



Centre for Social
Impact Studies

Annual Report 2024





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Message from Executive Director

As we present this year's annual report, we take a moment to reflect on the work, challenges, and progress that have defined our journey over the past year.

The period under review has been one of both urgency and opportunity. Across our areas of engagement, we have witnessed growing public interest in accountability, sustainability, and inclusive development. These trends continue to shape our priorities and deepen our resolve to contribute meaningfully to national discourse and policy action.

The period under review has been one of both urgency and opportunity. Across our areas of engagement, we have witnessed growing public interest in accountability, sustainability, and inclusive development. These trends continue to shape our priorities and deepen our resolve to contribute meaningfully to national discourse and policy action.

This report highlights key activities, outcomes, and lessons. It also reflects the collective effort of our staff, partners, and stakeholders whose dedication has made this progress possible. While we acknowledge the gains made, we are equally mindful of the gaps that remain and the need for sustained effort.

As we look ahead, we remain guided by our mission and strengthened by the trust placed in us. We will continue to pursue our work with clarity, integrity, and a firm belief in the value of informed civic engagement.

Thank you for your continued support.



Robert Ali Tanti

Executive Director Centre for Social Impact Studies



Organisation Overview

The Centre for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS) is a Non-governmental Organisation that seeks to influence policy change in favour of communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies.

Established in January 2011 as an independent, not-for-profit, research and advocacy non-governmental organization, CeSIS primarily focused is on providing research backbone to Ghana's extractive industry.

CeSIS is headquartered in Obuasi in the Ashanti Region with an office in Takoradi, the Western Regional capital that focuses on the oil and gas industry. Officials of CeSIS have also travelled around the world sharing the organization's experiences with students, researchers, civil society actors, government officials, and the business community.

Vision

CeSIS seeks to become a world class research institution providing cutting edge science based research results that support advocacy for the development of residents living in resource-rich areas in Ghana and Africa.

Mission

CeSIS's mission is to influence policy change in favour of communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies. This has been tremendously executed as CeSIS has become the sole mouthpiece of mining affected communities in Obuasi and adjoining districts especially on compensation, environmental and human rights issues.

CESIS - YEAR IN REVIEW 2024: KEY ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

STRATEGIC WORKS



- Capacity Building Workshops on Gender & Extractives
- Strategic plan workshop
- Advocacy Skills Training Workshop
- Staff Retreat



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



Responsiveness to Environmental Risk in Ghana Project by Dataplas

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH & NETWORKING



- Board Meetings
- Capacity Building of staff
- Networking Events attended by staff

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY & EMPOWERMENT



- Community Advocacy
- Training Workshop for community members on Compensation & Resettlement
- People's Assembly

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

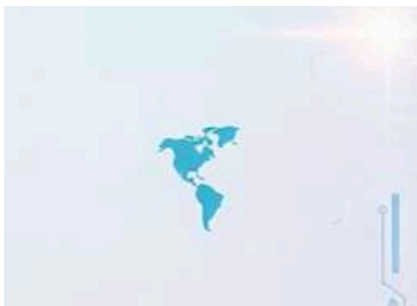
- Media Training and tour to Anwiam Community
- Media Engagement

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



- Media Training and tour to Anwiam Community
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GLOBAL & STAKEHOLDER REACH



Capacity Building Workshop on Gender and Extractives



CeSIS with support from Third World Network, Africa (TWN, Africa) organized two (2) capacity building workshops on Gender and Extractives for partners under Fair for All (F4A). The first workshop held at Kumasi equipped participants with knowledge on gender related challenges and issues within the extractive sector.

Participants were taken through the concept of Gender Equality, identification of gender gaps in the extractive sector and how to mainstream gender in our activities as CSOs working in the extractive sector.

Following the initial training, a second training workshop was held in Bolgatanga to build on the progress made during the initial training workshop to deepen participants' capacity in addressing gender and social inclusion issues within the extractive field.

The follow-up workshop focused on applying GESI principles to real world scenarios, policies and regulations in the extractive sector through the GESI lens, experience sharing on compensation and resettlement, conducting gender and social inclusive impact assessment and how to mainstream gender in our advocacy. These two training workshops effectively equipped organizations with in-depth knowledge on gender issues.



