



Strengthening Investments
in Gender-Responsive
Climate Adaptation



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING STRATEGY FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ADAPTATION

AKATSI NORTH DISTRICT



SECTION A

ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

The SIGRA (Strengthening investments in gender-responsive climate adaptation) Project aims to address the dual challenges of climate change and gender inequality, particularly for women and vulnerable communities in Ghana. Climate change disproportionately impacts women and vulnerable groups, deepening existing inequalities and limiting their capacity to engage in and benefit from adaptation efforts. By integrating gender-responsive strategies into adaptation, initiatives can not only protect these groups from climate impacts but also empower them to drive resilience and sustainable development. This approach aligns with global commitments such as the Paris Agreement and SDG's, particularly SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 13 (climate action).

In Ghana's Volta Region, where climate vulnerabilities are severe SIGRA seeks to strengthen the participation, voice, and influence of women-led CSOs in government decision-making, including climate adaptation. By fostering community-driven solutions and aligning national policies with lived realities, SIGRA aims to improve the resilience of Ghanaian citizens, particularly women, girls, and vulnerable groups, through increased investments in inclusive and gender-responsive climate adaptation initiatives.

Activity: Develop community-driven strategies

Develop the structure and content of actionable community-driven strategies based on inputs from community meetings and stakeholder engagement, aligning with community needs and objectives in Akatsi North District.

This strategy seeks to foster deep, lasting awareness of gender equality and climate change while creating opportunities for the meaningful engagement of all community members, especially the most vulnerable. By making use of local customs and promoting inclusive discourse, this strategy aims to build a shared understanding of these urgent global issues.



METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

The methodology for this strategy was designed around the principle of co-creation, emphasizing the integration of both indigenous and scientific knowledge (weather patterns, cropping cycles, and fish migration, soil conditions, vegetation cover and water quality/sources) through consultative dialogues. This process sought to foster collective ownership and actionable climate change solutions by ensuring that all voices, particularly those of local and vulnerable groups, were actively involved in identifying challenges and co-developing solutions. Central to this approach was the belief that community-specific knowledge is indispensable for creating locally relevant, culturally sensitive, and technically sound interventions.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

A core component of the strategy was the active engagement of community members, with a particular focus on traditionally influential leaders such as Queen mothers and Chiefs, as well as local government officials, assembly members, RCC and MMDA representatives. The involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs), youth, women, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups was essential to ensure inclusivity. These groups contributed not only to identifying climate-related challenges but also to proposing strategies for addressing them.

Key stakeholders involved:

- **Traditional Leaders:** Torgbui Dunyo IV, Mama Dzakago, Sohefia Zenyo, Awafia Doe-Ketsi (Atanve), Agboka Sowu IV, Torgbui Ahiabor Gamor VI, Torgbui Amudzegbe, Torgbui Kotoka Afudzagbo, Mama Aviakpui III, Mama Nudo, Mama Miwowe (Ave-Havi), Agbotadua Agbuisu, Zikpuito Weto (Nytawuta), Torgbui Gbedzega Ahiakpatsi II, Mama Ahiafokpor (Metsrikasa), Torgbui Adekpe, Mama Adaneworkpo II (Kpodzi).
- **Local Government Officials:** RCC, Assembly members, MMDA representatives.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Aleka Women's Foundation.
- **Community Women Groups:** Elikem Gari processing (Metsrikasa), Dekawowo group, Nyitawuta Gari processing group, green crop farmer group (Habobo), national association of hairdressers and beauticians.
- **Youth Groups:** Atanve Norvinenyo, Metriskasa Jama, Ave Havi youth development Association, Nyitawuta youth Association, Dzayime youth Association.
- **Local Communities and vulnerable Groups:** Women, youth, Unit committee, persons with disabilities.

CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE PROCESS

In addition to broad community open forums, one-on-one consultations were conducted with key opinion leaders – including traditional authorities (e.g., Queen mothers, Chiefs), Religious leaders (e.g. Priest, Pastors), local government representatives (such as the District Planning Unit of Akatsi North District Assembly, RCC), and Unit Committees. These consultations ensured that local knowledge and insights were collected in a manner that considered power dynamics and cultural contexts. By engaging with prominent local groups, the approach ensured that diverse perspectives were included in the dialogue.

PRIORITIZING COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

To ensure the solutions truly reflected community priorities, dialogues were structured to bring together a mix of experiences and perspectives on climate impacts. This created a platform for community members to share their vulnerabilities, needs, and challenges, while also enabling them to directly contribute to the design of actionable, gender-responsive adaptation strategies. Key features of the dialogue process included:

- **Open Forums:** Facilitated broad-based feedback and collective understanding of community concerns.
- **One-on-One Consultations:** Allowed for more targeted, context-specific insights, especially regarding local power dynamics.

ENSURING LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND ALIGNMENT WITH BROADER PRIORITIES

The multi-layered nature of this approach ensured that the proposed solutions were rooted in the community's lived experiences and needs, while also aligning with broader regional and national priorities. The process not only empowered the community but also encouraged ownership over the solutions.

