



C2 AGENDA 4 CHANGE

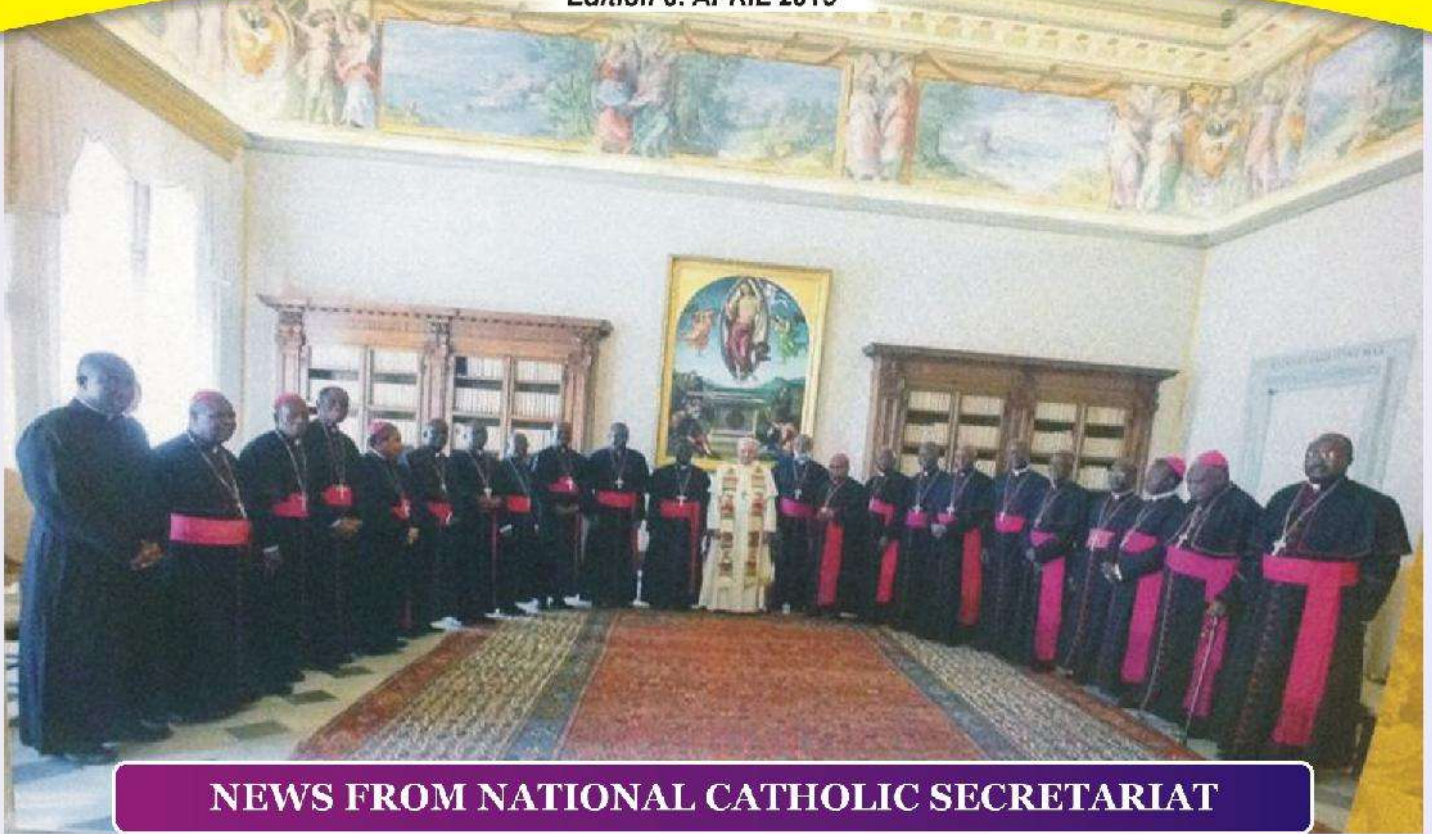
(CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AGENDA FOR CHANGE)

Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
(National Catholic Secretariat)



Edition 6: APRIL 2015



NEWS FROM NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

We bring you warm greetings of peace and blessing from the National Catholic Secretariat (Centenary House) and welcome you to the sixth edition of C2Agenda4Change newsletter. I hope and believe that you are enjoying your reading of this newsletter while at the same time getting timely information and education about the activities of the Secretariat and the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference.

