

FREEWORLD INTERNATIONAL



ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2023-DECEMBER 2024



A Picture taken after the workshop on the Human Trafficking Action Plan Development at Asankrangua in the Amenfi West District.

Date of the Report:

16th December, 2024

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1.0 Messages from the Council Chairperson and Executive Director

1.1 Message from the Council Chairperson

The past two years have been special in the development and growth of Freeworld International. It marked the beginning of changes in the membership and performance of the Council, the extension of our efforts outside the Ashanti Region of Ghana, the ending of major grant activities and the beginning of new ones. While these events have contributed to the performance and growth of Freeworld International and its staff, they were without challenges. The Council Members and Staff were resilient and worked very hard to achieve the objectives of the organisation.

We are particularly happy to have extended our efforts to three additional regions in Ghana; Western, Western North and Upper East Regions where we have made significant contributions to the lives of many youth and women through our Human Trafficking and Shea Butter Livelihood Improvement Project. This add up to our impacts in the Eastern and Ashanti Regions of Ghana. We hope to continually develop and implement exciting and impactful development programs, targeting the Youth, Women and Children including people living with disabilities.

Special thanks to the Council Members for their supervision, guidance and support. Their efforts have really been instrumental in our successes over the reporting period. While there are still many challenges and more work before us, we are certain to fulfilling our profound vision for the foreseeable future. I wish you all a happy new year and a prosperous 2025.

Rev. Karikari Kwaku Amoah



1.2 Message from the Executive Director

12th July, 2024 marked the 12th year of Freeworld International since its establishment. If this year is compared to the life of a child, we should have crawled, walked, taken solid food, spoken clearly in our mother tongue and be in Junior High School by now but still dependent on our parents. Over the past 12 years, we started from a humble beginning with just one staff in a small office in Asamankese, working on an HIV project sub let to us from Theatre for a Social Change Ghana and funded by Ghana AIDS Commission. Now, we have 5 staff members and an office in Ejisu in the Ashanti Region of Ghana where we operate and deliver projects in different parts of Ghana. After this support, a series of grant support have been secured through partnerships with other NGOs and they have really been instrumental in our growth and development as well as increasing our capacity to change the lives of many people in Ghana. Therefore, the recent developments depict that Freeworld International is growing and doing the things expected of it at this stage of its development.

Moving forward in 2025, we expect to strengthen our capacity to lead grant applications, build the capacity of other Civil Society Organisations, strengthen our relationships with donors and communities and increase staff capacity through training and support.

I thank the Almighty God for how far he has brought us and where he is leading us to. Also, I would like to thank the Council Members and staff of Freeworld International for their hard work and resilience during the happy moments and challenging times of our journey. To our donors; Ghana AIDS Commission, European Union, SOS Children Villages, Expertise France, Digital Lift, Giving Joy Incorporation and GIZ, we are so grateful for your support. Finally, to everyone who contributed to our successes and growth, we say a big thank you and happy 2025!!

Benjamin Kwadwo Appiah



2.0 Introduction

We are always glad to account and/or share our progress with all our stakeholders and everyone who contributed to the growth and development of Freeworld International in our 12 years of existence. It is in line with this that we share this **2023-2024 Annual Report**. It highlights our activities, our achievements, inspiring stories from our beneficiaries, challenges, financial and funding summary for the **period January, 2023 to December, 2024** including our future plans for 2025.

While this report creates an opportunity to reflect on our activities within the reporting period, 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 impacted the lives women, youth and children in Ghana. In the foregoing sessions, we share in detail what we have done the reporting period.

2.1 Highlights in the 2023-2024 Annual Report

- ❖ With the support of Giving Joy. We implemented 5 activities for VSLA Leaders across FSP communities.
- ❖ With grant assistance from Expertise France (through European Union). We implemented 4 activities in Amenfi West, Aowin and Suaman District.
- ❖ With the support of GIZ we have implemented 6 activities so far with more to come in 2025.



Pre- Training visit with VSLA Group Leaders at Onwe on the Giving Joy Grant Support Project. Seated on the right is Benjamin Kwadwo Appiah, the Executive Director of Freeworld engaging with the leaders of the VSLA Group at Onwe.

Photo: Vera Yeboah, Freeworld International



Picture of the stakeholders who attended the inception meeting on the GIZ Grant Support Project at Bolgatanga, including the Executive Director of Freeworld, Benjamin Appiah (first on the right), the Chief Executive Officer of African Ally, Dr. Eric Asoh (5th from the right) and Juliana Adoley Apinah, the Chairperson of Akoma Cooperative Women's Group.

