ACAiD

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CELEBRATING GROWTH, INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE



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ABOUT ACAID



Healthy Youth. Sustainable Future. Empowered Communities.

To develop holistic programs that support youth well-being.

Commitment: Rooted in God's Word and dedicated to serving humanity with compassion and purpose.

Team Spirit: Collaborating as a unified family to drive mutual professional and personal growth.

Integrity: Building trust through honesty, transparency, and respect for privacy in all our engagements.

Transformation: Empowering individuals and communities through knowledge, resources, and sustainable support.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tina Dzikunu - Executive Director

As we conclude the 2025 fiscal year, it is with great pride that Apex Community Aid (ACAiD) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to accountability, transparency, and excellence in service delivery to all stakeholders. On behalf of the organization, I extend our profound appreciation to our Board of Directors, whose strategic vision, exemplary governance, and steadfast support continue to guide our management decisions and ensure the effective implementation of our core programs.

Throughout 2025, ACAiD has made significant advances in strengthening institutional systems for transparency, organizational learning, and impact measurement. We have deliberately enhanced our participatory approaches to ensure that program design, implementation, and evaluation consistently reflect the voices, priorities, and aspirations of the communities we serve. This commitment to community-led development remains the cornerstone of our operational philosophy and the foundation of our sustained impact.

Our programmatic footprint has expanded meaningfully across diverse settings -from the dynamic educational institutions in Tema, Sawla, and Cape coast to grassroots community engagements in Ada, Afram Plains, Ejisu and Sunyani. Each intervention represents not merely geographic reach, but deeper commitment to fostering sustainable transformation through locally-driven solutions.

The year 2025 has been characterized by notable organizational growth, programmatic innovation, and demonstrated resilience in navigating an increasingly complex development landscape. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the trust of our partners, the generosity of our donors, and above all, the active participation of the communities who remain at the heart of everything we do.

As we transition into 2026 – a milestone year marking our 10th anniversary – ACAiD remains resolutely committed to scaling evidence-informed interventions, deepening stakeholder partnerships, and positioning the organization as a national leader in youth-focused sustainable development. We look forward to continuing this transformative journey together.

With sincere gratitude and renewed commitment.

2025 AT A GLANCE

Impact by Numbers

15,551
caregivers engaged in health education and empowerment interventions.

16,598
adolescents reached through comprehensive youth development programs.

78
communities actively participating in ACAiD initiatives

14
new communities added in the Sawla-Tuna -Kalba District.

8
capacity-building workshops on Adolescent Sexual reproductive Health (ASRH).

22+
Development of **22** ASRH resource books

567
people at the "My Status My Health" festival in Tema West.

Program Areas

Our work in 2025 focused on four strategic pillars:

1. Health and wellness
2. Education, Youth Mentorship and Capacity Building
3. Livelihood Empowerment
4. Climate Change and Resilience

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Community member donating blood at the "My Status, My Health" health festival.

True Love Waits:
Adolescent Sexual Health Education

The True Love Waits program continued to transform lives across 63 communities in 6 Regions of Ghana. These include Greater Accra (14 communities in Ada), Eastern Region (7 communities in Afram-plains), Brong Ahafo Region (14 communities in Sunyani) Central Region (14 communities in Cape Coast), Ashanti Region (14 communities in Ejisu) and Northern Region (14 communities in Sawla). This dynamic initiative empowers adolescents to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health through evidence-based education, peer mentorship, and community engagement.

Key Achievements:

- 15, 551 caregivers actively engaged in dialogues about adolescent health.
- 16, 598 adolescents participated in interactive workshops and peer education sessions.
- Expanded reach to 14 new communities in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District
- Improved caregivers-adolescent communication on sensitive health topics
- Reduced stigma and misinformation around sexuality and reproductive health.

ASRH SYMPOSIUM WITH THE TAKORADI CLUSTER



Partners and participants at the Takoradi Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Symposium.



Participants practise sensitive ASRHcommunicatio through an interactive role-play exercise.



Participants asking questions on drug abuse at the Ejisu True Love Waits Peer Educators training



Participants hold certificates awarded for excellence at Ejisu True Love Waits Launch

Community Voices

Growing up in a family of eleven with limited access to information, discussing sexuality was strictly taboo. I remember how difficult it was to navigate my first menstruation alone, without anyone to talk to. Because of that background, discussing these issues with my own children felt like an impossible hurdle.

Note: Names have been changed to protect participant confidentiality.

The program's success lies in its value-based approach, which strengthens decision making skills and encourages respectful communication between adolescents, caregivers, and mentors-aligning with national efforts to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health outcomes in Ghana.

> "However, the True Love Waits program empowered me to guide—not just instruct—my children. I now have the knowledge and confidence to hold open, honest conversations about their health and their future."
>
> ***— Maame Ama, Caregiver, Kwaso Community (Ejisu)***

TLW ENGAGEMENT WITH CAREGIVERS



Caregivers participate in a dialogue session on supporting adolescent health and well-being.



A facilitator leads caregivers through key concepts in adolescent sexual and reproductive health.



Facilitator-led discussion with caregivers on building confidence to address adolescent health issues.



Caregivers and facilitators photographed following a True Love Waits engagement session.

Nutrition Education

ACAiD equipped 220 students at Anomabo Methodist School and Jenimax School Complex in the Mfantsiman District with practical knowledge on healthy nutrition and dietary practices under the theme “Nutrition and Diet”. Students engaged in interactive sessions covering food groups, balanced meals, and the importance of local nutritious foods. Through question-and-answer activities and role-plays, participants explored how poor diets affect health and how balanced meals support energy, concentration, and disease prevention. By program completion, students could clearly describe healthy meal examples, explain why sugary drinks and processed snacks should be limited, and commit to improved eating habits.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day

In commemoration of the World Menstrual Hygiene Day, ACAiD conducted comprehensive awareness sessions at ARMACK School, reaching 123 students across lower primary, upper primary and junior high school levels. The program combined menstrual education to practical demonstrations, teaching students proper menstrual hygiene, including how to correctly wear and change sanitary pads, with attention to cleanliness, comfort, and proper disposal. The sessions successfully reach the stigma associated with shame, corrected misconceptions, and encouraged open discussion about menstrual health among girls and boys.

MOMENTS FROM ARMACK – WMHD



Miss Afriyie facilitates a menstrual hygiene session with secondary school students.



Miss Elizabeth demonstrates correct tampon use during a menstrual hygiene awareness session.



Ama, a student at ARMACK School, demonstrates proper use and disposal of sanitary pads.