VALIDATION AND FEEDBACK SESSION

After developing the adaptation strategies, a validation session was held with all stakeholders, community members, local government representatives, and key actors at the regional and national levels. This final step allowed for an additional layer of feedback, ensuring that the proposed strategies were not only feasible and aligned with the community's goals but also had the support and buy-in from all relevant actors at various levels.

UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL CONTEXT IN AKATSI NORTH DISTRICT

I. CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS

The Akatsi North District is defined by its deeply rooted communal traditions and a strong sense of collective identity. These are governed and shaped by traditional authorities who command respect and serve as custodians of cultural norms. Annual festivals such as the Bliza maize festival (April), Metriskasa Kpoelzi Dunenyo (December), Ave-Havi Easter picnic Dudradoza (Easter Monday), Nyifawata midehaneyo festival (15 January) and other festivals to honor the district's agricultural heritage and provide a communal platform for discussions on pressing issues. They also offer an opportunity for cultural expression through traditional dances, drumming, and rituals, fostering unity and shared purpose among community members.



Local organizations are pivotal in driving development initiatives. Women's Groups such as, Elikem Gari Processing, Dekawowo Gari Processing, Green Crop Farmers Group, National Association of Hairdressers and Beauticians focuses on enhancing women's leadership and economic opportunities. Youth groups such as Atanve Youth Group, Norvinenyo Youth Group, Metriskasa Youth Group, Ave Havi Youth Development Association, Nyitawuta Youth Development Association, and Dzayime Youth Development Association engage young people in climate advocacy and community progress. Women in Agriculture Groups (WAGs) play an integral role in promoting sustainable farming practices and advocating for gender equality in agriculture. Local CBOs collaborate on projects targeting climate resilience and livelihood diversification. These organizations, together with churches (House of Power for all Nation hosted our community engagement), and media outlets such as Fafa FM and Revival FM and Jubilee Radio, act as key stakeholders in disseminating information and mobilizing collective action. Akatsi North has 42 Public Basic Schools, 4 Private Basic Schools, 1 Senior High School and 1 Technical and Vocational School (such as Ave-Havi D/A basic school, Ave Technical institute (Ave-Afiadenyigba), Ave Senior High School (Ave Dakpa). Schools serve as knowledge hubs, and local churches integrate societal development themes into their teachings, further enhancing the reach of community-based initiatives.

In addition, traditional communication methods remain essential in Akatsi North. Tools like the Gongon Beater and community information centers effectively convey announcements to the community.

II. LIVELIHOODS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Agriculture dominates the local economy in Akatsi North District, with maize, cassava, and vegetables forming the backbone of subsistence and commercial farming. However, environmental challenges such as erratic rainfall patterns and soil degradation threaten agricultural productivity. Deforestation, driven by dependence on wood for fuel (charcoal), continues to degrade the environment, leading to further biodiversity loss and reduced resilience to climate impacts. The roads in Akatsi north are not well maintained, making it difficult to access certain geographical locations.

Efforts to address these challenges have been initiated within the district. Solar-powered boreholes are essential for mitigating the impact of water scarcity. Women-led cooperatives such as Green crop farmers group, which translates to “Dekawoɔ” being led by Akatsi North Agric department are pioneering sustainable agricultural practices and reducing post-harvest losses. These efforts underscore the importance of community-driven solutions that prioritize inclusivity and sustainability.

III. GENDER AND INTERSECTIONAL ISSUES

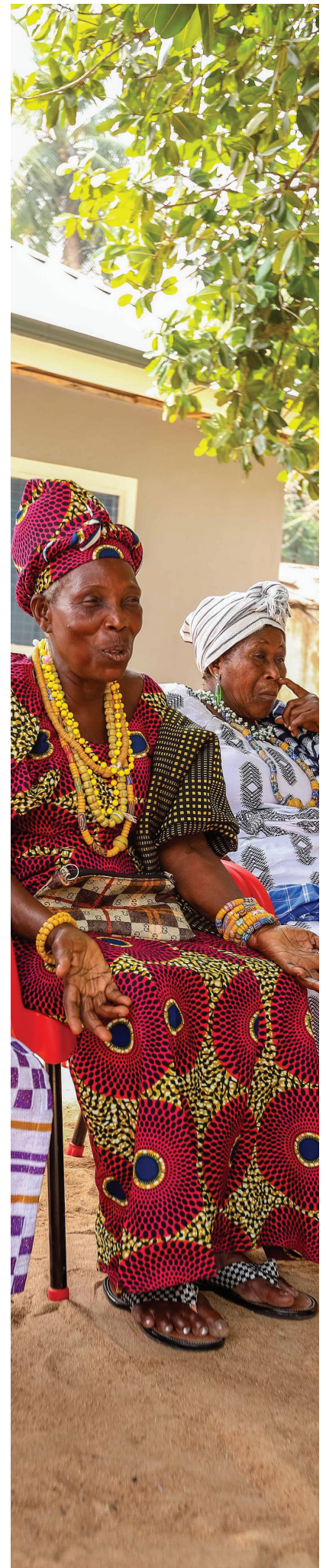
Gender intersects significantly with climate change in Akatsi North, where women’s roles in managing agriculture, water, and food security make them highly vulnerable to climate impacts. Systemic barriers such as limited land ownership, exclusion from decision-making and financial constraints exacerbate these vulnerabilities. Men face pressures tied to economic impacts like reduced agricultural productivity, while women bear the physical and emotional burdens of securing climate dependent resources, such as water and firewood. Addressing these differential impacts requires targeted, gender-sensitive adaptation measures that prioritize equity.