Photo taken by: Daniel Daniel Akangawein Anambam, Field Officer, 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 12 years, working together with dedicated Volunteers and Staff in the Southern and Northern 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, sustainable agricultural practices and sustainable solid waste management, increasing access to water and sanitation facilities, promoting hygiene 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 and Western North Regions, Ashanti Region and currently working in Upper East Region. We have volunteers spread across these regions. Even though, we are currently working in partnership with African Ally in the Upper East Region, we are open to working in any part of Ghana.

3 Partners

12 Volunteers

3 Projects



A workshop on action plan development with Nyame Akwan Association Leaders, a Village Savings and Loans Association based in Adadientam in Ejisu Municipal.

Photo taken by: A volunteer in the community.



Training of Enumerators for baseline evaluation of the Human Trafficking Project at Asankrangua.

Photo taken by: Vera Yeboah,
Freeworld International

3.0 Our Strategic Context

Freeworld International works to fight against diseases, poverty, illiteracy and social injustice.

Our main areas of concentration are: Human Rights, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Women and Youth Empowerment, and Environment. **The objectives of Freeworld International (FI) are as follows:**

1. To promote good health and well being of people in our communities.
2. To promote decent work and opportunities in our communities.
3. To reduce hunger in our communities.
4. To promote peaceful and inclusive societies, democratic and accountability practices in public institutions and communities.
5. To promote sustainable waste management practices and strengthen the resilience of farmers, women and other vulnerable groups against the effects of climate change.
6. To increase access to water and sanitation facilities in our communities.
7. To mitigate the effects of climate change through awareness raising and support.
8. To significantly reduce gender inequalities in our communities.

Over the last 12 years, Freeworld has been working to achieve our mission and objectives by relentlessly undertaking numerous initiatives to bring about qualitative behavioural change in the lives of women, youth and children. The organisation's bottom-up approach to inclusive development has changed the lives of many and has led to sustainable development.

During the reporting period, key initiatives that were undertaken were in line with our human rights, youth and women empowerment strategic pillars. The initiatives were in the areas of human trafficking, capacity building of women-led village savings and loans associations and improving incomes of women Shea butter producers in the northern part of Ghana. **We reflect on these initiatives below:**

The Village Savings and Loans Association Methodology

The Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology 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. Due to this, management has decided to integrate the concept of VSLA into all our women and youth empowerment programs. We believe that its inclusion into

our projects and programs will immensely contribute to the financial sustainability of our youth and women empowerment programs.

During the reporting period, a total of six (6) VSLAs were formed across five (5) communities in Ghana (five in Ejisu Municipal and one in the Talensi District in the northern part of Ghana). This was made possible through the grant support of Giving Joy Grants and GIZ. The five (5) VSLAs in the Ejisu Municipal have completed the full VSLA Leadership Training (Pre- visit training for VSLA Leaders, Leadership Skills, Income generation and Action Plan Development). Their savings have grown and their members have benefited from its informal financial services greatly. Many of the members took loans to invest in their businesses and address other emergencies. Our monitoring reports indicate that the VSLA has been very helpful to the women in the 4 groups. The strongest and most vibrant VSLA was given a grant under the Giving Joy Grant Support to finance their sheep farm business, an income generation project for their group. The VSLA in the Talensi District is still undergoing training and will be completed in March 2025. Their Training is funded by GIZ.

Despite the remarkable progress made by the government of Ghana in the fight against human trafficking, it continues to be a major challenge in Ghana. Efforts to address human trafficking in Ghana have mostly focused on farming and fishing communities in the Western, Central and Volta Regions of Ghana. Little attention is given to mining border communities in the Western and Western North Regions. These regions, while rich in natural resources, are characterized by significant socioeconomic disparities, poverty, and limited access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and employment. This situation makes populations especially women, children, and migrants highly susceptible to trafficking for labor, sexual exploitation, and domestic servitude. Given this context, improving the capacity of local stakeholders such as law enforcement, social services, community leaders and civil society organizations is critical in building a more coordinated and effective response to human trafficking.

