

MISSION

Our **mission** is to become the leading provider of educational, social-cultural, legal, and environmental protection and advocacy for the vulnerable in Africa.

Headquartered in Kenyasi in Brong Ahafo, Ghana, **Guards of the Earth and the Vulnerable** has branches in Ntotroso, Wamahinso, Kenyasi I, Kenyasi II and has branches in all the catchment villages in the operational areas of Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd. (NGGL). The organization is extending its tentacles to Ahafo stage two (2) operational area in the Tano District of the Brong Ahafo Region.

We try to achieve our objectives through organized consultation and dialogue, networking, public relations, and within the constraints of the law. We do these sometimes in partnership with other NGOs/CBOs, in the sub region. Through our combined efforts, we are increasingly playing a collaborative role with Newmont. (www.newmont.com) in Asutifi district to ensure the development of the people in the area.

OBJECTIVES

To promote unity and closer co-operation among people affected by mining activities
Protection of the environment and its natural resources.

To offer assistance where possible to the vulnerable (women, children, people living with HIV/AIDS) and the marginalized groups.

Provide the youth with employable skills through ICT training

Protection of the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized groups in society.

OUR CORE VALUES

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERMENT

PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS

AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

ACHIEVEMENTS

a. RESETTLEMENT AND FAIR COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

The organization worked hard on effective negotiation for fair compensation payments on lands, farms and properties acquired by Newmont. A Resettlement Negotiation Committee composed of democratically elected facilitators was formed together with other Stakeholders to negotiate with Newmont. As a result compensation went up by 103% across board in the year 2004 which finally cooled tempers down for the project to take off.

Through our combined efforts and sustained negotiation, a total of 2400 out of 5,185 displaced persons have been resettled, and US\$16 million spent on compensation by 18th December, 2005, ([source, http://www.ghanaweb.com/economy](http://www.ghanaweb.com/economy)). According to International Finance company (IFC project number 23338), Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Newmont's Ahafo South gold mine in Ghana would physically displace 5,185 persons. An additional 4,390 persons will be economically displaced. As a local NGO we are currently working on the ground to be part of the proper implementation of programmes and activities that will ensure a better living conditions for the impacted people.

b. FINAL CROP MOP-UP REVIEW EXERCISE.

The executives of the GEV teamed up with other stakeholders and served as intermediaries between Newmont and farmers to make sure all farms on acquired lands were surveyed and paid for, before the commencement of mining in January 2006. The organization also forms part of the annual crop rate review exercise where farmers elect their representatives to review the compensation rates.

c. THE VULNERABLE, & AILAP PROGRAMES

Currently, the organization is working in collaboration with Opportunities Industrialization Centers International (OICI) - an International NGO and Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd (NGGL) on the Vulnerable. Under these programmes, Newmont has gone beyond the payment of cash compensation to impacted communities by looking at the present situation of various households and implementing;

- **The Agric Improvement and Land Access Programme (AILAP)**
- **The Vulnerable Programme.**

The AILAP programme looks at Newmonts support to every impacted person to re-engage in farming to ensure food security.



Our officers explain the farming re-engagement under the AILAP in Sept, 2006. These has included among other things, Two (2) acre farm land, farm inputs, agric chemicals and cost of labour.

We have encouraged the youth to take advantage of it.

The **vulnerable programme** looks at the living condition of the various vulnerable households as they exist now and recommend assistance measures for them. Under the programme, Newmont provides free National Health Insurance (NHIS), Educational Scholarship for some wards of vulnerable households in second cycle institutions, food or cash donations, counseling, job placements, free water among other to vulnerable households.



Pregnant woman being given assistance



An old lady also being assisted

All Communities in Ahafo are target beneficiaries: Kenyasi, Hwidiem, Ntotroso, Achirensua, etc.