

## What are we?

Christian Rural Aid Network (CRAN) is a Christian non-governmental development organization committed to poverty reduction and rural development as well as rural evangelism in Ghana.

The overriding goal of CRAN is to support the development initiatives of rural communities, initiate and undertake rural development projects, and provide the requisite impulses essential to galvanize development actions at the local levels with the intent to reduce and or eliminate poverty, impoverishment and suffering among the country's large and growing rural population.

Established in 1993, CRAN is registered as an NGO (Company Limited by Guarantee) with both the Registrar General's Department and the Department of Social Welfare. CRAN is also a member of the Ghana Association of Private Voluntary Organizations in Development (GAPVOD).

## Our philosophy and vision

CRAN's vision as well as aims and objectives derive principally from the Christian philosophy which obligates us to provide for the total development and well-being of the poor and the needy. Thus our commitment lies in the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of our main target group - the rural poor and the disadvantaged, in a spirit of Christian charity, discipline and motivation.

In Ghana, the rural sector accounts for more than 65% of the total national population. And yet not only are these several rural communities seriously deprived due to the non-availability of basic amenities and facilities that could make for relatively comfortable living but also, widespread illiteracy, ignorance, superstition, idolatory and obnoxious cultural practices and poverty in all forms constitute formidable forces that conspire to demean rural life.

The prime object of CRAN is to intervene to help reverse this trend so that the majority rural poor scattered in several distressed village communities in the country can attain a standard of living befitting people created in the image of God.

In doing this, CRAN encourages and pursues "self - development" and "demand - led" processes of community development where the focus of development initiative and control is from the local community, with the former providing the necessary development impulses. By this active involvement and participation of

the target group, rural communities as well as community organizations are assisted to develop their capacities to take charge of their own development.

Thus CRAN perceives development and for that matter rural development as a holistic process of physical, social and spiritual upliftment and fulfillment, a process of change to be effected largely by the target group



themselves and not a package of gifts and benefits handed to the target group.

## Our aims and objectives

The main objectives of CRAN include to:

- initiate, plan and execute rural community improvement projects jointly with the target group.
- promote formal education among rural children.
- initiate programmes in practical non-formal training for people in rural communities with a view to equipping them with employable skills.
- work towards the economic and social empowerment of rural women.
- promote and undertake actions towards environmental protection.
- organize and raise funds locally and internationally for rural community development projects.
- work closely with both private and governmental agencies and churches in bringing about development to the rural communities in Ghana.
- promote rural evangelism and plant village Christian churches.

## What specific projects do we undertake?

CRAN initiates and promotes any activity or project at the village community level that would improve living conditions and enhance rural development. In this regard, CRAN...

- provides formal education opportunities for deprived rural communities by assisting in the establishment of community-based kindergartens and basic schools;
- provides financial assistance and sponsorship to needy children to enable them obtain nine years of basic education in Ghana;
- optimizes human potentials at the village level by increasing local capacities for development projects implementation and management;
- provides informal resource and vocational training facilities for the rural youth, school leavers and women with a view to equip them with self-employable skills and trades mainly;
- provides support for literacy and adult learning programmes at the village level;
- promotes and undertakes development information-education programmes particularly in the area of health, population control and family planning, HIV/AIDS, child development and environment;
- promotes the development and growth of small scale rural based enterprises;
- provides small credits to rural target women under CRAN's small scale rural lending scheme;
- undertakes and promotes ecological renewal projects particularly the establishment of community - based woodlots and forestry projects;
- undertakes village evangelism work including village church planting and support for small rural Christian churches (CRAN is not a church and therefore works with any Bible believing church denomination on the ground at the local level).

## Summary of our major programme areas

CRAN's main development programme areas are:

- ☞ Development Information - Education programme.
- ☞ Rural Social Infrastructure Provision and Socio-Economic Development Programme.
- ☞ Women and Development Programme.
- ☞ Environment and Development Programme.
- ☞ Rural Evangelism and Church Planting Programme.
- ☞ Consultancy, Training and Publication Programme.

## Organizational structure of CRAN

**A five-member Board of Advisors** is the body which offers guidance on policy formulation, the design, planning, and implementation of programmes as well as budgeting.

**A Technical Executive Committee** headed by a Director undertakes the day to day implementation of the programmes and activities of the organization. CRAN has a national secretariat made up of full - time paid staff, part - time staff, freelance workers and volunteers. We keep a directory of experts and resource persons in various fields that assist in the implementation of our programmes and projects. CRAN also attracts National Service Persons and students (including foreign students) on attachment.

## Membership

CRAN is not a "Membership" organization as such, but indeed welcomes and works with committed rural-development - minded individuals who share in the philosophy and ideals of the organization.

CRAN welcomes visionary individuals who would want to contribute their resources i.e. money, materials, skills, energies, strength, time etc. towards the physical and spiritual development of our underprivileged rural folks in Ghana.

Our Child Education Support Scheme (CESS) for instance provides an opportunity for you to sponsor one needy rural child through nine years of basic education in Ghana.

## Voluntary work programmes

CRAN organizes voluntary programmes (voluntary workcamps) for all groups of persons including the youth as well as Christian groups and organizations. Our voluntary workcamps are also open to foreign groups and individuals interested in voluntary work in Africa and for that matter Ghana. These annual camps are however, targeted at one village development project or the other initiated by CRAN.

## Sources of funding

Our major partner, CRAN - Freundeskreis e.V., Germany, provides the bulk of our yearly budget. CRAN also attracts funding for rural micro-projects from some international funding agencies (usually for specific projects) as well as from other international donor -NGOs.

Financial donations and grants in support of CRAN's programmes and activities can be sent directly to:  
CRAN - Ghana, Account Number: 1097996,  
Barclays Bank Ghana Limited, Cape Coast, Ghana.

In Europe and outside Africa, cash donations and grants can be sent to:  
CRAN, Account Number: 110 15 468  
Bank: Sparkasse Aachen, Germany  
Bank code (BLZ): 390 500 00

## For further information contact:

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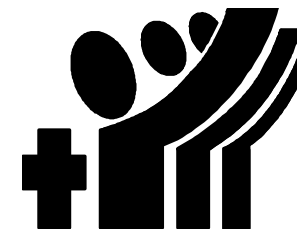
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# CRAN



"Meeting Rural People at Their Point of Need"



CHRISTIAN RURAL AID NETWORK