

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN
INITIATIVE (AFAWI)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	03
THE LIVELIHOOD PROJECT	05
ECCHACHILD PROJECT	07
WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY 2024	11
ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONAL RESEARCH: DISSEMINATION OF THE 2022 DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY REPORT	12
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024	13
CBI CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVE	15
EMPOWERING GIRLS PROJECT	20
FARM PROJECT	24
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME	25



SUMMARY

The Alliance for African Women Initiative (AFAWI) is a Ghana-based non-profit organisation committed to achieving gender equality and empowering vulnerable groups through sustainable development. AFAWI has a strong grassroots presence and works in close collaboration with communities to create tailored solutions that address local challenges. With a particular focus on women and children, AFAWI delivers impactful projects across education, health, economic empowerment, and social protection. In 2024, our projects have reached new heights, expanding geographically and deepening our impact.

In 2024, AFAWI implemented a wide range of successful initiatives, including:

- Economic empowerment for 120 women through training and low-interest micro credits under the Livelihood Project.
- The continuation and expansion of ECCACHILD, supporting marginalised children through education, health, and material support.
- The successful re-launch and strengthening of the Teen Club as part of the Empowering Girls Project.
- Capacity-building sessions, menstrual health training, and distribution of reusable sanitary pads in partnership with THC Foundation.
- Infrastructure support including sanitation facilities and the distribution of school materials.
- Expansion of our Empowering Girls Project to Northern Ghana, with education sessions, training of trainers, and facility construction underway.
- Establishing a pottery factory in Torgorme through our CSR partnership with CBI Ghana Ltd.
- Launch of a new Nutritional Farm to support school feeding in Ashongman.

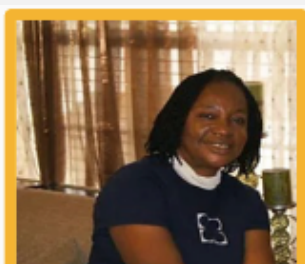


2024 has been a remarkable year for AFAWI. With the support of our partners, staff, interns, and volunteers, we have expanded our geographic reach, strengthened our program delivery, and touched the lives of hundreds of women and children across Ghana.

Each project reaffirms our belief that sustainable, community-led change is not only possible but already happening. We thank all our donors, stakeholders, and community members for walking with us on this journey. Together, we are creating a brighter, more equitable future.

With gratitude,

The AFAWI Team



Philip Kwesi Agyei

**Founder/ Managing
Director AFAWI**

Dr. Felicia S. Odame

Board Chair AFAWI

Jennifer Gasu

**Programmes
Manager AFAWI**

Marlene Keller

**Deputy
Programmes
Manager AFAWI**



THE LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

The AFAWI Livelihood Project continues to stand as a cornerstone of our mission to promote women's economic empowerment across Ghana. This initiative is specifically designed to support low-income female entrepreneurs by offering them access to low-interest loans—financial opportunities that are typically out of reach through conventional banking institutions. Alongside financial support, beneficiaries receive basic business training, equipping them with the skills necessary to manage their enterprises effectively, maximize loan impact, and achieve long-term financial independence.

In 2024, the project achieved significant milestones. A total of 120 women participated in both training sessions and received direct financial support through the project. Each woman was granted a support credit ranging between GHC 1,000 and GHC 10,000, tailored to suit her specific business plans and growth objectives.

The women supported through this initiative operated across Anloga (Volta Region) and Afienya, Boi, Adenta, and Abokobi (Greater Accra Region). This widespread reach highlights AFAWI's ongoing commitment to expanding opportunities to underserved communities and bridging economic gaps across both rural and peri-urban areas.

Through the AFAWI Livelihood Project, we are not only enhancing individual livelihoods but also contributing to gender equality, inclusive economic growth, and the development of resilient local economies. The success of this year's activities reaffirms the value of this program and motivates us to scale its impact in the years ahead.



THE LIVELIHOOD PROJECT



ECCACHILD PROJECT

The Empowering Communities: Care and Assistance for Deprived and Vulnerable Children (ECCACHILD) Project remains a vital pillar of AFAWI's work to ensure that no child is left behind. Designed to support marginalized children who fall outside the reach of existing social protection systems, ECCACHILD provides comprehensive care through school fees, educational materials, school uniforms, transportation, healthcare, and nutritional support. The project prioritizes children facing serious need and works not only to meet their immediate necessities but also to strengthen the capabilities of their families and communities for long-term progress.

