

JANUARY - DECEMBER

2023



Impact Stories



Impact Evaluation & Matchmaking Workshop



DIWA Meets AidData



One Village One Dam



DIWA Visits African Union



Prof. Charles Amoatey

@charlesamoatey

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, we reflect on the journey we've shared and the impact we've collectively achieved.

Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our successes, and we are truly grateful.

This year, DIWA witnessed significant milestones, from successful workshops to impactful research initiatives. We are proud to share stories of positive change and the communities touched by our initiative.

#diwa_gimpa

 32K

 77K

 44M





Our research endeavours have not only expanded knowledge but have also influenced policies, making a tangible difference in the communities we serve.

Evaluation of the One Village One Dam Project

The “One Village One Dam” initiative is a key government flagship programme designed to facilitate year-round agricultural activities in the five Northern Regions of the country. It operates within the framework of the Infrastructure for Poverty Eradication Programme, with the primary goal of enhancing food security across the nation.

DIWA under the International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) ALL-IN project is evaluating the One Village, One Dam project to ascertain if its significantly contributing to agricultural activities in the five Northern Regions of the country.

This year, the DIWA team along with other enumerators, conducted mid-line data collection as part of the evaluation process, utilizing interviews and surveys. Employing a comprehensive approach, our aim was to gather credible data and also valuable insights into the impact of water access on livelihoods.



5

Regions

15

Constituencies

60

Communities

1586

Households

30

Communities with Dams

30

Communities without Dams

The Key Partners of this evaluation include, International Centre for Evaluation and Development, Feed the Future, UC Davis, USAID - US Agency for International Development, National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ghana Irrigation Development Authority, Northern Development Authority, International Water Management Institute - IWMI MENA Regional Office and the Special Development Initiative (SDI) Secretariat at the Office of the President, Ghana.



At the core of DIWA's mission is the commitment to building capacities, and this year, we took significant strides in achieving this goal through a series of enlightening workshops and training sessions.

Consultative Meeting With Policymakers

DIWA, at the beginning of the year conducted a consultative meeting to formulate evaluation proposals for government priority programs. During this joint session, stakeholders, including government officials and DIWA staff, convened to identify and deliberate on government interventions that necessitate evaluation for making well-informed policy decisions.

Participants delved into the necessity for evidence to guide policy decisions, engaging in discussions and idea-sharing. The aim was to generate proposals mutually beneficial to both the government and researchers, fostering a collective effort towards informed and effective policy-making.

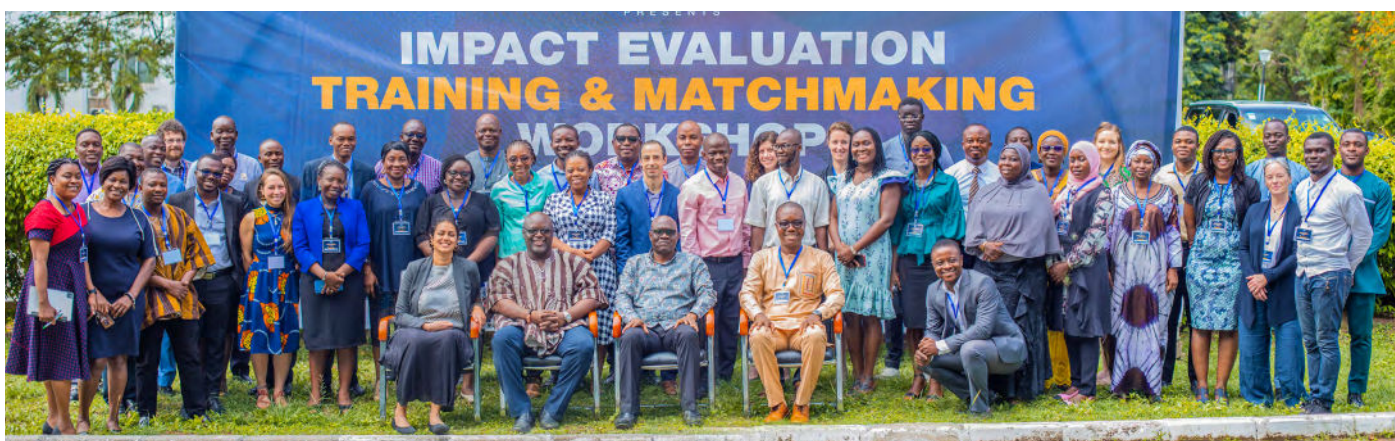


Impact Evaluation & Matchmaking Workshop

Our second Impact Evaluation Training and Matchmaking Workshop, held from March 27 to 31, 2023, in collaboration with the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), stands as a testament to our dedication. In response to a substantial number of applications from researchers in West Africa, the workshop brought together a diverse group of participants, including researchers, policymakers, and other key stakeholders, all united by the shared goal of contributing to evidence-based decisions in the sub-region.