Staff Retreat



With support from Third World Network, Africa (TWN - Africa), a 3 day-retreat was held for all staff of CeSIS at Ataase Nkwanta in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The objective of the retreat was to evaluate the performance of the organisation over the past years, build strategies for the future and build employees; capacity on report writing skills. The training included a session that introduced participants to the history and origin of CeSIS. Both the 2023 annual report and financial reports were presented for discussion

There was a dedicated session for reviewing the organization's logo, mission statement, vision statement as well as our strategy of work. The programme also included a capacity building session on teamwork and report writing skills. The retreat fostered a sense of value among employees through the discussions as each individual's skills and experiences were recognized. This in turn fostered teamwork and promoted collaboration



Responsive to Environmental Risk Assessment in Ghana by DataPlas

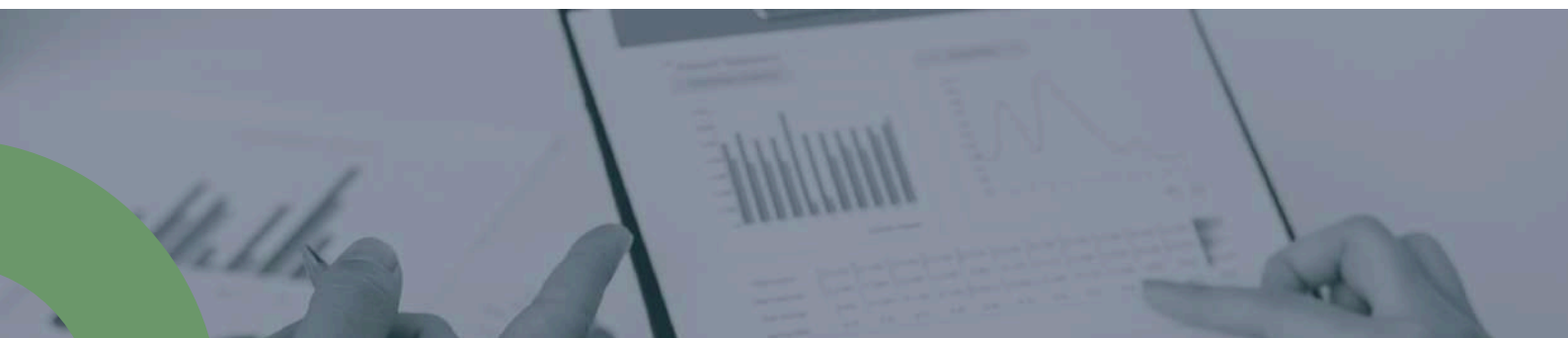
The organization in collaboration with DataPlas, a research team from Accra and another research team from University of California, Davis in the United States undertook a water quality data collection exercise in some selected communities within the Ashanti, Central and Western Region. The exercise began with collection of water samples from local sources, followed by testing to ensure the safety of their water.

The next phase of the exercise aimed at effectively communicating the water quality results to the communities. The research team again advised the members of the communities on how to keep water safe for drinking and educated them on measures to safeguard their drinking water from pollution. The primary objective of the study was to enhance their knowledge on water safety and improve their ability to interpret water quality results. The drafted questionnaire used for the data collection exercise involved 5 key sections: Households and Households' Asset Information, Community Attitudes and Familiarity towards Government and NGOs, Social Information Spillovers, Educating Communities on Chemical and Bacterial Pollution and Sharing Water Quality Results and providing communities with practical advice on how to safeguard their water sources from pollution



Key Findings:

The chemical and bacteria pollution levels of the water samples are classified as low, medium, high, or very high
The majority of the tested samples had pollution levels ranging from low to high, with only a few samples showing very high levels of pollution





Training of Community Activists on Compensation and Resettlement laws

Some community Activists from Anwiam were trained on compensation and resettlement laws. The objective of the capacity building workshop was to discuss community needs and action plans with regards to the resettlement and compensation for the Anwiam community and also educate community members on the laws pertaining to compensation and resettlement.

Anwiam is a community in Obuasi East District seeking for resettlement due to the adverse impacts of nearby mining activities. The workshop introduced community members to relevant issues and laws related to compensation and resettlement.

