

NAVRONGO-BOLGATANGA CATHOLIC DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
(N A B O C A D O)
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NAVRONGO-BOLGATANGA

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



January - December, 2023

<https://www.nabocado.org>



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**Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Office-1981
Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Organisation 2018 (Reg:# CG018372018)**

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1.0 MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

We closed the year 2023 as another impactful year at Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Organisation (NABOCADO), which I am filled with immense gratitude. Our collective efforts have transformed lives, empowered communities, and driven positive change.

This annual report is a testament to our shared journey from grassroots initiatives, innovations and active participation to policy advocacy. We have made strides toward our mission. Each project and partnership have contributed to our success.

Let us celebrate the milestones:

- The Livelihood and Advocacy Directorate directly benefited 11,353 people in 206 communities in 16 districts in Upper East and North East regions of Ghana in the area of sustainable agriculture practices, local innovations and climate change adaptation action plans.
- The Good Governance Justice and Peace Directorate responded to demands in peacebuilding, child protection, humanitarian and emergency response, youth and migration directly reached out to 4,128 people in 20 Municipal and District Assemblies in the Upper East Region and North East Regions.
- The Diocesan Health Service covered a total of 135,640 Outpatient Department (OPD) attendants and recorded an OPD per capita rate of 3.6. There were 2,580 (169.9%) antenatal registrants and 2,244 (147.8%) supervised deliveries, reflecting an increase of 14.1% in supervised deliveries in 2023.
- Partnership and networking created opportunities for the organisation visibility and knowledge sharing by placing us at the forefront as a preferred local institution of excellence.

We faced challenges during the year under review ranging from; funding gaps, logistical hurdles, and unforeseen crises with a surge of displaced persons from our neighbouring countries. But our resilience prevailed because we adapted, innovated, and stood together.

To our donors, volunteers, staff, and beneficiaries: thank you. Your unwavering support fuels our mission. You are the heartbeat of NABOCADO.

Let us dream bigger, collaborate deeper, and impact wider because our work is far from done, but together, we can create a more just and compassionate world.

With heartfelt gratitude.

Dr. Joseph A. Ayembilla

(Human Development Coordinator, NABOCADO).

2.0 A WORD FROM THE LOCAL ORDINARY

Dear Staff and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year's journey, I am humbled by the unwavering commitment of our Staff, Volunteers, and partners. Together, we have laced a pathway in promoting integral human development thereby creating impacts in the lives of the rural poor and vulnerable, which transcends borders.

At Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Organisation (NABOCADO) our purpose is clear: to be the beacon of hope for those in need. From Livelihoods initiatives to healthcare access, we have touched countless hearts. Each project, each smile, and each transformed life is a testament to our shared vision.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every donor, every volunteer, every beneficiary stakeholder, and every ally who stood by us. Your generosity fuelled our resilience. In the face of adversity, we adapted, innovated, and persevered our values in serving humanity in dignity.

As we turn the page to another year, let us dream bigger and amplify our impact. Let us continue to be the change-makers our world need.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey. Your trust in us fuels our determination. Together, we thrive, and together, we create ripples of transformation.

With deep sentiment of appreciation,

Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta,
(Catholic Bishop of Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese)

3.0 ORGANISATION, MISSION AND VISION

Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Organisation (NABOCADO) is a Catholic faith-based non-profit organisation promoting rural development. The operational zone in Ghana has 75% of the population being rural and 85% being agrarian.

The area is faced with increasing poverty, conflicts, food and nutrition insecurity, low access to quality education and health care, high illiteracy, low access to potable water, poor sanitation and waste management, continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which the people depend for their livelihoods.

NABOCADO's vision is a dignified life for the poor in which, the marginalized and vulnerable in the rural areas have access to adequate food and income, decent shelter, quality education and health as contained in the Social Teaching of the Church.

NABOCADO's mission is to promote and sustain integral human development of the poor and marginalized through improved: livelihood and food security, quality health and education delivery, equity, and peaceful coexistence in the Diocese.