The workshop commenced with an introduction to the fundamental concepts and tools of impact evaluation. As participants gained a practical understanding of impact evaluation, they formed groups based on their research interests and engaged in meaningful deliberations with policymakers in their respective fields. At the end of the 5-day training, the researchers were awarded certificates of participation as a recognition of their dedication to promoting evidence-based practices.

The concluding event, a dinner session held at the La Palm Beach Hotel, provided a fitting closure to the workshop. During this gathering, the DIWA team expressed sincere gratitude to the participants for their active engagement and insightful contributions throughout the workshop. The occasion also offered an opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the collaborative efforts of policymakers and other stakeholders. This collective recognition underscored a shared commitment to enhancing evidence-informed decision-making in the sub-region.

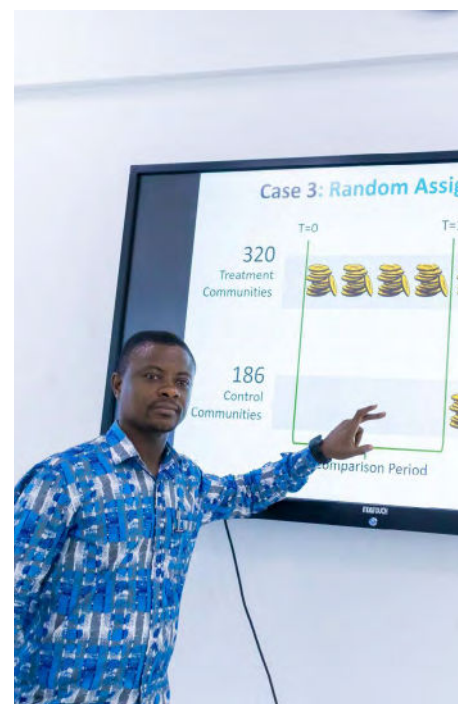




Facilitation of M&E Training By The DIWA Team



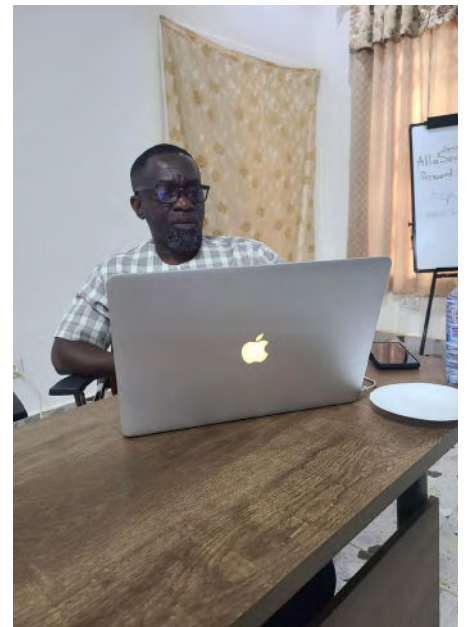
Professor Charles Amoatey, the Director of DIWA, played a key role in leading training sessions focused on Monitoring and Evaluation for Peace Support Operations in Africa (MELPAC). The diverse group of participants included the police, military, and civilians from both ECOWAS and AU institutions, as well as member states.



Richard Otoo, the Research and Evaluations Manager at DIWA, led Impact Evaluation training for the staff of the Electricity Company of Ghana (EGC) Limited and Northern Electricity Distribution Company (NEDCo). The primary objective of this training was to provide participants with the essential skills required to assess the impact of their projects, programs, and policies. Beyond that, the sessions concentrated on strengthening their decision-making capabilities, ensuring high-quality outcomes, and fostering a commitment to evidence-based programming.



