SOS CV Ghana. The Council and the Management Team are working very hard to get additional funding. This year the Council held a lot of discussions on possible funding opportunities and it is going to be positive in 2022. We are very sure that we will get another grant to implement other programs in 2022.
2. **Logistical Challenges:** Logistics such as laptops, projector, printer and other resources which help our work is inadequate. Sometimes we are unable to capture our evidences much. We hope that donors and fans will help us to get the needed funds to purchase these logistics to help our work.



Training on Value Addition for Caregivers at Ejisu

Photo: Benjamin Kwadwo Appiah

10.0 Forward plans

In the coming year we would like to do more fundraising activities and develop a sustainability plan for the organisation.

In the coming year, Freeworld is looking forward to:

- ❖ Furnishing our new office facility
- ❖ Organizing capacity building training for its Staff and Council Members
- ❖ Work on suitable calls for proposal to expand our scope of work



Clean Up Exercise at Onwe

Photo: Esther Kwahu. Freeworld International

11.0 Financial Plan and Summary

Freeworld's total income for 2021 was GH¢ 98,760 (\$ 15,802) as compared to 2020 which was GH¢ 110,670 (\$ 22,134). So there was a 12% decrease in our income.

12.0 Conclusion

It has been a successful year full of activities to complete full training for the Youth and Caregivers on the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) Methodology. In the coming year, we will be focusing on monitoring and supporting the Youth and Caregivers to sustain the VSLA.

We also hope to secure funding to continually deepen the knowledge of our target groups on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Environment, Numeracy and Literacy Skills and Alternative/Supplementary Livelihoods.

Many thanks to SOS Family Strengthening Project for making this possible.

We also thank Ejisu Government Hospital for making staff available for the outreaches on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and Healthy Lifestyles.

Reporting Period: November 2020-October 2021.

Finally, we thank all the Caregivers, Youth and Children who were part of our program. We hope for similar impactful sessions in the coming year.



Personal Hygiene Training for Child Rights Club Members at Adadientem