**PROJECT SUMMARY**

PROSPER is an extension of the CARE-Cargill partnership which seeks to reach 5,900 farmers in cocoa growing communities to enhance capacity of local structures to lead and own the development process of their communities, increase access to education and enhance women participation for development. The project spans from September, 2016 to August, 2019. PROSPER is being implemented in 108 communities under four cocoa districts — Sefwi-Wiawso, Asawinso, Anhwiaso, and Awaso in the Western Region of Ghana.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

PROSPER adopts a community-driven approach to achieve four primary objectives

- Improve child protection and access to education by making available and/or improving existing school infrastructure;
- Enhance women’s participation in decision-making processes;
- Strengthen inclusive governance
- Improve food and nutrition security

Community Action Plans (CAPs) have become a blueprint for development in CARE partner communities. CARE has facilitated the development of CAPs in 108 cocoa growing communities. The process which was very participatory enabled communities to identify their needs and become aware of innovative ways they can mobilize resources to initiate their own development. The Community Development Committees (CDCs) established and composing of representatives of identifiable groups in the community (chief and elders, unit committee, women, youth, lead farmer, kuo, assembly member, religious bodies and other community groups) have the CAPs implementation and the overall development of their communities as their main responsibility.

CARE through the PROSPER project has mobilized 108 women's groups with 4,105 members. The formation of women groups has created opportunities to give women a voice, enhance their collective identity and agency. These groups have been trained on leadership, group dynamics, conflict resolution, record keeping and resource mobilization. Some activities undertaken by women's groups to date include community cleanups, visits to schools to discuss student conduct and parent/teacher liaising, establishing vegetable gardens and microenterprise training in collaboration with the Women in Agriculture Development Unit of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

PROSPER seeks to increase consumption of nutrient-rich food and share knowledge on the importance of diversified diets and best nutrition practices among women's groups and communities. In collaboration with the Department of Health and Ministry of Food and Agriculture, CARE conducted community nutrition sensitization and cooking demonstration. Women's groups in communities have established kitchen gardens and demonstration farms that provide practical trainings on good agronomic practices. Vegetables cultivated include cowpeas, beans, pepper, okra and tomatoes to provide vegetables with good sources of nutrition readily available.