Breast Cancer Awareness

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, ACAiD held an impactful education session at Abandze Assemblis of God, reaching 4 caregivers and 17 adolescents. The program aimed to boost knowledge on breast cancer risks, signs, and prevention, while promoting breast self - examination and screening practices. Through interactive discussions, practical demonstrations, and open Q&A sessions, participants gained clearer knowledge of breast cancer, increased confidence in practicing breast self-examination, and demonstrated stronger intention to see early screening and support others in their community.

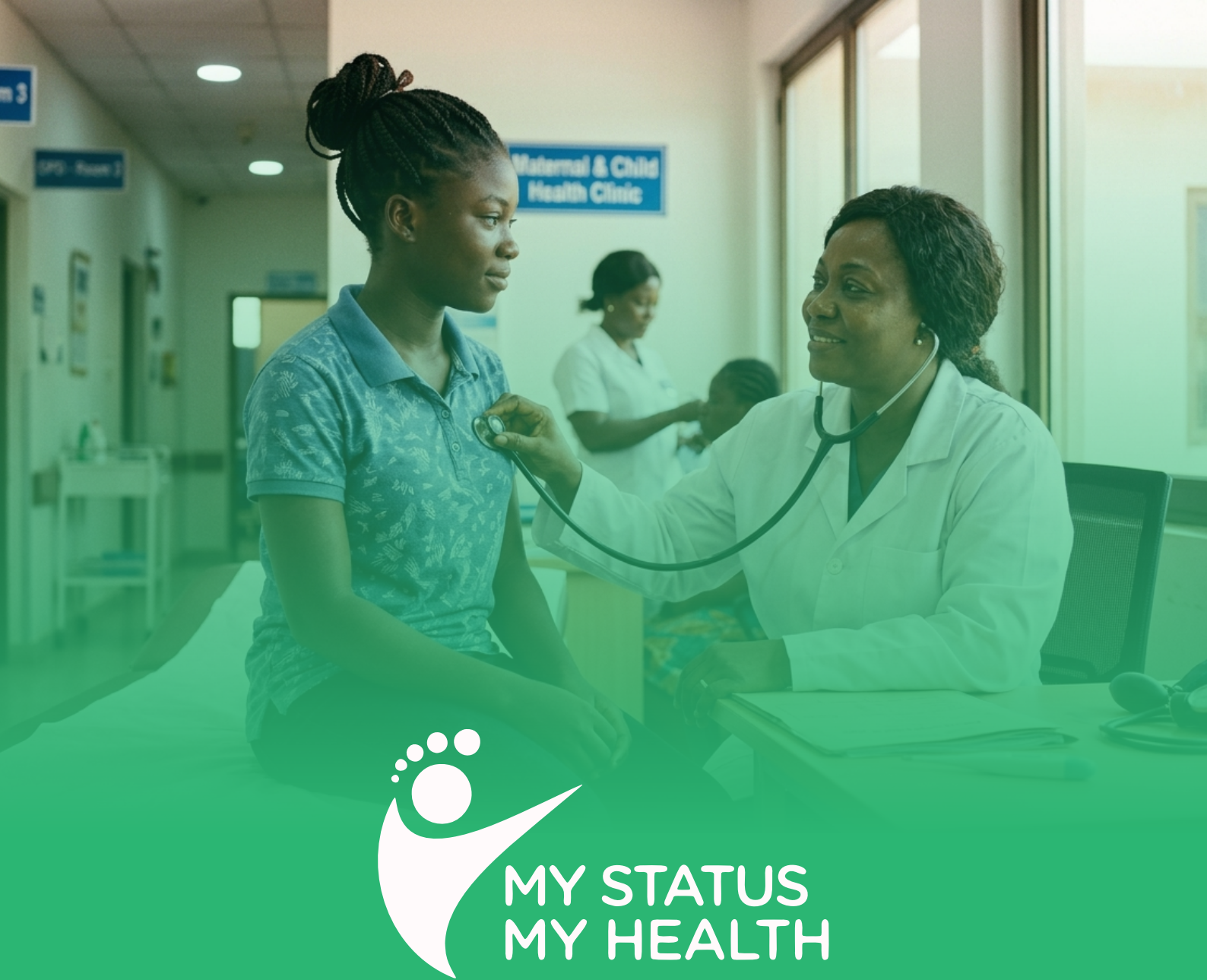
PROMOTING EARLY DETECTION & SUPPORT



Caregivers in Anomabo, Central Region,attending a breast cancer prevention and early-detection session



Zawada demonstrates breast self-examination technique to participants during an awareness session.



MY STATUS
MY HEALTH

World AIDS Day Health Festival



On 13 December 2025, the Tema West Ghana Education Service (GES) premises came alive as a center of care, learning, and prevention when Apex Community Aid (ACAiD) in collaboration with Tema West Municipal Assembly hosted the "My Status, My Health" World AIDS Day Health Festival. More than 250 community members gathered for this flagship outreach, reflecting a growing willingness within Tema West to engage openly with health services and prioritize preventive care. The festival was designed as a holistic community health intervention, recognizing that HIV awareness is most effective when integrated into broader health and wellness services. Throughout the day, participants accessed a wide range of free medical services, including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and malaria screening; blood pressure checks; breast and cervical cancer screenings for women; general medical consultations; eye testing services; blood donation opportunities; and confidential one-on-one health counselling. The diversity of services ensured that individuals of all ages and backgrounds found relevant entry points into care.

Beyond service provision, the festival created a safe and supportive environment that encouraged dialogue, reduced stigma, and reinforced the importance of knowing one's health status. Health professionals and trained volunteers worked side by side to provide accurate information, compassionate counselling, and clear referral pathways, ensuring that no participant was left without guidance or follow-up.

The clinical outcomes of the outreach underscored both the need for and impact of community-based health screening. Seven participants were identified with hepatitis B and two with hepatitis C. All individuals who tested positive were promptly referred for confirmatory testing and appropriate treatment. In addition, seven participants were shortlisted for hernia surgery, while several others were identified for minor surgical interventions, including cataract and cleft-related cases. These outcomes highlighted the critical role of early detection in preventing complications and improving quality of life.

Equally important was the broader behavioral and social impact of the festival. By bringing essential health services directly into the community, the initiative helped normalize routine health checks and reframed health-seeking behavior as an act of empowerment rather than fear. The central message of the event—that knowing one's status is the first step toward protection, treatment, and hope—resonated strongly with participants and partners alike.