The DIWA team, comprising Prof. Charles Amoatey, Richard Otoo, and Micheal Martey, conducted training sessions for the Monitoring and Evaluation of focal persons of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations in Ghana. This training is an integral part of capacity building for key labour agencies, aligning with the objective of supporting the operationalization of the new Ghana Labour Market Information System (GLMIS).



The GLMIS serves as an advanced technology platform, functioning as a comprehensive hub for all labour market information. It facilitates the connection of jobseekers from both formal and informal sectors to employers. The trained agencies encompassed the Labour Department, Fair Wages and Salaries Commission, Department of Factories Inspectorate, National Labour Commission, Management Development and Productivity Institute, and the National Pensions Regulatory Authority.



PRESENTATION AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, USA BY THE DIRECTOR OF DIWA



Professor Charles Amoatey, DIWA director, presented on “The Impact of Irrigation on Improved Productivity and Market Value for Smallholder Farmers in Northern Ghana” at Georgia State University, USA. His engaging discourse shed light on the transformative effects of irrigation practices, providing valuable insights into how they contribute to heightened productivity and increased market value for small-scale farmers in the Northern region of Ghana.

SHARING INSIGHTS FROM THE MIDLINE STUDY OF THE ONE VILLAGE ONE DAM INTERVENTION



DIWA convened a pivotal gathering with key stakeholders to share the findings from the evaluation of the “One Village One Dam” flagship program. The objective of this meeting was to delve into various influential aspects related to the dam’s construction, including its location, dimensions, and features, as well as the involvement of pertinent agencies. The session fostered a comprehensive discussion, aiming to dissect and analyse critical factors surrounding the programme’s implementation and impact.

AFRICA EVIDENCE SUMMIT



Professor Charles Amoatey, the Director of DIWA, Richard Otoo, the Manager of Evaluations & Research, and Nissi Adu-Boakye, the Training Manager, attended the annual Africa Evidence Summit in Nairobi, Kenya hosted by the Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA) and the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA). This summit provided a valuable platform for scholars worldwide to discuss ongoing studies aimed at enhancing lives and combating poverty.

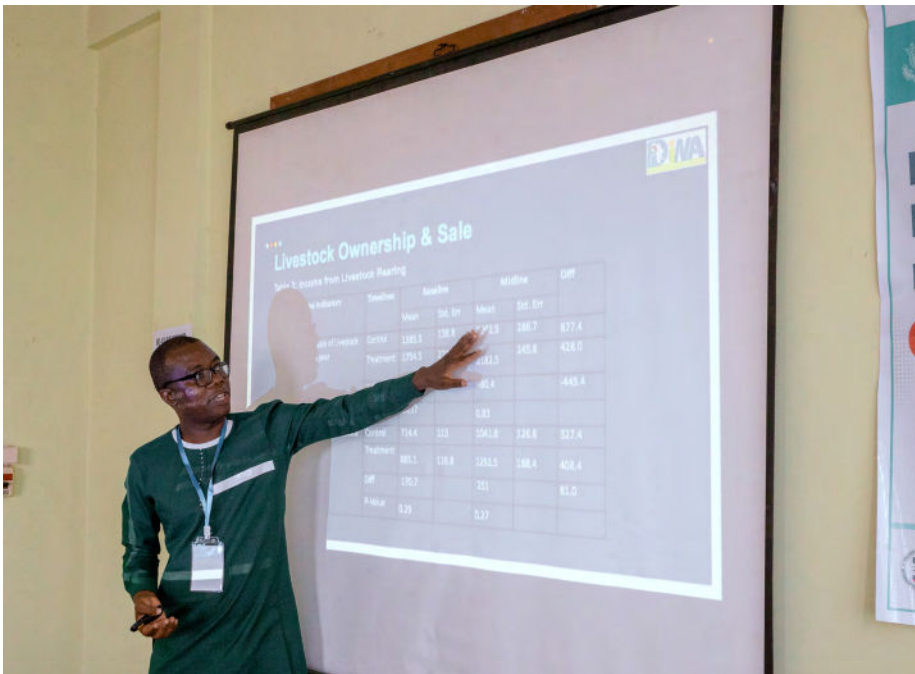


The panel, moderated by Maya Ranganath and featuring Christopher Chibwana, Program Officer at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Jordan Kyongo MSc, MPH, PhD, Research Specialist at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Caroline Nyuguto, Manager at Innovations for Poverty Action, and Professor Charles Amoatey, Director of Development Impact West Africa, discussed various perspectives on evidence-informed policy strategies and initiatives in Africa. In Prof Amoatey's submission, he shared critical insights into DIWA's strategies for supporting an Inclusive Evidence-Informed Policy Ecosystem in Africa.