During the reporting period, Freeworld International collaborated with Codesult Network to implement the “ improving the capacity of stakeholders to respond to human trafficking cases in 15 vulnerable and at-risk communities in Ghana’s Western and Western North Regions Project”. The project involved strengthening the capacity of stakeholders through intensive sensitisation, symposium and action plan development for the elimination of human trafficking. This Project was funded by European Union and supervised by Expertise France . The project has improved stakeholders’ understanding of Human Trafficking and has mobilised a strong force for the eradication of human trafficking in those areas. The aim was to enhance local efforts to prevent trafficking, support victims, and hold perpetrators accountable while addressing the root causes of vulnerability such as poverty, lack of education, and unemployment. By focusing on these key areas, this initiative sought to empower stakeholders with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively combat human trafficking in these at-risk communities, ultimately reducing the prevalence of trafficking and improving the resilience of vulnerable populations in the Western and Western North Regions.

The Shea industry in Ghana employs about 85% of women and contributes about 70% of the income of rural households in the lean season (Adams et al. 2016). Women groups in Pusu Namongo, a rural community in the Upper East Region are into the Shea butter business for livelihood. Interacting with the women, we discovered that they face a myriad of challenges related to low productivity, no value addition for higher income and inadequate business management.

To address these challenges, the project is equipping the women with skills, knowledge and equipment, and the technology needed to increase their productivity and income. These include training on gender, financial, group dynamics, supplementary livelihoods (bee keeping, piggery, local poultry, and goat rearing) to generate extra income during the lean season. The project has also linked their group (Akoma Cooperative Women's Society) to financial institutions. More updates about this project will reflect in the 2025 report.

4.0 Achievements

1. *Successfully formed and strengthened 5 VSLA's in four communities in the Ejisu Municipality.*

This year, we were able to fully complete the VSLA Leadership skills training **for a total of 40 Leaders across five communities**. This marks the end of the training of VSLAs as far as the Family Strengthening Project (FSP) and Giving Joy grant support is concerned. They have been taken through Pre- training for VSLA Group Leaders, Training on Leadership Skill, training on Income Generation for VSLA, Action Plan Development. These skills and knowledge they have received will propel them to sustainability.



A leadership training for the leaders of Nyame Akwan Association, a VSLA at Adadientam in Ejisu Municipal. Facilitation being done by Vera Yeboah, Freeworld International.

Photo taken by: Benjamin Kwadwo Appiah, Freeworld International

2. Invested in the income generation project of one the VSLAs and assisted in the development of action plans.

A pitch competition was organised for all VSLAs we had trained under the “Sustaining VSLAs in FS Communities” (funded by Giving Joy Grants). The winning VSLA (Yen Daakye Anidaso Eni Yen Mma Yi) received a total grant of Ghc 7,000.00 from Giving Joy and SOS FS Ghana to invest into their sheep farming business. The decision to award this grant was jointly agreed by Freeworld International and SOS FS. Our last monitoring visit showed that this investment was good, the sheep have multiplied and the first sale may take place in 2025 and the revenue realised will increase the income streams of the VSLA.

Additionally, we have laid down a good foundation for all the VSLAs through the technical assistance we provided to them in the development of VSLA Action Plans. They can use these plans to raise funds from different sources as well as guide the growth and development of their association.



The leaders of Nyame Akwan Association making a presentation on their action plan during the pitching competition.

Photo taken by: Ebenezer, a volunteer at SOS FS.

3. Four training activities on human trafficking were successfully completed in the Amenfi West, Aowin, and Suaman Districts in the Western and Western North Regions of Ghana.

In 2023, the people in the Western and Western North Region and the selected 15 communities at Amenfi West, Aowin and Suaman District gained a clear understanding of the forms of human trafficking (labor, sexual exploitation, child trafficking) and the specific demographic groups affected. Again, they have gained a comprehensive understanding of the existing institutional response to trafficking, which can guide future collaboration, capacity building, and policy refinement . Furthermore, insights into local awareness and understanding of trafficking, which is critical for designing effective public education and prevention campaigns have been drawn.

4.1 Inspiring Stories from Our Places of Work



Yen Daakye Anidaso Ene Yen Mma Sheep Farming Business at Onwe.

Photo: Vera Yeboah, Freeworld International

"Yen Daakye Andaso Ene Yen Mma" is one of the most committed VSLAs under the Family Strengthening Project (FSP). With guidance from the Freeworld International training program, the group received training on leadership styles and income generation. The training focused on fostering strong leadership within the group, effective decision-making, and understanding sustainable income generation opportunities that would best suit their needs. The group decided to invest their SOS FS and Freeworld International grant in sheep farming. After months of hard work and dedication, they are now preparing to reach an exciting milestone: selling some of their sheep.