The success of the "My Status, My Health" festival was made possible through strong collaboration between ACAiD, local authorities, healthcare professionals, and community volunteers. This collective effort not only delivered immediate health benefits but also strengthened trust and partnerships that will support sustained, community-led health initiatives in Tema West and beyond.

Window of Hope



Window of Hope Initiative

The Window of Hope Initiative was established to support underprivileged children and adolescents in underserved communities to access life-saving and life-enhancing surgical care that would otherwise be financially out of reach. The initiative focuses on identifying vulnerable cases, facilitating medical assessments, mobilizing support, and coordinating with health facilities and partners to ensure timely surgical intervention and follow-up care.

During the reporting period, needs assessments and case identification exercises were conducted in collaboration with community partners and health professionals to prioritize high-risk and urgent cases. As a result, seven (7) surgical cases in the Greater Accra were earmarked for intervention in the coming year, with preparatory steps initiated toward medical reviews, cost estimates, and partnership support.

Through this initiative, ACAiD aims to reduce preventable complications and improve survival, functionality, and quality of life among vulnerable children and adolescents, while strengthening referral linkages and community-based support systems around critical healthcare needs.




CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCE



CLIMATE
PLUS



Environmental Awareness

253 students across three schools (71 at Aggrey Road JHS, 134 at Tema West JHS, and 48 at Jenimax School Complex in Cape coast) participated in climate change awareness sessions that explored causes, effects, and practical solutions. Students learned about pollution, deforestation, rising temperatures and health risks, while discussing ways to stay safe and take environmental action through clean-up efforts and tree planting initiatives. The session inspired students to take personal and collective responsibility for environmental protection.

Note: Names have been changed to protect participant confidentiality.

> "I have always wondered how we, as young people, could combat climate change amidst the environmental degradation I see around me. Through this program, I realized that I don't have to wait for the future to be a change-maker. My dream is to become a landscaper, but my mission starts now. I am currently planning to lead a climate action club in my school to inspire my peers to protect our environment."
>
> ***— Sarah, Student of Aggrey Road JHS***

CLIMATE CHANGE



Students at Tema West Municipal School learning about climate change and environmental responsibility



Students discuss strategies for environmental protection during a climate resilience session.



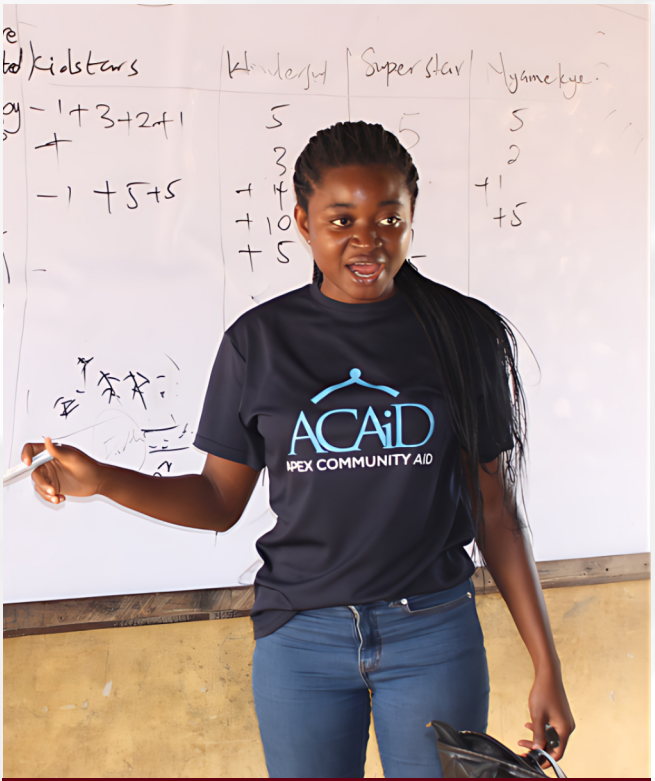
Elsie responds to a question, demonstrating active engagement during a climate resilience session.



Facilitators engage students in practical activities promoting a cleaner and safer environment.



A student raises his hand to contribute during a climate change discussion.



Elizabeth, a facilitator explaining the effects of climate change to students

Inspires Change

Lifelift

Livelihood Empowerment: Skills Training for Economic Resilience

As part of its commitment to strengthening household economic security and promoting sustainable livelihoods, Apex Community Aid (ACAiD) implemented a hands-on livelihood skills training programme in Dwendwebadze (Anomabo) within the Mfantsiman District. The initiative reached over 20 participants, the majority of whom were women and young people, groups that often face limited access to income-generating opportunities.

The training was designed to go beyond skills transfer, focusing instead on economic resilience and practical self-reliance. Participants were guided through step-by-step, hands-on sessions in liquid soap production, doughnut preparation, and spring roll making—skills selected for their low start-up costs, local market demand, and scalability within the community context. By grounding the training in locally relevant enterprises, ACAiD ensured that participants could translate learning into immediate action.



Serwaa, in Dwendwebadze, Anomabo, acquiring pastry-making skills under ACAiD's livelihood programme.



Teenage mothers in Dwendwebadze, Anomabo, acquire soap-making skills through ACAiD's livelihood empowerment program

In addition to technical production skills, the programme incorporated foundational entrepreneurship and business planning components. Participants were introduced to basic costing, pricing, record-keeping, and customer relations, equipping them with the knowledge required to manage small-scale enterprises sustainably.

These sessions strengthened participants' confidence to make informed economic decisions and to view their skills as viable pathways to income generation. Beyond individual capacity building, the training fostered a strong sense of collaboration and community cohesion. Participants shared ideas, supported one another during practical sessions, and explored opportunities for collective production and marketing. This collaborative approach reinforced social networks and enhanced the community's ability to respond collectively to economic challenges.

The livelihood empowerment programme in Dwendwebadze represents a meaningful step toward long-term economic stability for vulnerable populations. By combining practical skills, entrepreneurial knowledge, and community support, ACAiD continues to create pathways for sustainable self-reliance and inclusive economic growth within the communities it serves.

Money Map



Financial Literacy & Economic Empowerment



Students provided with susu boxes after a session on Financial Literacy

Financial independence begins with early education. ACAiD's "Money Map" initiative reached 147 students in geographically diverse areas, including Mampong Methodist M/A Basic School in Cape Coast and St. Monica's JHS in Sawla. These workshops introduced the fundamental pillars of financial management: Earning, Saving, Spending Wisely, and Budgeting.

Students participated in the "Needs vs. Wants" challenge and engaged in a creative workshop where they designed personal money boxes to kickstart their savings journeys.