Women’s groups like the Aleka women’s foundation are at the forefront of engaging women in Akatsi North. Vulnerable groups, including elderly women and persons with disabilities, need to be supported by organizations, which advocate for inclusive adaptation strategies. Efforts to secure communal lands for women-led cooperatives further empower women and position them as leaders in local climate solutions.

Women’s involvement in climate adaptation is needed in locally driven initiatives, groups and organizations. These groups can collaborate with traditional leaders to secure communal lands, enabling women to implement sustainable agricultural practices and build community resilience. Beyond local initiatives, women’s leadership influences broader policy and resource allocation, with advocacy for gender-sensitive adaptation programs and increased funding for women-focused projects. By breaking systemic barriers, women not only transform their communities but also serve as agents of equitable and sustainable climate action.

IV. COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY GAPS

Despite the availability of traditional communication channels in Akatsi North, gaps persist in reaching diverse demographic groups. Older populations benefit from tools such as the Gongon Beater and community information centers, but younger, tech-savvy individuals remain underserved due to the limited integration of digital platforms. Vulnerable groups, including women and persons with disabilities, face significant barriers to engaging in decision-making forums. These challenges hinder the representation of their unique needs and perspectives in climate adaptation strategies, limiting the inclusivity and effectiveness of advocacy efforts.



SECTION C

CO-CREATING COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

I. BUILDING TRUST THROUGH COMMUNITY ENTRY PROTOCOLS

Introduction: Building trust is a critical first step in community engagement, particularly in culturally rich areas like Akatsi North. Traditional leaders such as the Torgbui (Torgbui Adekpe II, Metriskasa chief), paramount chief, Queen mothers such as (Mamaga Zanawogbu, Metriskasa Queen mother) hold significant influence and must be approached respectfully to ensure successful collaboration. Community entry protocols, when aligned with local customs, foster mutual understanding and pave the way for inclusive participation.

Best Practices: Effective engagement involves consulting traditional leaders first to gain their endorsement and ensure community-wide acceptance. Respecting cultural practices legitimizes the project and demonstrates sensitivity to local norms. Using culturally resonant practices such as storytelling strengthens the relationship between project implementers and the community. Recognizing the central role of local influencers helps bridge cultural divides.

Beyond-the-State-of-the-Art Practices: Beyond traditional engagement, involving women and vulnerable groups from the outset enriches the process. Employing female community members as communicators expands the scope of trust building while signaling inclusivity. This approach not only broadens participation but also reinforces women's leadership in community development.

OBSERVATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations:

Traditional authorities maintain significant influence over community decisions. However, women often lack representation in these structures. Expanding women's roles and integrating their perspectives within decision-making processes enhances trust building and project ownership.

Suggestions:

It is suggested that CSOs and CBO's initiate community engagement by first consulting with traditional leaders, such as the Torgbui, paramount chief and queen mothers, to secure endorsement and acceptance within the community. This can be done by respecting and aligning with cultural practices and norms.

It is recommended that women from the community be involved in communication roles, serving as key figures in the trust-building process, which would provide a culturally familiar yet progressive channel for dialogue.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that, in addition to consulting traditional leaders, CBO's should present symbolic tokens and culturally relevant gestures, such as storytelling, to further reinforce respect for traditions.

Women's roles in the community should be expanded beyond typical structures. We suggest that local organizations focus on empowering women and engaging them as leaders in decision-making by raising women champions (such as Forgive who lives in Nyitawuta) in spaces to strengthen project ownership and trust.

Action Steps:

- CSO's and CBO's should organize introductory meetings with traditional authorities to outline the objectives and benefits of collaboration, gaining support and legitimacy.
- Women-led outreach initiatives could be designed to train local women as community communicators, utilizing both traditional and modern methods to build trust within different social groups. Local women groups leaders must be engaged at the district levels (especially during medium-term development plan preparation: which happens every four years, town hall meetings (1st and 2nd quarter), and General assembly meetings (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters).

II. LEVERAGING FESTIVALS FOR CLIMATE ADVOCACY

Introduction: Festivals are vibrant cultural events in Akatsi North, drawing large gatherings and providing a platform for community discourse. Events such as the Bliza maize festival, Metriskasa Kpoelzi Dunenyo, Ave- Havi Easter picnic Dudradoza, Nyifawata midehaneyo festivals celebrate local heritage while fostering social cohesion. These gatherings are ideal for integrating climate advocacy into traditional celebrations.

Best Practices: Incorporating climate themes into festival activities such as music, dance, and traditional dramas ensures that critical messages resonate with attendees especially in their local language. Collaborating with women and youth leaders in planning and execution promotes inclusivity. Highlighting the intersection of cultural heritage and sustainability enhances community engagement.