We take this opportunity once again to bring to our esteemed readers, patrons and collaborators the events of the Secretariat and the Bishops' Conference in the last four months for your information and education.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Since the publication of the 5th edition for the June –September 2014 quarter, the following activities have taken place:-

Continue on page 2

Table of Content	Page
INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL NEWS FROM NCS.....	1
FEATURES FROM DIRECTORATES:	
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE	4
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION.....	6
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH	9
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	11
READER'S FEEDBACK / SUBSCRIPTION FORM.....	12

Continuation from page 1

Ad Limina Visit to Rome, September 2014

The bishops of Ghana paid an *Ad Limina Visit* to Rome from September 21 to 25, 2014. They were accompanied by Very Rev. Fr. Nicholas Afriyie, the Secretary General. The purpose of the visit was three-fold, namely, to show solidarity with the Pope and renew obedience to him, to present reports on the state of dioceses and seek the Pope's wise counsel and to meet with various offices and officers of the Roman Curia for official Church businesses.

The bishops took advantage of the *Ad Limina Visit* to Rome to celebrate mass with the Ghanaian community in Rome at the San Liborio Parish, the Parish church of His Eminence Peter Cardinal Appiah Turkson, a celebration that was attended by Ghana's Ambassadors to Italy and the Vatican, priests, Religious and a large contingent of Ghanaians living in and around Rome.

It was a truly enriching and fulfilling pilgrimage of faith during which the bishops invited the Pope to visit Ghana. We pray that God will listen to their prayer.

Extraordinary Synod on the Family – October 2014.

The President of the Bishops' Conference, Most Rev. Joseph Osei- Bonsu, Bishop of Konongo-Mampong, attended the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the *Pastoral Challenges of the Family* in Rome on behalf of the Church in Ghana. He was accompanied by Very Rev. Fr. Francis Appiah-Kubi, President of the National Union of Ghana Catholic Diocesan Priests' Associations (NUGDPA).

The Ordinary Synod of Bishops to discuss the responses from this Synod for the Pope to issue a

Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation is scheduled for October this year and will be attended by a representative of the Conference. We invite all to accompany this process with our prayers.

2014 Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference

The 2014 Annual Plenary Assembly of the Conference took place in Oshiuman-Accra, from 4th to 15th November, 2014. It was preceded by a four-day spiritual retreat.

The Plenary was on the theme, "*The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization.*" As is the custom and practice of Plenaries, the Conference issued a communiqué at the end of the Assembly reflecting the outcome of their deliberations on the theme and related issues. The message was well received across the length and breadth of Ghana.

Two new Bishops for the Conference

On 13th September, 2014, Msgr. John B. Kwofie was ordained and installed as the 4th Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese. This good news was followed almost immediately with the announcement of the appointment of Msgr. John Yaw Afoakwa on November 22, 2014 as the new Bishop of Obuasi. He was ordained on 10th January, 2015 and installed the third Bishop of Obuasi.

With these episcopal ordinations, the Conference now has the full complement of its members. We thank God for His continued favours and blessings to the Church in Ghana.

Meeting with Catholic Parliamentarians

A six-member delegation of the Bishops' Conference led by Most Rev. Anthony Adanuty, Bishop of Keta-Akatsi and Vice President of the Bishops' Conference, met 21 Catholic Members of Parliament at Parliament House on 10th December, 2014. The

meeting which was preceded by the celebration of Holy Mass sung by the Spiritual Year choir of the St. Paul's Catholic Seminary, Sowutuom-Accra, discussed among other issues, the elimination of death penalty from the statute books of Ghana, the Constitution review process, Church-State Partnership in education, Plant Breeder's Bill, Corruption and Ebola.

The next meeting with MPs is scheduled to take place within the first quarter of 2015.

Meeting with Acting Director of Ghana Education Service

The meeting with the Catholic MPs was followed on the same day with a meeting with Mr. Charles Aheto-Tsegah, Acting Director General of Ghana Education Service. This meeting discussed Church-State partnership in Education among other related issues.