“We are always ready to support all efforts to combat human trafficking from this municipality”

Emmanual K. Appiah, Ghana Immigration Service, Aowin Municipal, Western North Region



Photo: Benjamin Appiah, Freeworld International

5.0 Program of Activities

During the reporting period, a total of 15 activities were delivered. **Five** of these activities were part of the Giving Joy Grant support project, implemented directly by Freeworld International in the 5 FS Communities. Additionally, **four** activities were focused on improving the capacity of stakeholders to respond to human trafficking cases in 15 vulnerable and at-risk communities in Ghana's Western and Western North Regions while the other **six** were implemented in the Upper East Region of Ghana to improve the livelihood of women shea butter producers.

An overview of the activities delivered during the reporting period were as follows:

- ❖ Pre-training for VSLA group Leaders
- ❖ Training on Income Generation for VSLA
- ❖ Action Plan Development
- ❖ VSLA Pitching Competition
- ❖ VSLA Awards
- ❖ Baseline Study
- ❖ Baseline Dissemination Meetings
- ❖ Symposia
- ❖ Action Plan Development On Human Trafficking
- ❖ Gender Training for women shea butter producers
- ❖ Alternative Livelihood Training for Women Shea Butter Producers
- ❖ Bookkeeping Practices for Akoma Cooperative Women's Group
- ❖ Linking Akoma Cooperative Women's Group to financial institutions
- ❖ Baseline evaluation of Akoma Cooperative Women's Group members.
- ❖ Training on constitution development for VSLAs

The activities implemented from November 2023 to December 2024 are indicated below:

NOVEMBER 2023

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
8 th November, 2023	Pre- visit training for VSLA group leaders at Adadientem	Males: 3 Females: 4 Total: 7	1. Introduce the Giving Joy Grant Support Project to the VSLA's 2. Assess their activities so far to further inform the design of their trainings
8 th November, 2023	Pre- visit training for VSLA group leaders at Kubease	Males: 1 Females: 3 Total: 4	
9 th November, 2023	Pre- visit training for VSLA group Leaders at Assienimpong	Females: 7	

9 th November, 2023	Pre- visit training for VSLA group 3 Leaders at onwe	Females: 4	
9 th November, 2023	Pre- visit training for VSLA group 1 Leaders at Onwe	Females: 4	
9 th November, 2023	Pre- visit training for VSLA group 2 Leades at Onwe	Females: 4	
9 th November, 2023	Pre- visit training for VSLA Group at Ejisu	Females: 5	
25 th November, 2023	Training on Leadership skills for Nyame Akwan VSLA Leaders at Adadientem	Males: 3 Females: 4 Total: 7	Enhance the capacity of the VSLA Leaders with sterling leadership skills they need to sustain the VSLA for the foreseeable future
28 th November, 2023	Training on Leadership skills for Nyame Ne Hene VSLA Leaders at Kubease	Male: 1 Females: 2 Total: 3	
29 th November, 2023	Training on Leadership skills for Peace Leaders at Ejisu	Females: 5	
30 th November, 2023	Training on Leadership skills for Yen mmofra daakye Leaders at Onwe	Females: 4	
30 th November, 2023	Training on Leadership skills for Yen mma daakye Leaders at Onwe	Females: 4	
30 th November, 2023	Training on Leadership skills for Anidaso Leaders at Onwe	Females: 4	
1 st December, 2023	Training on Leadership skills for Nyame Na Aye VSLA Leaders at	Females: 5	

	Assienimpong		

December, 2023

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
12 th December,2022	Training on Income Generation for Nyame Akwan VSLA Leaders at Adadientem	Males: 3 Females: 3 Total: 6	To Build the capacity of the VSLA Leaders to innovatively and carefully select viable income generation activities that can bring income into the VSLA account and increase their ability to support their members.
13 th December,2022	Training on Income Generation for Nyame Ne Hene VSLA Leaders at Kubease	Males: 1 Females: 2 Total: 3	
14 th December,2022	Training on Income Generation for Yen mma daakye VSLA Leaders at Onwe	Females: 4	
14 th December,2022	Training on Income Generation for Anidaso VSLA Leaders at Onwe	Females: 4	
14 th December, 2022	Training on Income Generation for Yen mmofra Daakye VSLA Leaders at Onwe	Females: 4	
15 th December,2022	Training on Income Generation for Nyame Na Aye VSLA Leaders at Assienimpong	Females: 5	
16 th December,2022	Training on Income Generation for Peace VSLA at Ejisu	Females: 4	

