



SNAPSHOT

Altering the Career Courses of Three Women in Takoradi

USAID SCD helps build the capacity of women across Ghana's Oil & Gas sector



Photo: Joyce Awittor, a female welder in full PPE uniform at Seaweld Engineering, applies knowledge from the Arc Welding Visual Inspection

With the Takoradi Oil & Gas industry being predominantly male, the SCD program has successfully enhanced the capacity of 63 women to stand out in their line of work.

Telling Our Story

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Opportunities abound in the Takoradi oil and gas sector, and a new generation of highly skilled technical workers is growing of interest and importance to local Ghanaian enterprises and multinationals in the western part of the country.

Traditionally, women have represented a significant portion of the overall workforce in all regions in Ghana, namely in the agricultural and retail sectors. There is now a growing trend amongst local enterprises involved in oil/gas sector operations to retain and train female workers across all elements of operations. Several local companies credit the USAID SCD program with enhancing efforts to build further capacity of female workers, most recently with trainings on Welding Inspection and Visualization.

Joyce Awittor, of *Seaweld Engineering*, took part in SCD's Arc Welding Visual Inspection training in 2014. As one of Ghana's largest companies in the oil/gas sector, the firm is competitive both locally and internationally. Joyce declares she "can now inspect welds, select and advise on materials and electrodes to use in welding." In short, she gained knowledge on internationally accepted welding standards in the oil and gas industry, and in turn enhanced her credibility with her employer both for local operations and globally.

Another enthused female participant from SCD's Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) and OHSAS 18001:2007 Implementation and Internal Auditor courses, Louisa Kwarkye serves as Office Manager to the Takoradi branch of Ghanaian firm *Zodiac Marine*. Ms. Kwarkye attributes the training to "equipping me with some practical skills to make suggestions for my company's EHS policy and manual for continual improvement". Since participating in the trainings she believes her role and stature with the company has been elevated.

Alice Darko, Project Manager of *Fame Engineering*, indicated participation in SCD Procurement trainings have "led to greater understanding of local procurement processes amongst Oil & Gas industry participants."

USAID SCD is proud to assist women like Joyce, Louisa, and Alice to ensure their continued livelihoods and to elevate their positions within the sector moving ahead.