The initiative successfully de-mystified complex financial concepts, with 95% of participants expressing a commitment to starting a regular savings habit. By reaching students in both the Southern and Savannah regions, ACAiD continues to promote inclusive economic literacy.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION, YOUTH MENTORSHIP & CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthening the Frontline: Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) Capacity Building

In collaboration with Compassion International Ghana, ACAiD conducted a series of capacity-building trainings on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) for Children and Youth Development Workers (CYDWs) during the third and fourth quarters of the year. A total of 264 CYDWs were educated and sensitized on key ASRH topics to strengthen their knowledge and practical skills for youth engagement and support.



A facilitator delivering a session on effective communication and relationship-building, encouraging active participation and critical thinking among participants.



Participants engaged in an interactive group activity, fostering collaboration, team bonding, and practical learning throughout the session.

The trainings also integrated specialized capacity-building components, including adult learning principles, co-facilitation techniques, training design methods, and practical facilitation skills to enhance participants' effectiveness as trainers and mentors. These components were designed to equip CYDWs not only with technical knowledge but also with the pedagogical tools required to train and mentor others.

Participants were engaged through interactive and participatory learning approaches such as small group discussions, role plays, simulations, and values clarification exercises. These methods promoted critical reflection, attitude change, and behavior transformation. CYDWs explored best practices, facilitation tools, and practical resources for engaging adolescents on sensitive ASRH topics. In addition, participants received structured mentorship support to strengthen their capacity to deliver ASRH content to youth focal persons and volunteers within their respective programs and communities.



Global Advocacy:
"Unspoken Wounds" at ICASA 2025

ACAiD participated in the 23rd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) held from 3rd to 8th December 2025 at the Accra International Conference Center. As part of its contribution to the conference, ACAiD convened and hosted a panel session titled:
"Unspoken Wounds: A Panel on the Impact of Drug and Substance Abuse on the Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Young People."



Mr. Ankomah and panelists delivering a Mental Health session at ICASA 2025

The panel featured diverse and experienced voices, including a 19–year-old survivor of drug and substance abuse, a youth development specialist, an adolescent reproductive health specialist, and a clinical psychologist. This multidisciplinary composition ensured balanced technical, professional, and lived-experience perspectives.The interactive panel session examined the hidden and often overlooked effects of drug and substance abuse on the reproductive health and overall wellbeing of adolescents and young people. Discussions highlighted how substance use contributed to risky sexual behaviors, increased vulnerability to STIs and HIV, early and unintended pregnancies, infertility risks, and emotional and psychological trauma.

The session combined expert panel dialogue with open audience participation to help break stigma and silence surrounding youth substance use and sexual health challenges. Engagement activities included myth-busting exercises, anonymous testimonies, and personal commitment pledges, which encouraged participant reflection and solution-oriented thinking.

Panel discussions emphasized practical coping strategies, protective behaviors, peer and family support systems, and access to youth-friendly health services and resources. The session aligned strongly with the ICASA conference theme by promoting integrated, youth-centered, and community-driven approaches to addressing health vulnerabilities.

The session resulted in increased participant awareness, reduced stigma, improved readiness to seek help, and strengthened youth empowerment toward making healthier reproductive and lifestyle choices.


OUR AMAZING BODIES
A REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH GUIDE FOR AGES 6 TO 9 YEARS
VOLUME 2
SMART CHOICES, BRIGHT FUTURES
A Guide for Adolescents to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood
APEX COMMUNITY AID (ACA
BOLD2DECIDE SERIES
Shine From Within
A Guide to Being You, Be Awesome!
My Amazing Body
WHAT EVERY ADOLESCENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SELF-DISCOVERY
UNDERSTANDING ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH
Read n Ride
BUILDING BRIDGES
A GUIDE TO FRIENDSHIP WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
TRAPS or TRUTH
What Every Adolescent Should Know About Drugs and Substance Abuse—and How to Stay Free
Faith. Facts. Freedom.
self
God
society
CHRISTIAN CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
Handbook for
APEX COMMUNITY AID
WHAT EVERY ADOLESCENT SHOULD KNOW
Comprehensive Guide To Avoiding Teenage Pregnancy
BOLD 2 DECIDE SERIES
WHAT EVERY ADOLESCENT SHOULD KNOW
DECISION-MAKING
APEX COMMUNITY AID (ACAiD)
A CURRICULUM GUIDE TO PARENTING
APEX COMMUNITY AID (ACAID)

ReadNRide Initiative:
Curating Knowledge for Change

Under the ReadNRide Initiative, ACAiD developed a range of educational books and learning materials focused on personal development, ASRH, child protection, nutrition, and values formation for children, adolescents, caregivers, and child and youth development workers. During the reporting period, 3,481 copies of these books were sold, reflecting strong demand and uptake of the resources.

The initiative was implemented to promote literacy, life skills, and lifelong learning in underserved communities across Ghana by making age-appropriate and values-based educational resources more accessible. The materials were designed to support both individual learning and structured mentorship and training programs. Building on this progress, more than 15 additional titles were in development for release in the coming year, aimed at expanding content coverage and deepening impact across target groups.

Books developed under the initiative include:

- Shine from Within
- Our Amazing Body
- Building Bridges
- Christian Character Development Handbook for Kids
- Nutrition Power Pack Book for Adolescents
- Child Protection for Child Development Workers
- Jesus And Me Saves (JAMS)
- My Walk with the Holy Spirit (The Act of Listening to the Holy Spirit)
- Bold 2 Decide Series: What Every Adolescent Should Know — A Comprehensive Guide to Avoiding Teenage Pregnancy
- Bold 2 Decide Series: What Every Adolescent should Know on Drug / Substance Abuse
- Bold 2 Decide Series: What Every Adolescent should Know on Decision-making
- Bold 2 Decide Series: Understanding Mental Health
- and several additional thematic learning resources.

These publications strengthened ACAiD's education and mentorship programming by providing structured, contextually relevant content to support youth development, informed decision-making, and protective behaviors.



Career Guidance, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Awareness

In collaboration with The Lord's Pentecostal Church (TLPC) in Baatsona, ACAiD organized a two-day career guidance program designed to empower adolescents with the knowledge and inspiration to plan their futures.

The sessions engaged 69 young participants, guiding them to explore a wide range of career pathways with a special focus on the value and opportunities within TVET. Beyond career exploration, the program addressed essential contemporary themes, including responsible social media use and environmental stewardship.