Beyond-the-State-of-the-Art Practices: Mobile multimedia kiosks equipped with solar-powered audiovisual tools can highlight educational content during festivals. Interactive climate advocacy performances, led by local women's groups, amplify the visibility of gender-responsive solutions. This approach combines cultural traditions with modern outreach techniques to engage diverse audiences.

OBSERVATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations:

Cultural events are already deeply ingrained in the community's social fabric. By embedding climate education within these celebrations, the initiative can leverage existing traditions to reach broader audiences. Greater involvement of women in festival activities enhances their visibility as climate advocates.

Suggestions:

It can be suggested that CBO's collaborate with festival organizers to integrate climate advocacy into the already established festival activities, using music, dance, and drama to communicate climate issues in culturally relevant ways. Involvement of women's groups in organizing and performing during these festivals could significantly raise the visibility of gender-responsive solutions to climate challenges.

Recommendations:

We recommend that local CSOs partner with festival organizers to incorporate climate messaging in traditional festival performances and plans. This can be done by integrating climate-themed performances such as dances, plays, or songs. Additionally, we suggest creating multimedia kiosks at festivals equipped with solar-powered tools to show videos or educational content on climate action, climate informative billboards and climate resource center (moveable kiosk).

Action Steps:

- CBOs and CSOs should begin discussions with festival organizers and local leaders on how to include climate messages within the programming.
- Youth and women's groups can be engaged to develop and lead interactive, climate-related performances and activities during festivals.

III. ENGAGING SCHOOLS AND YOUTH

Introduction: Schools are critical hubs for knowledge dissemination and behavior change. Youth in Akatsi North represent a dynamic force for innovation and climate advocacy. Educational institutions, through targeted curricula and extracurricular activities, can shape future leaders while addressing current challenges.

Best Practices: Climate/ Environmental clubs in schools, such as Akatsi North Senior High Technical School, will serve as interactive platforms for peer-to-peer education. Youth-led initiatives, including radio programs, poetry, jingles, climate episodes and community clean-up campaigns, provide practical opportunities for students to engage with climate issues. Collaborating with teachers ensures the integration of climate education into formal learning

Beyond-the-State-of-the-Art Practices: Empowering students to use digital platforms such as blogs and social media for advocacy extends their reach beyond the classroom. Facilitating inter-school debates and collaborative projects encourages innovation while fostering a sense of collective responsibility.

OBSERVATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations:

Young people are instrumental in disseminating climate adaptation knowledge within their families and communities. Expanding access to digital tools and providing mentorship opportunities ensures their sustained engagement in climate action.

Suggestions:

It is suggested that CSOs and CBO's support the formation of climate clubs in schools and help facilitate the inclusion of climate-related topics into school curricula. These initiatives would empower youth to take leadership on climate issues.

Recommendations:

Expanding the use of digital platforms, such as local climate story blogs, videos and social media (flyers, posters, picture), to raise awareness and mobilize for climate action should be a priority. Engaging students to utilize these platforms would extend their advocacy efforts beyond the classroom. We suggest organizing inter-school debates on climate change, in which students' present solutions for local environmental challenges, fostering innovative thinking. It can also be recommended that schools partner with MMDA and youth-led initiatives to organize community clean-up campaigns, radio shows, and environmental campaigns.

Action Steps:

- Integrate climate education in schools.
- CSOs, MMDAs and CBOs should coordinate with local schools to establish climate clubs and set up mentorship programs for students.
- Partner with schools to integrate interactive, project-based learning where students can engage in hands-on climate action, supported by community resources.



IV. STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Introduction: Women in Akatsi North are central to community resilience but remain underrepresented in decision-making processes. Strengthening their leadership in climate adaptation is essential for sustainable development. This involves addressing systemic barriers while building their capacity to lead.

Best Practices: Training programs focused on drought-resistant farming, water management, and renewable energy equip women with practical skills. Encouraging women-led initiatives within local cooperatives enhances their visibility and influence. Partnerships with NGOs provide resources and technical support.

Beyond-the-State-of-the-Art Practices: Women's leadership can be further amplified by integrating them into policy-making forums and project design teams. Establishing mentorship programs connects experienced women leaders with emerging advocates, fostering intergenerational knowledge transfer.

OBSERVATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations:

Women's groups in Akatsi North have demonstrated their capacity to drive change. Expanding their leadership roles and providing consistent support ensure their contributions are recognized and sustained.

Suggestions:

CBO's can provide training on essential skills for climate resilience, focusing on areas like drought-resistant farming, renewable energy technologies, clean cooking methods and water management, ensuring women are equipped with the tools to adapt and lead. It can also be suggested that NGO's facilitate the creation of women-led initiatives within local cooperatives (by engaging Queen mothers), enhancing their visibility and decision-making power within their communities

Recommendations:

It is recommended that CSOs work closely with local authorities to create pathways for women to assume leadership roles in climate adaptation discussions at both the local and national levels. Expanding women's representation in policy-making forums could further empower them to effect change on a larger scale, and thus should be prioritized in climate adaptation projects.

