



# C2 AGENDA 4 CHANGE

## Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
(National Catholic Secretariat)



Edition 2: MAY, 2013



Group picture of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference after meeting with President John Dramani Mahama

### INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure and joy to bring you updates from the National Catholic Secretariat in this second volume of Catholic Community Agenda for Change newsletter in the hope that you enjoyed reading the first edition.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

The Secretariat has played host to two statutory meetings of the Conference already, namely, the Administrative Board Meeting, which took place from February 6 to 8, 2013, and the Budget Session which took place from May 6 to 10, 2013.

The Administrative Board Meetings of the Bishops' Conference, which are held twice each year, in February and August, bring together six Bishops, namely, the President of the Conference and the Vice President and four Bishops representing the four Ecclesiastical Provinces, to discuss important issues from the Plenary Assemblies held in November and May each year. The Budget Session, on the other hand, is held once in a year in May. It brings together all the Bishops of the Conference to discuss and approve the Financial Budget of the Conference. The Session also discusses issues of church and national importance and

receives reports from all the departments of the Secretariat as well as reports from chaplaincies, invited groups and persons.

One of the highlights of this year's Budget Session was the meeting between the Bishops' Conference and a six-member delegation from the Constitution Review Implementation

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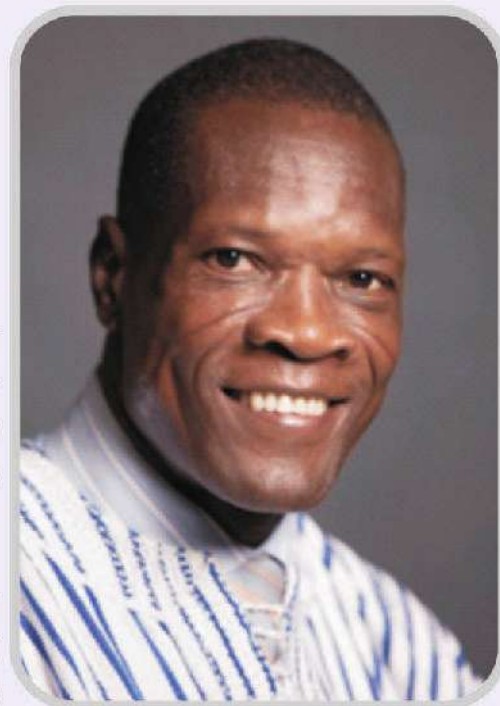
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## Editorial Executive Secretary's Desk



**Dear Reader,**

I want to use this medium to express appreciation for your feedback on our maiden edition of C2 AGENDA4CHANGE! I am aware that some of you our partner organizations also posted it on your website or used other media to share it with your networks and constituencies. We understand that all these were in the spirit of mutual partnership and knowledge sharing for development.

The material in this second edition is largely culled from the end of year performance reports from our Directorates of Health, Education, Social Development and Governance, Justice and Peace. This was made possible by the unified reporting system as a Department to our Board of Directors (Episcopal Committee). We share in the thinking of our Board that a unified reporting format is a great leverage to team work and collective responsibility for impact. This also builds on the joined-up planning approaches and framework documents that we have already developed like the Medium Term Programme Critical Pathways; 2012 – 2016 and Advocacy Plan; 2013 – 2016.

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference gave us clear instructions in their 2012 Communiqué to facilitate the Church's engagement with the National Constitution Review process towards improving governance and human rights! We have successfully raised funds from Star-Ghana to launch a national campaign for the inclusion of the RIGHT TO HEALTH in the amended 1992 Constitution. This is our entry point to safeguarding other Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR). The Conference has already made some inroads by highlighting this in their recent meeting with the President of the Republic, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Follow up meetings with the Constitution Review Implementation Committee (CRIC) by the Bishops has been planned for May, 2013.

