Acknowledgment

The board of directors, management and staff of the organization wish to thank all our value donors, partners, communities, youth and women groups, traditional authorities and our revered religious leaders.

We also acknowledge the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, National Commission for Civil Education, Ghana Education and Health Services, National Population Council, Department of Gender and Children and National Youth Authority.

We finally acknowledge all those who have contributed in diverse ways towards the success of the organization especially in 2015.
What we represent

NORSAAC is an empowerment for change organization that focuses on women and young people. The organization operates in four thematic areas: Gender and Governance, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development, and Education. Its coverage is the Northern part of Ghana.

VISION

A society in which every person enjoys their rights and lives a life of dignity

MISSION

To work with communities and community-based structures and like-minded organizations to build the capacities of community members and affected groups to enjoy their rights and live a life of dignity

VALUES

❖ Commitment
❖ Justice
❖ Respect
❖ Partnership
❖ Responsiveness
❖ Gender sensitivity
Acronyms

ASK  Access, Services and Knowledge
CAC  Comprehensive Abortion Care
CAGs  Community Advocacy Groups
CCM  Children against Child Marriage
CSO  Civil Society Organization
DA  District Assembly
DDE  District Directors of Education
DLE  District Level Elections
EPA  Environmental Protection Agency
FP  Family Planning
GES  Ghana Education Service
GHS  Ghana Health Service
ISEP  Innovative Sexuality Education Project
ISODEC  Integrated Social Development Center
LEGS  Let the Girls Smile
NORAD  Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
RFSU  Swedish Association for Sexuality Education
SDG  Sustainable Development Goals
SHS  Senior High School
SLIP  Sustainable Livelihood Initiative Project
SRHR  Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STIs  Sexual Transmitted Infection
UNICEF  United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
YEAS  Youth Empowerment for Access and Service
YFP  Young Female Parliamentarians
YUW  Young Urban Woman
YUWP  Young Urban Women Project
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FORWARD

The annual report for 2015 marked a beginning of the implementation of our five years strategic document dubbed “Taking Action” and span the period 2015-2019. The year was quite exciting, progressive and also presented number of new opportunities for learning. Our past programme areas have been sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights and Gender and Governance and we have distinguished ourselves creditably in the two areas. Upon reflections and careful analysis of prevailing realities in our programme areas, Board, Management, Staff and our beneficiaries who are major stakeholders in the organization, considered the inclusion of livelihood and education making the total programme areas of the organization four. The organization recognized the interrelated nature of development and also the need for focusing in addressing development issues. The relationship of the four areas are clearly established in our strategic document and we are convinced that integrated approach to development will quicken the process of eliminating inequalities and by extension end poverty in all its forms.

The strategic decision by NORSAAC to revolve around three main strategies of mobilizing, educating/empowering and taking action stemmed from our primary position that change can only be effective if the affected people truly feel the need and recognize others in similar circumstances and begin to create or use exiting space to demand change. In furtherance to this, the organization shall ensure that all projects in all the programme areas are built on the three strategies just to ensure that inequalities are challenged and that policy makers and implementers respect the rights of citizens.

The organization within the year was not just critical about programme areas but also considered institutional strengthening to make sure NORSAAC lives beyond the strategic document. There was conscious effort to include institutional objectives with specific indicators in the strategic document to guide both the organization and donor partners to contribute for the sustainability of the organization. The decision by Board and Management to construct and own its office was seen as a major step in the sustainability process of the organization. The openness and transparency around the construction of the office premises was hailed by auditors, board, some donor partners and state institutions. The work of the organization has certainly been enhanced operating from its own office with improved internet services and an enhanced server for information management.

Specific to the year under review, we are happy to indicate number of innovative projects rolled out and the new partners who have come on board. The Ghana Strengthening Accountability Mechanism (GSAM) which is accountability project empowers citizens to demand effective accountability using number of participatory tools including citizens score cards. The Young Female Parliament recorded one of its greatest outcomes this year when about five (5) girls in each Senior High School expressed interest in contesting for key school leadership positions. It is also important to indicate that our Children against Child Marriage and community house model concepts have proven to be effective and now having key influential people joining the campaign against child marriage. Our campaign for inclusion of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Ghanaian Education Curriculum made significant progress with national level official now backing the calls from CSOs.

In all these achievement within the year, the contributions of our donor partners, media, some state institutions, other CSOs and our established community structures were so immersed that this report will be incomplete without the recognition.

The support from board, management and staff has been outstanding and constitute a substantial portion of our successes. The detailed below are possible because of them and we can only count on sustenance of it.
We take the opportunity at this stage to wish you well as you take time to read and become familiar with the progress that we are making as an organization.

Thank you.