Project Highlights in 2024

Uniform Support and Community Engagement

In February 2024, the AFAWI team conducted a visit to Ashongman Presby Basic School, where we assessed the condition of school uniforms.

Measurements were taken for students in need, and 67 new uniforms were sewn and prepared for distribution. These efforts continue to ensure that all children attend school with dignity, in appropriate and clean attire, helping boost both attendance and confidence.

Partnership with Trinity Health Care Foundation (THC)

A significant milestone in 2024 was the launch of a new collaboration with the Trinity Health Care Foundation (THC). This partnership has enabled the integration of the ECCACHILD Project with our Empowering Girls initiative to deepen impact across both education and health.

An introductory stakeholder meeting was held on May 17th, where THC Foundation was formally introduced to school authorities. Plans were laid for a series of student-focused activities, including the revitalization of the school's Teen Club, which serves as a peer-led platform for mentorship, educational sessions, and leadership training.



Teen Club Revitalization and Leadership Elections

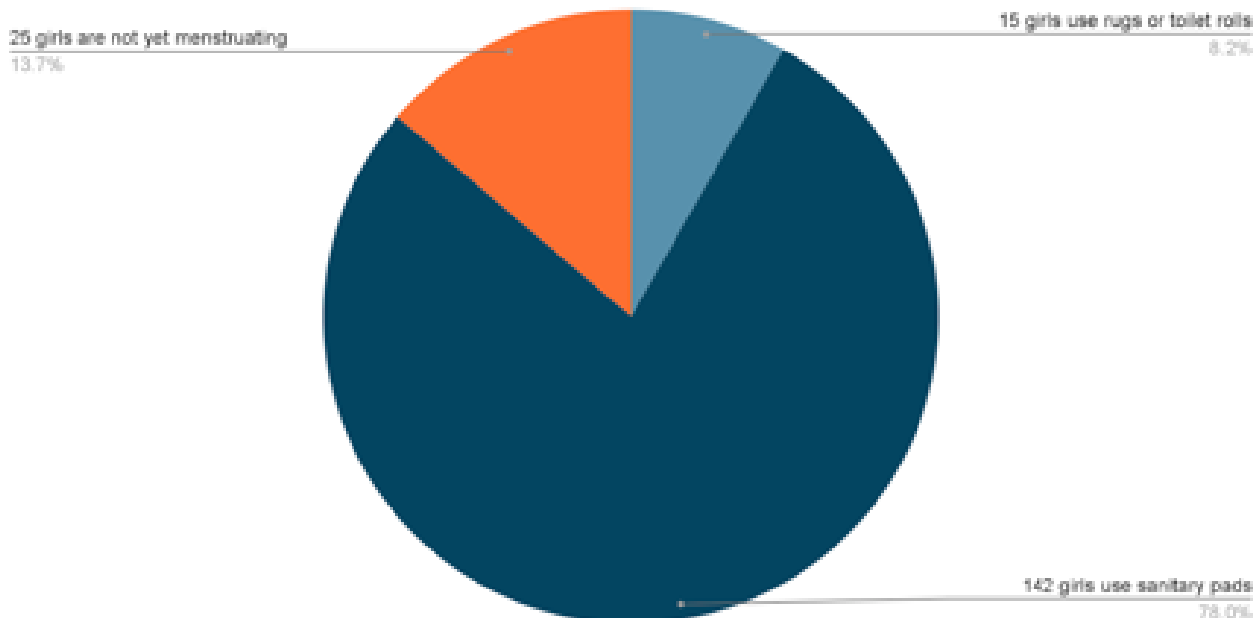
On May 24th, AFAWI facilitated the Teen Club leadership elections, engaging 52 students (30 girls and 22 boys) in a participatory democratic process. Roles filled included President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Organisers. The session concluded with an encouraging outcome—four of the five leadership positions were filled by girls, underscoring the project’s success in fostering inclusive youth leadership. This Teen Club will serve as a structure for hosting ongoing health education, peer mentoring, and training-of-trainers activities.

Menstrual Hygiene Education and Pad Distribution

To further support adolescent girls, AFAWI conducted a comprehensive menstrual hygiene program in July 2024.

