ANNUAL REPORT - 2010

OUR Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives

VISION
a just society that is based on equity with equal opportunity for all and respect for diversity of life.

MISSION
working with all members of local communities including men, women, children and development partners to improve the quality of life of the vulnerable, especially women, children and the disable by strengthening local structures to take action to promote and ensure fairness.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
The 2010-2013 strategic plan groups our programmes into four broad thematic objectives;
Reducing child exploitation
Promoting basic education
Improving livelihood options
Promoting natural resource management and environmental sustainability

STRATEGIES
RAINS reviewed its strategy in 2009 with a new strategic plan spinning from 2010-2013. The new strategy puts emphasis on the following;
Mobilizing communities for action.
Building partnership with both state and non-state actors to empower and advocate for improved quality of life of local communities.
Building capacity of our staff to deliver more efficiently

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

The tragic incident on the 28th of November 2010 still grieves my mind as I write this message. This incident claimed the lives of one of our finest, intelligent, dedicated and hardworking young man (Mr. Adam Abdulai) and a volunteer (Mr Baba Awudu) who were from a field mission on developmental intervention in one of the poorest communities (Kpachelo) in the Savelugu/Nanton district. As we still miss and mourn their death, we only take consolation in the fact that; they died from a journey of a good cause- a cause that all humanity including religious and non religious minded people has embraced. That is working to promote the welfare of the poor among us. We will
therefore endeavor to continue the good work they were doing while we also pray for a smooth and pleasant journey for them. May their souls rest in perfect peace.

The year 2010 saw the rapid implementation of programmes and initiatives in line with our three year strategic plan (2010-2013) which was reviewed in 2009 to reflect the shift in focus from the welfares approach to a more advocacy and right based approaches and a much more community driven and child centered programmes. We strengthened our relationship with local government authorities in the design and implementation of our programmes so as to allow for sustainability of our interventions. Our work on capacity building of local communities started yielding dividends, as the CSTs in Nanton/Kurugu was able to expose a human trafficking case involving young girls from the community and other nearby communities which has now taken a national character. It is currently being pursued by the state to ensure that, the perpetrators are brought to justice. 40 kayaye returnees most of whom were brought back through the efforts of the CSTs also successfully graduated from the Vocational training on dressmaking from the Mandela development Center and were supported to set up their own shops in order to generate income and to take on their own apprentices. Our work on child rights and protection expanded as we rolled out plans on capacity building of the children to build their confidence and exposure. We have also continued with advocacy on health and environmental issues as well as the support for women to promote their economic agency which will have ripple effects on their children.

In 2010 also, RAINS initiated a programme (Youth in Microfinance) to empower young women economically to be able to support the provision of their basic needs especially their educational needs through micro-credit and capacity building support.

We have been able to accomplish all these, though not without challenges through the efforts, sacrifices, hard work, dedication and commitments of the Board of Trustees, our staff and partners not mention our volunteers. I will like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues on the board for the selfless services they rendered in the cause of this. Our dedicated staff and volunteers deserve a huge commendation especially the out gone executive director and our departed colleagues for working tirelessly through out the year amidst several challenges, I doff off my hat for them.

I will at this point like to express our profound gratitude to our donors, partners, supporters and well-wishers for making it possible
for us to extend our support to several rural communities and vulnerable people. In connection with this, may I mention Comic Relief UK, Hope for Children Uk, Canadian Feed the children (CFTC), Population Council of US, Tzedek, the African Biodiversity Network (ABN), Goal Ghana, the District Assemblies (Savelugu/Nanton, West Mamprusi and West Gonja) and the Yendi Municipal Assembly, the Ghana Education Service, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Children, the Department of Women, the Police Service, the Press, the Borimanga Rural Bank and the Gbangmarigu Community Bank for their unflinching support throughout the year in so many important ways. We are indeed very appreciative of that, and we looking forward to a lot more of that in the coming years.

I now invite your feedback, comments and suggestions as you read this review. Thank you very much and may the almighty richly bless you.

Naa Tia Sulemana

What we did in 2010............

Child Rights and Child Protection

Children Lead The Way:
Even though the first phase of the NGP ended in 2010, more children joined the Community Child Clubs (CCCs). These children have benefited from training and mentoring in the areas of child rights, child participation, reproductive health training, games and recreation. It is also providing a platform for children to actively engaged, participate and advocate for themselves within their communities.

