



GRID Update

news from Northern Ghana



Increasing Food Production

NEA continues to be very involved in crop and livestock production with cattle, sheep, goats, ostriches, emus, chickens, rabbits ... and our latest venture, quail. We have two main goals in our food production: (1) to find and test viable options for local farmers to use; and (2) to have more nutritious food available.

What's in Carpenter Now



122
rabbits



96
pigs



453
quail



6450
chickens

Giving Thanks

by Brenda Mensah, Program Coordinator

This newsletter features our food production sector. Harvesting in our project area is just about complete, and thanksgiving for food in the storerooms is deeply heartfelt. Last year was a leaner year, and many farmers wondered whether they and their families could survive until the first crops were in this year, so the joy is great!

David often used to say that it is hard to explain what real hunger is like – when you didn't have anything to eat yesterday or today and had no idea if you would have anything to eat tomorrow. Most of those reading this may never have faced such days, but far too many men, women, boys and girls still do. On top of that, many who do have food still don't have adequate nutrition, which affects their ability to thrive. In Africa, about 60 million children suffer from chronic malnutrition, or stunting, preventing their bodies and brains from developing fully.

Our prayer is that we can continue to reduce the numbers that face hunger and poor nutrition by equipping local farmers to produce more and better food and by doing the same through our model farms. Thank you for your part in helping us to make such a big difference in so many lives.

Giving and Giving Back

On a routine visit to Dwere, a village only recently included in our program, NEA staff were sadly surprised by the quality of water that the community was surviving with. They returned to NEA Carpenter's site with a little bottle full of very murky water so that they could impress upon us the need to help this village as soon as possible.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, we were able to drill a borehole and construct an overhead water tank in Dwere.



BEFORE: Residents of Dwere relied on this stream for their water.



AFTER: A mechanized borehole and overhead tank provides potable water to the community.

Residents of Dwere were so thankful for this intervention that they showed up in Carpenter to help uproot and pluck about 12 acres of NEA's peanuts. In their words, "What we are doing today is just a small token that we can give back."



“ This water project is not only providing clean water, but will go a long way to remove diseases in our community. Sickness has left many of our people incapable of farming, which means they and their families suffer. In the past, our women and school girls travelled long distances to fetch dirty water, but now we have clean water pipes at our doorstep!

— Dwere elder

“ We cannot count the endless benefits that our villages have gained from NEA and we are so thankful that we now have a safe water supply in our village.

— Dwere elder

“ NEA's relationship with the communities that it works with is truly remarkable. In addition to the volunteers from Dwere, men and women from **nine** other villages came to NEA's Carpenter site at harvest time, ready to lend a hand and give back what they could!

— Brenda Mensah,
Program Coordinator

Food, Glorious Food!

Perhaps we have never been so thankful for God's blessing of rain as we have been this year, knowing how drought and hunger is hard-hitting many other African countries. And as our Carpenter Project Manager, Abraham Sayibu, says, "God has indeed blessed from the sky to the ground and from the ground of our farms to the pools of our fish!"

As small as the Tilapia 'fries' or 'fingerlings' might be in the pool, they grow to become big fish that can fill a plate. Over the past years we have continued to produce fish for consumption, along with fingerlings to stock the community ponds we build and to supply other fish farmers. This year we are going to be producing many more because the Government of Ghana

has asked us to collaborate with them to provide fingerlings for the whole northern half of Ghana – 50 million fingerlings to stock over 100 ponds.

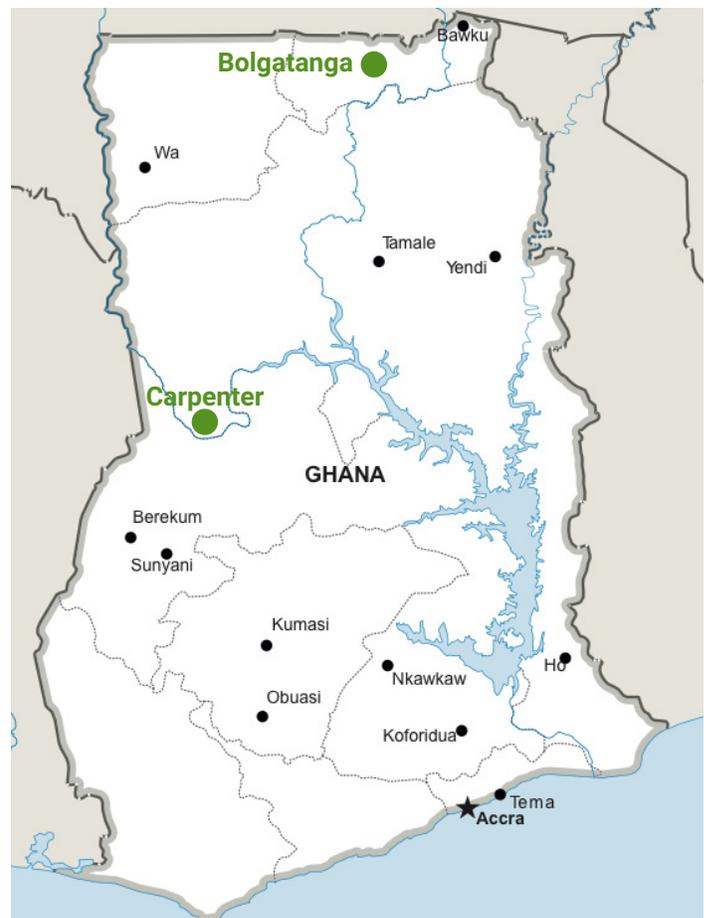
Our hatchery is strategically located to do this and we are thrilled that we can play a larger part in improving food security – particularly protein production — on such a large scale. Ghana's fish deficit is over 600,000 metric tonnes per annum so there is a lot of catching up to be done.



Our fisheries sector experts, led by Soale Gbeadese, are busy sorting and grading fingerlings to stock three community dams in Bolgatanga, Upper East Region. (This is about an 8 hour drive from Carpenter; see the map below.) These ponds will create more jobs in the area in addition to providing affordable protein for communities.



These tiny fish will grow and be harvested at a size that provides substantial, nutritious meals for families.



Leading by Example

Talking about the value of a clean environment is important, but it is even better to model environmental care. NEA staff, most of whom live in Carpenter, have set aside one day per quarter to participate in the community's clean-up commitment. Recently they spent a day cleaning about half a kilometre of deep roadside gutters that were filled with debris. This prevented flooding when the heavy rains came, helping the community to avoid diseases like cholera and typhoid fever, which increase from blocked or overflowing gutters and sewers.



GHANA Health Team 2017

Please be praying for the Ghana Health Team as they complete the final weeks of intense preparation for their November mission.

This year we are thankful for the 65 volunteers from Canada, USA, United Kingdom, and Germany who are a part of this team. A special thank-you to the families and friends who are releasing them for service with us.

The multi-disciplinary health team comprises seven smaller sub-teams:

sub-team	number of volunteers
physician	10
nursing	13
pharmacy	6
eye care	10
dental	4
surgical	17
logistics & guests	5

Special thanks to Abraham Sayibu, NEA Carpenter Project Manager, for his contributions to this newsletter.

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donate by mail: cheques/checks payable to GRID can be mailed to one of the above addresses

GRID (Ghana Rural Integrated Development) and **NEA** (Northern Empowerment Association) are partner organizations working to alleviate poverty in Northern Ghana. Motivated by Christ's love, our mission is to assist poor communities to meet their basic needs in a sustainable manner.



Dr. David and Brenda Mensah