NUGDPA Congress 2015

About 500 diocesan priests from all over Ghana descended on the *oil city* of Takoradi to attend this year's Biennial NUGDPA Congress from January 5 to 9, 2015. The Congress was on the theme, "*Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization: The Role of the Diocesan Priest*". Archbishops Matthias Nketsiah and Thomas K. Mensah as well as Bishops Joseph Osei-Bonsu, Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, Joseph Francis Essien and John B. Kwofie, the host bishop, attended the Congress.

One of the days of the Congress was devoted to an interaction with the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, H.E Most Rev. Jean Marie-Speich. This year, NUGDPA will be 50 years old. Hurray!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Major upcoming events within the next three months include:-

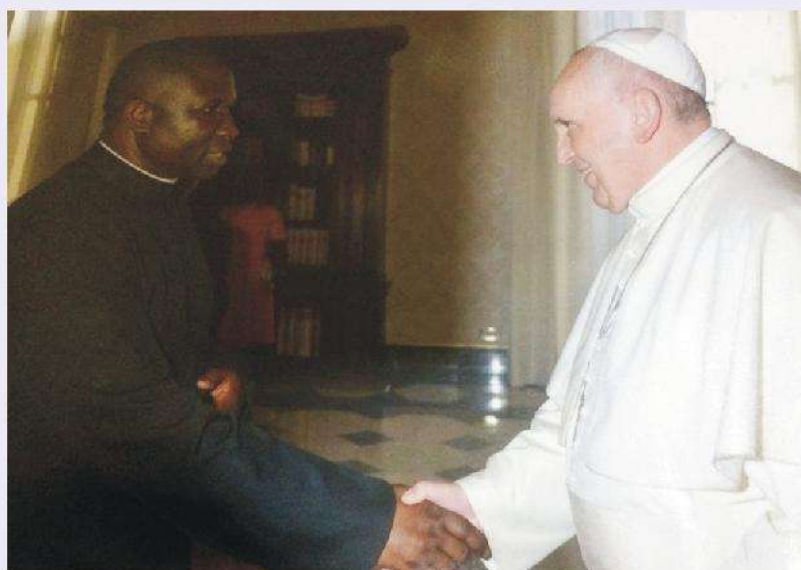
1. *Administrative Board Meeting* – (February 9-

- 11 2015) for six Bishops, namely, the President, Vice President and one representatives each from the four Provinces;
2. *Publication of the Pastoral Guidelines* of the 2014 Second National Pastoral Congress (February 2015).
3. *Publication of the Scheme of Service* of the Secretariat (February 2015).
4. *Publication of the Operational Guidelines of the Solidarity Fund* (February 2015).
5. *Send-off for some NCS staff* whose contracts with the Secretariat have ended since December 2014 (February 2015).
6. *Launch of the Year of Consecrated Life* in all Archdioceses and dioceses (2015).

CONCLUSION

We take this opportunity once again to wish all our cherished partners and collaborators a belated Happy New Year and to impart our blessings for a successful New Year. God bless you all and keep you in His peace. Shalom!

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Abbey-Quaye
Assistant Secretary General
National Catholic Secretariat



DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL POLICY ON MIGRATION ADVOCATED

Government has been urged to enact a national policy on migration and development to concretely help address the various opportunities and challenges arising from the sector, an expert has said.

The Executive Secretary for Human Development at the National Catholic Secretariat, Mr. Samuel Zan Akologo, said it was critical for Ghana as a signatory to Africa Union Frameworks on migration to domesticate the policy to address Ghana's need.

He said "Government only interest itself in Immigration service and Remittances of Ghanaian emigrants and occasionally reacting to embarrassing news arising from migration" was not enough.

He said these at a recent presentation to the International Working Group meeting on Migration and Trafficking of Caritas Internationalis in Rome recently.

With changing dynamics in the nature and scope of human movements and emerging global trends, the Executive Secretary underscored the need for frequent examination of the subject matter, sharing new knowledge and reviewing Ghana's response to the situation.

Highlighting the situation of migration in the country, Mr. Akologo noted among others that the seasonal movements of nomads and herdsmen from Mali, Niger and Chad into Northern Ghana and some areas in Brong-Ahafo, Ashanti, Volta and Eastern Regions,

created situations of over-grazing, destruction of farms and crops and occasional skirmishes between them and native inhabitants. He emphasized that this has become a national security issue with human safety and livelihood at the core.

