

## AFRICA LEAD CHAMPION FOR CHANGE TRANSFORMS WOMEN'S LIVES IN NORTHERN GHANA

Motivated to contribute to the transformation of the lives of these affected young women Hajara Taimako, an entrepreneur, farmer, and Champion for Change, began her efforts locally by sensitizing the women in her community on the need to keep their girls off the streets.

Broadening her scope, Hajara then applied key principles of Leading and Managing Change, that she learned from Africa Lead's flagship Champions for Change Leadership course, to train approximately 563 leaders from various communities across the Northern region. These women have, in turn, cascaded the training to over 5000 women in various communities in the



**Hajia Taimako**

North. Through the training, the women also acquired new vocational skills including the processing of moringa, baobab, rice, shea butter, soybean, and sesame. Armed with new functional skills, these young women and girls were now able to improve their economic status, and break free from the Kayayee trade.

A number of organizations and groups including the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and the Northern Rural Growth have recognized Hajara's efforts and have supported her to train more women to improve livelihoods in the North. She has also been appointed as the lead resource person for the National Food Buffer Stock Company, where she trains rural women in rice processing.

Hajara worked with the Christian Children's of Canada (CCFC), that supported the establishment of a shea processing unit in Kanvilli in the Northern Region of Ghana, Tamale. The objective for setting up the unit was to help women generate a source of revenue to cater for their children. After some years, the center began to deteriorate due to lack of funding. Hajia, an advocate for self-sufficiency for women, collaborated with investors to help revamp the center.