Action Steps:

- CSOs should organize targeted capacity-building programs for women in climate-related sectors, such as agriculture and water management, to strengthen their leadership roles.
- District Assemblies should be encouraged to develop mentorship opportunities where experienced women leaders from the community (Queen mothers, Market Queens), in climate adaptation work alongside emerging leaders to exchange knowledge and advice.
- Encourage land ownership as women's rights.



V. INCORPORATING LOCAL MEDIA, COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTER AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduction: Local media outlets and digital platforms play a crucial role in bridging communication gaps in Akatsi North. They provide an avenue for disseminating climate-related information to both urban and rural audiences. Traditional tools such as the Gongon Beater remain effective for older populations, while radio programs and digital communication have the potential to engage younger, tech-savvy demographics.

Best Practices: Community radio stations like Fafa FM, Revival FM and Jubilee Radio are effective mediums for reaching wide audiences with tailored climate advocacy content. Programs hosted by respected community members, including women leaders and youth representatives, resonate strongly with listeners. Integrating traditional communication methods with modern technology ensures accessibility and inclusivity in message delivery.

Beyond-the-State-of-the-Art Practices: To enhance engagement, digital platforms such as WhatsApp groups or SMS broadcast systems could be introduced for real-time updates and discussions on climate adaptation strategies. Developing multimedia materials such as short videos and podcasts, featuring local success stories, bridges the gap between traditional and digital communication. These tools ensure the message reaches all segments of the population.

OBSERVATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations:

While local media outlets are influential, their reach can be limited by infrastructure challenges or content gaps. Expanding partnerships with media organizations and training community members in digital advocacy can amplify the impact of climate communication.

Suggestions:

It is suggested that CBO's work with local radio stations, like Fafa FM, Revival FM and Jubilee Radio, to host climate-focused programs. The collaboration should aim to include local influencers, such as youth and women leaders, to increase the program's reach and relevance. Integrating digital communication tools such as WhatsApp groups and SMS systems to disseminate real-time updates can increase engagement and participation in climate actions.

Recommendations:

We recommend that Digital and traditional platforms (community information center), should be integrated to enhance accessibility. CBO's encourage the use of local multimedia resources, such as short climate videos, radio shows, and podcasts, to engage diverse community groups. Focus should be given to ensuring that women and vulnerable groups contribute content in these media, as their voices are often underrepresented in mainstream platforms.

Action Steps:

- CSOs should develop partnerships with local media to train community members in the creation of relevant climate content, ensuring inclusive representation across demographics.
- Establish digital platforms for real-time updates, local content sharing, and discussions on local climate issues, making them accessible to both younger and older community members.
- Prioritize communication on climate issues in their local language.

SECTION D

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES



Key Climate Adaptation Issues	Key Stakeholders / Champions	Best Advocacy Strategies	Key Messages	Engagement Strategies	Role of Implementing Partners
Water Scarcity and Access to Clean Water	Akatsi North Community Water & Sanitation Agency, Traditional Authorities (Torgbui Dunyo IV, Mama Dzakago, Sohefia Zenyo, Awafia Doe-Ketsi), Women's Groups (Elikem Gari Processing, Dekawowo Gari Processing), Youth Groups (Atanve Youth Group, Ave Havi Youth Development Association)	Community-led clean water campaigns during Festival, Radio dramas on water conservation, Individual and house-to-house education.	"Water conservation ensures future livelihoods. Clean water is a shared responsibility essential for community health and resilience."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storytelling sessions with elders and Queen Mothers, Announcements via Gongon Beaters, Radio discussions (Fafa FM, Revival FM), Photo exhibitions in Community Information Centers, School drama in local languages on water conservation, Borehole commissioning ceremonies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilizing communities for water conservation. Supporting clean water initiatives. Facilitating borehole installations. Engaging schools in water awareness campaigns.
Impact of Drought on Agriculture	Akatsi North District Agricultural Department, Fafa FM & Revival FM, Farmers' Groups (Green Crop Farmers Group), Youth Groups (Metrikasa Youth Group, Dzayime Youth Development Association)	Open-field exhibitions during Festivals, Agricultural adaptation storytelling competitions, Documentaries on successful drought-resistant farming, School gardening with award systems	"Resilient farming protects food security. Collective action improves adaptation to changing climates."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer workshops with agricultural officers, Radio discussions on best practices, Photo exhibitions showcasing success stories, School drama performances during graduation ceremonies highlighting drought-resistant farming techniques. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistical support for agricultural demonstrations Strengthening farmer-extension officer networks. Supporting school-based agricultural programs.
Flooding and Soil Erosion	Akatsi North Disaster Management Organization, DA, Traditional Leaders (Torgbui Adekpe, Mama Adaneworkpo II, Torgbui Gbedzega Ahiakpatsi II, Mama Ahiafokpor), Women's Groups (Aleka Women's Foundation), Local Schools	Inter-school competitions on land-use planning, Tree-planting events during community festivals, Photo exhibitions showing erosion impacts	"Flood prevention protects farmlands and homes. Trees are critical allies against erosion."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of Climate Action Clubs in schools, Hands-on land-use planning demonstrations with elders, House-to-house education on erosion prevention, Tree-planting ceremonies at funerals and local events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing tree seedlings for reforestation Supporting storytelling programs linking cultural practices to sustainable land use. Encouraging communities to integrate tree planting into cultural ceremonies.
Energy Access and Sustainability	District Environmental Department, Akatsi North Senior High Technical School, Women's Groups (National Association of Hairdressers and Beauticians), CSOs (Aleka Women's Foundation, Compassion International)	Climate adaptation exhibitions at Festival and market days, Energy-saving awareness programs, School drama performances on energy sustainability	"Renewable energy improves livelihoods and reduces costs. Energy efficiency drives sustainability."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School drama clubs performing at festivals and graduation ceremonies, Radio discussions on women's success in solar adoption, Community Information Centre screenings on clean energy benefits, Individual education through house-to-house visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness on renewable energy. Encouraging adoption of sustainable energy solutions. Providing solar demonstration kits. Offering small grants for women entrepreneurs adopting renewables.