The Department has made significant progress to reconnect with the international Catholic 'FAMILY' of CARITAS! All outstanding dues in arrears for 2011 and 2012 to both CARITAS-AFRICA and CARITAS-INTERNATIONAL have been settled. This paves the way for Ghana to, once again, resort to this network of Catholic solidarity in times of need and also participate in all the deliberative sessions.

We have and continue to consolidate our organizational effectiveness. For instance, we contributed to improving financial systems and management with an Accounting Software (QUICKBOOKS) for the entire National Catholic Secretariat. No wonder that our internal budget review and update meeting of all Senior Managers of NCS could take place in the early part of the first quarter on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. A young, dynamic and multi-skilled staff, in the person of Mr. David Issaka, (see picture on page 7) has joined the Department's Team. He will fill some essential capacity gaps in the office of the Executive Secretary and to support the Directorates effectively. On behalf of Senior Managers and other staff of the Department, I welcome you, dear David!

Finally, we continue to acknowledge and appreciate Star-Ghana for supporting our Department's sustainability efforts, one of which is this medium of communication – C2 AGENDA4CHANGE! Star-Ghana is a multi-donor pooled funding scheme for civil society and Parliament in Ghana with contributions from UKaid, DANIDA, USAID and the European Union.

**By: Samuel Zan Akologo**





## 1. ACHIEVEMENTS/KEY RESULTS

### a. NCHS Management Systems

- The on-site training to reintroduce the manuals has made it possible to put in place robust systems of management to support application in all hospitals.
- Service data submission has reached over 90% from institutions.
- The financial management systems of all hospitals have been reviewed and reports issued to indicate the weaknesses and what needs to be done. Copies have been sent to Arch/bishops.
- Remarkable savings have been made in the NHS claims management, with 19 worse performing institutions recoding over 95% error-free claims.

### b. Service Delivery

DHS Manual expected to strengthen and make DHS' accountable has been disseminated for use and provide feedback. Copies have been sent to the Arch/bishops.

- Technical staff, particularly the Medical Assistants and Nurses who prescribe drugs have copies of the Standard Treatment Guidelines to assist them diagnose.
- Training of prescribers and frontline staff in the use of guidelines and protocols have been done.
- Midwives have been trained on how to identify and address the drivers of under-5 mortality in their institutions and communities.
- Under-5 mortality has been reduced in nine worse performing hospitals by 17% in total. Individually two hospitals were outstanding; one attained 65% reduction and the other 75% reduction. Thus lives have been saved.

### c. DoH Management Systems

- Staffing levels and appropriate staff training were good.
- Entire work of the Directorate has been well coordinated through the regular review meetings; quarterly, half-year and annual.
- The Directorate has submitted a new funding request to two development partners; Cordaid and the Gates Foundation. Cordaid has committed to year-on-year funding up to 2015 for now.
- Opportunities for learning and sharing was created for institutions to interact at the Annual retreats and the Conference

## 2. KEY CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

### i. Dwindling Donor Support

The fact of dwindling donor support is real and will affect the future work of the Directorate. Each year the quantum of support keeps dwindling and the trend promises to continue.

The Directorate should therefore be supported by the Conference with the two special initiatives, that is revamping the Catholic Drug Centre business and the Pooled Procurement Programme, which should bring in revenue to support both the Directorate's work and the NCS as a whole.

### ii. Contract Appointments

There is a feeling of job insecurity for the mainstream Project staff because their appointments will terminate with the end of the Project in 2014. It makes it difficult to retain top talent to the end of the Project.

The DoH has therefore started discussing with the





development partners to consider funding a handsome package for staff who will work to the end of the Project to reduce resignations before the Project ends

iii. Clashing Programmes

Sometimes events are organized from CHAG or the Ghana Health Service (Regional or District levels) for the same participants the DoH may also have similar programmes with.

The NCHS is engaging these partners to share their respective programmes for the year ahead of time to avoid duplication of efforts. The data capture issue will be addressed with the agreement that we should all draw our data needs from one system, the DHIMS 2 of the Ghana Health Service.

