



## ICDP GHANA HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

### **Mission**

To enable children, particularly vulnerable ones, to flourish through strengthened caregiver capacity, empathy-centred practices, and well-designed community-based interventions.

### **Focus Areas**

Child development, child protection, maternal health, education, digital inclusion, adolescent rights, and financial inclusion for rural women (Village savings and Loans Associations).

### **Geographical Reach**

Greater Accra, Eastern and Oti regions, including selected rural and peri-urban communities.

[www.icdpghana.org](http://www.icdpghana.org)

## OVERVIEW

In 2025, ICDP Ghana consolidated its role as a programme-focused organisation delivering evidence-based, empathy-driven interventions to improve outcomes for children, caregivers, women, and adolescents. Through strategic partnerships with government institutions, international organisations, educational bodies, and community stakeholders, ICDP Ghana implemented and advanced programmes in maternal and child health, education, child protection, adolescent development, digital and vocational skills development, social and emotional learning (SEL), and STEM education.

Key initiatives such as SafeStart, D.A.R.E, O3, Think Equal Social and Emotional Learning, and the SeedScience Project reflect ICDP Ghana's holistic approach to human development. These interventions combined direct service delivery with capacity building, systems strengthening, and national-level engagement, reaching thousands of direct and indirect beneficiaries across multiple regions.

Across all interventions, ICDP Ghana prioritised systems strengthening, community ownership, and national readiness, ensuring that programmes are not only impactful at the community level but also positioned for scalable and sustainable implementation.

### **1. SAFESTART – IMPROVING MATERNAL & EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH**

SafeStart is a maternal and early childhood health initiative focused on early detection of pregnancy-related risks, improved access to quality maternal services, and strengthened caregiver-child wellbeing in underserved communities. The project delivers portable ultrasound diagnosis and maternal health education directly within rural and peri-urban communities in the Eastern Region, reducing barriers to care

caused by distance and cost.

In 2025, SafeStart continued its implementation phase, building on activities initiated in 2024. The programme strengthened community-level access to antenatal services while reinforcing health-seeking behaviours through continuous engagement with caregivers, community leaders, and frontline health workers.

As part of this engagement, pregnant women, mothers and caregivers were guided using ICDP's empathy-based approach, with the 8 guidelines forming the foundation for nurturing, responsive and supportive parenting practices.

### **2025 Implementation Snapshot And Key Outputs**

- Active service delivery across six communities: Kitase, Pokrom, Adamorobe, Konkonuru, Brekuso, and Ahwerase.
- Provision of portable ultrasound screenings integrated into routine antenatal check-ups.
- Ongoing community mobilisation to improve prenatal services to women

### **Outcomes and Progress**

- 1,000+ pregnant women screened and supported.
- 100% referral for identified high-risk pregnancies to health facilities.
- Improved uptake of antenatal services and increased trust in community-based maternal care.

SafeStart has significantly reduced barriers to maternal health and strengthened early risk identification, contributing to healthier pregnancies and stronger foundations for post-natal care.

## **2. D. A. R. E – DIGITAL ACCESS AND RURAL EMPOWERMENT**

### **Supported by Mastercard Foundation, UNESCO and GI-KASE**

The D.A.R.E Project is a community empowerment initiative designed to strengthen digital inclusion and livelihood skills among women, youth, and caregivers in rural and peri-urban communities. The programme combines basic digital literacy with vocational and income-generating skills, supporting participants' pathways toward economic resilience and self-reliance.

In 2025, D.A.R.E focused on learning, reflection, and programme strengthening, working closely with communities and partners to assess impact, identify gaps, and inform the next phase of implementation. ICDP Ghana partnered with UNESCO to support participatory learning and adaptive programme design.

### **2025 Implementation Snapshot And Key Outputs**

- Conducted community focus group discussions to capture participant experiences and programme outcomes.
- Engaged participants in reflection on how digital, especially the use of social media, and vocational skills have influenced daily life, income opportunities, and aspirations.
- Skills introduced included basic digital use, make-up artistry, Dressmaking, Décor, Pastry-making (Baking), Hairdressing, and soap-making, linked to small-scale livelihood opportunities.