This table outlines the specific climate-related issues in Akatsi North and its surrounding areas, where local contexts, cultural practices, and traditional elements play a pivotal role in how these issues are addressed:

- The Gongon Beater** is a traditional announcement tool used by communities for spreading key messages in a culturally accepted way, or A traditional drum used to make public announcement in rural Ghana communities.
- Fafa FM and Revival FM** are trusted local platforms that offer tailored content to the needs of the community, whether through radio dramas, online interviews with local women leaders and agricultural champions.
- Advans** is an international microfinance group that provides financial services to small businesses and other populations with limited access to banking.
- In a rural setting like Akatsi North, land-use planning and farming techniques have been traditionally passed down through generations, but climate change challenges the traditional methods. As part of the Festival, communities can be engaged in tree-planting events, a practice aligned with local environmental values.
- Across all the issues highlighted, community festivals, traditional storytelling, elders, Queen mothers, Chiefs and local art forms provide unique touchpoints for climate advocacy. The Festivals allow CBO's and CSOs to present climate issues in a culturally rich and meaningful manner that resonates deeply with the community.
- CBO's** - Community Based Organization.
- Torgbui** - Chief.
- Mamaga** - Queen Mother.

STAKEHOLDER RATING OF COMMUNITY-DRIVEN STRATEGY

Community-Driven Strategy	Stakeholder Rating (Scale of 1-10)	Ranking	Remarks
Communication through open-field exhibitions during Festivals.	10	Very High	High visibility, culturally relevant, broad community participation.
Photo exhibitions showing erosion impacts.	10	Very High	Engages visual storytelling to highlight critical issues effectively.
Climate change exhibitions at Festivals and market days.	10	Very High	Reaches a diverse audience; fosters climate dialogue in key social spaces.
Communication through Photo Exhibition.	10	Very High	Powerful advocacy tool, easy to replicate across communities.
Communication through community Information centre.	9.9	Very High	Centralized access to knowledge; useful for ongoing information dissemination.
Agricultural adaptation storytelling competitions.	9.9	Very High	Encourages local knowledge-sharing, strong community involvement.
Community-led clean water campaigns during Festivals.	8.8	High	Well-integrated into cultural events; mobilizes local action effectively.
Communication through commissioning of boreholes.	7.5	Moderate	Addresses immediate water needs, but requires high capital investment.
Documentaries on successful drought-resistant farming.	7.5	Moderate	Useful for education and awareness, but requires distribution channels.
Radio dramas on water conservation.	6.5	Moderate	Reaches broad audiences, but impact depends on listenership.
School gardening with award systems.	6.5	Moderate	Encourages youth engagement, but long-term maintenance is a challenge.
Communication through commissioning of boreholes.	6.5	Moderate	Interactive and educational but requires consistent funding for sustainability.
Inter-school competitions on land-use planning.	6.5	Moderate	Builds awareness among youth, but limited direct community impact.
Communication through graduation ceremonies.	2.5	Very Low	Limited relevance to climate advocacy; low direct impact.
Energy-saving awareness programs.		Not ranked	Needs assessment for effectiveness and outreach potential.
School drama performances on energy sustainability.		Not ranked	Requires stakeholder evaluation for impact measurement.



SOLUTION

HOUSE OF POWER

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DREAM WONT

Gender Equality

THE HOUSE OF POWER FOR ALL NATIONS

2021

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO ADVOCACY-BASED CAPACITY REQUIREMENT

1. Integrating Traditional Knowledge & Modern Science

In many communities across Akatsi North, traditional ecological knowledge has played a crucial role in preserving natural resources and adapting to environmental changes. However, modern climate adaptation strategies often fail to incorporate the wisdom of indigenous leaders, such as Torgbui Dunyo IV, Mama Ahiafokpor, and Torgbui Kotoka Afudzagbo, who have long upheld sustainable land-use practices. This approach seeks to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern science by documenting oral histories, customary laws, and cultural practices related to environmental conservation. Traditional authorities will lead Climate Resilience Forums, where community elders and scientists will engage in dialogue to develop locally enforceable policies on issues such as flood prevention, soil erosion, and water conservation.

