

# Dry Season Farmers

## Breaking the cycle of hunger in Upper West Ghana

2025



Action Through Enterprise is supporting farmers to grow an extra harvest during the dry season - helping to break the cycle of hunger in Upper West Ghana and tackling a key driver of poverty and deprivation. Change ripples across families, communities and down through generations.

Since 2022, we have:

- given grants, training and mentorship to 13 farmers, enabling them to grow food in the dry season;
- enabled farmers to buy vital equipment, fencing, fertiliser, irrigation, vehicles, seeds, pesticide - everything they need to build thriving farms;
- provided business training through our enterprise programme, across two years. Our training has been developed by business experts and is delivered by our local staff, in the local language of Dagaare as well as English. Backed up by workbooks for participants, it includes core competencies and technical training around profit and loss, marketing, management skills etc;
- provided ongoing mentorship from our enterprise team, giving the support and advice needed for success;
- helped generate the food and income that enables farmers to feed their families all year round and send their children to school
- enabled farmers to expand their land and their enterprises - some open shops
- encouraged employment in the community. On average, farmers employ 7-10 people each during the harvest season - one grantee hires 35. This gives people a reason to stay in the north and not travel south for dangerous or illegal work
- created new role models, showing how hard work and dedication - along with the right support - can bring opportunities and truly change lives.

Farmers in our Dry Season Farmers Programme have:

- increased yields by up to 4000%
- grown profits by around 4000% - one farmer by 19,000%!
- built new homes
- expanded their farms
- opened shops and other businesses
- supported family members through education
- provided vital local employment



**"Before, I used to struggle to take care of my family's most basic needs, like education and health care. But now, ATE's programme has given me a sustainable livelihood that I can depend on."**

*Thomas, dry season farmer*



## DRY SEASON FARMERS: TACKLING HUNGER AND CHANGING LIVES



In Upper West Ghana, the dry season (November to June) is long and hot and hard. Unable to grow enough during the rainy summer, by springtime families are running out of food, often only eating 4 days a week. Children struggle at school. People are weaker and more prone to disease. It can feel like a trap from which there is no escape.

Our Dry Season Farmers Project shows there is a way out. We have now supported a total of 29 farms (including two community farms), leading to an increase in locally-grown food, increased profits, improved quality of life and more job opportunities for others. The project is transformational, not just for the farmers and their families, but for the whole community - and not just for now, for the future.

### THOMAS: A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

“ATE support has made my source of livelihood more sustainable. I have taken three of my siblings through their college education: Solomon, a professional teacher, Isaiah completed as an IT specialist and Esther, my kid sister, is now a professional nurse.”

This transformation is due to ATE’s support and Thomas’s hard work. With his grant he bought fencing wires to ensure his boundaries were safe from passing animals. Pumping machines, outlet tubes and water filters brought vital water to his crops, and a knapsack sprayer and fertilisers kept them pest-free (previously a huge challenge).

As important as the business grant is the ongoing support Thomas receives from ATE: “The training and mentoring have given me the opportunity to learn new business ideas and acquire knowledge and practice the best farm practices, such as early planting, regular weeding, early nursing of seeds to increase yield. The business competence acquired has helped me run my business successfully.”

Today, Thomas grows chili pepper, okra, sweet potato, cassava, maize and vegetables. His yield on peppers alone has increased from 5 bags to 86 bags. In total, his profit is up from £282 a year to almost £13,000 this year. “Through it, I am able to provide my family with a balanced meal, thus improving nutritional condition of my family and community.”

He has also become a major employer in his village, taking on between 10 and 20 people a day at least 4 four times a year.

**Thomas’s success is creating a ripple effect, across his community and down through generations. His story is of true transformation.**

**“The knowledge I have learnt from the technical training and experiences shared by other farmers has helped me overcome problem with pests in my farm. I have bought more lands to expand.”**



*In the last three years Thomas has increased his yield, helped his brother become a teacher and built two houses. Profit is up by 4500%.*

**“My plans are to move into mechanised agriculture. I will make a garden at the main farm land near the house to do dry season farming, drill a mechanised borehole to enable me expand the size of my farm land and train more youth in my community.”**





Bariksu



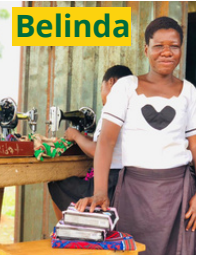
Raymond



Margaret



Lucy



Belinda



Dominic

## Action Through Enterprise: in numbers



**3,598**  
children in schools

children across eleven schools provided with free school meals, educational materials and sanitary products to support their education.



**1.72 million**  
school meals

nutritious school meals enjoyed by children in Lawra, allowing them to focus on their studies and improve their exam results.



**18% higher**  
exam pass rates

our partner schools consistently beat the district average in BECE (GCSE equivalent) exams.



**140**  
small businesses

supported with grants, training and mentorships, allowing them to build sustainable enterprises in weaving, carpentry, hairdressing etc.



**76** dry season  
farmers

dry season farmers on 29 farms supported to grow crops when food is most scarce, breaking the cycle of hunger.



**62**  
apprentices

young women – including nine with disabilities – provided with apprenticeships to gain lifelong vocational skills.



**748** disabled  
children & carers

lives transformed through advocacy, healthcare and lots of love and laughter.



**106** disabled  
children in school

historic milestone, giving all children the chance of education and challenging prejudice around disability.



**37%** of Lawra  
population

with six village hubs in Lawra, our work around education, enterprise and inclusion is touching more lives than ever.

## OUR TRANSFORMATIONAL MODEL

Our support for dry season farmers, helping to break the cycle of hunger and creating sustainable businesses, is an integral part of our whole approach. Working through our innovative village-based Hub Model, people get the opportunities they need to change their lives. Projects dovetail and bring real and sustainable change.

The farmer opens a shop and sells provisions to his community. The hungry child goes to university and becomes a midwife. The boy who could only crawl is in education and walks with a stick. The entrepreneur trains others and sends her daughter to school. The disabled child learns a trade and contributes to society. Two sisters become farmers and role models. These are real stories - Raymond, Lucy, Dominic, Margaret, Belinda and Bariksu are all changing their lives and the world around them.

In Lawra, we have touched the lives of 37% of the population - over 21,000 people - and predict that by 2028 that number will be 50,000 across three districts.

- Action Through Enterprise is expanding, and dry season farmers are a key part.
- In 2024, we replicated our Hub Model in a second district. We are now seeking funds for a new generation of dry season farmers in Nandom, where people also want change.
- Your support would mean we could fund and train farmers to grow food in the dry season - challenging food scarcity and hunger.
- They can build sustainable businesses, support their families and employ and train others in their community.
- We hope to begin supporting farmers this autumn - by next spring they could be harvesting their first dry season crops.

Watch the inspiring film of when Ramsbury farmer Tim Eliot-Cohen met Lawra farmer Prosper [here](#)



**For £10,000, we can set up 10 dry season farmers with all the equipment and resources they need to kickstart their business - along with vital training and mentoring to ensure success. We plan to select farmers in our new district of Nandom - could you help us sow the seeds of hope for the future?**



*lives touched by Action Through Enterprise*

## Action Through Enterprise: Ambition and Hope since 2012

75

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

2028

21,148

**50,038**