### 3. LESSONS LEARNT AND WAY FORWARD

a. Work Strategy

Working from the DoH into the institutions is not a sustainable strategy because of the stress levels of staff and the cost of doing so into the future.

In the short term we are putting together a virtual team of experts (management, finance and technical) are created around the office of the Diocesan Director/Executive Secretary to support them. As a long term solution, the Arch/dioceses should consider creating a vibrant health office with all the governance and technical resources to manage and give direction to their institutions.

b. Briefing Arch/Bishops by Diocesan Directors/Executive Secretaries

Briefing the Arch/bishops comprehensively will make them understand the work and impact of the deliverables happening in their respective Arch/diocese for the necessary support.

c. CHAG-GCBC Relationships

Making the CHAG Board representatives of the GCBC meet with the Bishop responsible for Health and the Episcopal Committee has introduced a new form of accountability to the Conference.

By: George A. Adjei



*National Briefing and Campaign Validation meeting of Agenda for Right to Health Project*



# EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

## A. EDUCATION

### Key Results/Achievements:

- Successful Regional and National Dialogue on the Partnership between the State and Church in Educational Delivery.
- Peer learning by Managers went on well
- The Annual Conferences of the Conference of Managers of Catholic Educational Unit and the Association of Catholic Heads of Higher Institution successfully deliberated on salient challenges in Management of our schools.  
COMCEU theme: Catholic Education: Living according to the values that build and give meaning to Life.  
ACHHI theme: Child Rights: Use and Morality Challenges to the Catholic Education.
- 2012 Catholic Education Week Celebration was very successful. Theme: Safe guarding our Catholic and Worthy Ghanaian Values.

### Way Forward:

- The NCS/STAR –Ghana project will be continued
- Capacity building of Managers will be ongoing
- Stakeholders of Catholic Education will work as a team
- Follow the process of having the Partnership Agreement document approved for use.
- Quizzes, Essay Competitions, tests on Catholic Faith in our Schools.
- Book entitled “Our Journey in Faith” for students in our SHS.
- Seminar for Chaplains in Catholic Senior High Schools

## B. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Key Results/Achievements:

- Well organized 2012 Catechetical Week Celebrations.
- Very successful Catechists Conference at Sekondi-Takoradi. The attendance was excellent, participation was marvelous, and the talks were fantastic.
- Most teachers and pupils enjoyed the teaching and learning with the Guide for Faith Formation provided.
- Booklets on Biblical Apostolate printed were of great use in our schools.

### Way Forward:

- Promotion of all the Ministries in the Church, especially Catechists.
- Catechists should be taken very good care of.
- Find very effective means of catechesis and evangelizaion.
- Provision of Basic Reading material on Catholic Faith.
- Religious Education at the Family, Parish and School levels.
- Quizzes on the Teachings of the Church and the Bible.
- Prayer book for Catechists (morning and evening).

by: Rev. Fr. John Addae-Boateng,  
Director,





### Key Results or Achievements:

- First successful celebration of National Week of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace
- Successful fund raising for the establishment of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO).
- Production of 72 page 2012 Election Report.
- Enhanced collaboration with Civic Forum Initiative (CFI) and Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) on Elections and the passage of the Presidential Transition Law respectively.
- Delegate to First Edition of SECAM Policy Forum (March 2013, Accra - Ghana).

### Way Forward

- Engagement with the Constitution Review Implementation Committee (CRIC) on concerns of GCBC from Communiqué 2012
- Engagement with the EC on Recommendations of the Election Report
- Inputs into documents of GCBC 2013 Communiqué
- Development of 2013 National Week of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace Booklet
- Enhanced Fund raising activities.