The impact of the CCCs is reflecting since the CCCs in some communities are beginning to hold dialogue sessions with elected Assembly people essentially touching on issues that affect children.

Campaigns for child rights
The CSTs and animators have also sensitized communities on the needs and rights of children. These have all contributed to a rising level of consciousness on the rights of children and the need to abandon the model that only see children as people only worthy of receiving instructions and orders. This is remarkable in traditional
communities that are normally conservative and slow in responding to new ideas.

20 communities have been sensitized on the ills of child exploitation and kayaye and the need to protect children. CSTs are at the forefront of sensitising communities on child welfare and related issues. They have efficiently used local conflict resolution mechanisms to resolve issues that had the tendency to negatively affect children. In the communities they have helped in bringing back girls who have migrated to the cities. They have helped in monitoring the progress of children, and have stopped a number of trafficking cases from happening.

In 2010, RAINS held a number of regional level workshops drawing together law enforcement agencies, the press, traditional authorities, Ghana Private Road Transport Union, National Commission for Civic Education and other agencies. The purpose of these workshops was to ensure a concerted approach from all stakeholders and to create room for effective collaboration in the promotion and protection of child rights.

The media (electronic and print media) have been actively engaged to reach out to larger audience on child right and to increased interest and awareness in communities about these issues. We have used strategies such as radio jingles, newspaper publications, TV documentaries and TV coverage.

**Educational Development:**
The MDGs recognizes that Human resource development has a huge potential toward poverty reduction, this is critical in northern part of Ghana where poverty levels are so high. In an effort to develop the human resource through education; the government of Ghana developed the Education for All of Ghana’s children of school going age by 2015. Unfortunately, 40% of schools going age children of Ghana are still left out. This can be attributed to factors including poor infrastructure, lack or inadequate furniture for school children, lack of
qualified teachers and inadequate teaching and learning materials (TLMs).

School Infrastructure
In view of this, RAINS carried out a number of interventions in 2010 to contribute its quota towards educational development by extending educational opportunities to young children. Below are some of the interventions;

RAINS in collaboration with CFTC provided 100 dual desk furniture to the Bidima and Kpachelo primary; this has thus provided a comfortable environment for effective teaching and learning in the school. It has also relieved the burden of parents having to provide stools for their wards to send to schools. It also reduced the tendency of overcrowding as a result of pupils seated on the bare floor of their classrooms to observe lessons. Teachers have been afforded the comfort of moving around freely in the classroom during teaching.

RAINS/CTFC supported the PTA/SMC to clad a three unit classroom block for the Al-Zakaria Primary School at Sang in the Yendi Municipality of the Northern region. This is to ensure that there is comfortable classroom environment for effective teaching and learning especially during the rainy season.

In addition, RAINS/CTFC supported the Kpachelo primary school's PTA/SMC to renovate a three unit classroom block that was provided by the government of Ghana but became uninhabitable due to wide cracks on the walls.

Facilitate Teaching and Learning in deprived schools
In order to ensure that effective teaching and learning is conducted in the classrooms, RAINS provided teaching and learning materials such as textbooks, slates, drawing books, my first copy books, human systems charts, teachers note books, pens and permanent makers to all our beneficiary school(Zosali, Kpachelo, Bidima and Sang). RAINS hopes the availability of these TLMs will enhance regular attendance of pupils in school, given that adequate materials are available for their effective learning. Also, the availability of these materials will attract out-of-school children of school-going age into the school, thus enhancing enrolment in these schools. Again, enhancing effective and quality teaching and learning will improve retention and progression of pupils in schools.

RAINS supported beneficiary schools with sporting equipment which included a set of jerseys for each school and two footballs each. This aims to inculcate the spirit of regular exercises for healthy living; it
also intends to promote the spirit of teamwork and peace building among school children.

1,600 children were supported to stay in school in 20 community schools in the Savelugu/Nanton and West Mamprusi Districts of the Northern Region. These children have received uniforms, shoes and teaching and learning materials to facilitate and promote school attendance and retention. They are also receiving ongoing support and counseling from a network of animators, facilitators and school counselors. Many of these children are fostered girls and other children from deprived backgrounds. This intervention helped prevent them from migrating to urban area and from entering the labour force at an early age.

Enhancing Livelihoods:
Poverty and unemployment are two of the major global challenges facing mankind today. It is estimated that the number of unemployed worldwide reaches nearly 192 million people and underemployment remains pervasive.

