

PROFILE OF CENTER FOR INTEGRATED RURAL AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (CIRCDev)

INTRODUCTION

[Center for integrated Rural and Child Development](#) (CIRCDev) is a registered nonprofit organization aiding the alleviation of poverty in rural communities with emphasis on women, youth and children in Ghana.

CIRCDev was established in 2015 with the aim of improving rural communities and also improving the total well-being of disadvantaged groups in rural communities in Ghana. CIRCDev was formed out a research conducted by the Development Planning Unit of the Atwima Nwabiagya District in 2015 which is now a Municipal

OUR GOAL

CIRCDev seeks to assist in rural development and provide for the total well-being of women, youth and children in the various rural communities in Ghana

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Promote and facilitate the total well-being of women, youth and children.
- Promote and facilitate the development of rural communities.
- Contribute a quota in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Africa agenda 2063.

OUR MISSION

To aid the alleviation of poverty in rural communities and provide for the total well-being of women and children through provision of development needs by collaborating with authorities, groups and organizations to implement programs.

OUR VISION

Our vision is create an enriched local community that adequately supports the total development of women and children" through the provision of social needs, economic opportunities and infrastructure.

AREAS OF INTEREST

CIRCDev is interested in the following areas to enhance poverty alleviation. CIRCDev also conducts research into issues affecting the development of women, youth and children as well as the total development of rural communities.

1. Women and Girls Empowerment and development (WED)

Since our establishment, CIRCDev has been able to achieve the following under our Women Empowerment and Development program. Since 2015, CIRCDev has been able to train 228 rural women and fully supported 99 and shared cost with 129 women. 12 of these women are physically challenged. CIRCDev's approach to empowering women is to identify their problems with them and also find solutions to the problem with them in order to ensure sustainability of the identified strategy to solving their problem. The women have been trained in the following; *Bead Making, Soap Making, Liquid Soap, Bleach, Hair Shampoo and Conditioner, Washing powder, Antiseptic, Fabric Softener and Mushroom farming*

These women are also given financial management and book keeping training in order to ensure the sustainability of their business. Pictures of these training programs have shown below.



2. Child Development

CIRCDev interest in child development is anchored that fact that, children are the most affected as far as poverty is concerned. Since CIRCDev's establishment, 135 children have been supported with their educational needs. Parents of these children have also been empowered economically to take care of these children.

To ensure Girl-Child Development, CIRCDev has formed functioning Teens' Club in 14 basic schools in 14 rural communities in the Atwima Nwabiagya to mentor them and also give the knowledge in ICT. Below are some evidence to our child development program.



3. Rural Development

Rural communities are faced with numerous problems and it is at the heart of CIRCDev to ensure the development of rural communities in the holistic approach by identifying their problems and planning with them to find innovative means of solving their problems. CIRCDev has initiated a project dubbed *"Engaging local communities in the decentralization concept to enhance poverty reduction"*. The project seeks to sensitize rural dwellers on the duties of the Assembly Member and also get the chance to access the performance their Assembly Member. The project also seeks to identify problems and help community to design their Community Action Plan to



inspire Self-help development. CIRCDev has sensitized 11 communities out of the target 40 communities.

4. Youth empowerment and development (YED)

Youth unemployment is one of the major problems affecting the development of Ghana. CIRCDev is empowering both educated and uneducated youth in the rural communities and even in the urban centers of



Ghana. CIRCDev has instituted a program called *"After Service; what is next?"* to provide entrepreneurship skills to the youth who about to complete their National Service to inspire them to start a business after service. This program started in 2016 and 146 national service personnel of which 61 are females have received training in how to start their businesses.

CIRCDev also empowers youth in the rural communities through consultation to identify what they want to do with their lives and give them the skills they require to become self-employed. CIRCDev has been able to train and supported 105 youths from the 7 rural communities in the Atwima Nwabiagya Municipality.



ABOUT THE FOUNDER



[Francis Sarkodie](#) is a graduate from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. He completed in 2014 with BSc. Development Planning. He worked the Atwima Nwabiagya District Assembly as Development Planning Assistant during his national service period (2014/2015). Francis has had all his basic and secondary education in the rural community. In fact, Francis got admission to study Development Planning with KNUST on the ticked of less endowed opportunity for student who come from less endowed school.

Having the experience in rural life and with his Development planning training in KNUST, Francis decided to form this organization to help develop the general rural communities and also provide for the total well-being women, youth and children in rural communities.

Due to hard work and dedication, Francis has sustain this organization since 2015 by training his group and also devising a self-financing model to run this organization in order to provide for the total well-being of women, youth and children in rural communities. He also believes in the use of local resources, Francis uses the approach of identifying local businessmen and women who have the heart to help the development of women, youth and children to raise funds to run programs to give employment to women and the youth