In addition to governance, technology will be leveraged to complement local expertise. Community-based monitoring teams, trained in GIS mapping and climate risk assessments, will work alongside youth groups like Metsrikasa Youth Development Association and Ave Havi Youth Development Association to track changes in water sources and land degradation. This fusion of tradition and science will ensure that climate adaptation strategies are rooted in both local realities and empirical data, making them more effective and sustainable. In areas affected by saline water intrusion, such as Tordzinu and Nyitawuta, local farmers will be equipped with improved desalination techniques while incorporating traditional water-harvesting methods to secure clean water access.

2. Participatory and Evidence-Based Advocacy

To ensure that climate adaptation efforts are effective and inclusive, this approach prioritizes community-driven advocacy where local actors actively shape policies and investment decisions. Communities in Ave Havi, Atanve, Metsrikasa, and Nyitawuta will use community scorecards to assess the effectiveness of climate initiatives, ensuring that policies reflect the needs of the most affected groups. Women and youth will play a central role in data collection and storytelling, capturing how climate change affects daily life. Through local radio stations like Fafa FM and Revival FM, these stories will be amplified to influence public discourse and policy actions at the district and national levels.

Additionally, media and digital platforms will be used to advocate for systemic changes in climate governance. Youth and women's groups, such as Green Crop Farmers Group and Gari Processing, will be trained in climate documentation to develop video and audio content showcasing successful community-led adaptation efforts. The media should be used as a tool to engage policymakers and investors, ensuring that grassroots voices are heard in high-level climate discussions. By positioning local

leaders as advocates and knowledge producers, this approach strengthens the ability of communities to demand accountability and influence climate policies.

3. Strengthening Local Governance Systems

A major gap in Ghana's climate response is the disconnection between national policies and the realities on the ground, particularly in rural areas like Akatsi North. Traditional leaders such as Torgbui Adekpe and Mama Adaneworkpo II have historically played key roles in local governance, yet their authority is rarely leveraged for climate action. This model seeks to formalize their role in environmental governance by integrating climate adaptation strategies into customary land-use decisions. Local governance institutions will collaborate with traditional rulers to develop enforceable bylaws on reforestation, water conservation, and sustainable farming, ensuring that policies are rooted in local legitimacy.

Additionally, strengthening local government capacity is essential for long-term sustainability. Heads of departments such as Forestry, Agriculture, Fire Services, and Community Health will receive technical training on integrating climate adaptation into district-level planning and resource allocation. This will ensure that government agencies can provide targeted support to communities affected by climate risks. For instance, disaster management teams should engage the community on early warning systems for floods and droughts, while agricultural officers will work with Atanve Youth Group to promote drought-resistant farming techniques. This multi-level governance approach ensures that local climate resilience efforts are coordinated, well-funded and effective.

4. Multi-Level Policy Engagement for Systemic Change

Climate resilience in Ghana cannot be achieved in isolation; it requires engagement at local, national, and regional levels. This model facilitates direct participation of grassroots organizations, such as Aleka Women's Foundation and Compassion International, in national and regional policy discussions. These groups will receive training in policy drafting, strategic negotiation, and coalition building to enhance their influence in climate governance. By connecting community leaders with decision-makers, this approach ensures that policy frameworks reflect the lived realities of vulnerable groups, particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, cross-country learning exchanges with regional partner projects in the Northern Region will enable the sharing of best practices in climate-smart agriculture, and adaptation financing. Local policymakers in Akatsi North will collaborate with counterparts from other regions to explore innovative financing models that support inclusive climate projects. A key component of this effort will be budget advocacy, where CSOs and community leaders will analyze government

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spending on climate initiatives to advocate for increased funding towards grassroots-led adaptation programs. By influencing resource allocation at the highest levels, this approach ensures that financial investments in climate resilience are both equitable and impactful.

5. Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Resilience

Economic sustainability is central to climate adaptation, particularly for women-led cooperatives and smallholder farmers in Ave-Havi, Nyitawuta, Atanve and Metsrikasa. This approach promotes green skills training in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-smart entrepreneurship. Women's groups, such as Elikem Gari Processing and Green crop Tomatoes Dekawowo, Nyitawuta Gari Processing, will receive support to transition towards energy-efficient processing technologies that reduce environmental impact while improving productivity. Similarly, youth in AveHavi Youth Development Association will be trained in solar energy installation and maintenance, creating new employment opportunities in the clean energy sector.

Agriculture remains the backbone of many local economies, making climate-smart farming a priority. Demonstration fields and school gardening programs will be established to teach farmers about crop-livestock integration, irrigation methods, organic composting, and drought-resistant crop cultivation. To encourage widespread adoption, an award system will recognize communities that successfully implement sustainable farming practices. This holistic approach not only enhances food security but also empowers communities to develop climate-resilient businesses that generate long-term economic benefits. By integrating adaptation strategies with livelihood opportunities, this model ensures that climate resilience translates into tangible socio-economic improvements.