Alhaji A. B. Yakubu
(Board Chairman)

Alhassan Mohammed Awal
(Executive Director)
Headlines from 2015

January 2015

Children against Child Marriage (CCM) Clubs formed

NORSAAC formed 20 CCM clubs in 20 schools across 20 communities. This was done as part of the implementation of the “Let the Girls Smile: Say no to Child Marriage” project sponsored by UNICEF. The clubs will lead both school and community level sensitization and education as well as tracking child marriage cases and report such cases to appropriate agencies.

February 2015

Peer educators influence open discussion on sexuality in communities

Open discussion of sexuality and reproductive health and rights in communities was traditionally frowned upon with culture used as reasons. After successfully implementing the Innovative Sexuality Education project through the use of participatory learning and teaching toolkits, some communities in the Karaga and Savelugu/Nanton Assemblies have opened up and are now discussing sexuality issues.

March 2015

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Walk on Good Governance

On 27th February, the Supreme Court of Ghana suspended a planned District Level Elections. In response to this, members of the CSO Platform on Good Governance coordinated by NORSAAC in the Northern Region undertook a peace walk to petition the President through the Regional Minister on the concerns of the platform. About 625 citizens of the region, majority of them women took part in the walk and demanded that: Parliament and Electoral Commission work together to restore the confidence of Ghanaians in their mandates as state institutions by ensuring that Ghana has and adhere to a fixed date for District level elections. Also, Parliament must enact a law that will ensure Presidential; Parliamentary and district level elections are organized together.

April 2015

NORSAAC extends Financial Support to Young Women Entrepreneurs

As a strategy to reducing poverty in the Karaga District, women networks were formed across the district, and given the necessary skills and knowledge in the area.
of entrepreneurship to enhance their economic activities and independence. To support the businesses of these women, a revolving loan facility was instituted and in April 2015 loans were disbursed to 90 young women ranging from GHS 200.00 to GHS 400.00. A total amount of GHS 20,000.00 was disbursed to women who demonstrated ability and capacity to use the funds to the benefit of their businesses. The nature of ventures operated formed a basis for qualification for the loan.

May 2015

Young Female Parliamentarians (YFP) Strategic document completed

In May, 40 YFP girls in consultation with NORSAAC, Actionaid, and Ghana Education Services (GES) developed the YFP strategic documents and learning sessions were organized in the 20 schools with YFP members. This document ensures that the new YFP members deepen their understanding of the program. Through YFP project, girls are now eager to compete for leadership positions. After the launch of the YFP concept, YFP mentor for Zabzugu SHS said that the girls confirmed they will stand for leadership positions because of the inspiration they had at the launch. 2015 saw the first female Senior Prefect as well as the first Female Assistant Senior Prefect in Zabzugu and Chereponi Senior High School respectively.

June 2015

Parent-Child Communication training on Sexual Health and Rights Issues

Under the support of STOP AIDS NOW! NORSAAC organized a training session on parent-child communication for 20 households from 4 communities in the Karaga Districts. 40 parents trained on effective parent-child communication on sexual health and rights issues as a way to build a strong, healthy and successful family. Participants acquired basic communication techniques and knowledge on how to handle sexual health issues of children and showed willingness to embrace open communication on sexuality.

July 2015

Young Female Parliamentarian (YFP) Inter-cluster Debate

NORSAAC facilitated the inter-cluster debates session for the YFP. The purpose of the debate was to increase participants’ (YFP) confidence level, enable them speak out on issues affecting young females, and to increase visibility of YFP in the Region. The debate sessions were educative and afforded the girls opportunity to express themselves on key issues especially on female participation in leadership.

August 2015

2015 International Youth Day Celebration

In May, 40 YFP girls in consultation with NORSAAC, Actionaid, and Ghana Education Services (GES) developed the YFP strategic documents and learning sessions were organized in the 20 schools with YFP members. This document ensures that the new YFP members deepen their understanding of the program. Through YFP project, girls are now eager to compete for leadership positions. After the launch of the YFP concept, YFP mentor for Zabzugu SHS said that the girls confirmed they will stand for leadership positions because of the inspiration they had at the launch. 2015 saw the first female Senior Prefect as well as the first Female Assistant Senior Prefect in Zabzugu and Chereponi Senior High School respectively.
As part of the strategies of the Young Urban Women (YUW) project in building solidarity and alliance to address the challenges facing female youth, 2015 International Youth Day was celebrated by YUW under the theme “Youth and civic engagement: the missing voice of the female youth”. A petition was presented to the Northern Regional Minister. Some of the concerns raised include: Punitive measures against sexual harassment in schools beyond transfers of teachers; zero tolerance for traditional and political influence in sexual harassment cases; publication of all family planning services covered under NHIS; provision of more youth friendly services; provision of adequate waste management facilities; enforcement of section 6.1.14 of the National Youth Policy with at least 40% representation of female youth in decision making at all levels; among others.