### **Programme Status And Impact**

- Training activities have been completed for the current cycle with graduation and certification awarded to all 200 participants.
- Insights from 2025 are actively shaping the structure and sequencing of future digital-vocational integration.

D.A.R.E strengthened participant confidence, reduced digital exclusion, and enhanced readiness for income-generating activities, particularly among women and young mothers, while ensuring future rollout is grounded in real community needs and evidence.



*D.A.R.E participants under the decoration training at Somanya*



*Participants under the Makeup training at Somanya*



*Young mothers and women under the hairdressing training at Somanya.*



*Young mothers and women under the Soap-making training at Nkurankan*



*Pastry-making (Baking) participants at Nkurankan*



*Empowering young mothers and women on digitalization*



*Graduation ceremony for young mothers and women under the D.A.R.E project.*

### **3. O3 – OUR RIGHTS, OUR LIVES, OUR FUTURE**

The O3 Project promotes adolescent rights, health education, and responsible caregiving, with a strong focus on adolescent girls, caregivers, and community influencers. Through school-based learning and community outreach, O3 project strengthens awareness of rights related to education, health, and wellbeing, while reinforcing supportive family and community awareness.

In 2025, implementation was guided by collaboration with district/municipal education authorities, teachers and key community members, ensuring relevance and cultural appropriateness.

## 2025 Implementation Snapshot And Key Outputs

- Delivered interactive school-based sessions on adolescent reproductive health rights, education retention, and informed decision-making.
- Conducted community outreach activities in public spaces, including markets, radio programs, to engage the public on responsible parenting.
- Reached 5,000+ adolescent girls and 200+ caregivers and community members.

## Outcomes And Impact

- 90% of participating girls demonstrated improved knowledge of their rights to protection, sexual reproductive health and certain educational policies on Re-entry of school after childbirth.
- Strengthened community understanding of parental responsibility as a cornerstone of child wellbeing.

O3 continues to contribute to safer, more informed environments for adolescent girls while reinforcing community norms that support education, health, and protection.



*Inception meeting with Key Stakeholders*

*School sensitizations for the youth*



*Creating safer and healthier environments for all through market sensitizations and radio talk shows.*

#### **4. THINK EQUAL SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

In 2025, ICDP Ghana made significant progress in establishing the foundational systems and national readiness for the rollout of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in Ghana through its partnership with Think Equal. The initiative focuses on nurturing empathy, emotional regulation, inclusion, and positive social behaviour from early childhood.

ICDP Ghana's 2025 role centred on co-creation, stakeholder alignment, and national capacity building, ensuring SEL implementation is contextually relevant and system-aligned. The programme discussions and training engagements were further enriched by ICDP's empathy-based approach with the 8 guidelines integrated into facilitation and dialogue to reinforce nurturing interactions and positive learning environments.

#### **2025 Implementation Snapshot And Key Outputs**

- Held a national SEL Co-creation Meeting, engaging key stakeholders to contextualise the Think Equal curriculum for Ghana.

- Engaged and secured buy-in from NaCCA, NaSIA, NTC, MoE, GES/GES ECE and other education stakeholders.
- Organised and delivered a three-day National Master Trainers Training Session in Accra, building a core pool of SEL Master trainers.
- Focused on curriculum alignment, facilitation skills, and implementation fidelity.

### Impact And Preparedness

While classroom rollout will commence in the next phase of 2026, 2025 achievements have:

- Established strong institutional ownership of SEL in Ghana in partnership with the Early Childhood unit of GES.
- Built a national cadre of SEL-ready trainers.
- Positioned Think Equal SEL for a coordinated pilot rollout aligned with Ghana's education systems.



*Engagement with Ministry of Education & Ghana Education Service.*



*ICDP Ghana-Think Equal Co-Creation Meeting with Key Stakeholders – GES ECE, NaCCA, NaSIA, NTC*



*ICDP Ghana-Think Equal National Master Trainers Training Session*

## **5. SeedScience Project – Enhancing STEM Teaching & Participation**

The SeedScience Project is an education innovation initiative aimed at strengthening science teaching and learning through practical, hands-on approaches that make STEM subjects engaging, applied, and relevant to both learners and educators. ICDP Ghana's engagement with SeedScience in 2025 focused on building local capacity for science education while demonstrating excellence through collaborative learning with international academic partners.

