

# Newsletter



20 years  
what men can do  
women can do



Photo Carine Brown

## The Village Exchange Group: its Vision

Encouraging accountable Reproductive, Sexual and Maternal Health (RSMH) means empowering women, while at the same time improving relationships within the couple, and giving women access, on an equal footing, to education and the world of work.

Health, education and social entrepreneurship are the three pillars that the Village Exchange Group (VE) has been building since 2003 by providing women - initially - traditional training in fields such as sewing, batik, the creation of jewelry with glass beads, and then, since 2015, technical courses, by resolutely adopting the motto "what men can do, women can do". On the menu: electricity, renewable energies, information and communication technologies. Thus the Lady Volta Green Tech Academy (LVGTA) was born, in partnership with the NGO SV Africa ([www.svafrica.org](http://www.svafrica.org)). Since 2016, it has been proud to run a state-of-the-art electrical laboratory, built with the support of Schneider Electric, a Renewable Energy Institute (REI) financed in 2019 through the support of the Swiss NGO IAS-Ingénieurs & Architectes Solidaires and the City of Geneva. Recently, a computer center with 30 stations was added.

[www.villageexchangeinternational.org](http://www.villageexchangeinternational.org)

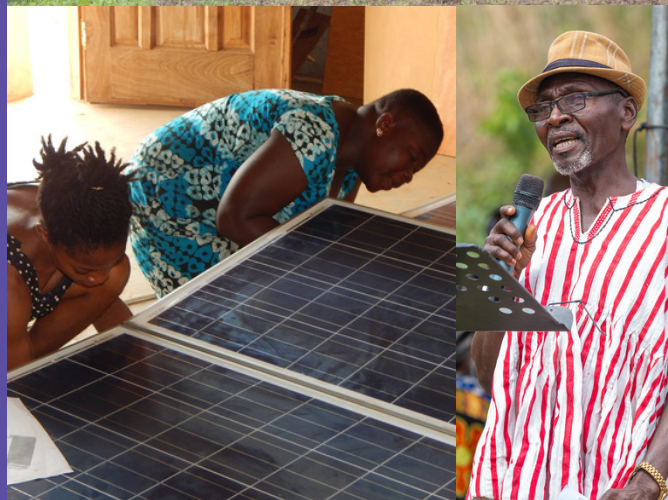
## Joy and conviviality to celebrate 20 years of action in Ghana



### From theory to practice

Since 2017, VE has been developing renewable energies in the communities that have no access to electricity and drinking water. Eleven traditional houses have been equipped with solar panels in 2018 in the community of Adaklu Gakukorpe. Thus, the LVGTA students practice their knowledge while contributing to the development of their community.

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the activities of VE in 2020-2021. They restarted in 2022 with the installation, on the site of Village Exchange Ghana, of a water purifier offered by the Swiss company AquaPura, in the framework of the scheduled implementation of the activity "access to drinking water."





## Nyitawuta Project: electricity is the key

In partnership with the NGO *Énergies Sans Frontières*, this project for the electrification and supply of drinking water to an isolated community began in 2022 with the distribution of Lagazel lamps equipped with a telephone charger to 80 young women, thanks to funding from the French Embassy in Ghana. Women go twice a week to the charging station, installed next to the health clinic (in the center of the village), which allows them to access medical consultations at the clinic. The added value of the project comes from VEG's offer to run, in the clinic, RSMH workshops, open to all the women, thus creating links between technology and health.

This 5-year project, launched in 2023, will oversee the electrification and water supply of the health clinic, then of the schools, and then of individual houses, taking into account the needs identified by the inhabitants. Training for the maintenance of all the equipment, which is guaranteed by VEG and its partners, will be provided exclusively to women. The loop is thus closed: technologies, health and leadership meet in a nexus in this innovative project.

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