### September 2015

**Profiling of Women Chiefs in Northern Region**

This was part of the organization’s strategy to increase the visibility of women chiefs in Northern Region. This activity was carried out in collaboration with the Dagbon Traditional Council to gather and publish the profiles of 22 women chiefs in the area through a picture diary. The work with women chiefs was also to reduce the perceived traditional norms and belief that hinder women’s participation in decision making; as women have led and still lead certain communities and paramouncies in the Northern Region. This was aimed at boosting the number and quality of women who take up key leadership positions in society.

### October 2015

**Launch of NORSAAC’s 2015 – 2019 Strategic document and NORSAAC new office**

“Taking Action“, NORSAACs strategic document, was drafted in consultation with local and international partners, community stakeholders, board members as well as like-minded CSOs. The strategic document contains NORSAAC’s 2015 – 2019 strategic plan, program area and organizational objectives. This document as well as NORSAACs new office was launched on 23rd October, 2015.

**November 2015**

**Maiden Assembly Women conference**

In November 2015, 74 assembly women from 24 districts in the northern region met to discuss issues around women in governance at the local government level. The maiden assembly women’s conference was organized by NORSAAC and IBIS as an initiative to empower women and increase the representation of women in decision-making positions. After the conference a position paper was presented to the Northern Regional Minister who promised to look into districts that had not adhered to the 1/3 women representation in district assemblies.
Launch of SRHR manual

The SRHR manual draws on the experience of implementing SRHR programs using peer educators who have little or no formal education. The manual is community focused and would guide peer educators and provide useful resources for public health service providers on how to effectively provide comprehensive and correct information on SRHR. Key components of the manual are the peer education tools and the SRHR content for sharing and learning. One unique feature of this manual is the illustration of the content and facilitation tools with pictures and drawings that are community friendly.

“Taking Action” is NORSAAC’s 2015 – 2019 strategy with an overall goal to: **Improved quality of lives of women, girls, youth, children and marginalized groups, empowering and asserting their rights.** NORSAAC’s strategic plan was developed with the current state of affairs in Ghana, particularly in Northern Ghana. There are four key program areas and according to Taking Action, the specific objectives and mandates for each program area for 2015 – 2019 include:

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<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<td>Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights</td>
<td>• Reduced maternal, neonatal, child mortality and morbidity through improved and informed practices.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Safe sexual practices through increased knowledge of sexual and reproductive health rights.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Enhanced, enabling environment and greater respect for sexual and reproductive health rights of young people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Governance</td>
<td>• Increased demand and assertion of the rights of women and girls through participation of empowered women and girls in decision making at homes, in schools, in communities and district decision making structures.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increased response from government and its agencies to demands of citizens on accountable governance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Enhanced allocation of economics and natural resources to men and women equitably.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods and Entrepreneurial Development</td>
<td>• Improved income for young women and young men through engagement income generation activities and enhanced management of financial resources.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increased adaptation of agricultural practices and mitigate the effects of climate change on women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>• Increased access to empowering quality, basic education for children of school going age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increased educational attainment for girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Enhanced school governance and management</td>
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Our Programs
SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS
NORSAAC’s Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Programme Area designs projects to address sexual related issues such as: sexual abuses, sexual rights, teenage pregnancy, STI’s including HIV and AIDS, family planning. These projects promote sexuality education in schools and communities, youth advocate for access to commodities, championing maternal and child health including nutrition for pregnant women and children under five (5), and comprehensive abortion care to reduce maternal deaths resulting from unsafe abortion practices and to influence sexual behaviours and attitudes.

HIGHLIGHTS 2015

✓ 2015 saw a giant step where chiefs and traditional authority embraced the open discussion of SRHR issues in community to reduce teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

✓ The launching of the peer educators’ manual by Ghana Health Service with support from NORSAAC is expected to enhance the knowledge of community members (non-literates) on sexual reproductive health and right.

✓ The establishment of 3 Youth friendly Service centres in Mion, Karaga and Kumbungu has created a platform for young people in these areas to access service and family planning commodities.

✓ 4,616 people have been reached on comprehensive abortion issues and family planning methods for healthy sexual life.

✓ 12,081 in school and out of school youth were reached through peer education and community sensitisation on healthy sexual practices.

✓ Distribution of 320,000 pieces of male condoms in the year under review has improved the service uptake of young people in the communities.

✓ 95 mothers and youth peer educators were reached out with information on facilitation skills and how carry out peer education in communities within the Karaga and Savelugu districts.