4.0 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

4.1 Livelihood and advocacy

The Livelihood and Advocacy Directorate implements creates livelihood opportunity in the area of sustainable agriculture practices and value addition among Diocesan population. In 2023, the Livelihood and Advocacy Directorate implemented four projects towards attaining its goal of improved food and nutrition security among the Diocesan population.

A total of 2,170 women and their households' members are producing vegetables and orange flesh sweet potato (OFSP) all year round through the use of solar mechanized boreholes for consumption to improve nutrition and sale for income.

With Support of MISEREOR, Germany, a total of 309 women groups were organised with a membership of 9,767 who mobilised GHS 180,625.70 for solidarity activities and GHS 2,516,556.00 for self-loaning for businesses.



Sharing of solidarity fund

Climate change Adaptation and mitigation

Farmers in 26 targeted communities were supported to consciously develop climate change adaptation and mitigation plans. They have been implementing these plans aimed at reducing the effects of climate hazards on their livelihood activities. They were further supported with joint visits by key stakeholders such as forestry commission, department of food and agriculture and the various district Assembles in the implementation of their climate change action plans.



Display of climate change adaptation and mitigation plan



Compost application (Zai method) at Nyangoligo community

Farmer local innovation

To address challenges faced by farmers with regard to pest and diseases without affecting the environment negatively, NABOCADO have been working with farmers to innovate locally and find solutions to pest and diseases on crop and animal production. The project team identified, developed and documented 91 local innovations for controlling pest and diseases, preservation of grain and seeds as well as for livestock treatment. We have in the picture below, Olivia Nyaaba from Nabango community in the Kassena Nankana West processing neem extract as local innovation to spray on her crops to control pest and diseases.



Solar energy for dry season farming

NABOCADO worked with 15 communities to introduce solar mechanized boreholes for dry season farming. Boreholes are drilled and mechanized with solar for farmers mostly women to use for vegetables production. Currently, 2170 women farmers in the 15 communities have solar mechanized boreholes and are producing all year round.



Solar mechanized borehole garden in Lore Yakin community



Sale of vegetables on farm

4. 2 Good Governance Justice and Peace

In terms of integrated peace building for improved food and nutrition supply project funded by MISEREOR, the Directorate established and 238 (155 males and 83 females) community peace agents and Parishes justice and peace committees. These peace agents work in 48 communities providing early warning signs of conflict for early action for conflict prevention. Out of the 26 parishes, 21 have functional Justice and Peace Committees (JPCs) who are responding to early warning signs in their areas to restore calm thus ensuring peaceful co-existence. Indirectly the activities of the directorate impacted over 10,828 households in the two regions.

Violent extremism

The Good Governance Justice and Peace implemented “Preventing Electoral Violence and Providing Security to the Northern Border Regions of Ghana (NORPREVSEC)” project funded by the European Union through COGINTA in Upper East and North East regions covering 34 communities in three districts. The two projects contributed significantly in peacebuilding and social cohesion successes. The project focused on building social cohesion among border communities in the Diocese through networking among communities and district structures. A total of 138 (96 males and 42 females) community agents were trained and equipped to provide timely information to the security services for prompt action. NABOCADO established 15 communities monitors in border communities across the Diocese who provide information on movement in and out of Ghana in the border communities to help the office track suspicious activities. Furthermore, 17 (14 males and 3 females) security service, religious and traditional leaders were trained towards enhancing their work to combat violent extremism in the Garu and Tempene districts. The outcome was a joint District Security (DISEC) quarterly meeting instituted to discuss matters of general security in the two (2) districts.

Youth unemployment

Youth unemployment is one of the biggest challenges confronting the Diocese and this has resulted in many youths migrating to Southern Ghana to do menial jobs. In most cases, the youth return with pregnancies, illnesses and some become drug addicts. To address these challenges, the Directorate collaborated with CRS Ghana to implement the Providing Livelihood Opportunities and Support for Kayayei Porters KAYAPORT project, which provided skills training for female migrants in West Mamprusi municipality. The project trained 260 young females who graduated and started working as self-employed people.