February, 2024

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
22 nd February, 2024	Action Plan Development for Nyame ne Hene Fun Club VSLA at Kubease	Males: 1 Females: 3 Total: 4	To guide the leaders of the various VSLAs to develop a year's action plan. Also, the trainings sought to equip the leaders with key skills they need in reviewing their own action plans in the foreseeable future.
23 rd February, 2024	Action Plan Development for Nyame Akwan VSLA at Adadientem	Males: 2 Females: 1 Total: 3	
24 th February, 2024	Action Plan Development for Yen mma daakye VSLA at Onwe	Females: 4	
24 th February, 2024	Action Plan Development for Anidaso and yen mmofra daakye VSLA at Onwe	Females: 3	
27 th February, 2024	Action Plan Development for Nyame Na Aye VSLA at Assienimpong	Females: 4	
28 th February, 2024	Action Plan Development for Peace VSLA at Ejisu	Male: 1 Females: 4	

April 2024

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
25 th April -3 rd May, 2024	Baseline study in the target Districts, Amenfi West Municipal, Aowin Municipal and Suamen District in the Western and Wrstern North Region in Ghana	Males: 331 Females: 390 Total: 721	The Baseline Study focused on estimating the scope of the trafficking phenomenon in the target districts including the number of Ghanaians involved and those from other countries. The study also included a comprehensive finding on the causes, nature and consequences of human trafficking in the target districts, including

			relevant matters highlighted in the National Plan of Action.
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June, 2024

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
20 th June, 2024	Pitching Session for Six VSLA groups	Males: 5 Females: 15 Total: 20	. The purpose of the pitching competition was to showcase all income generating activities of each VSLA to the Pitching Panel (FS Grants Committee which included representatives from Freeworld International) for an award to one of the VSLAs to finance one of the projects on their Income Generation Action Plan. In the long run, the funds invested will be given to another VSLA to also finance its activities. This will go on until all VSLAs have benefited from the revolving fund.

July 2024

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
26 th July, 2024	Dissemination Meeting at Aowin Municipal	Males: 26 Females: 6 Total: 32	The purpose of the dissemination meetings was to enlighten participants on Human Trafficking and related matters
27 th July, 2024	Dissemination Meeting at Suaman	Males: 22	

	District	Females: 6 Total: 28	and share key findings from the Baseline Study that was conducted in all the fifteen project communities across the three Municipal/District(s) for inputs, validation, and recommendations from participants as well as discuss next steps and planned activities of the project.
28 th July, 2024	Dissemination Meeting at Amenfi West Municipal	Males: 16 Females: 8 Total: 24	

August, 2024

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
18 th August, 2024	Symposia on Human Trafficking at Suaman Districts	Males: 32 Females: 6 Total: 38	To raise awareness and share innovative ideas for prevention/elimination of Human Trafficking among the District and Community Level Stakeholders in the target districts across the Western and Western North Regions of Ghana.
19 th August, 2024	Symposia on Human Trafficking at Aowin Municipal	Males: 43 Females: 6 Total: 49	
20 th August, 2024	Symposia on Human Trafficking at Amenfi West Municipal	Males: 31 Females: 8 Total: 39	
24 th August, 2024	Human Trafficking Action Plan for Aowin Municipal	Males: 42 Females: 8 Total: 50	To develop an action plan in collaboration with the target local Authorities and relevant stakeholders to guide the fight against Human Trafficking.
25 th August, 2024	Human Trafficking Action Plan for Amenfi Est Municipal	Males: 30 Females: 10 Total: 40	
26 th August, 2024	Human Trafficking Action Plan for Suaman District	Males: 33 Females: 7	

		Total: 40	
30 th August, 2024	Formation Principles and Practices of VSLAs for Akoma Cooperative Women's Group.	42 women	To increase participants awareness of the VSLA methodology, its importance and principles and facilitate the formation of a VSLA for Akoma Cooperative Women's Group.
31 August, 2024	Gender Training for Akoma Cooperative Women's Group members at Pusu Namongo	75 women	The training sought to equip members of women's groups with the knowledge and skills needed for gender mainstreaming and empowerment. It emphasized understanding gender equality, fostering women's leadership, and enhancing their ability to influence decision-making in their communities and workplaces.