2015 Projects
1. Youth Activism for Enhanced SRHR (Enhanced SRHR)

The Enhanced SRHR project is an intervention targeting young people within the age bracket of 10 to 24 years including young adolescent. This is a 3 year project (2013-2015) with SIMAVI from the Netherlands as a funding partner and currently implemented in 2 districts- Karaga and Gushegu of the Northern Region, in line with the Access, Services and Knowledge (ASK) programme. The project seeks to improve the SRHR of young people in the implementing districts by increasing young peoples’ uptake of SRHR services. Within the project duration, it has enhanced the capacity of the individual through gender- sensitive SRHR education, accurate information provision and skills building; creating an enabling environment through advocacy and working with communities by improving the availability and accessibility of high quality youth friendly SRH services for young people. Strategies such as the listeners club, youth campaigners, games, and community peer education supported in achieving the objectives of the projects.

Case study

“I always feel ashamed of telling my story which I blame myself for that. I am a 20 year old young lady from Gushegu. I sit idle at home since I dropped out from school as result of teenage pregnancy. I was told by my teachers and parents that I was so intelligent in school which I don’t doubt and you can attest from the way I talk. I must say that I didn’t know what I was doing with the numerous boys that I had intimate relationship with leading to my pregnancy at the age of 15 without a father to the child. I and other young people in the same situation as at then lacked knowledge and information about our bodies and also little parental care. The assemble man for our area selected me to be part of this project as a peer educator which I accepted after he briefed me on the purpose of the project. I knew it could be challenging but I still said to myself that I will do it. During our peer educators’ training sessions, I started to learn my lessons with pain. I did not want to talk at all since colleague peer educators who knew me tend to mock at me and always look at me once discussions were centered on teenage pregnancies. I broke the chains by standing to use myself as an example for one of the discussions. I was empowered and I had to do that. Back in the community I have helped in sensitizing my colleagues and young people on issues of SRHR such as teenage pregnancy and its preventions by using my story to encourage young people more especially the female to uphold the information and knowledge in to practice in order not to have a story like me.”
2. **Youth Empowerment, Access and Service (YEAS)**

YEAS is a three-year project designed in partnership with Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) with funding from Swedish International Development Corporation (SIDA) and started implementation in 2014 to improve SRHR education of young people in the northern region. Young people within the age bracket of 10-24 in 4 districts (Tamale metropolis, Central Gonja, Kumbungu and Mion Districts). The main goal of the project is: *To contribute to improved sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people in the northern region of Ghana.*

The design of the project was based on the framework of enhancing the capacity of young people, creating enabling environment where stakeholders would acknowledge and respect the SRHR needs of young people and facilitating the availability of quality SRHR services.

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**Case story**

*I am Abraham Gnundow from Nalongni community in the Mion district. Before this intervention, there was high teenage pregnancy in my community. During the recent vacation the community recorded 7 teenage pregnancies 2 of which were from primary school level. This was a great worry to the entire community and I attributed it to the lack of education on SRHR. My interaction with young people and parents on SRHR issue brought some relief to the community members and wish the programme continuous. I thank NORSAAC for the wonderful intervention. From what we have learnt, it is a wakeup call to all of us to intensify sensitizations to overcome the issue of teenage pregnancies and other challenges in our communities.*
3. Innovative Sexuality Education Project (ISEP) II

NORSSAC supported the Northern Regional Health Directorat to launch the community peer educators manual. This manual is to support health practitioners to provide up to date information to young people on SRHR issues. The Health Information Unit of the GHS in the region admitted that, most young people especially young female in the region were ignorant about their sexuality and that the launched manual will be used at the various adolescent corners. They welcomed the manual as a big relief to the directorate in their quest to educate and empower young people to have alternative choices. The development of the manual was also supported by RAINs, Savana Signatures, PPAG and NNED with founding support from AXIS.
4. Preventing Maternal Deaths due to Unwanted Pregnancy (PMDUP)

NORSAAC in partnership with IPAS and Ghana Health Service has been working in the area of Preventing Maternal Death due to Unwanted Pregnancies through community sensitizations in 11 districts in Northern and Upper East regions. The project activities aim at creating awareness on abortion laws in Ghana, dangers of unsafe abortion, family planning, and comprehensive abortion care (CAC).

Where is health service in this?
Strategies
Lessons

Incomplete.

