As part of SWEB project activities an event, “Ring the Bell”, was held on 21st March to create public awareness on the plight of children with disabilities in Jirapa District. SWEB seeks to support children and youth with disabilities with logistics, medical/livelihood/educational assistance and dietary support. The theme for this year’s celebration was “all children welcome in school including children with disabilities.” Pupils and the disabled in the District gathered at the venue and paraded with placards that had some captions of this year’s manifesto. After the parade, all the participants came together and confirmed the manifesto by signing to the ten action points stated in it. Through the activity, more children and the public were aware that people with disabilities should be treated appropriately and not stigmatized or discriminated against. We hope that the rights of the disabled will be promoted more and more, making continuous effort to support them.

“Ring the Bell” in Jirapa

The project, Supporting Localized Governance and Rehabilitation for Sustainable Water Services ended in September 2017 through the Auspices of WaterAid Ghana (CNHF), ProNet North has since engaged communities whiles encouraging them to take action in line with Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) as at this March 2018. ProNet North joint effort with Environmental Health Officers to monitor progress of household latrine construction and hold session with community members to discuss the implications of Open Defecation (OD). The outcome was highly encouraging. Households have stepped up latrine construction. Communities have agreed to complete household latrine construction by the end of April 2018. Plans are underway to award these communities Open Defecation Free (ODF). Community members are by far excited about the intention and are working hard to achieve that. Our next feedback will indicate the process towards the Verification and certification of these communities.
Dissemination of Successful Livelihood Options to Stakeholders

A stakeholder workshop was organized as part of CRAFS exit strategies. The rationale was to share with stakeholders some of the livelihood options beneficiary communities were trained and engaged in as part of the project which the District Assembly could adopt or recommend for other developing partners to replicate in the district.

In attendance were the Daffiama Bussie Issa (DBI) assembly and other relevant stakeholders both from the district and regional level. At the session, a presentation was made on the various livelihood activities the project promoted including Soap making, Bee keeping, Animal rearing through the pass on the gift strategy, Dry season gardening and ointment and pomade production.

Community members were also present and gave account of the benefits of these livelihood activities in their lives. Tree nursery groups and energy conserving stove groups were linked to The District Assembly, SADA, EPA and the forestry commission. Currently, communities are putting in measures to sustain the gains of the project since the project has ended.

Community Outreach Programme was the key activity for the period under the SANMARK Programme. The three Districts: Daffiama Bussie Issa (DBI), Sissala West and Wa East were the coverage areas. The aim was to monitor field facilitation for VSLA and group formation. The outreach indicated that all the groups have started contributing monies through VSLA for latrines. Latrine artisans focus on building latrines that are in line with the requirements of the project. ProNet North during this visit also provided technical support to Latrine Artisans such that latrines completed will be counted as certified latrines under the Programme.
Rashida Ibrahim is one of the beneficiaries of SANMARK in Kadoli (Wa East District). Through VSLA for sanitation, an activity of the programme, Rashida changed her perception about Sanitation. She said, “I have been contributing to VSLA for the past three years but I have never thought I could use my savings to support latrine construction. I will use my VSLA to support my husband to construct a latrine.”