He bemoaned the fact that powerful economic interests was affecting the work on migration, and cited instances where powerful individuals in the cities were benefiting from trafficking and the menial services provided by youth who have migrated from poorer regions and engaged as house-helpers, with some enjoying the services of migrant head potters (Kayeye) at the markets who move goods from one point to the other.

He noted that the recent outbreak of Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) was a challenge to migration and development, adding that the refugee camps in Ghana hosting displaced Liberians and Sierra Leoneans was posing new health challenges for the Government of Ghana than was hitherto imagined.

"We should also note that migration generally has both positive and negative implications for human development which cannot be ignored and should not be handled in an arbitrary manner," he stated.

Thus "migration is a call for both a policy and programme response at all levels of governance; national, regional and global" he stressed.

According the Executive Secretary, limited research to expose empirical evidence of the scope, nature and

implications of migration was a critical concern to development, especially at a time the dynamics of the field of migration needed constant examination and sharing of new knowledge.

Mr. Akologo observed that the diminishing livelihood opportunities and lack of social amenities in rural areas, would continue to push the youth to the cities, and asserted that their situation was likely to worsen in cities because of the absence of social safety nets.

The support services provided by the Catholic Church through its Department of Human Development at the destinations may only be a mitigating factor but not the solution. How can we therefore re-strategize to tackle the problem from the root?

He shared Caritas–Ghana response to address the situation, saying it included direct intervention for protection and provision of well-fare services, normally at the level of the Diocesan Caritas or other Church-related organizations, and cited Navrongo-Bolgatanga street children project, Catholic Action for street children in Accra and Kumasi, and the Christian Mothers' Association projects in the cities as some efforts being undertaken. He also noted the work of the Marshallan Relief and Development Services (MAREDES) in partnership with the Ghana Immigration Service as ground-breaking which needs to be sustained. Their joint workshop on the subject matter at a recent country forum of partners was highly patronized and lauded.

He mentioned the Migrants, Refugees and Relief Unit of Caritas – Ghana at the National Catholic Secretariat intervention, as official Implementation

Partner (IP) of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ghana, in habitat and social services provision for the over 20,000 refugees in the country.

Under Public Policy Advocacy, Mr. Akologo said policy education was a key component of Caritas advocacy work, adding that it also uses networking and strategic partnership approach to mitigate limitations of individual organizations and build synergies for multi-dimensional attack on the problems of migration and human trafficking in the country.

He called for more local actions to address the migration situation in the country, and stressed the need for effective international relations for far-reaching policy response.

The Executive Secretary recommended the constant presence Caritas Internationalis at global policy spaces, where dialogue on migration and development and Trafficking were taking place. Mr Zan Akologo advised that it is more strategic to be at the point of policy making than to be reacting at the point of policy implementation.



DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION



'NCS LAUNCHES A COMPENDIUM OF SOME BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATION'



The journey to this compendium of some best practices in education began with the conceptualization of the project titled **“Government and Church partnership towards enhanced education service delivery and governance”** which was funded by STAR- Ghana, a national pooled funding mechanism for civil society. The idea of the partnership was broadened to include all Faith-Based Organizations during the project approval and implementation stages. Thus, the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) and the National Catholic Secretariat – Department of Human Development (NCS-DHD) retained project ownership and management, respectively, while reaching out to all the other Faith Groups with public schools in Ghana. In fact other bodies with public schools like the Prison Service, Police Service and the Ghana Armed Forces also actively participated in the process later.

The first year of the project implementation from

December, 2011 to November, 2012 was devoted to building consensus on the question of partnership between Government and Faith-Based Organizations in the management of public schools. The project facilitated nation-wide dialogue meetings of stakeholders in Education in nine of the ten political regions of Ghana. Greater Accra Region was exempted from the project coverage according to the contract with the funders. The regional dialogue meetings culminated in a National Conference on education which was jointly organized by the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Ministry of Education, representing Faith-Based Organizations and Government of Ghana, respectively in October, 2012. The dialogue meetings effectively placed the partnership question in the public domain, gave it visibility, enhanced public awareness and built stakeholders consensus. The outcome document of the Regional dialogue meetings and National Conference has been published separately. Also a draft Partnership Agreement between Government

and Faith-Based Organizations; including Other Bodies with public schools from this process, has now been presented to the Ministry of Education and now being reviewed for formalization.

