



From Exhausting Miles to Growing Dreams: Aisha's DARE Smart Mom Journey

In the bustling communities of Northern Ghana, **Abdul Aziz Aisha** spent her days walking long distances under the scorching sun, hawking jewelry from one place to another. The work was exhausting, yet the returns were painfully small. Some months, she earned barely GHS 100 or even less.

Despite the challenges, Aisha refused to give up. She carried with her a quiet determination to create a better future for herself and her family.

That turning point came when she joined **UNESCO's DARE Smart Mom Project** in partnership with **Diva Fam**. Through the project, Aisha received training in climate-smart vegetable farming, business management, and practical skills that helped her see agriculture not just as a means of survival, but as a pathway to financial independence.

Armed with new knowledge and the confidence to start, Aisha cultivated her vegetables with dedication and patience. Soon, the harvest began to tell a different story.

For the first time, Aisha earned GHS 350 in cash from vegetable sales in a single month, more than three times what she sometimes earned from hawking jewelry. More importantly, she earned it from a business she could build and grow close to home.

Aisha's story is one of courage and determination. She chose to embrace change when life offered little certainty. Today, she is proving that when women are equipped with the right skills, opportunities, and support, they do more than increase their incomes, they transform their futures.

The seeds Aisha planted were not only in the soil. They were seeds of hope, resilience, and a dream that is only beginning to blossom.

This is the power of the **DARE Smart Mom Project**, creating opportunities for women to thrive, one story at a time.

From Earning Nothing to Making Her First GHS 150: Amina's Journey to Financial Independence

For years, Sumaila Amina Ntawa dedicated herself to learning tailoring. As an apprentice, she spent long hours mastering her craft, dreaming of the day she would become financially independent. But dreams don't always pay the bills.

Month after month, Amina earned nothing for herself. She depended on others for her daily needs and often wondered when her hard work would finally translate into income.

Then an opportunity came her way.



Amina joined **UNESCO's DARE Smart Mom Project** in partnership with **Diva Fam**, where she was introduced to climate-smart vegetable farming alongside entrepreneurship and financial literacy training. She learned that earning an income doesn't always have to wait for the future, it can start with the resources and opportunities available today.

The day she made her first sale remains unforgettable.

With excitement shining in her eyes, Amina counted GHS 150—money she had earned from a single sale of vegetables. It was the first substantial income she had ever made for herself.

That GHS 150 was more than money, It was proof that she was capable, It was independence taking root and hope growing into reality.

Today, Amina continues to pursue her tailoring dreams while building an additional source of income through vegetable farming. Her story reminds us that empowering women is not only about teaching skills, it's about creating opportunities for them to discover their own potential.

Because sometimes, all it takes is one harvest, one sale, and one moment of belief to change the course of a life.

This is the impact of the **DARE Smart Mom Project**: empowering women to earn, grow, and dream bigger.



From Boredom to Purpose: Zuweira and Azara's Story

For Iddrissu Zuweira and Azara, life as stay-at-home co-wives was marked by financial struggles and long days of boredom. They desired more not just income, but something meaningful to keep them engaged and hopeful.

Their story began to change when they joined UNESCO's DARE Smart Mom Project in partnership with Diva Fam, under the rabbit production component.

Although they are yet to make their first sale, the joy in their voices says it all. Caring for the rabbits has given them a sense of purpose, excitement, and hope for a better future. Each day brings new lessons, renewed confidence, and the belief that they too can become financially independent.

Sometimes, empowerment starts long before the first income is earned. For Zuweira and Azara, it started with hope-and that hope is growing every day.