The University of Ghana, McGill University, and World Vision are working with the local District Assembly, the Department of Agriculture (DoA), Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, Heifer International, and the Upper Manya Krobo District (UMKD) rural bank in the UMKD of Ghana to strengthen local resources and services that will help improve health, nutrition, economic well-being, and food security in rural communities.

FATHERS

* Fathers and other men play an important role in children’s well-being and household economic and social decision-making.
* Many health and social service development programs do not include men in their activities, focusing solely on women and children.
* In 2014, 71% of Ghanaian children <2 y lived with both their mother and father and 89% of married men 15 to 49 y reported making decisions regarding major household purchases either alone or with their wife.
* Rural Ghanaian women in a microcredit and nutrition education intervention attested that financial and other assistance from their spouses contributed to the success of their enterprises, which enhanced their purchasing power for improving their children’s diets.
* Fostering men’s support and participation in interventions directed at empowering women and improving child nutrition may be critical to the success and impact of these activities.

References:
2. Ghana Health Service (GHS), Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), and ICF International. Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014. Rockville Maryland, USA: GHS, GSS, ICF International. 2015.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Most fathers were between 21 and 50 years of age.

Almost all fathers (94%) provided both economic support (financial contributions) and physical care (feeding, bathing, playing with child) for their child.
**NEWS FROM THE FIELD**

**Father’s educational attainment**

- None/preschool
- Primary
- Junior secondary school
- Senior secondary school
- Post-secondary

Almost half of fathers had completed junior secondary school, while more than half had obtained less education (none, preschool, or primary).

**Father’s employment**

- Farmer
- Fisherman
- Trader
- Vocational
- Salaried worker
- Other

More than half of fathers worked as farmers, while the other half worked as fishermen or traders, worked in vocational occupations, were salaried workers, or had an ‘other’ employment.

**PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

The *Nutrition Links* project is engaging with fathers by providing materials and training for beekeeping and the commercialization of honey. Activities began in September 2015 for 100 rural households with young children. Each household received five hives, which could be expected to provide 2,250 to 3,000 GHC (~600 to 800 USD) per year. Additionally, gender and diversity workshops were held in each intervention community. Through story-telling and group discussion, the importance of sharing roles, responsibilities, and decision-making in the household was emphasized. Men have also participated in the project’s food demonstrations, which have included lessons on preparing and appropriate handling of foods, the importance of using iodized salt, and eating fruits and vegetables.

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Website: http://www.mcgill.ca/cine/research/building-capacity-sustainable-livelihoods-and-health-ghana

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