The second and third years of the project implementation focused on Regional-level meetings of Managers of Education from both Government and Faith-Based Organizations, sometimes called Religious Education Units, to share knowledge and best practices in Education. The Department of Human Development developed the framework for the peer learning. A technical committee of representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ghana Education Service, Civil society, Ghana National Association of Teachers, Christian Council of Ghana, Private sector and the National Catholic Secretariat were put together. The committee met two times and developed what was called the critical areas of innovative learning in Education services delivery and management. These were clustered into two areas, namely, Management and Service delivery. Issues prioritized under the management area were: Discipline, Effective Supervision, Teacher discipline, Health status of children, Learning environment, Disability access, Community participation and General environment of school. Under the service delivery area, the priorities were: Girl-child enrolment and retention, promotion of children's participation and ownership in the learning process, community participation, reading ability and attitudes of teachers and children, making learning easy and interesting for children, effective management of school time, Teacher quality, Disability access and promoting positive peer influence among children in education. Some of the issues were noted to be relevant in both management and service delivery. The management areas were about decisions, guidelines, directives, bye-laws and local policies that demonstrate positive outcomes in education. Service delivery was defined in terms of facilities, skills, approaches, methods and materials

which directly benefited and enhanced pupils' learning.

The second framework that the Technical Committee helped to develop was the reporting template for the Peer Learning. The template had a brief introduction to the rationale and purpose of Education Managers' Peer Learning. A short checklist of the following questions was meant to guide and capture information on the success stories that were shared:

- What is the success story/best practice/model?
- Which area of Education outcome does it address: service delivery, management or both?
- Explain briefly the reason for your categorization above
- Give summary narration of your success story or model; and
- Provide concrete evidence of impact of success story.

A demonstration learning approach was used to prepare the Regional Managers of Catholic Education to facilitate the round of peer learning. Each Regional Manager was expected to facilitate one peer learning meeting on half-yearly basis over the two-year period, bringing it to four sessions per Region. The regions were clustered into three zones: Northern, Central and Southern. The first peer learning session in each zone was facilitated by a member of the Technical Committee and was attended by all Regional Managers of Catholic Education unit in that zone so that they could learn how to apply the frameworks developed for the peer learning. Each Regional Manager was then facilitated further with budget support to undertake the remaining sessions. Each session ended with media briefings as a means of keeping the public informed.

Some members of the Technical Committee were joined by selected staff of the Department of Human Development to constitute the Joint Facilitation Team (JFT). Their role was to split up in pairs and take turns to participate in Regional Peer Learning sessions and to provide support to the Regional Managers. The team met every half-year to share experiences from their participation in the Regional Peer-Learning meetings.

During the third year when most Regional Managers were done with about three rounds of peer learning

The final edits and literature review were the responsibility of the Executive Secretary of the Department of Human Development. This outcome document titled, **A COMPENDIUM OF BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATION: EDUCATION MANAGERS' PEER LEARNING EXPERIENCES** brings together a conceptual framework whose implementation and documentation was the product of the Department of Human Development. I have personally learnt a lot by participating in all the processes and taking the responsibility to edit this report. It is expected that



the content of the document will serve as proposals and guidelines to Government to mainstream the model of peer-learning and multi-stakeholder participation in Education in Ghana. We see today's event as an opportunity to initiate dialogue towards achieving the mainstreaming agenda. That is why we have created space for independent reviews of both the process and content of the report so that the dialogue could be enriched by new and external perspectives.

sessions, an Editorial Team was put together to review, edit and compile the success stories that were harvested from the peer learning sessions. The Team also helped to develop an objective tool to assess the performance of the Regional Managers of Catholic Education which was the basis for determining an incentive award package for the Managers. The deserving Regional Managers will be recognized and given their incentive award packages later today during this event. On behalf of the Department of Human Development, I wish to thank all the individuals who served on the different technical teams to facilitate the various processes leading to the production of this report to be launched today.

Let me now also express appreciation to STAR-Ghana for supporting the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference through the National Catholic Secretariat to undertake this exercise. On this note, I wish to welcome you all and thank you for your time. May God bless you.