- On July 2nd, a needs assessment questionnaire was completed by 182 girls, collecting crucial data on menstrual hygiene practices.

Results of Survey



- On July 5th, a training session was held for nearly 200 girls, focusing on menstruation, hygiene, and safe sanitary tool use. The session was interactive and empowering, with many students actively participating in discussions.
- Following the training, reusable sanitary pads were distributed, customized based on menstrual flow. Due to higher-than-expected attendance, not all students received pads on the day, but AFAWI documented the remaining needs for follow-up distribution.

All sessions were documented through video and interviews, as part of visibility reporting for THC Foundation. AFAWI emphasizes the ethical use of such footage, particularly in safeguarding the identities and dignity of minors.

Provision of Shoes, Socks, and Schoolbags

On July 19th, AFAWI continued its holistic support by distributing essential school items to children in Classes 1 to 3 at Ashongman Basic School.

- Distributed items included 50 pairs of shoes, 50 schoolbags, and 84 pairs of socks, based on earlier needs assessments.
- Items were distributed in classroom sessions, and the response from students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive. These supplies not only enhance the learning experience but also promote regular school attendance and reduce economic strain on families.

Looking Ahead

The 2024 implementation of the ECCACHILD Project was marked by strong stakeholder collaboration, expanded support structures, and highly successful community-based activities. Through close coordination with school leaders, families, and partners, AFAWI has continued to build an inclusive and nurturing environment for children most at risk of being left behind.

Plans for 2025 include:

- Continued educational sessions through the Teen Club
- Further menstrual hygiene training and pad distribution
- Expansion of school health interventions
- Ongoing material and nutritional support



WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO GIVING EVERY CHILD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, GROW, AND THRIVE—BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAIR START IN LIFE



WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY 2024 – PROMOTING DIGNITY AND HEALTH FOR GIRLS

World Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed annually on May 28, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about the importance of good menstrual hygiene management and to break longstanding taboos surrounding menstruation. The date symbolizes the average length of a menstrual cycle (28 days) and emphasizes the need for inclusive, stigma-free education and access to sanitary products for all.

The 2024 theme, **#PeriodFriendlyWorld**, resonated deeply with AFAWI's mission to empower girls through health education and reproductive health advocacy.

To mark this important day, the AFAWI team visited Ashongman Basic School 2, where we conducted an interactive educational session with female students. As part of the session:

- We introduced menstrual cups and demonstrated how they are used safely and hygienically
- Our team provided detailed information about menstruation, reproductive health, and hygiene practices
- We created a safe space for students to ask questions, express concerns, and learn in an open and respectful environment

This activity was implemented under the ECCACHILD/Empowering Girls Project, in partnership with the Trinity Health Care (THC) Foundation, which supports AFAWI's work within the Ashongman cluster of schools.

The engagement on Menstrual Hygiene Day reinforces AFAWI's commitment to breaking stigma, increasing menstrual health literacy, and ensuring that no girl misses school due to lack of access or information. Through education and advocacy, we are one step closer to building a truly period-friendly world.



ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONAL RESEARCH: DISSEMINATION OF THE 2022 DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY REPORT

In 2024, the AFAWI team participated in the dissemination of the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Report, a critical national research effort that provides key insights into the health and social wellbeing of the population. The event served as an opportunity to engage with the latest data on pressing public health issues, including maternal and adolescent health. Of particular interest to AFAWI were the findings related to young pregnant women in Ghana, which align closely with our organizational focus on reproductive health education, youth empowerment, and support for vulnerable girls. The insights gained from the DHS report will inform the development and enhancement of AFAWI's programmatic interventions, ensuring our work remains evidence-based and responsive to current needs. Our participation reflects AFAWI's continued commitment to policy engagement, data-informed programming, and national collaboration in the pursuit of gender equality and community health.



Women in Ghana have an average of **3.9** children.

22.1
years



The average age of a Ghanaian woman when she gives birth for the first time.

60% of pregnant women age 15-49 took the recommended 3+ doses of IPTp during pregnancy to prevent malaria.



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

2024

To mark International Women's Day on the 8th of March 2024, AFAWI proudly celebrated women's strength, resilience, and contributions through both community outreach and joyful engagement. This year's activities were centered at the Maternity Ward of the Abokobi Health Center, where AFAWI organized a special donation and awareness-raising visit.