**Miss Irene Mahamoud- awarded- by CRS Mr.Daniel Mumuni,
the CRS-Ghana Country Representative**

Humanitarian and Emergency response

Violent events in the Sahel driven by extremist groups have continued to trigger humanitarian crisis leading to the displacement of large populations both internally and across borders. This has further worsened the already bad development situations not only of the countries experiencing the violence, but also of countries hosting populations seeking safety and refuge as well.

There are 7000 asylum seekers in the Upper East Region of Ghana, 3,218 were targeted by GRB for the relocation to the Reception/Settlement Centre. As at 5th February, 1051 were relocated to the Settlement Centre. Asylum seekers were provided with key services by different partners. In response to the needs of the asylum seekers in Ghana, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees set-up a Field Office in the Upper East region which also has oversight responsibility for those the Upper West Region. In June 2023 the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) established a reception Centre at Tarikom to receive Burkinabe Asylum Seekers living in border communities in the Upper East Region. The Asylum Seekers lived at the Reception Centre (centre had a holding capacity of 2,500 people at any given time). Lands were released for these centres by the traditional authority of the area in consultation with land owners. A total of over 50 acres of land released by the Divisional Chief of Tilli for hosting the asylum seekers



Visit of the Bishop of Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese, Bishop Alfred Agyenta to the Reception Centre at Tarikom, Ghana

Relocation from Border Communities to Reception/Settlement Centre

The first batch of 245 Asylum Seekers were moved to the Reception Centre facilitated by UNHCR/GRB. UNHCR/GRB relied heavily on the community development expertise in all the community level engagements that eventually led to the relocation of Asylum Seekers.

Access to health

A total of 919 asylum seekers accessed primary health care services at Tarikom CHPS compound -669(261 males, 408 females)) compound and Tilli health Centre 250 (97 males, 153 females). They were treated for different ailments. There were 13 successful deliveries (9 male babies and 4 female babies) and the 13 women were supported with delivery kits and supported to attend post-natal services. A total of 5 (1 female and 4 males) asylum seekers with mental health issues were also supported with the treatment and counselling. The Organisation facilitated the enrolment of 608 asylum seekers into National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to increase their access to health care.

Access to education

NABOCADO Facilitated the rehabilitation and furnishing of 2No. 3-unit class room blocks at the Tarikom Primary school by CRS-Ghana. The School population increased from 216 to 650 pupils.



Access to food and nutrition

In preparation for the wet feeding, a menu was prepared to guide the cooking and serving of hot nutritious meals thrice daily throughout the week. All daily rations meet the sphere minimum standard. The intervention successfully cooked and served 3 meals per day to an average of 480 (the asylum seekers at the Settlement without a skip within the period and facilitate Child Welfare Clinics and education.

Christmas Party/fun games for Asylum Seekers

As part of partner complementarity, NABOCADO organized Christmas party and fun games for asylum seekers at the reception centre on the 22nd December 2023. Asylum seekers, staff of NABOCADO and other implementing partners participated in fun games (oware, ludo, dancing competition, sack and egg race. Asylum seekers were served with food and drinks of their choice. This celebration brought all the ethnic groups together and improved social cohesion.



Sack Race by Female asylum Seekers during Christmas Party, Reception Centre, Tarikom

Community based protection and protection monitoring

We established network of monitors at the host communities (13 clusters) and Reception Centre/Settlement. In the border communities, protection monitoring teams sensitized

and facilitated the relocation of asylum seekers from host communities to the Reception Centre.

Community Based Protection

The Organisation formed four (4) community groups namely women, youth, elderly and men groups who meet periodically to discuss SGBV and CP issues and sensitized the asylum seekers at both host communities and Reception Centre on issues of SGBV and CP and the channels of reporting them. NABOCADO also facilitated registration and issuance of birth certificates to 11 children.

Child Protection

A total of 180 asylum seeker children got enrolled into formal education at the Tarikom Primary School as at December, 2023. Progress monitoring showed asylum seekers enrolled in the school were doing well. There were reported cases of hostility between community children and children from the settlement.





Child protection

The Mother of Mercy Babies Home (MMBH) provided care and support to 17 Babies (7 males and 10 females) between the ages of 0-3 years. The Home provided care and support to these babies in the form of regular health check, daily feeding, clothing and housing through trained caregivers. The Babies receive regular health care from the Martyrs of Uganda clinic health team located close to the Home.