Key Discussions

Compensation Principles (Regulation 3):
Valuation must consider factors such as the economic lifespan

Surface and Mineral Right (Regulation 12-15)
If compensation is unpaid, the company cannot evict farmers. The land becomes the property of the mining firm only after payment of compensation

IFC Performance Standards on Resettlement requires resettlement on Suitable Alternative Land, Preservation of economic livelihood and respect for socio-cultural values and traditions



Media Training on Compensation and Resettlement Laws

With Support from Third World Network (TWN), CeSIS Conducted a capacity building workshop for some selected media personnels from Obuasi and Kumasi. The training workshop focussed on building their capacity on compensation and resettlement laws as well as disseminating the key findings of the organization's research work on compensation and resettlement. The training focussed on key Legal Provision (LI 2175), IFC Performance standards on Resettlement and Historical Context and Community Impacts



Media Training on Compensation and Resettlement Laws

Key Concerns Raised

- The need for genuine community engagement
- Risk of elite capture, where local leaders may dominate negotiations
- Litigation fatigue among communities, leading to apathy



People's Assembly



CeSIS with funding support from Third World Network (TWN) organized a people's Assembly in Anweam community which brought together the community members, media team from Obuasi and Kumasi and the staff of CeSIS. The objective of the People's Assembly was to let the media have a firsthand experience of the adverse impacts of mining on the Anweam community so as to use their platform to communicate the issue at hand. The session also helped to solicit community perspectives on the resettlement they are seeking for.





Capacity Building Workshop on Advocacy Skills

Under the sustainable organizations project (capacity strengthening) funded by OXFAM NOVIB, Center for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS), in partnership with Savannah Research and Advocacy Network (SRAN) organized an Advocacy Skills training to build the capacity of both organizations. Under this training, Two (2) key activities were organized. The first activity was a Transact walk and a Gendered Segregated Focus Group Discussion at Anwiam community in Obuasi East Municipality. The second Activity was the training on Advocacy skills. The first activity enabled both organizations to understand the problems being faced by the community which laid a foundation for a more informed and effective discussion in the second activity which focused on Advocacy skills. In the first activity, community members were grouped into men, women and youth groups which helped improve participation and ensure inclusive representation. Each group shared their concern on how mining activities have negatively affected their lives. The second activity equipped participants with skills and tools needed to do advocacy in our field of work. Participants were guided through ten (10) steps in developing an advocacy strategy.





Key Highlights

- An Advocacy must have a purpose and a goal
- It must bring about a change
- It must be deliberate
- It must have a targeted set of coordinated activities



Training Workshop on Strategic Plan

Center for Social Impact Studies in Partnership with Savannah Research and Advocacy Network and with Support from OXFAM NOVIB organized a training workshop on Strategic Plan for staff of both SRAN and CeSIS. The objective of the training workshop was to build the capacity of both organizations to enable them draft their own Strategic Plan. Both Organizations were assisted to draft a medium term strategic plan during the training session.

It was emphasized during the training that an organization's strategic plan must purposely state what the organization stands for, its vision, mission, overall purpose and its core values. A strategic plan serves as a roadmap for the organization, guiding its decision making, resource allocation and actions.



A strategic Plan must include Executive summary, Situational Analysis, Vision, Mission and Values, Strategic Goals and Objectives, strategic initiatives, Implementation Plan, Financial Plan, Human Resource Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation and a Conclusion

Key Outcomes

- Strategic plan clarifies purpose and discussion
- It increases efficiency and productivity
- It enhances decision making
- It improves focus and concentration





Community Advocacy

Binsere, a community within the Obuasi Municipal was supported by Center for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS) in advocating for resettlement by Anglo Gold Ashanti due to the construction of a Dam situated approximately 50 meters from their homes. The community raised a concern of the presence of hazardous chemicals in the dam and its adverse effect on their lives including air and noise pollution, environmental degradation, infestation of insects particularly having effect on households living closer to the dam. CeSIS assisted the community in drafting a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Minerals Commission and AngloGold Ashanti (AGA). Also, CeSIS has maintained regular communication with both the community and the mining company in addressing emerging concerns. Even though the issue has not been fully resolved, AGA has taken steps to meet the community for discussions



Community members submitting petition @ Mineral Commission, EPA and AGA HQ, ACCRA.



Capacity Building Workshops Attended

As part of its commitment to capacity building, staff of CeSIS participated in a number of workshops, and seminars. Some staff were also supported to attend some training programmes, both in-person and virtually. The topics they built capacity in range from gender, project management, climate change, and natural resource governance. These training programmes have built the capacity of staff to be able to execute their work goals and support the organisation to achieve its goals. The table below indicates some of the training programmes that staff members participated in within the year under review.

