



PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021

GLOBAL THEME: *“Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.”*

International Women's Day is a day set aside by the UN systems to celebrate women's achievements in the social, economic, cultural and political spheres globally, on the 8th of March every year. This year's theme is centered on **“Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.”** This theme is a wake-up call that reminds us that all men and women can work together in shaping the World for the betterment for us all in these hard times.

According to the UN Women's report in this COVID-19 era, many women are at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19, working as front-line and health-care staff, scientists, physicians, and caregivers, while earning 11% less than their male counterparts globally. Gender balance was observed in just 3.5 percent of COVID-19 task teams from 87 countries.

In Ghana, statistics show that, many women in the country encounter all forms of abuses and vulnerabilities with increasing number of domestic violence cases especially during the 3-week-partial lockdown. Many businesses owned by women especially traders and farmers were not left out of the business fallouts witnessed in the country due to COVID-19 making them vulnerable to financial difficulties in this COVID-19 dispensation.

On this auspicious day, the entire board of directors and staff of Child Research for Action and Development Agency (CRADA) stand in solidarity with women around the globe and in Ghana especially, in the fight against inequality against women amidst COVID-19.

According to the **Borgen** Project, 46.5% of the labor force in Ghana is female. Although this rate is high compared with rates in many nations, majority of these women work in domestic labor related jobs such as in subsistence farming and petty trading. Furthermore, many often receiving little to no pay at all which suppresses their independence. Due to this prevailing issue, CRADA has currently established a program called the **‘Women in Additional Income Generating Activities’ (WAIGA)** through the SMILE Ghana Project intervention, comprising 75% women and 25% men to support and empower rural women in two cocoa farming communities namely Kwadoma and Oseikrom in the Asunafo South District in Ghana.

The CRADA's WAIGA empowerment program includes; traditional skills training in rice farming, soap making, snail rearing, beads making, making of plantain chips, mushroom farming and many other trading activities to support the women during cocoa harvesting season and lean seasons to make them financially independent amid gender equality during this COVID-19 era. This affirms the motto by YWCA that says; “One woman brings hope to her family and many women bring hope to humanity”

As we mark International Women's Day, we call on the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Civil Society organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and the general populace to take action and stand up for the rights of the woman in this COVID-19 dispensation. Again let's all recognize the significance of our women in our lives and in society by showing them love and respect to inspire them for future achievements as they contribute equally to the development of the home, nation and society at large.

“If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman” – Margaret Thatcher.
HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!