EVIDENCE TO ACTION CONFERENCE



For an exhilarating five-day span (24th – 28th July 2023) at the ICED Evidence to Action (E2A) Conference and Exhibition in Addis Ababa, we were immersed in a dynamic showcase of Africa-led research, offering promising avenues for sustainable development across the continent. The conference, themed “Resilience and Recovery,” served as a convergence point for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange insights on development outcomes within the continent. This event symbolized a transformative step forward for evidence-informed policymaking in Africa.



From thought-provoking presentations to cultural exploration and collaborative initiatives, the conference left us not only inspired but also hopeful for Africa’s future. The knowledge shared and connections forged during these days undoubtedly contribute to shaping a brighter and more impactful tomorrow for the continent. Additionally, at the pre-conference gathering of the ALL-IN funded Research Network in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Prof. Charles Amoatey shared valuable policy lessons drawn from the midline evaluation of Ghana’s “One Village One Dam” initiative.

DIWA VISITS THE AFRICAN UNION



On the sidelines of the #E2A Conference in Addis, the DIWA team represented by Professor Charles Amoatey, Michael Tetteh Martey and Richmond Mawuli visited the African Union Commission to explore potential areas for collaboration in Monitoring and Evaluation capacity building for Peace Support Operations in Africa. It was a great honour meeting Adebayo Kareem and Ken Abotsi, both of the African Union Peace Support Operations Division.



DIWA VISITS AFRICA CDC



The DIWA team also visited the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. The Africa CDC serves as a public health agency under the African Union. Its primary mission is to bolster member states' public health initiatives while enhancing the capabilities of their health institutions to effectively address and manage potential disease threats. The DIWA team met Dr John Ojo, the Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, at Africa CDC to discuss how Africa CDC is applying innovative methods in generating and using evidence for decision making.



EVIDENCE 2023 CONFERENCE



DIWA actively engaged in the Evaluation 2023 conference hosted by the American Evaluation Association in Indianapolis, USA. The conference served as a platform for the team to gain valuable insights, broaden their network of collaborators, and share the exciting story of DIWA in shaping the landscape of evidence-informed policymaking in the subregion.

DIWA MEETS AVI AHUJA



On Friday, July 15th, Prof. Charles Amoatey and the DIWA team met with Avi Ahuja, a researcher from the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) and a doctoral student at New York University. Avi is actively involved in the Working Group on Africa's Political Economy (WGAPE) project. His current research focuses on Ghana's transition from International Development Association (IDA) concessional loan eligibility to an "IBRD blend" status in the early 2010s. The study aims to analyse the implications of this transition on public expenditure, service delivery, and economic outcomes at the district-assembly level in Ghana.

Specifically, Avi explores donor funding allocations at the district-assembly level in the years following Ghana's status change in 2010, investigating the subsequent impact on service delivery. The research seeks to shed light on how international aid eligibility classifications influence service delivery and the structure of public finances in countries undergoing shifts in their classification status.

DIWA MEETS AIDDATA



The DIWA team met representatives from AidData, a research lab based at William & Mary in Virginia, USA to discuss potential partnership arrangements for evaluating interventions in Gender Equity within urban areas across the Sub-region.

Similar to DIWA, AidData facilitates collaborations between decision-makers and researchers with shared interest in working together using granular data and innovative tools to solve pressing problems, precisely target resources, and use rigorous evidence to measure the impacts—intended and unintended—of policies and investments.

DIWA MEETS DELEGATES FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY



DIWA met delegates from McGill University, Canada and the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) to deliberate on collaborative efforts aimed at strengthening the capacity of West African Parliamentarians for more effective oversight functions.

This collaborative initiative, spearheaded by the institutional leadership of Professor Charles Amoatey, Director of DIWA, Inna Popova-Roche, Director of Professional and Corporate Education at McGill University School of Continuing Studies, and Dr. Rasheed Draman, Executive Director of ACEPA, seeks to enhance the capabilities of parliamentarians through strategic partnerships and shared expertise.