Participants demonstrated enthusiastic involvement throughout the event, expressing a renewed sense of possibility and a stronger commitment to both their educational journeys and their roles in community development. This initiative reflects ACAiD's ongoing commitment to empowering youth with practical skills and forward-looking guidance.

Participant Reflection: Digital Responsibility

"In this era of digitalization, we see so much inappropriate behavior online, from gaslighting to the culture of insults. It is worrisome to see influencers misusing their platforms in such a negative way. Through this program, I have realized that while social media is a powerful tool for learning, I must take charge of my own experience. I am now committed to setting healthy boundaries and ensuring my studies remain my top priority." ***— Amanda, Program Participant***

Participant Reflection: Environmental Stewardship

"The growing threat of climate change across our continent is alarming, yet local issues like open defecation and refuse dumping on our beaches continue to be overlooked. Too often, people my age are indifferent, shifting all the blame to the government when things go wrong. This program changed my perspective. I am now committed to motivating my peers to take ownership of our surroundings. I've learned that true change doesn't always start with big policies—it begins with our own small, intentional actions." ***— Kwesi, Program Participant.***

Note: Names have been changed to protect participant confidentiality.


BOLD
2 DECIDE
NETWORK



Empowering the Next Generation: School-Based Outreach Initiatives

In 2025, ACAiD expanded its footprint across Ghana's educational landscape, implementing a series of comprehensive outreach programs. By moving beyond traditional academics, we addressed the psychosocial, emotional, and economic needs of students, equipping them with the "soft skills" essential for lifelong success.

Building Healthy Foundations: Friendship and Self-Love

Coinciding with Valentine's Day, ACAiD engaged 120 students at Aggrey Road School in a session titled "Healthy Hearts, Healthy Minds." Recognizing that adolescence is a critical period for social development, the session moved beyond the commercial aspects of the holiday to explore the core qualities of healthy, respectful friendships.

Through interactive storytelling and personal affirmations, students practiced setting healthy boundaries and developed a stronger sense of self-acceptance—a vital shield against peer pressure and bullying.

Unlocking Identity: Self-Discovery and Emotional Intelligence

Across two major institutions—Lovely Arms School (180 students) and Aggrey Road JHS (98 students)—ACAiD facilitated intensive Self-Discovery Workshops for 278 young learners. These sessions were designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and personal aspiration.

Participants utilized personality mapping tools to identify their unique strengths, interests, and long-term goals. The curriculum emphasized Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and communication, empowering students to navigate interpersonal conflicts and articulate their future ambitions with newfound confidence.

Program Impact and Outcomes

ACAiD's 2025 programmes delivered measurable, multi-sector impact across health and wellness, youth development, education, livelihoods, and climate resilience through integrated, community-based interventions implemented in 78 communities, including 14 newly added communities in the Sawla–Tuna–Kalba District. Across the year, the organization directly reached 16,598 adolescents and 15,551 caregivers with structured health education, mentorship, empowerment, and life-skills interventions, significantly expanding access to protective knowledge, services, and practical support systems.

Health and wellness programmes strengthened preventive health knowledge, reduced stigma, and improved health-seeking behavior among both adolescents and caregivers. ASRH education and value-based decision-making programmes were delivered across 63 communities in six regions, improving caregiver–adolescent communication on sensitive reproductive health issues. Capacity strengthening efforts included eight ASRH workshops that trained 264 Child and Youth Development Workers, expanding frontline delivery capacity. Community outreach screening through the My Status, My Health Festival reached over 250 participants and led to early detection and referral of hepatitis cases and surgical needs. Additional school-based interventions reached 343 students with nutrition and menstrual hygiene education, while referral and follow-up linkages with health facilities were strengthened.

Education and youth development initiatives enhanced life skills, self-awareness, and future readiness among young people. Targeted programmes built financial literacy for 147 students, with most committing to regular savings behavior, while 69 adolescents received career and TVET guidance. Psychosocial and self-development sessions reached 398 students, and 253 students received climate and environmental responsibility education. Participants demonstrated growth in confidence, emotional intelligence, decision-making, and responsible digital behavior, with emerging youth-led initiatives in peer influence and environmental action.

Capacity building investments strengthened programme quality and sustainability by equipping frontline actors with advanced facilitation and youth engagement skills. Trained workers gained practical tools to cascade ASRH and life-skills education within their networks, expanding peer educator and youth mentor systems across programme communities.

Through the ReadNRide Initiative, ACAiD expanded access to structured learning resources by developing over 20 educational and ASRH books and distributing 3,481 copies, supporting literacy, informed decision-making, and values-based learning. Content covered ASRH, child protection, nutrition, mental health, and character development, with 15+ additional titles in development for the coming year.

Livelihood empowerment programmes strengthened economic resilience by providing practical vocational and entrepreneurship training to over 20 women and youth, equipping them with low-cost, locally viable income-generation skills and basic business management knowledge. Climate resilience education improved environmental awareness and responsibility among students, with evidence of planned school-based environmental action initiatives.

Targeted medical support efforts under the Window of Hope Initiative identified seven vulnerable children and adolescents requiring life-saving surgery, with medical reviews, referrals, and partnership mobilization initiated. Overall, ACAiD's 2025 interventions produced strengthened knowledge, healthier behaviors, expanded frontline capacity, improved early detection and referral, increased youth empowerment, and deeper community engagement across its programme areas.

Strategic Partnerships

ACAiD's program reach and impact in 2025 were made possible through strong, multi-level partnerships with government agencies, district authorities, development partners, faith-based institutions, schools, health providers, and community leadership structures. These collaborations strengthened program delivery, ensured local relevance, improved referral systems, and deepened community ownership across all intervention areas.

At the government and district level, ACAiD worked closely with the Tema West Municipal Assembly and the Tema West Municipal Health Directorate in the planning and delivery of the My Status, My Health World AIDS Day Health Festival, enabling integrated community health screening and referral services. Collaboration with the Ghana Education Service (GES) — particularly the Tema West Education Directorate and participating public school administrations — facilitated broad access to students for health education, climate awareness, financial literacy, and psychosocial development programs.

In the education sector, ACAiD partnered with several schools to implement targeted outreach programs, including Aggrey Road JHS, Tema West JHS, Anomabo Methodist School, Jenimax School Complex (Cape Coast), ARMACK School, Lovely Arms School, Mampong Methodist M/A Basic School, St. Monica's JHS (Sawla), and other partner institutions across program districts. These schools provided platforms for sustained student engagement and skills-building interventions.