In the northern region the combined effects of poverty, unemployment and dwindling livelihood opportunities in rural areas is pervasive. This is pushing the youth to migrate to the urban areas and southern part of Ghana in search of non-existent job in a phenomenon commonly known as ‘Kayaye’. The results of this are that these vibrant youth take into crime, drugs and prostitution.

RAINS continues to be committed and dedicated to alleviating the plight of these young men and women. Majority of young girls who had either migrated or at risk of migrating to cities in search of greener pastures had a better alternative and a better reason not to.

Vocational skill: vehicle to enhanced livelihood
RAINS with support from Comic Relief and Hope for Children continues to provide vocational and life skill training to 44 kayaye returnees to provide them with the view to enhance their livelihood options.

They have also been trained in business management, reproductive health
and life skills planning. These girls also benefit from ongoing counselling and coaching from resource people in communities. This is helping in reducing the risks of exploitation and abuse normally visited upon these girls. We have also learnt that teaching basic literacy to these girls will also help improve their status and esteem in communities.

Also, they have been supported to develop business plans for purposes of starting their own businesses.

**Micro-credit Support: Macro -Impacts**

Access to credit in this part of the country is not easy especially by women who usually cannot provide collateral security. The only opportunity usually available to these women is micro-credit for self help groups.

In the year under review, RAINS has intensified its activities to include more women and rural folks who continue to benefit from microcredit support. Starting from a loan size of 100 Ghana Cedis per a member, some have now graduated to a higher amount of 150 Ghana Cedis. This has made it possible for them to expand their businesses. They undertake a variety of micro enterprises including farming, rice processing, grain banking, shea-butter processing etc.

They have also been supported to develop partnerships with business service providers including the Rural Enterprises Project and the Business Advisory Centre. These partnerships are translating into benefits that include enhanced training and skills acquisition. These women have increased their incomes from the businesses they run. They are also now able to support the education of their children, reducing the risks of migration and child exploitation. It has also helped in transforming power relations in the community and at the household levels as many women report their husbands now consult them regularly.

“I traded in rice seasonally before accessing the 100 Ghana Cedis from RAINS NGP and, even then, I could only afford 10 bowls of rice, I can now afford 50 bowls of rice and I trade year long. As a consequence I can now afford to meet school contributions and even give my children some pocket money” – member Kpamanga Group, Tarikpaa.
Lebgimsim So Pala - New pathways for Development

The Lebgimsim So Pala (LSP) seeks to enhance financial literacy and access to credit for young women and girls, most of whom are seen across Africa selling and buying small quantities of merchandise as a means to contributing to the family income and livelihood options. They mostly engage in trading activities after school, others are forced to do this because their parents and guardians cannot afford to send them to school. This initiative therefore presents an opportunity to provide them with the relevant skills and resources to sustain their activities, while at the same time developing their leadership capacity so they can assert their rights to education.

In 2010, about 150 young girls organised in 15 Small Help Groups (SHGs) were supported with microcredit of GHc60 to enhance their merchandise. These 15 groups are located in suburbs of Tamale including Gumani, Sakasaka, Kanvili, Jisonayili and also in the Savelugu and West Mamprusi districts.

"Before I benefitted from this microcredit support, getting money to purchase basic educational needs such as pen, eraser etc was difficult because my parent cannot afford, but with the microcredit support, I don’t have to ask my parent for money, now I can even afford to buy food in school". Asana Napari-Tarikpaa.

FOOD SECURITY

School Garden

In 2010, RAINS revised the concept of school gardens in Ghanaian schools. This was piloted in 2 schools at Bidima and Kpachelo primary schools. Each of the schools was supported to plough an acre of land for cultivation of a staple food and vegetables. The schools were supported with maize and a variety of vegetable seeds for cultivation.

This initiative is expected to enhance the nutritional status of children in schools. It would also increase food availability to support noble programmes such as the school feeding programme currently piloted at the Kpachelo primary school.

Women in Agriculture

In order to enhance food security, RAINS supported three women groups with a total of 120 women in Bidima, Kpachelo and Zoosali to engage in farming activities, the women were supported with ploughing services and input supplies.
The farmers agreed to secure indigenous seeds in their locale for planting. This is aimed at promoting the Climate Seed and Knowledge (CSK) intervention of recouping lost traditional customs and farming practices. It is the hope that this intervention will help enhance food security to further enhance the welfare of children and women particularly during the lean seasons.