Date	Event	Venue	Theme	Organizers	Key Outcomes
10–13 January 2024	GHEITI General Retreat	Accra	Training of Multi-Stakeholder Group Members on EITI Standards	Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (GHEITI)	Participants reviewed achievements and challenges of GHEITI. Planned 2024 activities. Key focus areas included revenue transparency, beneficial ownership register, SOE accountability, and regular EITI reporting.
25 February – 1 March 2024	Ghana Landscape Restoration Project	Kumasi	Gender in ASM Training	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	Emphasized the role of women in ASM and landscape restoration. Highlighted gender inclusion as essential for sustainable development and environmental protection.



Capacity Building Workshops Attended

Date	Event	Venue	Theme	Organizers	Key Outcomes
25–27 March 2024	Gender and Social Inclusion Training	Accra	Gender and Extractives	Network for Women’s Rights (NETRIGHT)	Addressed unequal impacts of mining on men and women. Stressed the need to integrate women’s rights and voices into extractive sector decisions.
5–8 May 2024	Ghana Landscape Restoration Project	Obuasi	Empowering Women in ASM through Cooperative Development	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	Introduced cooperative models to strengthen women’s bargaining power, improve livelihoods, and encourage sustainable mining practices.
13–15 November 2024	NRGI Training Workshop	Lancaster Hotel, Kumasi	Corruption Diagnosis in Transition Minerals	Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)	Participants learned to apply corruption diagnostic tools and gained insight into governance risks in transition minerals.



Online Courses Completed

CeSIS prioritized the professional development of its staff through various capacity-building activities, including workshops, seminars, and online courses.

Date	Course Title	Organizer(s)	Staff
Apr 18, 2024	Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience	United Nations Environment Programme	Enoch Owusu
Jun 8, 2024	Good Clinical Practice Training for Social and Behavioural Research	Society of Behavioural Medicine	Dorothy Ofori, Priscilla Affum, Enoch Owusu
Jun 17, 2024	Climate Change, Peace and Security: Understanding Climate-Related Risks	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	Enoch Owusu
Aug 9, 2024	Fundamentals of Gender Equality and Mining Governance	UNDP, IISD, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Dorothy Ofori
Dec 10, 2024	EcoJustice	Green Growth Africa	Enoch Owusu



KEY NETWORKING EVENTS

CeSIS belongs to a number of networks and these networks help in advancing our operations. The organisation attended various networking events to build our networks with other organisations

Event	Staff Involved	Date	Location	Theme	Key Outcomes
Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) Dissemination Workshop	Dorothy Ofori, Priscilla Affum	Oct 4, 2024	Kumasi	Dissemination of GHEITI 2021/2022 Mining, Oil and Gas Sector Report	The report highlighted progress and recommendations across the extractive sector, noted mixed compliance by District Assemblies on royalty reporting, and showed that funds supported projects such as school construction and land reclamation. It also reported CSR spending of about GHS 25 million in 2021 and GHS 42 million in 2022.
AfriYan Ghana General Assembly Meeting	Priscilla Affum	26–30 November 2024	Koforidua	AfriYan General Assembly	The assembly led to the election of new leadership to guide the Network. It also strengthened engagement with new members, built partnerships, and opened avenues for collaboration.



International Engagement



Students from Oslo Met University in Norway

As part of its long-standing partnership, CeSIS once again hosted a student from Norway under an exchange programme focused on development studies and experiential learning.



Media Engagements Overview



The Centre for Social Impact Studies continues to value the contributions of the media in its work. The media has become an indispensable tool for advocacy on natural resource management. In 2024, CeSIS engaged the media on many thematic areas. These media sources were not restricted to only Accra based media houses, but also those from the communities across the country where significant mining operations continue to wreak negative impacts on the communities.

No.	Issue	Date	Media House	Location	Staff Involved	Remarks
1	Significance of National Constitution Day	Jan 7, 2026	Shaft FM	Obuasi	Richard Ellimah	
2	Can Ghana develop with her mineral resources	Mar 6, 20...	Time FM	Kumasi	Richard Ellimah	
3	What does the Energy Transition mean for Ghana's	Jun 4, 2024	Time FM	Kumasi	Richard Ellimah	
4	Ways of addressing illegal mining	Jun 7, 2024	Ahotor FM	Obuasi	Richard Ellimah	

Our Team



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