Case story

Traditional ruler supports safe abortion

A retired teacher and a traditional ruler at Katejieli in Kpandai district added his voice to unsafe abortion after a sensitization in their community. Here is his testimony; “the issue of abortion is the most silenced issue in all communities I know. People hide around the issue of abortion and it is one of the issues that retard development in our communities and it is high time we took the destiny into our own hands. When I was a teacher, there were many cases of unsafe abortions in schools and some led to claiming of lives of the victims and one sad thing about it is that the names of those who impregnate them are not mentioned. As a traditional ruler, we witness some of these cases in the community. Can we now open discussions around this topic to save precious lives that we lose as a result of unsafe abortions? I think it is in this direction that we can retain our girls in schools”.
A community sensitization on SRHR issues in Bagurugu, Karaga District.
The Gender and Governance program is designed to respond and contribute to the elimination of gender based inequalities and violence and increase female participation in decision making at all spheres of society. The programme thus empowers women and young girls politically to have greater socio-economic power in decision making and representation. Focusing on the Local Governance level transmission mechanism to the national level, the Gender and Governance programme empowers women and young girls to claim their rights to participation and representation through capacity and resource support.

**HIGHLIGHTS 2015**

✓ Almost all the 620 in-school Young Female Parliamentarians have shown interest in competing for leadership positions in their schools, including a physically challenged student. YFP reached 2,500 students who supported other females to contest for leadership positions. Ghana Education Service supported the review of student leadership structure to a more gender friendly structure in schools through dialogue with all 26 district education directors and 43 headmasters.

✓ Increased community education and dialogues on child marriage by 200 Children against Child Marriage (CCM) clubs reaching 2,616 parents and 4,050 children. 4 cases were reported by parents in implementing schools.

✓ The program area contributed to the 76 women aspirants for the 2015 DLEs with 18 winning, 67 appointed assembly women, and 1 female Presiding member was recorded in Nanumba North District for the first time in the district.

✓ 150 observers deployed by the 40 member CSO platform on Good Governance and observed 175 polling stations for the 2015 District Level Elections

✓ A position paper from the 2015 maiden assembly women conference has pushed the RCC to begin discussions with DAs on positions for women in the assemblies.

✓ 22 women in traditional governance of Northern Region have been profiled for visibility and empowerment in 2015.

✓ 1,000 Young Urban Women radio and community sensitisations have opened room for women views in family discussions at least in their homes. Over 815 of them have influenced role sharing in their homes to redistribute women care burden. 89 Young Urban Women have been instrumental in their community sanitation and water issues with 3 gaining positions in committees.

✓ 10 youth and 12 women groups have been supported by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reach community members on climate change effects, the use of local cook stoves to reduce number of fire wood used in cooking, and also for community guidelines in protecting the environment

✓ 29 young women in Northern Region have had the opportunity to learn skills in fashion and designing, hair dressing, beads making, tailoring, local cloth making and smock weaving. And 12 young women graduated as Fashion Designers from NORSAAC/Prolink/Vlisco collaboration

✓ 59 young women have gained support for start-up capital through AAG/NORSAAC Livelihood support initiatives
2015 Projects

1. Young Urban Women: Life Choices and Livelihood Project

This is an international project operational in Ghana, South Africa and India by ActionAid International. Ghana project is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) through ActionAid Ghana. While it is operational in Accra and Tamale, the Tamale Project implemented by NORSAAC has a goal that “In 3 years (July 2013 to December, 2015), 1000 young urban women living in poverty in Tamale Metropolis will have greater dignity through more economic independence and control over their bodies, and their voices will be heard and recognized in international forums”.

The project has been implemented in 9 communities of Tamale South Sub Metropolitan Area; Beilpela, Nalung, Kakpagyili, Banvum, Tuutingli, Kpanvo, Dabokpa, Vittin and Kalarga with 1,232 direct beneficiaries on reduction of care burden, knowledge and access to friendly reproductive health rights, access to decent work and open environment for female leadership and change makers.

The Young Urban Women Project in Tamale has created a chain of 1,000 young women change makers, provoked communities and societies to begin to rethink women care burden and its impact on their development through radio, games and durbars.

Young Urban Woman writes for the first time in her life!

Humu Fuseini- 26 years old mother of two from Kpanvo Community has this to say “I have never seen the four corners of a class room and had always seen those who have been to school as special. Until the YUW project enrolled us in informal education. When I was chosen as a group leader for my group (Nyun Pahi o suhu), I strongly doubted my ability to lead the group and my worse fear was the fact that as a group leader, I was told to attend trainings and share with my group members. I am now a member of our WATSON committee. I have been involved in activities to support reduction of women care burden and access to sexual and reproductive health services. Most importantly, I had the opportunity to discuss with the Social Services Sub Committee chairman for Tamale Metro about our interest to learn how to read and write. As I stand here today, holding this marker as comfortably as if I was born with it, and writing my NAME with even a board member of ActionAid saying my hand writing is beautiful, I fully believe in the concept that we are change makers and that everything is possible if you take steps towards it. I can already imagine myself taking my children through their homework and with the start-up capital support from the project for my business; surely my children will have the best of education. How I wish all young women could have this experience and now I can see myself continuing the awareness creation for other young women even outside Tamale metropolis.”