_I will not have to look up to my husband for everything that I need, with this support, I know the education and other welfare needs of my children are secured_, Mariama Mahama-a woman farmer at Bidima

A series of capacity building workshops on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), post harvest management and group dynamics were organized for the women farmers. The training on good agricultural practices and post harvest management was aimed at increasing farm yields and effectively storing their produce in order to maximize the stock of their produce. Food security in these communities is expected to be enhanced as well as income levels of farmers who will sell part of their produce to meet the school going cost of their children.

Promoting group dynamics is a means of ensuring group cohesiveness and leadership skills

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**ENVIRONMENT**

The fragile natural resource base of Northern Ghana in the past decades has been exacerbated by the increasing spate of man-made activities that cause extensive damage to the environment and indeed the entire ecological system. These include urbanisation, fuel wood, charcoal production, and bush burning.

In an attempt to halt, protect and reverse the destruction done to the environment, RAINS undertook a series of activities in 2010. Below are some of the activities:

In collaboration with CTFC we organised awareness raising campaigns in all projects communities in order to increase knowledge on the looming effects of climate change and how human related activities has contributed to that. School environmental clubs has been formed and strengthened in all our project communities (Bidima, Kpachelo, Sang, and Zosali). This is to raise their awareness on the need to protect the environment and instil environmental protection discipline in them as the future leaders of this country.
RAINS also supported schools to plant trees on the school compounds. The schools allocated land for this exercise and the planting was effectively done through the support of the Community Environmental Clubs. About 218 trees were planted in all beneficiary schools (Bidima, Kpachelo, and Zoosali). Each member of the environmental club will be solely responsible for its maintenance, but overall supervision of the trees will be undertaken by the SMCs/PTAs of the schools. The type of trees for the exercise was carefully chosen by communities in order to ensure both environmental and economic benefits. In this regard, communities chose Mango, Guava and Moringa which could all serve both economic and environmental protection benefits.

In addition, RAINS organized a workshop at Zoosali to build community resilience and strengthen their capacity to confront the challenges of climate change, as well as improve food security through the adoption of indigenous knowledge and skills. The workshop drew participants from beneficiary communities, District Agric Extension offices, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Civil Society

Bush burning is one of the challenging 'man versus environment' conflicts in Ghana; bushfires have exacted a heavy toll of death and unquantifiable suffering on people and animals and have adversely affected the environment. It is in the light of this, that RAINS organised anti-bushfire training for all 4 beneficiary communities to sensitise community members to reduce to the barest minimum bush burning and to equip them with requisite skills for bushfire prevention and control in their respective communities.

**SANITATION**

Every year people, mostly children die from diseases associated with sanitation and hygiene. Health facilities are filled with people suffering from sanitation related diseases. Many diseases are spread from
person to person by germs. Many of these can be prevented only if people change their personal habits, or behaviours with respect to sanitation.

It is in the light of this that RAINS is implementing the "Integrated Community Initiatives to enhance the Welfare of Children and Women" a project to support communities improve their sanitation and hygiene situations.

In 2010 the following activities were carried out with regards to sanitation;

**Sensitizing and Conscientizing Communities**
Sensitisation workshops were organized in four project communities including Zosali, Kpachelo, Bidima, and Sang. The essence of this workshop was to highlight sanitation and other related environmental issues. Participants were exposed to some of the filths and other sanitation problems in their communities. They were introduced to some of the skills and strategies they could adopt in order to ensure sanitation in their households and communities. This is done to enhance the health status of the communities particularly children. In this direction communities started organizing regular periodic clean-up exercises.

At the household level, the residents were supported to clean their households and its surroundings, distil their gutters and other solid waste in the households. At the community level, residents organised themselves to sweep and distil other solid and liquid waste in the community. They also organized ongoing clean up exercises at key common properties such as Health Centres, community Markets and community Schools.

**Effective solid and Liquid Waste Management**
In addition, to support communities and households to effectively manage sanitation-related problems, RAINS piloted household waste management in 3 selected communities, Bidima, Kpachelo and Zoosali where 7 households were selected in each community to pilot effective liquid and solid waste management exercise

RAINS piloted liquid waste management exercise where dug-out pits are constructed in 21 homes (at the back of these homes) in order to channel home liquid waste into the pit. Through this, residents in these homes, particularly children, are not exposed to liquid waste which often breed mosquito, thus causing malaria and other diseases. 140 households were supported to pilot solid waste management exercise. They were provided households with solid-waste dustbin
facilities where households' solid waste can be emptied. In addition, RAINS constructed big pits in these communities where the households' solid waste can be subsequently emptied. It is hoped that the pilot programme will be effectively managed by the participating households, so that the exercise can be scaled-up to all households in the communities.