6. A Scalable Model for Climate Leadership in Ghana

This advocacy-driven capacity-building approach provides a replicable framework for community-led climate action in Ghana. By embedding traditional knowledge, participatory governance, and scientific innovation into local adaptation strategies, it ensures that communities are not just passive recipients of climate policies but active agents of change. The model's emphasis on policy influence, sustainable livelihoods, and grassroots leadership ensures that climate resilience is both inclusive and sustainable

Through strong engagement with traditional leaders, local government agencies, women's cooperatives, and youth groups, this initiative creates a bottom-up approach to climate governance. By localizing global best practices and fostering cross-sector collaboration, it provides a pathway for communities in Akatsi North and beyond to lead in sustainable development. This model does not only address immediate climate risks but also positions Ghana as a leader in inclusive climate resilience in West Africa.



ANNEX A

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS AND ADVOCACY CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Relevant Capacity Requirements	Advocacy-Based Capacity-Building Activities
Youth Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atanve Youth Group Norvinenyo Youth Group Metsrikasa Youth Group Ave Havi Youth Development Association Nyitawuta Youth Development Association Dzayime Youth Development Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water, Sanitation, and Health (WASH) Gender Impact on Climate Change. Prevention of Chemical Pollution from Farms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Youth-Led Climate Action Networks to train and mentor peers on climate resilience. Conduct policy engagement workshops with district officials on youth inclusion in environmental governance. Develop and distribute simplified training manuals in local languages on WASH and sustainable farming practices.
Women's Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elikem Gari Processing Dekawowo Green crop tomatoes paste, Gari Processing Green Crop Farmers Group National Association of Hairdressers and Beauticians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean cook stoves, and energy efficiency Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Prevention of chemical pollution from farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize community dialogues with women entrepreneurs and policymakers to advocate for gender-responsive renewable energy policies. Provide technical training on improved cook stoves, sustainable food processing, and climate-smart agriculture. Facilitate women-led research & documentation on the impact of climate change and energy transition on local livelihoods.
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aleka Women's Foundation Compassion International 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring & Evaluation Gender Impact on Climate Change Policy Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop community scorecards to track and evaluate the effectiveness of local climate adaptation policies. Organize multi-stakeholder advocacy forums to amplify the voices of vulnerable groups in climate decision-making. Strengthen CSO coalitions to engage in national and regional climate policy dialogues
Traditional Authorities (Chiefs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torgbui Dunyo IV, Mama Dzakago, Sohefia Zenyo, Awafia Doe-Ketsi (Atanve) Agboka Sowu IV, Torgbui Ahiabor Gamor VI, Torgbui Amudzegbe, Torgbui Kotoka Afudzagbo, Mama Aviakpui III, Mama Nudo, Mama Miwowe (Ave-Havi) Agbotadua Agbuisu, Zikpuito Weto (Nyitawuta) Torgbui Gbedzega Ahiakpatsi II, Mama Ahiafokpor (Metsrikasa) Torgbui Adekpe, Mama Adaneworkpo II (Kpodzi) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of Chemical Pollution Fire Belts & Tree Planting WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Traditional Leaders' Climate Council to advocate for policy actions that integrate indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation. Facilitate intergenerational learning forums, where elders mentor youth on land conservation and sustainable water management. Conduct customary law reviews to strengthen local bylaws on climate resilience, water governance, and sustainable land use.
Departmental Agencies (Forestry, Agriculture, Fire Services, Community Health, NCCE, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) Forestry Commission Agricultural Extension Services Fire Services Community Health Officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of Chemical Pollution Fire Belts & Reforestation WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop evidence-based advocacy briefs to influence national climate adaptation policies. Organize cross-sectoral learning exchanges to strengthen coordination between forestry, agriculture, and community health departments. Implement capacity-building programs for local government officials on gender-responsive and inclusive climate policies.

ANNEX B

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING KEY STRATEGIES



Criteria	Target Audience/Stakeholders	Viability and Relevance	Effectiveness	Time and Cost Efficiency	Validity and Reliability	Strengths and Weaknesses
Criteria Definition	Target: CSOs, local leaders, community-based organizations, vulnerable groups (youth, women)	Highly applicable for building localized advocacy capacity in climate adaptation. Addresses the intersectionality of gender, youth, and vulnerable groups in the adaptation narrative. Essential for reaching broad audiences with key messages on climate risks and adaptation solutions.	Moderate time and cost commitment but offers substantial long-term returns in policy integration and cross-sectoral alignment. Effective for raising awareness and generating empathy for climate adaptation issues, particularly in underrepresented or vulnerable groups.	Highly cost-effective for community-level implementation; minimal training required for facilitators; scalable for multiple regions. High efficiency in terms of broad dissemination; higher costs for media buys, but effective for mass.	Proven through community-level/field testing and iterative updates from ongoing pilot programs; consistent positive feedback from local communities. Valid through years of proven effectiveness in disaster preparedness and public health campaigns.	Strengths: Empowers local stakeholders through participatory processes; easy to understand, adaptable. Weaknesses: Complexity may pose challenges for new advocates without prior policy or legal background. Requires expert facilitation for maximum clarity.
Key Strategy 1						
Key Strategy 2						





4 Digya Lane, Airport Residential Area
Accra – Ghana

info@sigraghana.org

+233 53 046 5748



www.sigraghana.org