Case story
2. Young Female Parliament Project

NORSAAC/Actionaid works in the Young Female Parliament (YFP) project has yielded 2 batches of 40 YFP each since 2010. These graduates are in the larger society as members of recognised boards, members of assemblies, role models for other young females and others have taken key leadership positions in schools and their communities. The concept has gained recognition at the school level and recorded 650 in-schools YFP for 2015/2016 batch alone.

The Ghana Education Services took inspiration from the practical experience of the YFP concept and held meetings with all District Directors and selected heads of public schools in the Northern Region and a draft gender friendly leadership structure was proposed. It is the hope of NORSAAC that these measures coupled with students/teacher sensitizations will clear the tides for girls to hold decision making positions in schools.

3. Ghana Strengthening Accountability Mechanism (GSAM) Project

This is an accountability project developed by IBIS, Care international and ISODEC in a consortium with implementation in 100 districts of Ghana. It has a goal to “Strengthen citizens’ oversight of capital development projects to improve local government transparency, accountability and performance”.

NORSAAC as one of its partners operates on the project in Karaga for component 1 and Gushegu, Tatali/Sanguili and Zabzugu district assemblies for component 2 focused on social accountability. It is a 5 years project which started October 2015 for the active monitoring and participation of citizens in 2 selected capital projects per year of the implementing assemblies. The project breaches the gaps in distance through its E-Platform and also dissemination of information through locally accessible means.

Case study

The first female Senior Prefect

“I got courage from what I learned during the trainings of NORSAAC/Actionaid in our school on the Young Female Parliament program and the meetings that we had at the school level increased my confidence to contest for that position. I am grateful for what NORSAAC/Actionaid did, they gave our mentor some guidelines to train us and that increased the support of our headmaster and teachers for us females to hold key leadership position and I have faced a tough battle as a girl. My assistant who is a boy is yet to accept that I am the leader but other YFP members, our mentor and some of the teachers are supporting me fully and my assistant is gradually realizing the reality of the situation I shall make an example for other schools to follow and for more female Senior Prefects to be recorded in Chereponi after my leadership.”
4. Inclusive-Governance in Sustaining Marginalized Livelihoods

Under this project, NORSAAC partnered with IBIS to work with youth and women groups on climate change issues, accountable governance and pro-poor policies that will position communities to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change on local livelihood. NORSAAC also works with other CSOs as a strategy of empowering communities, women and youth groups.

Case story

New innovations to tackle climate change

John in Tarkpa, from Kumbungu District shared.

I was part of the training on climate change and got scared of how we were slowly killing ourselves. This training is changing people attitude towards positive environmental behaviour. EPA through NORSAAC supported us in educating our community women to construct local stoves with cow dung and clay. Other things we learnt included climate change issues.

5. Women in Governance (WIG) IBIS

In this project, NORSAAC partnered with IBIS Ghana to “ensure women’s active participation in decision making and development process at all levels of society especially in District Level Elections” in Savulegu, Sagnarigu and Kumbungu Districts.

It focused on stakeholders’ support for women’s participation and representation in decision making through sensitizations, lobbying, capacity building and the use of NORWACGG as a role model group for women’s political participation and development. The project built capacities of CSOs working in the area of women and youth participation in the assembly elections through a 40 member CSO platform on Good Governance.

As part of this project, NORSAAC also worked with women’s chiefs to enhance visibility and networking. It was also to grant them space in the regional house of chiefs and traditional council level seats.

NORSAAC visits female chiefs in Cheriponi district
The high table of the Maiden Assembly Women Conference
6. Let the Girls Smile: Say No To Child Marriage (LEGS) Project

This project has the aim to contribute towards the elimination of child marriage practices in thirty communities in two districts (Tolon and Mion) within 30 schools and communities in the Northern region of Ghana. Children against Child Marriage (CCM) clubs concept is one of the strategies used to help campaign against child marriage practices, at both community and school levels. Traditional and religious leaders have been key stakeholders in the project.

Case story

Yawa goes back to school

13 year old Yawa from Sapki Yekazia a Konkonba community in Mion district of the Northern Region was a victim of Exchange marriage, a cultural Practice where families exchange their daughters as a form of dowry settlement. Yawa’s case was discovered by the team when her headmaster chose her as a member of the children against child Marriage club (CCM). He found out she will be sent to her husband’s house when schools were on vacation. NORSAAC in collaboration with Department of Gender and department of community development caught up with her father, Mr Batugma, on a second visit to the community. Mr Batugma is a farmer who has 20 children, 10 girls and 10 boys, Yawa is the 10th born of her parents. One of Yawa’s sisters was married out at 14 when her father found out she was pregnant.