**by REV. FR. PATRICK M. AMOS**  
**Director, Gov., Justice and Peace Directorate**



*The Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference meets with Constitutional Review Implementation Committee (CRIC)*

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE



## KEY RESULTS:

Some of the key results achieved are:

- The TVET programme has been able to bring all Principals under one umbrella i.e. ACHVOTEC to share experiences and challenges.
- Capacities of Principals have been built over the years in areas such as Financial Management, conduct of Tracer Studies, organisation of work place experience, learning, lobbying, advocacy and negotiation skills etc.
- Regular interaction and interface of DDOs which has been dormant over the last few years have been revived.
- Provision of comprehensive health services at Fetentaa camp for refugees.
- Collaboration with Ghana Health Service to provide service at Ampain and Egyeikrom camps for refugees.
- Distribution of food to refugee camps.
- Improvement of access to water to refugees.

## WAY FORWARD

In the year ahead, the following are envisaged.

- The current TVET Project ends in June 2013. The next project if approved will focus on youth employment and empowerment, engagement with GYEEDA for start-up of TVET graduates, TVET Policy mapping, increased local funding through

assisting VTTCIs to access the Skills Development Fund (SDF) of COTVET, a vibrant and effective AHCVOTEC, NCCTVET play an advisory role to GCBC.

- Work with DDOs for the establishment of Caritas at the National and Diocesan levels for effective and quick response to emergencies.
- The need to encourage tree planting to reclaim degraded areas.
- The Ghana Refugee Board should ensure amicable settlements with traditional rulers where refugees are settled, example Ampain.

**by: Stephen A Godomey**  
**Ag. Director, Social Development**



*Mr. David Issaka*  
*New Staff - Programme Liaison Officer*





*Continuation from page 1*

Committee (CRIC) led by its Chairman, Prof. E. V. O. Dankwa. The Bishops interacted with the delegation on various issues such as the mandate of the Committee, timelines for their work, opportunities for engagement, and so on. It was a very useful exercise at the end of which the Bishops pledged their support and prayers for the success of the work of the Committee.

**VISITS BY BISHOPS' CONFERENCE**

The Bishops' Conference has paid two important visits in the course of the period under review. The first visit was to the President of the Republic, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2013, to discuss issues of national importance. The second visit was to the leadership of the Ghana Medical Association, to appeal to them to ask their members to resume work after a period of strike action. Thankfully, two days after the visit, the leadership of the Medical Association announced the resumption of work by its members with a caveat that all agreements with government and its agencies be fulfilled within a one - month period. The Conference is hoping that all outstanding issues will be resolved to forestall the likelihood of the resumption of strike.

**DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE HOLY SEE**

Ghana has opened a diplomatic mission at the Vatican in Rome. The Bishops' Conference expresses gratitude to the government for establishing a diplomatic mission at the Vatican to enhance closer ties between the Church and the Government of Ghana. The Conference is equally grateful to government for appointing a prominent Catholic in the person of Sir James Bebaako Mensah as the first Ambassador of Ghana to the Vatican. It is the hope of the Conference that this new state of relationship will bring benefits to both the Church and the State.

**T**he Church in Ghana is looking forward to the appointment of a new Nuncio to Ghana to replace Archbishop Leon B. Kalenga who was transferred to El Salvador and Belize.

A three-member delegation of the Bishops' Conference will attend the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), scheduled to take place in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.

In the days ahead, all departments of the Secretariat are going to work hard to assist speed up the process of re-structuring. The departments are also to fashion out a Five-Year Funding Policy to achieve self-sufficiency and sustainability at the levels of the departments.

A high level meeting between the Bishops' Conference and the Ministry of Education is being planned to discuss Church-State Partnership in education, among other issues.

**NECROLOGY**

The Bishops' Conference has lost three of its members during the period. They are Bishop Joseph Oliver Bowers (retired Bishop of Accra), Bishop John Martin Darko (retired Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi) and Archbishop Dominic Andoh (retired Archbishop of Accra). Let us continue to remember them and all the deceased members of the Conference in our prayers.

**CONCLUSION**

We take the opportunity to thank all our partners and collaborators and all who support the work of the Conference and the Secretariat in diverse ways. We pray for God's blessings upon all of them. It is our hope and prayer that this newsletter has come to stay and that it will be an invaluable medium for regular updates and information on the activities of the Bishops' Conference and the Secretariat. God bless you and enjoy your reading.