ACAiD's capacity-building and ASRH training programs were strengthened through partnership with Compassion International Ghana, which collaborated in training Child and Youth Development Workers (CYDWs) and supporting structured mentorship and youth development delivery systems.

Faith-based partnerships played a critical role in community mobilization and values-based programming. Key collaborators included The Lord's Pentecostal Church (TLPC), Baatsona, and Abandze Assemblies of God Church, which hosted health education, career guidance, and awareness sessions and supported youth and caregiver engagement.

Healthcare delivery partnerships with local health facilities — including Catholic Hospital Battor and Tema General Hospital — as well as collaborating clinicians, screening teams, and volunteer medical professionals enabled the delivery of integrated outreach services, early detection screenings, and coordinated referral support throughout the year. These collaborations were particularly instrumental during community health festivals and targeted medical support initiatives.

Through these partnerships, ACAiD facilitated timely screening and awareness services in areas such as hepatitis, cancer prevention and early detection, eye health, and minor surgical assessment. The partnerships also strengthened referral pathways and case management processes under the Window of Hope Initiative, helping to connect vulnerable children and adolescents to appropriate specialist care and surgical intervention.

At the community level, collaboration with traditional leaders, assembly members, opinion leaders, and community-based volunteers ensured cultural appropriateness, trust-building, and sustained participation across program sites, including Ada, Afram Plains, Sunyani, Cape Coast, Ejisu, Sawla, and Mfantsiman districts.

ACAiD also benefited from the dedication of community volunteers, peer educators, youth mentors, and grassroots facilitators, whose contributions amplified program reach and strengthened last-mile delivery.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners and stakeholders whose collaboration, technical support, platforms, and trust significantly strengthened program quality and deepened ACAiD's community impact in 2025.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Despite significant program reach and impact in 2025, ACAiD encountered several operational and contextual challenges that affected the pace, scale, and depth of implementation across program areas. These challenges also provided important learning opportunities to strengthen future program design and delivery.

One major challenge was navigating sensitive cultural and social norms around adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH). In several communities, sexuality-related discussions remain taboo, which initially limited openness and participation among some caregivers and community gatekeepers. Resistance, misconceptions, and stigma around ASRH topics required additional time for community entry, trust-building, and values-based dialogue before program could be fully implemented. This increased facilitation time and required more intensive stakeholder engagement and culturally sensitive communication approaches.

ACAiD also faced resource constraints relative to program demand and geographic expansion. With activities implemented across 78 communities, including newly added and hard-to-reach locations, available funding and operational resources were stretched. Demand for follow-up sessions, expanded coverage, learning materials, and medical support often exceeded available budgetary and staffing capacity, limiting the frequency and depth of some interventions.

Transportation and logistics limitations significantly affected outreach to rural and remote communities. The absence of a dedicated program vehicle created delays and increased operational costs, particularly for field teams transporting training materials, books, screening supplies, and equipment. Poor road networks and long travel distances to districts such as Sawla-Tuna-Kalba and parts of Afram Plains further complicated scheduling, supervision, and consistent follow-up visits.

Another key challenge was sustaining long-term behavior change beyond one-off or short-cycle interventions. While immediate post-training knowledge gains and commitments were strong — particularly in ASRH, financial literacy, and health behavior — maintaining behavior change required repeated engagement, mentorship, and community reinforcement structures. Limited resources for extended follow-up, refresher sessions, and longitudinal tracking constrained the ability to measure and reinforce long-term outcomes at the desired scale.

Additionally, access to specialized medical care and financial support for vulnerable surgical cases remained a constraint under the Window of Hope Initiative. Although priority cases were identified and referral processes initiated, mobilizing sufficient funding and specialist partnerships to complete all needed surgical interventions required extended timelines and additional partnership development.

These challenges informed adaptive strategies during the year, including deeper stakeholder engagement, partnership expansion, increased use of trained frontline facilitators, and phased program delivery models — all of which will continue to shape ACAiD's operational strengthening efforts in the coming year.

Lessons Learned

Implementation across health, youth development, education, livelihoods, and climate resilience programs in 2025 generated important operational and strategic lessons for ACAiD. These insights will guide program refinement, partnership strategy, and scale-up efforts in the coming years.

A key lesson was that co-designing programs with communities significantly increases acceptance, participation, and sustainability. Interventions such as True Love Waits, community health festivals, and school-based outreach were most effective where community leaders, teachers, faith actors, and caregivers were engaged early in planning and adaptation. Community entry dialogue, local language delivery, and culturally sensitive framing proved essential when addressing sensitive topics such as ASRH, substance abuse, and menstrual health. Where communities felt ownership, participation levels and follow-through actions were stronger.

ACAiD also learned that empowering youth as peer educators and youth champions greatly improves message uptake and behavior influence. Peer-led discussions, testimonies, youth panels, and school-based clubs created safer spaces for adolescents to ask questions and reflect honestly. Youth participants were more responsive to relatable messengers, and several initiatives — including climate action and responsible digital behavior — showed early signs of youth-led continuity beyond the sessions themselves.

Another major lesson was the value of integrated programming that connects health, education, livelihoods, and environmental awareness rather than addressing issues in isolation. Combining ASRH education with caregiver engagement, linking health screening with counselling and referral, and pairing livelihood skills with entrepreneurship training produced more practical and reinforcing outcomes. Integrated outreach — such as the My Status, My Health festival — demonstrated that communities respond more strongly when services are bundled and accessible in one platform.

Experience in 2025 reinforced that strong local partnerships are critical for reach, credibility, and service continuity. Collaboration with the Tema West Municipal Assembly, Ghana Education Service directorates, Compassion International Ghana, Catholic Hospital Battor, Tema General Hospital, schools, and faith-based institutions enabled broader access, technical support, referral pathways, and trusted entry points. Programs implemented through partner platforms achieved higher turnout and smoother coordination than stand-alone efforts.

Operationally, ACAiD learned that flexibility and context-responsive delivery are essential for effectiveness, especially in rural and culturally diverse settings. Adjusting training methods, pacing, language, and engagement formats based on audience readiness and local realities improved outcomes. Field experience showed that rigid delivery models are less effective than adaptive approaches that respond to literacy levels, cultural sensitivities, school calendars, and logistical constraints.

Finally, the year highlighted that capacity building of frontline workers multiplies impact. Training Child and Youth Development Workers and facilitators in participatory methods and ASRH content created a ripple effect, extending programme reach beyond direct ACAiD staff delivery and strengthening local continuity.

