



A WAKEN TREES

2025





Regreening the earth without planting a single tree?

- Awaken Trees is not about reforestation in the traditional sense – we don't plant trees. Everything we need is already in the ground. Our approach is called Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), and how it works is explained at the beginning of this report.
- The non-profit association Awaken Trees was founded in Austria in 2021. From there, we support initiatives by visionary people in Ghana, Tanzania and Senegal, with our focus this year on Ghana.
- We accompany people who want to take responsibility for their communities and inspire others to regreen through FMNR. With our funding, they put their ideas and strategies into practice, and we help them to realize their visions of regreening and reach as many people as possible.
- Their goals are also our goals.

**-Awaken
trees-**

**-Stop
deserts-**

- Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a simple and cost-effective way to grow trees – without planting. Everything we need is already in the ground.
- In many arid areas, the landscape is covered with small bushes, which are often trees that have either been overlooked or felled. However, with a little care and protection, these trees can grow again quickly and improve the landscape in the long term.



Global movements

Trees fertilize the soil, protect it from drought and harsh winds, and provide us with shade, firewood, fruits, and fodder for livestock. Especially in arid areas, trees on farmland can bring enormous benefits to the local population.

In Niger, Africa, farmers were able to double their crop yields through FMNR – even in drought years, there was a surplus. In this way, 200 million trees have been regenerated nationwide and over five million hectares have been regreened. The method spread independently from farmer to farmer – and this movement continues to this day.

Awaken Trees supports people who share their knowledge about FMNR. Our goal is to repeat this success story in other parts of the world – with the mission to effectively combat both food shortages and climate crises.



Ghana

Our focus in 2025



Empowering Communities

- Our community project (with our partner FONAR) supports two rural communities in the Nabdram District in the Upper East Region of Ghana to restore degraded agricultural land and strengthen sustainable livelihoods. Building on the successes of the first project phase, work was carried out in the second phase of the project to consolidate and further expand the progress made.
- Through training, community activities and exchange with local groups, resilient agricultural practices are to be anchored more firmly and the economic and social situation of around 400 women, men and young people is to be sustainably improved.
- In February 2025, a group of 45 women from the communities took part in a three-day training course on small businesses. The participants - including FMNR lead farmers, widows and female heads of households - received practical knowledge on business planning, financial management, product preparation and marketing. In addition, possible sources of income such as agricultural production, agroprocessing, poultry farming, crafts and retail trade were presented.
- The training provided the women with practical tools to set up their own small-scale income activities and strengthen their cooperation within the savings groups that have been in place since the previous year. In this way, the measures not only contribute to economic independence, but also promote social networking and long-term cohesion in the communities.





Knowledge for fertile fields

- On 29 April 2025, 20 FMNR lead farmers (10 women, 10 men) from Dasang and Kparaboug took part in a hands-on training. The aim was to improve the use of compost, organic fertilisers and sustainable farming methods to make soils more fertile and increase crop yields.
- The participants practiced directly in their fields how nutrients can be distributed evenly and plants can be optimally cared for. Special focus was placed on teaching techniques that are easy to implement, cost little and at the same time protect the environment.
- The lead farmers are now actively sharing their new knowledge with others in their communities. In this way, the improved cultivation methods spread from field to field, strengthen crop yields and help to make degraded areas fertile again.

Bees and beekeeping

20 FMNR lead farmers from the communities of Dasang and Kparaboug took part in a three-day training course on modern beekeeping. They learned everything they need to know about beekeeping - from the selection of suitable locations to the care of beehives and the use of modern beekeeping equipment. Practical exercises, such as attracting bees and setting up the hives, enabled the farmers to apply the knowledge directly. Beekeeping not only provides them with an additional income, but also supports the pollination of crops and wild plants in the area.

On 20 May 2025, the project celebrated World Bee Day under the motto "Bee inspired by nature". With a documentary film, expert discussions with authorities and the media, attention was drawn to the threat to bees. The aim was to raise awareness of the importance of bees for food security and nature and to win partners for the protection of their habitats.



Volunteer fire brigade

In December 2025, FONAR, in cooperation with the Ghana National Fire Service, organized a three-day refresher training for 20 community fire volunteers in the project communities of Dasang and Kparaboug. The aim was to train the fire protection groups in early detection, prevention and control of bushfires and thus effectively protect the regenerating trees and fields.