As part of our commitment to supporting women's health and wellbeing, AFAWI donated essential items including diapers, buckets, washing detergent, sanitizers, and other hygiene products to the maternity ward. These items were selected to ease the burden on mothers and hospital staff, and to contribute to a cleaner, more comfortable environment for patients and newborns.

During the visit, the AFAWI team also led an informal session with mothers, engaging them in discussions about the significance of International Women's Day and affirming the vital role women play in families, communities, and national development. The atmosphere was filled with warmth, encouragement—and celebration. Together with the women and staff, we danced, shared stories, and honored the global spirit of unity and empowerment that defines this special day.

This event reflects AFAWI's ongoing mission to uplift women across all stages of life, promote gender equity, and ensure that women's voices and experiences remain at the heart of our programming.



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



CBI GHANA CSR PARTNERSHIP

In 2023, AFAWI proudly launched a long-term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnership with CBI Ghana Ltd., a leading cement manufacturing company certified by the Ghana Standards Authority. This collaboration aims to address pressing social and economic development needs in the Torgorme community in the Volta Region through sustainable, community-driven solutions.

As part of this commitment, AFAWI began implementing the first phase of the CBI CSR initiative in July 2023, laying the foundation for a multi-year effort to build inclusive economic empowerment and social infrastructure in the region.

Project Milestone: Completion of the Pottery Factory

In April 2024, AFAWI began construction of a state-of-the-art pottery factory in Torgorme as part of the first phase of the CSR initiative. We are proud to report that by the end of the year, construction was successfully completed.

The fully functional pottery facility now serves as a dedicated space for local female potters to:

- Produce, kiln-fire, cool, and store ceramic goods
- Improve production quality and consistency
- Access formalized market opportunities through a buyer's network being developed by AFAWI

The pottery factory has already begun operations, and the women potters are now actively using the facility to scale their businesses and generate sustainable income.



Capacity Building and Financial Literacy

Even before the factory's completion, AFAWI conducted intensive financial literacy training for 50 women potters in the community. The workshops provided foundational skills in:

- Bookkeeping and savings
- Business planning and financial management
- Raising capital for small business ventures

In addition, participants attended a session on family planning, led by AFAWI's Programmes Manager, promoting informed decision-making and holistic personal development alongside economic empowerment.

Community Needs Assessment and Ongoing Engagement

In June 2024, AFAWI conducted a series of needs assessments with the participating potters to better understand their specific challenges and business goals. These assessments helped shape the support services and business development strategies integrated into the project.

The community engagement process has been participatory, transparent, and inclusive, ensuring that the pottery initiative reflects the real needs and ambitions of the women involved.

Visibility and Partnership

Throughout the year, AFAWI has shared regular updates on the project's progress via its social media platforms, celebrating milestones and keeping stakeholders informed. CBI Ghana Ltd., our esteemed partner, continues to play a critical role in making this project possible. As a respected Ghanaian company operating out of the Tema Free Zones Area, CBI Ghana exemplifies the power of corporate-community partnerships in driving grassroots development and economic opportunity.

With the pottery factory now fully operational and female artisans actively producing and selling their work, AFAWI is proud to witness the tangible impact of this initiative. The factory has already begun to create a ripple effect —enhancing livelihoods, building skills, and strengthening local industry.



CBI GHANA CSR PARTNERSHIP



CBI GHANA CSR PARTNERSHIP



CBI GHANA CSR PARTNERSHIP



EMPOWERING GIRLS PROJECT

The Empowering Girls Project is a flagship initiative of AFAWI focused on advancing gender equality in education by addressing the unique challenges faced by girls in school settings. The project bridges the gender gap through a combination of sanitation infrastructure development, menstrual and hygiene education, and the distribution of reusable sanitary products, including pads and menstrual cups.

In 2024, AFAWI expanded the project to the Northern Region of Ghana, specifically to Sagnarigu District, a region where rates of school dropouts among girls and child marriage remain high. This expansion was made possible through the support of dedicated donors, including former volunteer Megan Rigden and partners.



Key Activities in 2024

Needs Assessments and School Selection

In June 2024, AFAWI's team traveled to the Northern Region to conduct introductory meetings with the Education Directorate and identify schools for intervention. Out of five shortlisted districts with high child marriage prevalence—Sagnarigu, Nanumba North, Gusheigu, Saboba, and Mion—Sagnarigu was selected as the implementation site. Following visits to several schools, Bagabaga School was chosen as the project school based on need and community readiness.