Mr Batugma had this to say “She is my daughter and I betrothed her to a man in an exchange marriage of girls in our culture, she refused the man I gave her to and ran off to another man. I followed up and found out she was in Kpandai, so I requested for her to come home but the man refused to let her come home. I did not want to put the law into my own hands so I involved the assembly man and the police to bring her back home and since then I have not forced her to marry the man again since she wants to be in school. Knowing what the law says about forcing children into marriage, I decided to stop but according to tradition I have to pay the family whatever they request and allow her to go to school since she sees that as her priority”. Yawa “My father took me to my betrothed husbands house five times but I will always run back home to go to school, it was on the fifth return I met a man who promised to take me to Kpandai and put me in school, but my father came and took me back home and put me in school”.

Mr Batugma after further advice from the team promised never to take Yawa to her betrothed husband’s house but allows her to go to school. The team went further to ask if the practice was something the community wanted to continue. Mr Batugma revealed that in some cases girls given out for exchange marriages are maltreated and the community is taking measures and hopefully with support from organisations like NORSAAC will help revise it.
NORSAAC’s livelihood and entrepreneurial development program area seeks to tackle the recent increasing rate of poverty and unemployment rate across the country and in the Northern Region. The programme area is designed to contribute in halving global poverty levels among young people through the provision of sustainable livelihoods opportunities to most especially those out of school. The programme equips young people with effective and efficient entrepreneurial skills to enable them become self-employed and economically stable. The programme provides training on various modules such as bicycle and motor bikes mechanics, phone repairs, hair dressing, beads and dress making as well as a financial literacy and business management training module.

HIGHLIGHTS 2015

✓ 1578 young people sensitized on job gender stereotypes within the Karaga district.

✓ 13 young men graduated in bicycle mechanics and 10 young women beautician and beads making and currently managing their own businesses in their various communities.

✓ 40 young people are currently undergoing skill training such as smock and local cloth weavings, dress making, motorbike repairs, sewing machine repairs e.t.c., with expected graduation dates in 2016 after which they will set up their businesses.

✓ 159 young people businesses have been supported financially for growth and expansion.

✓ 218 young men and women have participated in different session of trainings in financial literacy and resource management.
2015 Projects
1. Sustainable Livelihood Initiative Project (SLIP)

SLIP is a livelihood intervention that seeks to contribute to the creation of self-employment which will improve the economic status of youth and thereby reduce the poverty level in the area. This is a 2 year (2015-2016) project funded by EMpower and implemented in the Karaga district of the Northern Region of Ghana. SLIP is progressively working on 6 modules namely; motorbike repairs, bicycle repairs apprenticeship, sewing machine engineering, financial literacy and business management skill trainings, revolving microcredit scheme and awareness creation on effects of Job gender stereotyping. The financial support provided to young people in the implementing communities have indeed achieved its aim of expanding the business of beneficiaries.

Case story

Mariam Yakubu expands her business

Mariam Yakubu from Nyong community of the Karaga District had this to share; “I can truly confessed that in the year 2015 am highly blessed as I now have alternative source of income. I am a dress maker who was only focusing on the job in making end means. I never thought of adding value to my work until I was fortunate to be part of a training organized in Karaga on financial literacy. We were taught a lot of things we did not know. After the training, I decided to enroll myself in the loan scheme to expand my businesses. I got some basic materials used in sewing at my shop for sale. I used to tell customers to go and buy whatever materials needed for their work. Now I realize that I was losing greatly as I now gain double my income from each work I do. Indeed the intervention is so beneficial.”
2. Livelihood Support Initiative

Livelihood Support Initiative has been a complementary project with livelihoods opportunities for the Young Urban Women (YUW) as a strategy of synergy among projects. The project seeks to focus on empowerment of young women through knowledge enhancement and linkages to livelihood opportunities. Five module skill trainings - beads making, dress making, hair dressing, local cloth, and smock weaving and financial literacy were strategies used.

Case story
I can now send my children to school

Alhassan Sabratu, 23, is a young mother of 2 children and a native of Kpanvo community. She had this to share about the financial support package the programme offered her. “I am a mother with no skills to support me and my children. I used to sell cooking ingredients worth twenty Ghana cedis (GHC 20.00), because I used the proceeds for household needs, it was difficult for the business to grow. I was not able to enroll my first born in school since we could barely feed ourselves not to talk of sparing money for education. It was a prayer answered when I was selected for the financial support. The financial support and knowledge gained from financial management training have helped my business to grow, and am saving funds to give my children the best education that I was denied. I will also be able to take care of my family including my parents.”

