



PROJECT BRIEF:

Women in Livestock Microenterprise Development (WILMED)

June 2025 - June 2026



LOCATION: Ghana

GOAL: To improve the livelihoods and economic security of women and girls through strengthened livestock production, improved access to animal health services, and increased women's leadership and participation in decision-making.

TARGET GROUPS: Women poultry and livestock farmers in underserved rural communities.

REACH: 3,023 people, including 2,591 women and girls.

FUNDING PARTNER:
Peter Gilgan Foundation

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
WIPVaC-Apex Ghana

BACKGROUND:

In rural Ghana, poultry and livestock are important sources of food, income, and economic opportunity. Yet women farmers in underserved communities often face barriers to accessing animal health services, technical knowledge, financing, and opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their livelihoods.

Animal disease, gaps in livestock management, and climate pressures can further undermine productivity and household economic security. Limited access to affordable financing can also make it difficult for women to invest in or expand their livestock enterprises.

Recognizing that these challenges are interconnected, Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB) partnered with WIPVaC-Apex Ghana to implement the Women in Livestock Microenterprise Development (WILMED) project, with support from the Peter Gilgan Foundation. Using a gender-responsive One Health approach, WILMED brought together livestock and animal health training, community-based veterinary services, financial inclusion, leadership development, and community engagement. The project was designed around three central objectives: strengthening women's livestock knowledge and skills, improving access to animal health services, and increasing women's leadership and participation in decision-making.

By addressing animal health, economic opportunity, and women's participation together, WILMED helped strengthen the systems women rely on to build healthier livestock, stronger livelihoods, and greater economic security.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

From June 2025 to June 2026, Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB), in partnership with WIPVaC-Apex Ghana and with support from the Peter Gilgan Foundation, implemented WILMED to strengthen the livelihoods and economic security of women in underserved rural communities in Ghana.

Using a gender-responsive One Health approach, the project addressed several interconnected barriers affecting women poultry and livestock farmers. WILMED combined practical livestock and animal health training with community-based veterinary services, financial inclusion, leadership development, and community engagement. Women gained skills to improve animal health and productivity, while locally trained Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) expanded access to basic veterinary care in communities where services are limited.



At the same time, financial literacy, entrepreneurship training, savings and loans groups, and affordable credit helped women strengthen their businesses and household economic security. Leadership and community engagement activities supported women's participation in household, cooperative, and community decision-making while building broader awareness of gender equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

KEY ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS:

To strengthen livestock production and animal health, WILMED equipped women farmers with practical knowledge and expanded access to community-based animal health services:

- More than 1,600 women farmers received training in animal health, disease prevention, vaccination, biosecurity, nutrition, antimicrobial resistance, housing, and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- 24 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) — 19 women and five men — and five District Veterinary Officers were trained in animal healthcare, disease surveillance, vaccination, biosecurity, and climate-resilient livestock management.
- CAHWs provided animal health services and outreach to 1,772 poultry and livestock farmers, reaching more than 6,850 animals through vaccination, treatment, deworming, and disease surveillance.



To expand women's economic opportunities, WILMED combined affordable financing with financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and business management. A revolving loan fund supported 107 women across 12 Entrepreneurship Savings and Loans Groups (ESLGs), helping women invest in and expand their businesses while strengthening skills in budgeting, savings, record-keeping, and credit management.

To strengthen women's leadership and participation, the project provided training in communication, negotiation, advocacy, conflict management, and governance. Community engagement also brought together traditional leaders, schools, health professionals, media, and civil society organizations to build awareness of gender equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Beyond the funded project period, trained CAHWs continue to provide local animal health services, while the revolving loan fund and savings groups continue to expand women's access to finance.

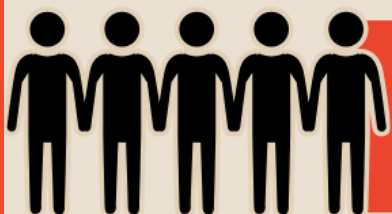


For a detailed breakdown of project impact, see the infographic on the next page >>>

1,600+

women farmers trained

in animal health, livestock production
& climate-smart practices



3,023

people reached

including 2,591
women & girls



24 CAHWs
trained (79%
women)



1,772 farmers
received animal
health services



6,850+ animals
received animal
health services



107 women
accessed affordable
financing (revolving
loan fund)



**12 savings &
loans groups**
supported via the
project



**~95% loan
repayment rate**
helping sustain
the revolving fund



30%

reduction in chicken mortality

as farmers adopted improved housing,
vaccination, & biosecurity practices



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