The volunteers - ten women and ten men each - received practical training and tools such as helmets, rubber boots, rakes and gloves. They learned to recognize fire risks, create firebreaks and sensitize the village community to fire safety issues.

The first successes were already evident in the months after the training: fewer bushfires on the project areas and an undisturbed course of tree regeneration.



Achievements

Visible from space



Satellite-based analyses of the project areas in Dasang and Kparaboug show significant positive changes in the agricultural landscape. Within the 3,588-hectare micro-catchment area, measurable improvements have been seen in recent years:

Increasing vegetation cover: The NDVI values (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) increased significantly in 2024 and 2025 compared to previous years. This indicates greater tree and plant cover as well as growing biomass.

Longer green periods: The number of "green" days per year increased significantly, indicating a longer growing season and more stable land cover.

Reduction of open soil areas: Bare Soil Index values show that exposed soils decreased, which reduces erosion and improves water-retention.

Improved soil moisture: NDMI (Normalised Difference Moisture Index) data indicates better moist soils during growing seasons, which optimally supply plants and trees.

These satellite-based results are in line with the observations from the field visits: Farmers specifically protect and care for naturally regenerating trees, increasing tree density on the project farms and spreading FMNR practices within the communities.

Conclusion: The combination of FMNR and accompanying sustainable agricultural practices is already showing measurable improvements in vegetation, soil health and water availability – and this on an entire landscape level, visible even from space.



• Savings groups

- In the reporting period, the women's savings groups developed into a central driver of economic stability and initiative in the project communities. A total of 46 members – mostly women – increased their combined savings volume by around 75% within one year. Through regular payments, transparent lending and community decisions, members were able to take out small loans to expand their agriculture, start trading activities or finance household expenses such as school fees and medical care. For the first time, the groups are creating reliable access to capital, especially for widowed or low-income women.

• Poultry-farming

- The support of 44 women with local chicken breeds in the previous year showed the first visible successes in the reporting period. Several beneficiaries were able to sell chickens and earn income from them, which they used for household expenses, the purchase of more local chickens or small income activities. At the same time, this additional income strengthens the ability to save within the women's savings groups and enables investments in further economic activities. Overall, it can be seen that poultry farming has created an important additional source of income and contributed to the economic stability of the women involved.



Realities of life in the communities

The following voices show how women in the communities of Dasang and Kparaboug benefit from the savings groups and poultry projects and actively improve their lives:

1. **Bombeyeng Buliga**, 62 years old, widow, Kparaboug

"I used the first cycle savings to expand my robe making business and farming. Now, I can take care of my medical bills whenever I am sick and to feed myself."

2. **Nyelbire Magdalene**, 58 years old, widow with six children, Kparaboug

"I used the savings and loans to pay for my child's school fees, take care of my upkeep and support my farming."

3. **Gbabon**, 53 years old, five children, Dasang

"I used the savings of the first cycle to buy more raw materials for my shea butter business. I will use this saving to buy more shea nuts, pay school fees and buy goats for rearing."

4. **Bugbire Afia**, 35 years old, four children, Dasang

"I use the savings from the first cycle to expand my food selling business."

5. **Bugpoka Naab**, 63 years old, six children, Dasang

"I thank FONAR for instilling in me the culture of savings. I used my previous savings to buy more millet. I will use these savings to diversify my business and to take care of my housekeep."



Fakten-Check

<i>Sphere of activity</i>	<i>Data</i>
Total reach (direct & indirect)	1,300 people
Direct Beneficiaries (Target Group)	300 people
Surface with direct FMNR application	64 ha
Women Empowerment (specifically supported))	49 women
Project duration	3 years



School projects

From the very
beginning



... THE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2025
PREVENTION AND CHANGING CLIMATE: CHILDREN AS EFFECTIVE ALLIES
PRIMARY SCHOOL, TALENSI DISTRICT 0000 DATE: THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2023



The next generation

Thanks to the support of Awaken Trees, FMNR School Kids Eco-Clubs have been set up in two schools in the Talensi district. The aim of these clubs is to empower children and teachers to be active shapers of the environment and at the same time to promote the greening of school and community areas. The Eco-Clubs combine classic environmental education in the classroom with practical work in nature, so that the children learn to properly care for trees and shrubs, support natural rejuvenation and regenerate the environment in a sustainable way. By providing tools, protective clothing and educational materials through Awaken Trees, the eco-clubs were able to get started right away and the children gained hands-on experience in a protected environment.