In early 2025, ICDP Ghana partnered with SeedScience, an international consortium supporting science education innovation, to introduce the SeedScience Online Training Course for science teachers in Ghana. The project is implemented in collaboration with the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy, bringing international academic expertise into the design and delivery of the training programme. The course equips educators with modern, inquiry-based science teaching methodologies that emphasise experimentation, critical thinking, and the effective use of locally available materials to make science concepts more engaging and practical in classroom settings.

To support effective rollout and long-term sustainability, ICDP Ghana worked closely with Municipal Education Directorates, strengthening cooperation around implementation, monitoring, and the integration of inquiry-based science education practices within public schools. As part of this approach, ICDP Ghana facilitated teacher participation, mentorship, and collaboration, including a preparatory engagement at the Weija-Gbawe Education Directorate, where education leadership was engaged to introduce and localise the SeedScience programme.

By the conclusion of the programme on May 2, 2025, ICDP Ghana emerged as the winner of the 5th Edition of the SeedScience Online

Course, a recognition that reflects the strength of its implementation approach, high levels of teacher engagement, and sustained commitment to improving science education outcomes in Ghana.

### **2025 Implementation Snapshot And Key Outputs**

- **Launch and sensitisation:** ICDP Ghana introduced the SeedScience teacher training programme to education authorities and school leadership to secure local buy-in and facilitate teacher engagement.
- **Teacher capacity development:** Participating teachers received online training designed to enhance their ability to deliver inquiry-focused STEM lessons that use simple, cost-effective materials and interactive experiments.
- **Leadership in competition:** ICDP Ghana's team performed strongest among participating organisations, culminating in winning the 5th Edition of the SeedScience Online Course at the end of the training cycle.

### **Outcomes And Impact**

- **Strengthened STEM teaching capacity:** The project reinforced science educators' skills in facilitating hands-on, learner-centred science lessons.
- **Recognition for excellence:** ICDP Ghana's achievement as the winner underscores its effectiveness in leveraging international education initiatives to support local teacher development and education quality improvement.
- **Expanded network:** The engagement positioned ICDP Ghana within a broader community of STEM education partners, including SeedScience and other local and international NGOs committed to advancing science education.



Engagement with the Weija-Gbawe Education Directorate to introduce the SeedScience Online Training Programme for science teachers



ICDP Ghana and the Weija-Gbawe Education Directorate with teachers during the in-person orientation of the SeedScience Online Training Programme.



Teachers engaged in the online SeedScience Training session



## CROSS-CUTTING IMPACT IN 2025

Across its programme portfolio, ICDP Ghana achieved the following cross-cutting outcomes:

- Strengthened community trust and participation through sustained engagement with caregivers, educators, adolescents, community leaders, and institutional stakeholders.
- Enhanced institutional and human capacity, particularly among teachers, facilitators, trainers, and frontline service providers, through targeted training and co-creation processes.
- Promoted holistic child and adolescent development, integrating psychosocial wellbeing, life skills, vocational readiness, and academic learning across programmes.
- Advanced learning and innovation, including the adoption of social-emotional learning methodologies and inquiry-based STEM education approaches through Think Equal and SeedScience.
- Invested in systems readiness and partnerships with education directorates, health institutions, and national stakeholders to support future scale, replication, and policy alignment.

## CONCLUSION

2025 was a year of deepening implementation, strengthening systems, and building national readiness for ICDP Ghana. While some initiatives focused on expanding service delivery and beneficiary reach, others – including Think Equal and SeedScience – concentrated on laying critical foundations through curriculum contextualisation, national-level training, and capacity development. Together, these efforts demonstrate ICDP Ghana's continued commitment to empathetic, evidence-based, and community-centred development, integrating care, learning, innovation, and systems strengthening to enable children, caregivers, educators, and communities to thrive both now and in the future.