**By Samuel Zan Akologo – Executive Secretary,
Department of Human Development, NCS**



DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT LEADING THE WAY IN “MAKING GHANA’S PUBLIC HEALTH ACT WORK FOR ALL”

The Department of Human Development of the National Catholic Secretariat has in the past two years through selected Diocesan Development Offices of the Northern Province have done pilot monitoring of the implementation of the Public Health Act in 15 selected District Assemblies. The participatory monitoring of decentralized structures was commissioned to assess the performance of the District Assemblies in the implementation of the Act and recommend a roadmap for a full rollout of the Public Health Act across the country aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

The two years of participatory monitoring of the implementation of the Public Health Act (Act 851) have resulted in increased awareness among citizens in the selected districts on one hand and District Assembly Authorities mandated to implement the Act on the other. The participatory monitoring revealed how the various district assemblies in their effort to provide some public health facilities for the people did so without recourse to the Public Health Act 851. The monitoring cites the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service as not being vigorous enough in the implementation of the Public Health Act. The report further reveal situations in communities where health facilities are limited coupled with short supply of health personnel who are unevenly distributed leading to the annual occurrence of certain public health threats.

The study underscores how majority of the people in the Districts cannot afford quality healthcare leading

to maternal and under 5 years mortality rates becoming unacceptably high. The monitoring exercise buttresses calls for greater attention to public health promotion by all health sector stakeholders. Everybody – Government, Development Partners, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), Financial Institutions, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, and communities have to wake up and perform their respective roles in the promotion of public health. “The time is now”!

Key recommendations emanating from the participatory monitoring are:

At the policy level it is recommended that the Public Health Act (Act 851) be operationalized to engender mutual understanding of the provisions among stakeholders and to clearly indicate the roles each of the stakeholders would specifically be responsible for. The Act itself seems to confer all the powers and responsibilities on the Minister for Health.

Also, at the policy level, the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development should develop and roll out an exclusive and comprehensive medium to long term programme of work on public health in Ghana. Public health strategies and activities should not continue to be subsumed under the general health sector programme of work.

At the local level, MMDAs should prioritise public health issues and establish broad based

stakeholders' committees to enforce public health standards and to respond appropriately to outbreak of public health threat. Key stakeholders should also be trained on the requirements of the Act 851 and how to apply it in addressing public health concerns.

Also, the Functional and Organisational Assessment Tool (FOAT) process should incorporate elements of public health to assess MMDAs responsiveness to issues of public health.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) should increase community sensitization on public health and advocacy for duty bearers at the district level to keep their focus on promoting public health and delivering effective public health services.

You are encouraged to follow us on this space www.facebook.com/gcbc.ncs for updates on the media launch of the monitoring report. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 2014

- Public education on Constitution Review Process in 20 Dioceses on Radio
- Public Education on Ebola Virus Disease
- Rural Enterprises Project Work Plan and Budget
- 6th Episcopal Committee Meeting
- STAR Ghana Value for Money Audit

November 2014

- End of Project Report on Public Health Monitoring
- Launch of Compendium of Best Practices in Education from Peer Learning of Managers of Education
- Mid-term Review of Critical Pathways

December 2014

- STAR Ghana End of Project Reports
- Compilation of Public Health Act Monitoring Report
- Concept Note on Grand Challenges Call
- Workshop on Gender and Social Inclusion

January 2015

- PIAC Meeting
- Report to Misereor on Capacity Development Support Project

February 2015

- Mentoring Support to Diocesan Development Offices in the Cape Coast Province
- Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference meeting with Parliament

March 2015

- Misereor visit to the Department of Human Development
- Edusei Foundation and National Catholic Secretariat Joint Youth Workshop
- Caritas Internationalis Development and Capacity Strengthening Steering Committee Meeting in Rome



C2 AGENDA 4 CHANGE

Newsletter



READER'S FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback on this issue of
C2 AGENDA4CHANGE NEWSLETTER

Please send your ideas, suggestions and criticisms to:
dhd.ncs@cbcggha.org/dhdncs@gmail.com



C2 AGENDA4CHANGE

Newsletter



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

National Catholic Secretariat
(Dept of Human Development (DHD))
Email: dhd.ncs@cbcggha.org/dhdncs@gmail.com
Website: www.cbcghana.org
Location: Centenary House, Near Gulf House, Tetteh Quashie Circle



FUNDING PARTNERS



Samuel Zan Akologo, Executive Secretary
Department of Human Development
(National Catholic Secretariat)

Email: szan@ighmail.com
website: www.cbcgha.org
Tel: +233307010368