The Centre for Child Development (CCD) reached out to 285 children experiencing various types of abuses and exploitation from human traffickers, poverty and neglect. The Centre for Child Development was only able to provide home-based support to 58 other children from 17 communities. The presence of a case officer at CCD has improved documentation at both CCD and MMBH in accordance with best practices. CDD has also supported education of children at different levels, basic education has 46 (23 males and 23 females), Senior High School Education has 41 (17 males and 24 females) and tertiary education has 33 (17 males and 16 females)

Chieftaincy succession plans

A total of 124 participants comprising paramount chiefs, divisional chiefs and state actors including the Regional Coordination Councils of North East and Upper East Regions gained knowledge on the Chieftaincy Act and drafting of succession plans for their jurisdictions. There are plans for the Upper East Regional House of Chiefs to roll out a template for the compilation of succession plans. When succession plans are completed and implemented it will streamline enskinment process thereby reducing chieftaincy related tensions in the region.

Integration and application of non-violent approaches by district assemblies

The Directorate worked with various districts assemblies to integrate non-violent approaches in facilitating conflict resolution among feuding factions. This resulted in three district assemblies (Bawku, Bunkpurugu Nakpanduri and Yunyoo-Nasuan) integrating the non-violent approaches into their medium-term development plans for implementation. Non-violent approaches are being applied in the management and resolution of conflicts in the communities. The Bunkpurugu-Nakpanduri and Yunyoo-Nasuan districts have shown commitment to the implementation of community peacebuilding approaches by making funds available through budgeting for community level sensitisation sessions in peacebuilding. They are implementing the Gulf of Guinea Social Cohesion (SOCO) project using instituted community-based sensitisation programmes for youth groups on peaceful co-existence and preventing violent extremism.



4.3 Diocesan Health Services

The Diocesan Health Service-Catholic Health Trust provides 24 hours health care services to the Diocesan population in its 13 health facilities and one (1) hospital in Upper East and North East regions of Ghana. A total of 135,640 Outpatient Department (OPD) attendances were recorded, translating to an OPD per capita rate of 3.6. Notably, there was a substantial increase of 5,896 in OPD attendance as compared to the previous year 2022.

Covid-19 Emergency Response project

The health service directorate coordinated a Covid-19 Emergency Response project which advocated for Covid-19 vaccine acceptance and uptake in Upper East and North East regions of Ghana. The project contributed in reaching a total of 1,161,831 people with at least one dose of the vaccine, which represents 87.8% of the eligible target population. In addition, 1,075,053 people representing 81.3 % of the eligible people were fully vaccinated. NABOCADO observed the project effectiveness in the increased proportions of the target population vaccinated from an average of 50% to 80% across the two regions with 11 out of the 15 districts achieving vaccination rates above 70% required for herd immunity. In terms of adoption, almost all the interventions were adopted and integrated into the routine healthcare delivery system and therefore leveraging promising and innovative intervention offers potential for sustainability.

The Power of InterFaith Religious Leaders in driving demand for COVID 19 vaccines



Rev. Aposiyini Joseph, Chairman,
Faith Alliance Ghana,
credit Mr. Ali, September, 2023

“ Our people believe in their religious leaders,” says Mr. Aposiyini Joseph, Chairman, InterFaith Alliance Group. “As a group, we use our Muslim team members to engage the Muslim community and the Christian for the Christian community. So when they see us walking and working together, they believed in us and readily accepted what we tell them.”

Promoting child health

Promoting child health project was one key focus funded by Kindermissionswerk, Germany which covered 25 communities and reached out to 9,729 children on health screening, food vendors health and hygiene and giving children a voice about their health.

The Diocesan Health Service supported to renovate the St. Joseph Health Centre, Nakolo with the sum of GHS 112,665.00 with funding from a philanthropist from the Netherlands. This has help improve health care delivery within the Nakolo community. The health directorate also procured medical equipment, furniture and electrical appliance funded by Hungary Helps Programs for St. Joseph the worker health and St. Patrick's health centres.