**Fr. Emmanuel Abbey-Quaye**  
**Assistant Secretary General**  
**[Office of the Secretary General]**



*Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference Meeting with  
President John Dramani Mahama*



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### APRIL:

- RIGHT TO HEALTH PROJECT BRIEFING MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN APRIL, 2013
- VALIDATION OF RIGHT TO HEALTH CAMPAIGN PAPER IN APRIL, 2013
- DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS MEETING ON 11TH APRIL, 2013
- DEPARTMENT'S EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12TH APRIL, 2013
- STAR-GHANA SUSTAINABILITY GRANT PARTNERS' KNOWLEDGE SHARING FESTIVAL ON 18TH APRIL, 2013
- NORTHERN REGION EDUCATION MANAGERS PEER LEARNING

### MAY:

- DHD SENIOR DIRECTORS' MEETING 3<sup>RD</sup>
- FUNDRAISING MEETING AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.
- TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATORS IN DAMONGO, YENDI, TAMALE, WA AND NAVRONGO-BOLGATANGA DIOCESES
- GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE MEETING WITH CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
- NCS HEALTH PROJECT TEAM MEETING (14TH)
- SUSTAINABILITY CORE TEAM MEETING (15TH)
- EDUCATION MANAGERS PEER-LEARNING SESSIONS IN UPPER-WEST, AHSANTI AND BRONG-AHAFO REGIONS
- WORKSHOP ON ICT FOR TRACER STUDIES (21ST)

### JUNE:

- FUNDRAISING MEETING AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.
- EDUCATION MANAGERS PEER LEARNING SESSIONS IN WESTERN, CENTRAL, EASTERN AND UPPER-EAST REGIONS
- INTERNAL BUDGET REVIEW MEETING (27TH)
- STAR-GHANA WORKSHOPS ON RESULTS REPORTING AND GESI ON HEALTH PROJECT
- GCBC MEETING WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION ISSUES (19TH)
- PARISH-LEVEL EDUCATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH ACT IN 85 PARISHES ACROSS NORTHERN GHANA
- NCS HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT TEAM MEETING

### JULY:

- NETWORKING MEETINGS ON THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CAMPAIGN (10TH)
- OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF RIGHT TO HEALTH CAMPAIGN (11TH)
- DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS MEETING (11TH AFTERNOON!)
- FIRST MEETING OF JOINT ADVOCACY ACTION COMMITTEE ON RIGHT TO HEALTH (12TH)
- VISIT OF MISEREOR AND MEETINGS WITH NCS TEAM (15TH)
- SUSTAINABILITY CORE TEAM MEETING FOR YEAR TWO PLANNING (30TH)



# QUOTES



*"I pray that with your expertise; will bring our church forward in time-relevant vision and effective socioeconomic programmes. In the socioeconomic and total human development the church-aircraft flies on two wings of Justice and Charity, with Truth as the fuel, and freedom as its propellers and Peace and Integral Human Development as its Engine. With your expert engagement of the whole Church, you are building this aircraft and I pray that your advertisements for the flights would be irresistibly attractive to get many passengers on board".*

**From: Fr. Eugene Suom-Dery**

**To: Samuel Zan Akologo** on the occasion of the National Briefing and Campaign Validation Meeting (ARIGHT Project)

*"Advocacy is not about civil society organizations antagonizing Governments! It is more productive if it focuses on providing alternatives to policies and exploring options for programmes that place the human person, especially the vulnerable and excluded, at the core of development. This calls for new attitudes, skills and knowledge by civil society actors; including those who work for Faith-Based Organizations. Ethical values must permeate our every move and word!".* **Samuel Zan Akologo (Advocacy Training for Members of the Northern Ghana Network for Development – NGND)**

*"They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care".* **Nido Qubein**







