



**CROSSROADS
INTERNATIONAL**



Global Affairs
Canada

IMPACT INSIDER 2022



Dear friend of Crossroads,

2021-2022 was a remarkable year for Crossroads International. Despite the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic having a devastating impact on our work, together with local partners, we were able to work on the front lines, advancing gender equality for marginalized women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa and their communities. The past year was a challenge, but we were blown away by the response of our donors, corporate and foundation partners, volunteers, and partner organisations whose incredibly generous and positive response helped us rise to the challenge.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Crossroads International had a record-breaking year, raising the highest amount in philanthropic funds totalling \$1.3 million in donations. Here is a snapshot of what your donations have done.

FEATURED PROGRAMS



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



**ENDING GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE**

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ELDERLY WOMEN IN GHANA

Action against Gender-Based Violence in Ghana for Elderly Women Alleged to be Witches

In Ghana, deep-seated patriarchal systems coupled with socio-cultural and religious practices has led to high rates of gender-based violence (GBV), which affects the rights and development of women and girls. GBV occurs in various forms, including physical, economic, psychological, social, and sexual. As of August 2020, 31.9% of Ghanaian women have faced at least one form of domestic violence.

A quiet, but widespread and prevalent act of GBV in Ghana is the abuse of elderly women who are suspected witches. This harmful cultural practice is perpetrated mostly in Northern, North-East and Savannah Regions of the country. Women are accused of witchcraft to explain the misfortunes that happen in their family and society. They are often subject to verbal and physical assault, discrimination, stigmatization, disinheritance, isolation and threats to their lives. Suspected witches are banished from their homes and communities, accompanied by their children or grandchildren.



"My husband is paralyzed. One day my father-in-law said I bewitched my son's wife and children by turning them into bees in the hole of a tree. When he said I was a witch, I just picked up my cloak and left." said Asana Tongo from Kukigbeni.

A refuge for these women is found in "witch-camps". Without these camps, women could be lynched or die of hunger. The camp and the chief priest guarantee the safety of these alleged witches, but children in these camps have no opportunity for education. The emergence of COVID-19 also had devastating effects on women attending the refuge camps.

There are four witch camps; Gambaga, Kukuo, Nyani and Kpatinga located in the East Mamprusi, Nankumbura South, Yendi and Gushiegu. Our Access to Justice project was implemented in two municipalities; East Mamprusi and Yendi.

Thanks to support from our committed donors, Crossroads International was able to partner with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) on this project. This included a study that helped government agencies and Civil Society Organisations operating in the GBV space. A total of 300 elderly women and 8,825 community members were included in the study, which addressed the issues around discrimination and helped educate participants on community behaviour techniques to ensure definite and long-lasting changes beyond the project. It highlighted how current justice systems operate and enabled these participants to have access to them. The project also raised awareness on COVID-19 prevention in addition to anti-stigma and anti-discrimination of COVID-19 victims.

YOUR IMPACT

\$12,000

Launches one online platform for survivors of violence and equips 6 counselling centres in Togo with PPE.



\$13,000

Provides a community in Ghana with running water and trains 120 members to produce and sell liquid soap.



\$46,000

Supports 435 women farmers and their families with food kits and funding to mitigate the impact of COVID-19



STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF GRASSROOTS WOMEN LEADERS IN TANZANIA

Violence Against Women Remains the Primary Barrier to Violations of Human Rights and Gender Equality.

In Tanzania, 40% of women have experienced physical violence, 22% of whom are young girls aged 15-19. Out of these, 35% underwent female genital mutilation (FGM) before the age of one, according to United Nations Population Fund in Tanzania. There is urgency to take action, and the impact we are having in reducing gender-based violence (GBV) is a direct result of your dedication to our mission.



Our partner, Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) focuses on strengthening capacities of grassroots women leaders to end GBV. Their mission in the districts of Morogoro in Kiroka and Kibuku, is to facilitate the transformative feminist movement through gender responsive actions to empower women in their communities in the areas of agriculture, water, health, education and extractive industries, and to attain equitable resource allocation and sustainable livelihoods.