St Clement Health centre in Kasengo

The people of Kasingo with the help Rev Fr. Gabriel Atidoo Agambire and friends constructed and partially equipped Health Centre. This was handed over to the Diocesan Health Service for Diocesan ownership, management and operationalization. The Diocesan Health Service immediately posted staff to kick-start its operation.



Photo-during commissioning

St. Raphael Medical Centre

In respond to urgent diagnostic and medical needs, the construction of Outpatient Department (OPD) commenced two years ago through NABOCADO local resources. The local effort enabled the construction work 100% structure completion. This Medical Centre is meant to operate as private. The OPD comprising four Consulting rooms, a Pharmacy, and general medical stores, troller bays, a reception area, and records rooms. It also has eight administrative offices, an emergency/accident ward, a research centre, a training room, two staff changing rooms, a Bay for nursing mothers, oxygen bay, dressing room, injection room and sanitary facilities which are disability-friendly.



5.0 PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

Peace in the Sahel (Ouagadougou, Conference)

A three-member delegation from Ghana led by Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta participated in the Regional Workshop for peace in the Sahel with Mr. Richard Akurugu, the Project Coordinator, SPI 2.0 for Ghana at National Catholic Secretariat and Dr. Joseph Bangu, the SPI 2.0 focal person for NABOCADO. The four-day international conference was attended by representatives from Mali, Niger, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and the host Burkina Faso. These constitute the Episcopal Conferences from the Sahel. One outcome of the conference was that it generated global interest in the security crisis in the Sahel.



Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta making a contribution during the Conference

CRS EMPOWER Workshop in Abidjan

The Empowering Partner Organizations Working on Emergency Responses in West Africa (EMPOWER West Africa). EMPOWER, is a CRS humanitarian partnership and capacity strengthening approach to increase and advance local leadership of humanitarian responses through institutional strengthening, capacity building, accompaniment, and direct funding of local humanitarian actors. Three staff of the of NABOCADO (Human Development Coordinator, Dr. Joseph Ayembilla, the Financial Administrator, Rev.Fr. Joseph Tabase and Dr. Joseph Bangu, the director for Good Governance Justice and Peace) participated in the EMPOWER kick-off workshop in Abidjan.



Group Photograph of Participants with the Archbishop of Abidjan

Sahel Peace Initiative, Representative met CRS Board and Foundation Members

The Bishop, challenged the CRS Board and USA donor agencies to focus in funding support to prevent violent extremism and radicalization in his presentation.



Landmark photo of Reconciliation and adoption of non-violent approaches by Doba-Kandiga citizens.

Rome Hungary Helps

Effective collaboration and networking led to the Bishop participating in Hungary Helps 40th Anniversary celebration in Rome and presented a keynote addressed. He expressed deep sentiments of gratitude on behalf of children and people who benefited from durable mono-desk tables and decent Outpatient department blocks. He called on donor communities to direct funds to local faith-based organisations who deliver direct services to the rural poor and for sustainability.




Catholic Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga

*HUNGARY HELPS IN AFRICA
Focus On Vulnerable Christians
Conference in Rome
(10th November 2023)*

Hungary Helps support for Christian communities in Ghana.

Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta (Catholic Bishop of Navrongo -Bolgatanga
nbdiocese@gmail.com/Agyenta@gmail.com)

Hosting Arc/Diocesan Development Officers in Bolgatanga

All Arc/Diocesan Development Officers in Ghana met in Bolgatanga for a learning exchange hosted Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Development Organisation (NABOCADO). Catholic Relief Service, Ghana underscored the importance of institutional strengthening and capacity development of Arc/Diocesan Development Offices for efficiency, effectiveness and professional governance and management in the changing donor focus on localisation.