DIWA MEETS GROUP OF RESEARCHERS AND POLICYMAKERS TO DELIBERATE ON TVET PRACTICES IN GHANA



In a collaborative effort to advance Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) practices in Ghana, DIWA earlier this year met a group of researchers and policymakers. The aim of this meeting was to delve into a comprehensive discussion on strategies to enhance TVET through empirical research and evaluations. The gathering served as a dynamic forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and insights among a diverse group of professionals committed to improving the landscape of technical and vocational education in Ghana.



By leveraging empirical research and evaluations, the goal is to not only identify areas for improvement but also to create a roadmap for sustainable and effective changes in TVET practices. This collaborative initiative reflects a dedication to fostering positive and measurable impacts on the skills development landscape in Ghana, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic advancement of the country.

NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK: EVIDENCE SUMMIT 2023



With its structure and associated policies, education is a significant global concern, particularly in Africa. Annually, Ghana's Ministry of Education strives to elevate educational standards by organizing the National Education Week (NEW), a week-long event serving as a crucial platform for policymakers, researchers, and education experts to scrutinize the country's educational sector.

As a distinctive component of NEW, the Evidence Summit showcases selected studies aligned with the theme, fostering discussions. This year, Prof. Charles Amoatey moderated panel presentations on "Inequalities in STEM & TVET." Presentations included studies on female students' STEM choices, labour market outcome disparities, and foundational learning with mental health.

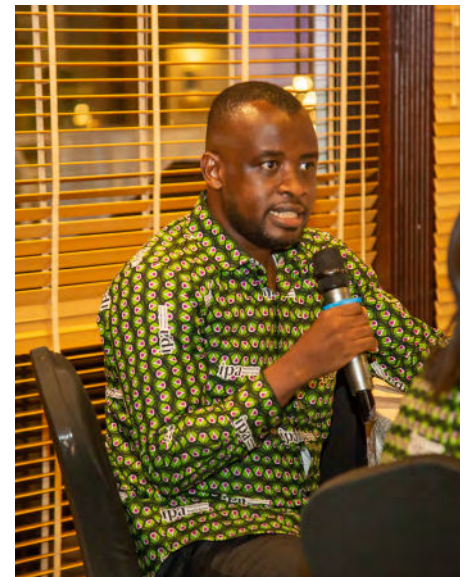
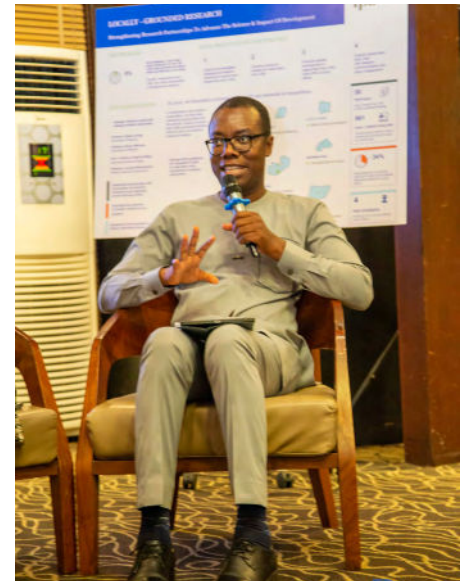


INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION (IPA) GHANA DINNER

During National Education Week, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Ghana, a global research and policy non-profit dedicated to reducing global poverty with evidence, organized a dinner session that brought together researchers, research institutions, and academics. The objective was to explore strategies for strengthening collaborations between researchers and policymakers. Guided by three key themes, the discussion covered the role of data in development, strategies for enhancing collaboration, challenges associated with policy-relevant research, and co-creating research prioritized by the Ministry with researchers.



The panel included distinguished members such as Eunice Ackwerh, Senior Education Specialist at The World Bank, Haggard Hilda Ampadu, PhD, Inspector General of Schools at National Schools Inspectorate Authority, and was moderated by Cynthia Bosumtwi-Sam, Policy Advisor at Innovations for Poverty Action, Ghana. Prof Charles Amoatey, in his exposition, underscored the complexity of promoting the use of rigorous evidence in government decision-making. He emphasized the necessity of investing in both the supply side, where local researchers generate evidence, and the demand side, where governments prioritize evidence in decision-making. Prof Amoatey also shared insights into the measures implemented by DIWA to ensure the credibility of evidence generated from studies.