Case story
Samata’s hope

Samata Ibrahim, 18 years. “As a young woman growing up in a rural-urban setting, there was no one I could look up to as a role model. I couldn’t further my education or enroll in any skill training after my BCCE exams because my father said he wouldn’t waste his resources on me. Idling
about was the best I could do till this lifetime opportunity emerged. As a member of the Young Urban Women project in Nalung, I was lucky to be selected and trained in bead making. To be honest I thought it was not going to be worth my time and effort till the day I was able to design my own style of bead. It was amazing and since then I have been determined to put in all my best so I can establish my own shop to better my life, my family, and community with a sustainable livelihood. My future is clearer now due to this support in beads making where I am excelling. Even before my graduation, I have made some money out of the skills acquired through the beautiful hand works of mine. Friends, family, and customers now even place orders of different kinds which is progressively growing my business.”

YUW smock sewers in training
YUW Bead makers in training
Donors
Financial summary

INCOME

Income for 2015 totaled GHS 3,213,797.16 being contributions from 10 partners. Compared to 2014, the total income in 2015 saw a thirty per cent increase, with ninety percent of our partners from 2014 increasing their contributions by an average of 52%. The table below discloses income contribution from our partners in 2014 and 2015.

*Table 1 Income contribution from NORSAAC Partners - 2014 and 2015*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Name of Partner</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AAG</td>
<td>105,590.61</td>
<td>128,274.50</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NORAD</td>
<td>950,987.02</td>
<td>523,620.78</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>AXIS</td>
<td>568,984.53</td>
<td>315,690.57</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>RFSU</td>
<td>288,399.44</td>
<td>287,287.94</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SIMAVI</td>
<td>190,762.01</td>
<td>154,643.00</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IBIS</td>
<td>239,244.93</td>
<td>162,403.00</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>298,004.32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>IPAS</td>
<td>95,723.81</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Empower</td>
<td>153,801.75</td>
<td>148,990.00</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NORSAAC maintained and got contributions from all its partnerships from 2014 in 2015, except Star Ghana as shown in Table 1. NORSAAC completed all its projects with Star Ghana in 2014. Apart from AAG, whose contribution decreased by 18%, all the other partners increased their contributions. This year, NORAD and AXIS donations to NORSAAC increased by over 80% compared to 2014, Other grants by 73%, IBIS and SIMVI by 47 and 23 per cent respectively, and Empower by three per cent. The chart below is a graphical representation of partners’ contributions in 2015 and 2014.

**Chart 1: Graph of partner’s contributions to NORSAAC in 2014 and 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Star Ghana Gov</td>
<td>142,555.64</td>
<td>-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Star Ghana Health</td>
<td>306,268.16</td>
<td>-100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Star Ghana Special</td>
<td>160,250.00</td>
<td>-100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Donation Other Grants</td>
<td>322,298.74</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>186,750.00</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,213,797.16</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,516,733.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*28% increase*
This year, only two partners contributed at least ten percent of NORSAAC’s income compared to four partners (NORAD, AXIS, Star Ghana health, RSFU) in 2014. NORAD and AXIS remain the largest contributors to NORSAAC, contributing almost fifty percent of 2015’s income (30% and 18% respectively). These two partners increased their contributions compared to 2014 where they also represented the largest donors, jointly contributing 33% of NORSAAC 2014’s income. All the other partners maintained a relatively closed contribution share in 2015 and 2014. Charts 2 and 3 show the percentage share of partners’ contribution to our total income in 2014 and 2015.
Chart 2: Income contribution by partners in 2015

2015 Income

- Donation Other Grants 10%
- Empower 5%
- IPAS 3%
- UNICEF 9%
- IBIS 7%
- SIMAVI 6%
- RFSU 9%
- AXIS 18%
- AAG 3%
- NORAD 30%

Chart 3: Income contribution by partners in 2014

2014 Income

- Donation Other Grants 6%
- Star Ghana Special 7%
- Star Ghana Health 12%
- Star Ghana Gov 6%
- Empower 6%
- IBIS 7%
- SIMAVI 6%
- RFSU 11%
- AAG 5%
- NORAD 21%
- AXIS 13%
Chart 4 represents the distribution of income to the various programme areas and administration. The distribution represents an indication of the amount of grant each programme area receives. Most of the income, 44%, was for the Gender and Governance programme area, this is in line with NORSAAC’s mandate to empower women, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights area received, 28%, and the Livelihood and Entrepreneurial skill development received 23% of the funding.

*Chart 4: Income distribution in 2015*