Together, these lessons confirm that participatory design, youth leadership, integrated service models, partnership-driven delivery, frontline capacity strengthening, and adaptive implementation are central to achieving deep and lasting community impact.

Finance

Financial Overview

ACAiD maintains rigorous financial management systems to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective stewardship of resources. All financial operations are guided by our commitment to integrity and our responsibility to donors, partners, and the communities we serve.

Finances

Apex Community Aid

GH¢ 912,837.57	GH¢ 899,527.00	GH¢ 13,310.57	GH¢ 98.5%
TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	NET SURPLUS	BUDGET UTILISATION

Origin of Funds

Description	Amount(GH¢)	USD	%
I. Donations (including donations in kind)			
a) Dedicated donations (for the projects)	263,609.06	25,048	28.91%
b) Undesignated donations	188,877.38	17,988	20.69%
II. Granst from Institutional Partners	418,992.48	39,994	45.90%
III. Interest earned from bank	3,651.28	348	0.40%
IV. Release of reserves	37,707.37	3,591	4.10%
TOTAL	**GH¢912,837.57**		**100%**

Breakdown of Revenue Sources

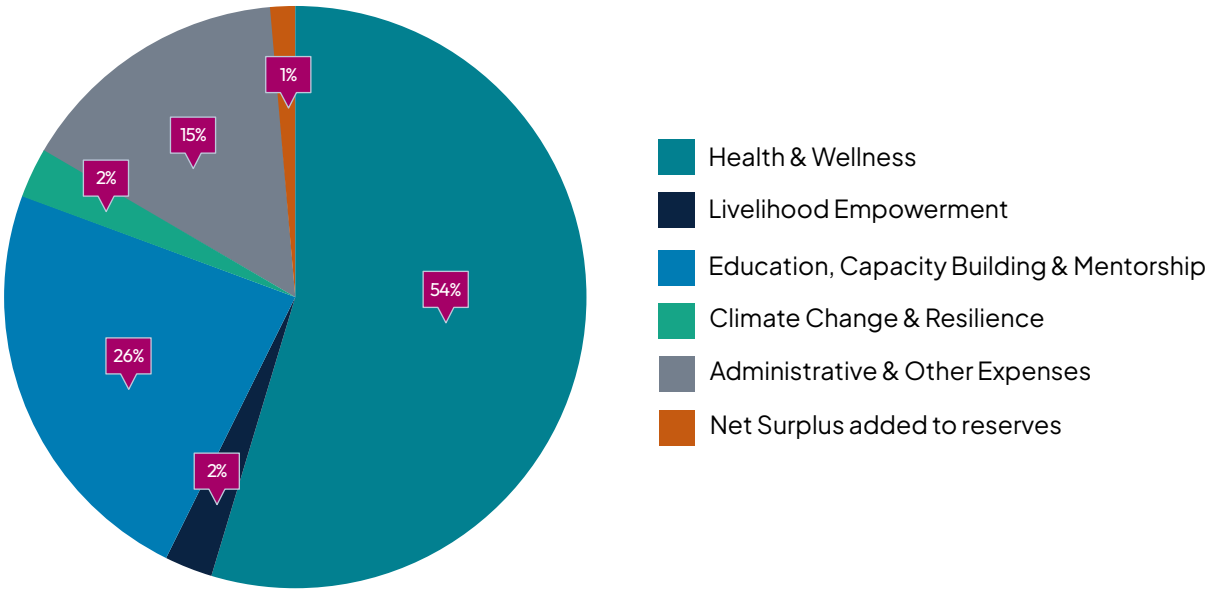
Dedicated donations (for the projects)	28.91%
Undesignated donations	20.69%
Grants from Institutional Partners	45.90%
Interest earned from bank	0.40%
Release of reserves	4.10%

Allocation of Funds

Description	Amount(GH¢)	USD	%
I. Thematic Programme Activities	766,277.10	73,032	83.97%
a) Health & Wellness	491,185.30	46,814	53.80%
b) Livelihood Empowerment	14,557.59	1,387	1.59%
c) Education, Capacity Building & Mentorship	237,929.88	22,677	26.06%
d) Climate Change & Resilience	22,604.33	2,154	2.51%
II. Administrative & other expenses	133,249.90	12,699	14.59%
III. Net surplus (added to reserves)	13,310.57	1,268	1.45%
TOTAL	**GH¢912,837.57**		**100%**

Breakdown of Fund Allocation

Health & Wellness	53.80%
Livelihood Empowerment	1.59%
Education, Capacity Building & Mentorship	26.06%
Climate Change & Resilience	2.51%
Administrative & Other Expenses	14.59%
Net Surplus added to reserves	1.45%



Looking Ahead:
Key Strategy Highlights for 2026

Building on the progress and lessons of 2025, ACAiD's 2026 strategy focuses on scaling high-impact programs, strengthening sustainability systems, and deepening youth- and community-centered development. As the organization marks a decade of impact, the 2026 direction emphasizes measurable growth, stronger partnerships, and long-term resilience across program areas.

Key highlights of the 2026 strategy include:

Scaling Proven Flagship Programs: Expansion of high-impact models including True Love Waits, My Status, My Health, Read 'N' Ride, Money Map, and Climate Plus into new districts and communities, with increased national reach and structured replication models.

Expanded Health Access and Protection Support: Scale-up of integrated health screening outreaches and a major expansion of the Window of Hope Initiative to support more vulnerable children and adolescents with corrective and life-saving surgeries through strengthened medical partnerships.

Youth and Caregiver Reach Targets: Delivery of ASRH, mental health, and life-skills education to thousands more adolescents and caregivers through peer educator networks, youth mentors, and trained Child Development Workers.

10th Anniversary Impact and Sustainability Drive: Launch of the ACAiD Sustainability Fund and hosting of a 10th Anniversary Fundraising Gala to strengthen long-term financing for youth health, mentorship, and education programmes.

Stronger Partnerships and Institutional Collaboration: Formalization of partnerships with national and international organizations, district assemblies, health directorates, and education stakeholders to institutionalize program delivery and scale co-funded initiatives.

Systems strengthening and MEL Innovation: Investment in digital monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to improve real-time data tracking, impact measurement, and adaptive program management.

Human-Centered and Inclusive Development: Increased focus on youth leadership, gender inclusion, mental health integration, and support for marginalized populations, ensuring programs remain equitable and responsive to real community needs.

Gratitude and Acknowledgements

ACAiD's achievements in 2025 were made possible through the collective effort, trust, and collaboration of many partners and stakeholders. We extend our deepest appreciation to all who contributed to advancing our mission and strengthening our impact across communities.