The conversation extended to the role of funders and development partners in supporting research priorities and fostering an inclusive, evidence-informed policy ecosystem for African scholars. Throughout the dinner, participants engaged in thoughtful discussions, sharing observed successes and expressing hopes for future achievements in evidence-informed policy.

DIWA RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIP

DIWA, after the successful impact evaluation training and matchmaking workshop, welcomed teams of researchers and policymakers from West Africa and the CEGA affiliate network to submit proposals for seed funding. Teams had the opportunity to request up to \$15,000 for small-scale studies or up to \$50,000 for larger-scale studies, which includes indirect costs.

22

Proposals Received

8

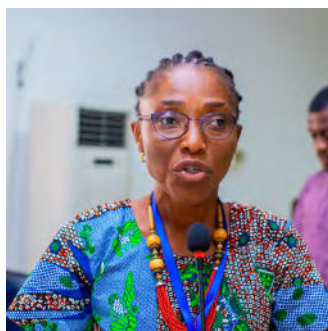
Grants Awarded

Principal Investigators of Research Team Awarded



Kwadwo Arhin

GIMPA



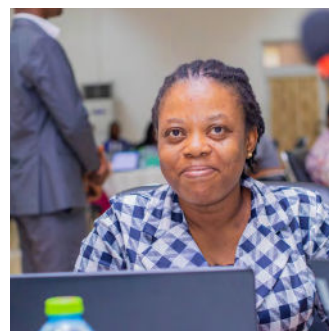
Grace Alenoma

SD Dombo University



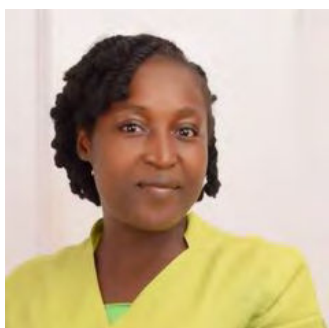
Isaac Doku

University of Education,
Winneba



Hamdiyah Alhassan

UDS, Ghana



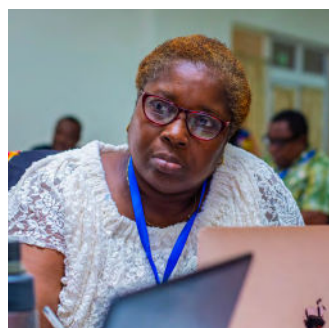
**Adejumo
Oluwabunmi**

Obafemi Awolowo University



**Kwadwo Agyei
Nyantakyi**

GIMPA



Fanny Quagraine

GIMPA



**Damase Eric
Sossou**

International Bureau for
Research on Economic and
Social Development

DIWA FELLOWSHIP

DIWA is currently enlisting researchers for the DIWA Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley. The Fellowship Program aims to empower West African researchers by equipping them with the necessary skills to conduct comprehensive evaluations of economic development programs. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to audit courses covering various subjects such as economics, health, agriculture, and education. Additionally, they will actively participate in workshops focused on research transparency, cost analysis, data science, qualitative methods, communications, and fundraising for research.

The fellowships, available in both short-term and long-term durations, are residential and thoughtfully structured to provide participants with extensive networking prospects and mentorship opportunities. Participants will be paired with esteemed CEGA-affiliated faculty, ensuring direct access to valuable guidance and support. Moreover, CEGA staff and PhD students, serving as peer mentors, will offer supplementary mentorship throughout the fellowship period.

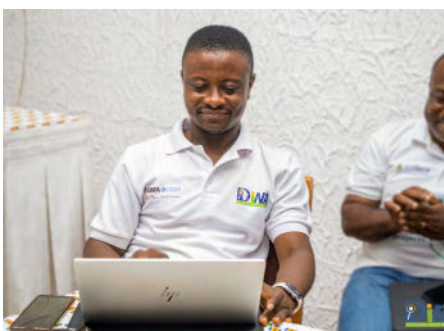
DIWA RETREAT

December signals the year's climax, prompting reflection on triumphs and hurdles, celebration of achievements, expressions of gratitude, and setting intentions for the approaching year. The Development Impact West Africa (DIWA) team took some time to step back, evaluating successes and challenges while strategically planning for the year ahead.