Sustaining Effective Sanitation in Communities

After several dialogue and deliberation with community members, opinion leaders, women groups, traditional authorities and the youth on the way forward regarding effective and sustainable sanitation in communities, it was agreed that there is the need to have community sanitation committees in place to see to the general sanitation situations for healthy living. A five-member sanitation committees have been formed in each of the 4 communities, these committees will ensure that regular community clean-up campaigns are organised, ensure effective use of dustbins for a clean environment, ensure safe and clean surroundings to curb diseases.

ADOLESCENT GIRL PROGRAMME

The period of adolescent is a very critical period in the development of the girl child. During this period, she is faced with varied changes in her life. This is in addition to numerous socio-economic challenges encountered by societies. In the midst of challenges of daily struggles over limited resources like water, food, land or jobs, many adolescent girls systematically face discrimination simply by virtue of being female. This includes physical and sexual violence, denial of the right to education, disproportionate vulnerability to HIV infection and lack of access to property and other rights.

RAINS is committed to empowering the youth especially the female youth to deal with challenges affecting their lives for the holistic development of themselves and their communities. In 2010, we piloted a project dubbed 'Securing the rights of Fostered Girls through Protection and Education'. This project is being implemented in 2 communities (Sayoo and Walewale) in the West Mamprusi District of the Northern Region.

SPORT A MEANS TO SOCIAL CHANGE

The most effective way to achieve raised levels of involvement in sports and active recreation is to attract people at an early age and to retain them by creating appropriate, sustainable, and personally fulfilling opportunities. In recognition of this, RAINS and Goal Ghana have been implementing the Dema Min lebgimsim (Transformation
through Sports) Project for the past 3 years. The project uses sports to reach out to young people in rural communities.

It is mobilizing rural communities, and young people (boys and girls) in a manner that opens the frontiers to inclusive development. It also recognizes the power of soccer and recreation to the overall development of young people and is helping to unearth talents in rural communities in Northern Ghana. Again, it considers sports as a means to build a strong character and confidence and therefore prepare the youth to be in a better position to meet the challenges in a competitive world. Through this, the youth are educated on HIV/AIDs and other health related issues.

**STORIES OF CHANGE**

**SANG:**

We had serious problems particularly with our school and its infrastructure, we consulted RAINS to come to our aid and RAINS heard of our plight and included our community into their plan. They put up a 3 unit classroom block for our school and provided us with TLMs, set of jerseys, facilitated the formation of Community Child Clubs (CCCs) to enhance performance and enrolment in our school.

Since the intervention of RAINS, school enrolment has increased. In 2009 for instance, the total enrolment figure was 260 but since RAINS intervention, we have had a progressive improvement in school enrolment. In 2010, after this intervention, our enrolment almost doubled from an intial figure of 260 pupils in 2009 to 400 pupils. With the provision of TLMs, the performance of pupils has improved significantly. For instance out 100 pupils 45 can now read very well as compared to previous years where we could only boast of 10 out of 100 pupils who could read very well.

**Women farmers:**

“AT first it was difficult for me to get a bag of groundnut whenever I cultivated it, but ever since RAINS provided us with some training and financial support, I have been able to acquire some fertilizers and other farm inputs to aid me, this year, I had one and a half bag, to me that's a massive improvement. I hope to increase this number of bags next year (Zapoga-Bidima)”
“I must say that, RAINS intervention in our community is a God sent one. It helped raised my income level which made me to take good care of my children in solving their socio-economic needs’

I reserved some of my harvest for next year’s planting. I had 3 big bags of groundnuts and am aiming higher next year”. Rashida Dawuda- Kpachelo

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION
In 2010 grants and donations from partners amounted to GHC 437,263.00. A total of GHC357, 910.00 representing 82% of the expenditure went into direct programme spending, while management and administration including fund raising accounted for GHC79, 353.00 representing 18%. These figures are extracted from the 2010 audited accounts. The full statutory accounts have been filed with the regulatory agencies

11.0 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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