We are sincerely grateful to our Board of Directors for their strategic leadership, governance oversight, and steadfast commitment to organizational growth and accountability. Their guidance continues to shape ACAiD's long-term direction and integrity.

We acknowledge our valued institutional and implementing partners, including the Ghana Education Service directorates, Tema West Municipal Assembly, District Health Directorates, Compassion International Ghana, participating schools, faith-based institutions, and community organizations, whose collaboration enabled effective program delivery and expanded reach.

We appreciate the dedication of our healthcare partners, clinicians, screening teams, and volunteer medical professionals, whose expertise and compassion supported community screenings, referrals, counselling, and medical support initiatives.

We recognize our community leaders and traditional authorities for opening doors, strengthening local ownership, and fostering trust that allowed sensitive and high-impact programs — particularly in ASRH and youth development — to succeed.

We are especially proud of and thankful for our staff and volunteers, whose professionalism, creativity, and commitment transformed plans into action and ensured quality delivery even under resource and logistical constraints.We also extend heartfelt thanks to our donors and supporters for their financial and material contributions, which made program implementation and innovation possible.

Most importantly, we thank the children, adolescents, caregivers, and communities we serve for their participation, openness, and partnership. Your voices, resilience, and willingness to engage continue to inspire and guide our work.

Together, we are building healthier, more informed, and more empowered communities — and we look forward to deepening this shared impact in the years ahead.

Conclusion:
A Story Still Being Written

ACAiD's 2025 programme year tells a strong story of growth, partnership, and measurable community impact. Across 78 communities — including newly added districts — our integrated work in health and wellness, youth development, education, livelihoods, and climate resilience expanded access to knowledge, skills, and essential services for thousands of adolescents and caregivers. Through school, community, and frontline worker programmes, young people gained practical life skills, improved health knowledge, and greater confidence to make informed decisions, while caregivers and mentors strengthened their ability to support them.

Beyond the numbers are real stories of change — youth leading climate action efforts, students building financial and emotional skills, caregivers opening conversations once considered taboo, and vulnerable children being connected to critical medical care. These outcomes reinforce that community-centered, youth-focused, and partnership-driven approaches produce lasting results.

Key lessons from the year affirmed the value of co-creating programmes with communities, empowering youth leadership, integrating multi-sector interventions, and strengthening local partnerships for sustainability and scale.

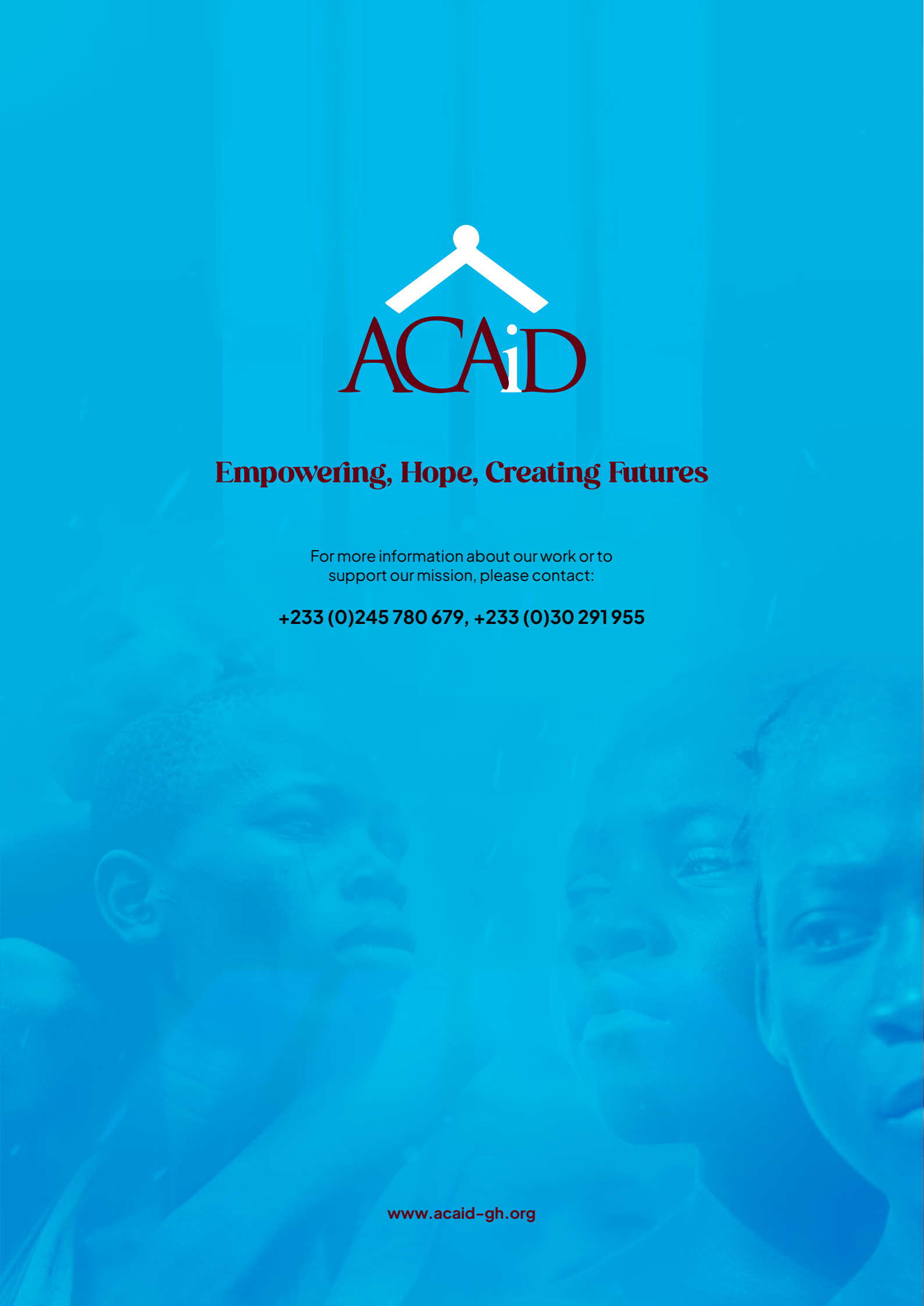
As we look ahead, ACAiD remains committed to deepening impact, expanding proven models, and strengthening systems that protect and empower young people. The progress achieved in 2025 provides both momentum and direction. The story continues — and together with our partners and communities, the next chapter will reach further and achieve more lasting change.

ACAiD

Empowering, Hope, Creating Futures

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