Little Acre Hotel in Aburi provided a perfect setting for the DIWA team's reflective sessions. This venue provided an atmosphere of collaboration and innovation, facilitating in-depth discussions, exchanging valuable insights, and formulating plans to amplify our positive impact on the region in the upcoming year.



In alignment with our overarching objective of fostering rigorous evidence generation in the sub-region, our retreat incorporated physical exercise for fitness, outdoor games to enhance team collaboration, and sightseeing to inspire fresh ideas. Collectively, these activities aimed to propel DIWA to new heights. The retreat gracefully ended with a more precise roadmap for the future and a strengthened sense of harmony and purpose.



STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH ECOWAS COMMISSION & GIZ

To conclude our activities for 2023, we provided orientation sessions on strategic planning and results-based management to the leadership and staff of the ECOWAS Commission's Strategic Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (SPME) Directorate. As part of our engagement, we also assisted in the development of the directorate's workplan for the upcoming year, 2024.



Looking ahead to 2024, Development Impact West Africa (DIWA) is excited to deepen its collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission. Our focus will involve conducting evaluations of select Community flagship projects and programs. We commend the leadership of Gbogboto Musa, Director of SPME, and Franck-Emery MONGBE, Senior Advisor on Strategic Management and Organizational Development at GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS, for their noteworthy achievements in 2023.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Our alumni form the backbone of our success, representing the enduring legacy of impact and achievement. They epitomize the transformative influence of our initiatives, showcasing diverse accomplishments that underscore the profound difference made through the generation and use of credible evidence.

As ambassadors of our values and vision, our alumni are instrumental in shaping the future and upholding the esteemed reputation of Development Impact West Africa. They stand as living proof of the positive influence DIWA has had on individuals and communities.



Prof. Evans Osabuohien
Covenant University, Nigeria



Dr. Mensah Benedicta
Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), University of Ghana



Dr. Papa Mallé Ndiaye
FASEG/UCAD Dakar University Senegal



Prof. Rose Fiamohe
University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Benin



Dr. Christian Aboua
Jean Lorougnon University Guédé de Daloa, Côte d'Ivoire



Dr. Dr. Adefunke Ekine
University of Education, Ijegan, Ijebu-Ode



Dr. Camillus Abawiera Wongnaa
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

PUBLICATION

While many papers have been submitted to several journals, we are delighted to share the news of the publication of the first DIWA-funded research paper titled *“The Impact of the Free Senior High School Education Policy and Double-Track System on Quality Education Outcomes: A Quasi-Experimental Policy Evaluation Study in Ghana”* [<https://doi.org/10.1080/18146627.2023.2225754>].

Our heartfelt congratulations go to the Principal Investigator, Professor Duah Dwomoh, and his co-PIs on this significant achievement.



PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

Our **partners and collaborators** have played a crucial role in the success of our endeavours, offering valuable insights, support, and expertise throughout the year. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each of them for their invaluable contributions to the DIWA initiative.

The image displays a collection of logos for the following organizations:

- GHANA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (GREEN HILL)
- CEAGA (Center for Effective Global Action)
- FEED THE FUTURE (The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative)
- GHANA IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
- WILLIAM + FLORA Hewlett Foundation
- ICED (The International Centre for Evaluation and Development)
- J-PAL (JEDU, LAFI, JAMTEL, POVERTY ACTION LAB)
- Georgia State University
- ipa (Innovations for Poverty Action)
- nda (Northern Development Authority)
- REPUBLIC OF GHANA
- MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS
- McGill
- IWM (International Water Management Institute)
- AIDDATA (A Research Lab at William & Mary)
- AFRICAN CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
- UC DAVIS
- USAID (FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE)
- ECOWAS CEDEAO
- giz (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH)



Season's Greetings

From the DIWA Family,

We wish you a joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter, and boundless happiness. Thank you for being part of our journey! 🎄🎁🌨️🌨️

Let's Connect



[@diwa_gimpa](https://www.instagram.com/diwa_gimpa)

diwa@gimpa.edu.gh
www.dewa.gimpa.edu.gh