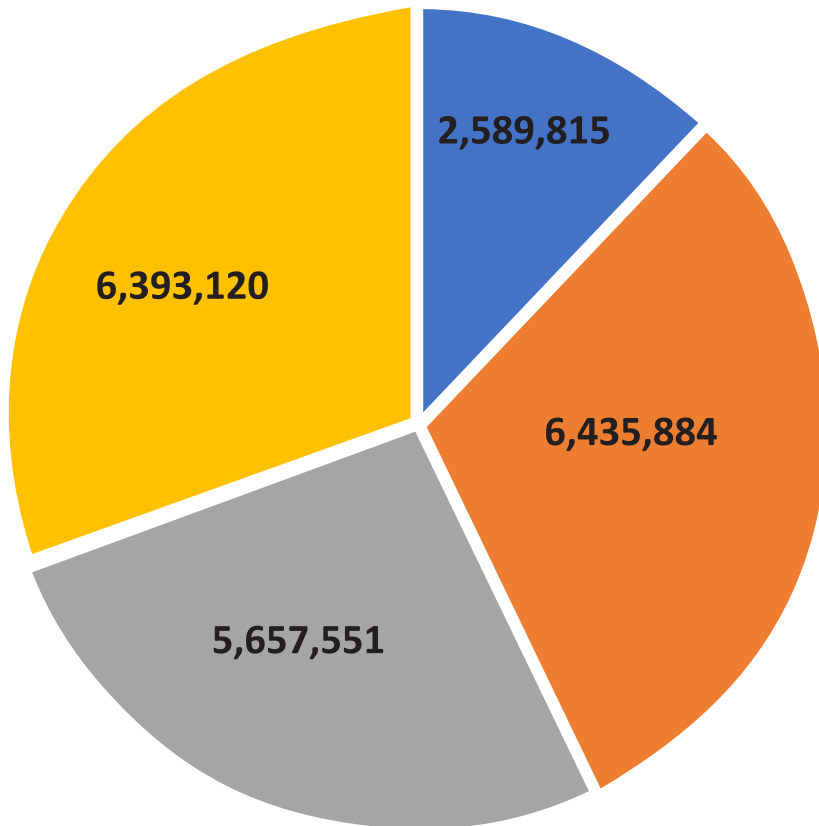


Members of Arc/DDOs, CRS Ghana Country Representative and Staff and NABOCADO team

6.0 FINANCES

Donor partners restricted funding for three (3) Sectors and NABOCADO main in 2023 was GHS 20,002,359.00 as against 11,439,129.94 in 2022. This represents 75% increase in funding in 2023. This was made possible due to additional funding agencies and direct funding facilitated by Catholic Relief Service, Ghana. The continuous funding support to NABOCADO is based on efficient institutional programming and implementation supported with high quality financial management and accountability.

REVENUE



- NABOCADO Administration
- Diocesan Livelihood and Advocacy
- Good Governance, Justice and Peace
- Diocesan Health Service

7.0 GENERAL CONCLUSION

The organisation continues to pursue development interventions to improve the general living conditions of the Diocesan population through the promotion of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, access to livelihood needs as well as health and education needs of the people.

Despite several developmental challenges confronting the Diocese, the Human Development office has been able to achieve the results highlighted in this report through close collaboration and networking with relevant partners in Ghana and beyond.

The activities of violent extremism in the Sahel sub-region poses security threats in NABOCADO operational area given its proximity to some Sahel countries. NABOCADO will continue to engage in capacity building of stakeholders in the border communities as a contribution towards addressing the violent extremists' activities. The Diocesan Health Sector is confronted with inadequate infrastructure efficient management challenges hampering quality service delivery. The organisation is pursuing partnership opportunities to address some of these challenges for smooth service delivery.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Reading the abridged version of our report, we wish to acknowledge our donor partners key collaborators listed below but not in any order, for their support and contributions to the work of NABOCADO.

1. Catholic Relief Services, Ghana.
2. MISEREOR of Germany
3. Hungary Helps of Hungary
4. Kindermissionswerk of Germany
5. Kinder Directheft, Germany
6. Madison Diocese of United States of America
7. Department of Food and Agriculture, Upper East and North East Regions.
8. Districts and Municipal Assemblies, Upper East and North East Regions.
9. Ghana Health Service, Upper East and North East Regions.
10. Regional Peace Council, Upper East and North East Regions.
11. Regional Coordination Councils, Upper East and North East Regions.

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