September 2024

Date	Activity	Number of Participants (M/F)	Objective
16 th -17 th September, 2024	Baseline data collection with 75 members of the Akoma Cooperative Group	75 women	The purpose of the baseline data collection was to gather data on the current situation, attitudes and practices of the Akoma Cooperative Women's Group.
19 th September, 2024	Bookkeeping Practices for Akoma Cooperative Women's Group.	100 women	The training sought to enhance the bookkeeping practices of Akoma Cooperative Women's Group by providing practical sessions on bookkeeping.
20 th September, 2024	Linking Akoma Cooperative Women's Group to financial institutions	75 women	To link the Akoma Cooperative Women Group to appropriate financial and non-financial services available to them in the Talensi and Bolgatanga

			Municipality.
21 st September, 2024	Constitution Development for Akoma Cooperative Women's Group.	75 women	The training sought to improve governance in the Akoma Cooperative Women's Group by enlightening them on leadership related issues and assisting them to develop a constitution.



Pitching Competition for a Revolving fund

Photo taken by: Vera Yeboah , Freeworld International



Dr. Seth Tweneboah delivering his speech during a symposium at Melody Hotel in Amenfi West Municipal

Photo: Paul Akwasi Baami, Freeworld International

6.0 Lessons Learnt

Our key lesson learnt during the period is that strong monitoring, evaluation and learning is key to the success of our projects. We recognize that to achieve more impactful results and further enhance our project outcomes, we must intensify our MEL efforts moving forward.



A visit to Yen Daakye Anidaso Ene Yen Mma Group at Onwe

Photo: Vera Yeboah, Freeworld International

7.0 Strengthening Our Governance

This year, the proactive leadership of the Council Chair in spearheading the development of a self-evaluation tool for Council Members is a significant step toward enhancing governance. The tool provides Council Members with a structured way to assess their individual performance, identify strengths, and address areas for improvement. Regular evaluations during Council Meetings will not only help in recognizing achievements but also offer an opportunity to address challenges collectively. This process will strengthen decision-making, encourage personal accountability, and improve overall Council effectiveness as members collaborate to determine the best way forward.

In addition to this, non-performing council members were taken out of office based a majority decision of the Council. New Council members have been added. We hope for a more action oriented and effective Council in 2025.

8.0 Challenges

While significant progress was made in implementing all the planned activities, it is important to acknowledge the challenges that were encountered during the reporting period. These challenges provided valuable lessons and opportunities for growth, highlighting areas where the organization can improve and strengthen its operations.

1. Inadequate Funds: One of the major challenges faced was the limited funding available for activities, as our primary source of funding came from 3 donors: Giving Joy, GIZ and Expertise France. Although the Council and the Management Team worked diligently to explore additional funding opportunities, financial constraints continued to impact the scope and implementation of some initiatives. However, this challenge also provided the inspiration to engage in discussions with potential donors and to diversify funding sources, ensuring a more sustainable financial future.

2. Logistical Challenges: The shortage of essential logistical resources, such as laptops, projectors, and printers, presented a significant hurdle. These tools are vital for effective communication, data collection, and documentation of our activities. Despite these setbacks, the team showed great resilience in continuing to deliver impactful programs. The hope is that through increased support from donors and other partners, we will be able to acquire the necessary resources to improve the efficiency and quality of our work.



**Group Discussions for the Development of the Action Plan at Aowin Municipal.
Immediately Standing by the first group in the Picture is Rev. Amoah Kwaku
Karikari.**

Photo: Pual Baami, Freeworld International

9.0 Forward plans

In the coming year, we are committed to strengthening our organization's foundations and expanding our impact. Our focus will be on building long-term sustainability and enhancing the effectiveness of our team. We plan to:

- Enhance fundraising efforts to secure additional resources for ongoing and new projects.
- Develop a comprehensive sustainability plan that ensures long-term growth and financial stability for the organization.
- Organizing capacity-building training for both staff and Council Members to improve skills, leadership, and overall effectiveness.
- Identifying and pursuing suitable calls for proposals to expand our programs and reach more communities in need.



A group picture with a section of stakeholders in Suaman-Dadieso District. 3rd from the right is the District Chief Executive and next to him is the Coordinating Director.

Photo: Paul Baami, Freeworld International

10.0 Conclusion

It has been a rewarding year, marked by a series of successful activities aimed at changing the lives of many vulnerable people in Ghana especially, youth and women. This is an inspiration to the Council and staff of Freeworld International. It serves a solid foundation upon which we build for more successes in 2025.

This would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our partners and donors. We say thank and we hope for a more fruitful and beneficial working relationship in 2025.



A group picture with a section of stakeholders in Aowin Municipal. Seated in the middle on the first seat is the Municipal Chief Executive

Photo: A volunteer from the Aowin Municipal Assembly