Living and passing on greening

A total of around 40 children took part in practical training. The trainings covered the basics of FMNR, such as tree care, pruning techniques, identification of regenerating plants and the maintenance of demonstration areas. Teachers were also enabled to integrate environmental education and FMNR into regular lessons and to pass on their knowledge to the children on an ongoing basis. This ensures that the knowledge is anchored in the schools in the long term and that the children can apply the skills they have learned not only on the school grounds, but also at home and in the community. This creates a multiplier effect that goes far beyond the directly funded schools.

Students carried out tree pruning, maintenance work and environmental education activities and drew the attention of neighbors, parents and other students to the importance of trees and sustainable land use. One focus was on the practical demonstration of FMNR techniques, so that the community experiences the measures visibly and tangibly. These activities promote a sense of shared responsibility, strengthen the bond between school and community, and create awareness that environmental protection and sustainable agriculture are a collective responsibility.

Children become ambassadors for greening and resilience, actively passing on their knowledge.





Acknowledgements

We say: "THANK YOU!"

Thank you!

The Austrian association Awaken Trees is run exclusively by volunteer men and women.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

We thank all ambassadors for spreading our message!

We thank our partners!

LEAD Foundation in Tanzania, JEBBI in Senegal, FONAR in Ghana

Awaken Trees is a non-profit organization. The work of Awaken Trees is financed by donations.

Many thanks to all donors!



Financial Report



Origin of funds

- I. Donations EUR 18 502,39
 - a. Not earmarked EUR 7 502.39
 - b. earmarked EUR 11 000.00
 - II. Membership fees
 - III. Operating income
 - a. Operating income from public funds
 - b. Other operating income
 - IV. Subsidies and subsidies from the public sector
 - V. Other income
 - a. Asset management
 - b. Other income, insofar as it is not included in points I. to IV EUR 1.43 (interest income)
 - VI. Release of liability items for items, donations or subsidies that have not yet been used for their intended purpose
EUR 20 000.00 (bank deposits)
 - VII. Release of reserves
 - VIII. Annual Loss -
- Total income 2025 incl. liquidation of bank deposit
38 503,82 EUR



Use of funds

I. Payments for statutory purposes EUR 27 467.76

II. Fundraising

III. Administrative costs

IV. Other expenses, insofar as they are not listed under I. to III.

EUR 20.66 (bank charges) EUR 2 582.76 (training/capacity building)

V. Allocation to liabilities for donations not yet used for their intended purpose

VI. Attitude to reserves

VII. Net income for 2024 EUR 8,432.64

= 38 503.82 EUR

Awaken Trees forwards donations directly to its partner organizations, which implement the respective programs. These include Forum for Natural Regeneration (FONAR) in Ghana, LEAD Foundation in Tanzania and Association Regionale Jebbi in Senegal. All organizations are legally independent institutions in their respective countries, their goals are in line with the statutory purpose of Awaken Trees.

In 2025, EUR 27 467.76 was spent directly on our programmes. The administrative effort remains zero, because the Awaken Trees association has neither paid employees nor a rented office. The association also did not spend any funds on collecting donations. EUR 20.66 were bank charges. EUR 2 582.76 was spent on training and capacity building for the project partners.

Additional costs related to the association, such as travel expenses to the project countries, were borne entirely privately by the board members.

The remaining funds have been retained to fund our programs in 2026.



Imprint

Awaken Trees

Association for the Regreening of Drylands of the Global South

Awaken Trees is a registered non-profit association under Austrian law. The activities of the association are not profit-oriented.

Headquarters: Schlosstraße 1 - 3364 Neuhofen/Ybbs - Austria

Board of Directors: Josef Ertl, Evelyn Ertl-Egger

Responsible for Content / Use of Funds / Fundraising & Data Protection: Josef Ertl