With your support, we collaborated with TGNP on a project aimed at increasing women's voices and ending GBV by facilitating an understanding of the importance of a collective voice. The project also advocates for the elimination of violence against women and especially against FGM of young girls.

This program strengthened the capacity of grassroots women leaders to influence and ensure inclusion of concerns of women, girls, and other marginalized groups in the development processes. After the completion of the program, there was a reduction in incidents of GBV because of capacity building of grassroots leaders in their communities. Also, with this new knowledge, the goal of enhancing capacity of grassroots women leaders to advocate for inclusion for women and marginalized groups was achieved.

"One of my biggest achievements so far is being able to stop the forced marriage of my daughter after form 4 and have since found her a job at a local nursery school in town where she can hopefully learn the skills and later pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher. I look forward to participating in more trainings and hope more young people can receive them so that the mindsets of the current community changes. We are also helping the future generation by preventing them from going through similarly harsh experiences and giving them the knowledge and skills to do the same for others so they hopefully will have a better and more just society", said Ms. Mary Isaac Jonah, a beneficiary of the program.

Other key interventions included development and implementation of mentorship programs facilitated by women leaders to organize public awareness campaigns on transforming negative social norms, traditions, perceptions that hinder women's voices and participation in decision making processes.

This program reached 60 women leaders through different workshops; gender responsive budgeting, capacity training and organized leadership and mentorship training. Thanks to our incredible donors, these women and girls not only saw a reduction in GBV, but also witnessed positive behavioural and economic impacts in the community.

ENDING SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE THROUGH GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT AND BOYS FOR CHANGE CLUBS

Girls' Empowerment and Boys for Change Clubs in Ghana expand their work across the country.



Global estimates say that about 1 out of 3 women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, these numbers have continued to rise in Ghana as we witnessed the correlation between the pandemic, gender inequalities, and vulnerabilities.

The gendered impacts of COVID-19 school closures caused a lot of girls to drop out of school, putting them at a substantial risk of gender-based violence (GBV). Adolescent girls are at highest risk of experiencing sexual violence and the risks range from sex trafficking, forced early marriages, unwanted pregnancies, and female genital mutilation (FGM). In the 2020-2027 Volunteer Cooperation Program, Crossroads is continuing to work with our local partner, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) Ghana to reduce violence against women and girls. Youth participating in the empowerment clubs will learn to advocate for themselves in their families and communities using leadership skills. Project results indicate that empowered boys and girls gain confidence and later become agents for change by challenging oppressive norms in their community.

After the re-opening of schools in 2021, Girls' Empowerment Program and Boys for Change Clubs re-started their activities in three targeted regions of Ghana; Central, Greater Accra and Volta Regions. Innovative activities were used to ensure that the girls lived a life free from all forms of gender-based violence.

HOW TO WRITE A WILL FOR FREE

Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can support Crossroads International. It costs nothing during your lifetime but will have powerful impact for future generations.

Any gift, large or small, will help our shared work to advance gender equality and empower marginalized women, girls and entire communities.



Crossroads has partnered with Willfora to provide you with an opportunity to write or update your last Will and testament for FREE. You can create a legal Will in less than 20-minutes and your documents can be updated at no additional cost to you. Visit the legacies page by scanning the QR code or contact Wanjiro Ndungu at wanjiro@cintl.org for a confidential conversation about free Will-writing and legacy gifts.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GENDER-EQUALITY CHAMPION

Gender-equality champions are special supporters like you – committed people from our community who have joined Crossroads International's movement to advance gender equality. We are immensely grateful to all of you who are working with Crossroads International to protect and empower marginalized women and girls. We couldn't do it without you!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



**ON OCT 6TH, JOIN US FOR
BREAKFAST AT THE CARLU**

Please email cmahuran@cintl.org for details.