Stakeholder Engagement and Community Buy-In

The project began with a stakeholder meeting that included representatives from the education office, traditional leadership, and school authorities. The goals of the Empowering Girls Project were outlined, with strong support received for its dual focus on education retention and child marriage prevention. Community leaders welcomed the inclusion of both boys and girls in the education sessions, acknowledging the importance of involving all students in reproductive health awareness and stigma reduction.

Education Sessions and Youth Empowerment

During a site visit in September 2024, AFAWI facilitated three participatory education sessions at Bagabaga School:

- The first session covered puberty education, focusing on how both male and female bodies change and normalizing menstruation through inclusive dialogue.
- The second addressed the consequences of child marriage and emphasized the benefits of completing secondary education and pursuing long-term career goals.
- The third session introduced reusable sanitary towels and taught girls how to properly use and care for them, addressing the lack of access to menstrual products that often leads to school absenteeism.

Reusable sanitary products were distributed to all girls of appropriate age at the school, significantly improving their ability to attend school consistently and with confidence.



The project also launched a Training of Trainers (ToT) model, where selected students received additional support to educate peers in their communities. These students began tracking outreach and feedback using forms provided by AFAWI, ensuring the sustainability of peer-led education and community engagement.

Sanitation Facilities Planning

In parallel with the educational component, AFAWI engaged with three contractors to develop plans for new gender-sensitive sanitation facilities at the school. The design included:

- Seated toilets connected to plumbing (not pit latrines)
- Separate male and female sections
- Private cubicles with doors to allow for menstrual hygiene management

Due to inflation and shifting exchange rates, initial budgets were adjusted in consultation with local contractors. By the end of 2024, a contractor was selected, and a timeline for construction completion was set for February 2025, pending final fundraising.

Looking Ahead

The Empowering Girls Project expansion in Sagnarigu has laid the groundwork for long-term impact in 2024 through:

- Direct engagement with over 100 students
- Community advocacy against child marriage
- Sustainable menstrual health education and product distribution
- Plans for permanent sanitation infrastructure

The initial success of the project highlights the importance of holistic, community-centered interventions that combine infrastructure, education, and empowerment. Ongoing virtual meetings are being held to track construction progress and finalize the next steps in outreach and training.

AFAWI is deeply grateful to all partners and supporters who made this expansion possible. With continued commitment, we look forward to fully realizing the vision of **empowered, educated girls who can stay in school and lead change in their communities.**



EMPOWERING GIRLS PROJECT



FARM PROJECT

AFAWI's Farming and Nutritional Support Project is a holistic school-based initiative aimed at improving food security, combatting malnutrition, and promoting health education among school-aged children in underserved communities. This program currently supports a primary school in Adenkrebi, a small rural community, where the need for nutritious school meals is critical. The project began by financially supporting the school to provide nutritious daily lunches to its students. Over time, the model is designed to shift toward self-sufficiency through the integration of a school garden, sustainable food production, and community ownership.



In April 2024, AFAWI acquired new farmland for the Ashongman cluster of schools to expand the project's reach. The land is now being prepared under the guidance of a dedicated farm manager, supported by a local extension officer from the community.



The farm is divided into two sections:

- One section is being cultivated with vegetables such as tomatoes, chilli, carrots, onions, lettuce, and okra.
- The second section is designated for root crops and staples including yam, plantains, cassava, and sweet potatoes.

THIS FARM WILL SUPPLY FRESH PRODUCE FOR SCHOOL MEALS AND SERVE AS AN INCOME-GENERATING INITIATIVE, SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL'S GRADUAL TRANSITION TOWARD INDEPENDENCE FROM EXTERNAL FUNDING.



AFAWI VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Alliance for African Women Initiative (AFAWI) welcomes volunteer interns from around the world. As a grassroots organization we foster a knowledge sharing environment that promotes an experience to learn about international development, Ghanaian culture and our projects that empowers women and children to create a better future for communities.

This year AFAWI welcomed 10 volunteers!



THANKS TO CHARLOTTE, AGATHA, HANNAH,
LEANDRA, EMMA, TROODIA, DANIELA, PHOEBE,
DIANE AND ROSIE
FOR YOUR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO AFAWI!



THANK YOU!

