

# REPORT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF 2025 WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK BY ACROSSFAITHS FOUNDATION

## 1. Introduction

The World Interfaith Harmony Week was successfully commemorated in Ghana by AcrossFaiths Foundation from 1st to 7th February 2025, with a series of activities aimed at promoting interfaith harmony, environmental education, and climate change awareness education. The organization managed to achieve its goals with the scarce resources that it has, which was supported and financed from the contribution of the founder and the executive members of the organization. Few other institutions and organizations that partially collaborated to make the event successful were the Accra High School, the Ebenezer Cathedral, Northern Accra Diocese of Methodist Church, Madina Central Mosque, Kanda Cluster of School, National Council of Islamic Education Unit, and the Ghana Forestry Commission and Sensitization Centre who supported with the tree seedling and planting.

The events activities focus on celebrating the Interfaith Harmony Week through religious tolerance, peaceful coexistence and climate change actions, for sustainable development. Joint prayer sessions where Christians and Muslims prayed together both in the church and mosque, symbolizing a unified stand for peace and harmony.

A key highlight of the celebration was the official visit of Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Josam Kariuki Kamau, President of the Interfaith Network-Kenya, who joined as the Special Guest of Honor. His arrival on 30th January 2025 at the Kotoka International Airport was warmly received by board members of the Acrossfaiths Foundation.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ds8QatGFK/>

<https://inghananewstoday.com/2025/02/01/acrossfaiths-foundation-ghana-to-commemorate-first-ever-world-interfaith-harmony-week/>

## 2. Overview of Key Activities

### ***2.1. 1st February 2025 - Media Engagements and Declarations***

The weeklong celebration began with media engagements and official declarations to raise awareness about World Interfaith Harmony Week. Various media houses covered discussions on interfaith dialogue, religious coexistence, and the role of faith communities in national peacebuilding and environmental sustainability.

### ***2.2. 2nd February 2025 - Official Launch & Interfaith Climate Change Project***

*a. Launching Ceremony:* The official launching ceremony of the World Interfaith Harmony Week took place at the Ebenezer Cathedral, Northern Accra Diocese of Methodist Church Ghana in Madina Accra in the morning. The ceremony was attended by representatives of various faith communities, dignitaries, and stakeholders, including the District Chief Imam of the La Nkwantanang Madina, and some Muslim Chiefs.

The initiative is designed to demonstrate religious tolerance and strengthen social cohesion in a country known for its peaceful coexistence among different religious groups. The La Nkwantanang Madina District Chief Imam addressed the congregants at the Ebenezer Methodist Church in Madina-Accra during the launch Imam Alhaji Abdallah Shuaib Ture, has appealed to religious leaders, especially those from the Christian and Muslim communities, to admonish their followers to see people of different faiths as one people. <https://inghananewstoday.com/2025/02/05/world-interfaith-haemony-week-acrossfaiths-foundation-ghana/>

The President of the AcrossFaiths Foundation also emphasized the importance of fostering interfaith dialogue. <https://metrotvonline.com/acrossfaiths-foundation-leads-ghana-to-mark-first-ever-world-interfaith-harmony-week-with-historic-activities/>. At the end of the some members at the congregation declared to support the interfaith harmony week. The team with the congregation together moved to the Madina Central Mosque for the Launch of the Climate Change Project.

*b. Launch of Interfaith Climate Change Project and Tree Planting:*

Immediately after the Church program the team including some members of the congregation walk together to the Al Khair Islamic Learning Center, in the premises of the Madina Central Mosque, Madina Accra, for the launching of the Interfaith

Climate Change and Tree Planting initiative. This event brought together people of different faiths to plant trees and pledge their commitment to protecting the environment.

The Arabic Center also known as Makaranta has about 500 students. Speaking at the launch, the special guest of honor, President of Interfaith Network –Kenya and Archbishop of the Methodist Church in Kenya, His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Josam Kariuki, admonished the youth of Africa to use new media and modern technological tools to promote interfaith harmony and co-existence. <https://newsghana.com.gh/use-new-media-technological-tools-to-promote-interfaith-co-existence-archbishop-dr-kariuki/?amp>

Speaker after speaker the students were advised that, the tree-planting exercise is aimed at inspiring student and faith communities to take active roles in environmental protection. The fora was cut too short when it started raining, which was described as a blessing from Allah (God) by one of the teachers, because it has been more than 2 month that the area is looking for rain, and hoping that the trees that will be planted will be taken good care of by the students. The tree planting took place immediately the rain stopped.

### ***2.3. 3rd February 2025 - Symposium and Tree Planting.***

Symposium on Interfaith Harmony, Environmental Education, and Tree Planting: A symposium was held at the Accra High School, where students and religious leaders discussed the role of faith communities in environmental conservation. The event concluded with a symbolic tree planting exercise to reinforce the commitment to sustainability.

The President of the foundation Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Borlabi Bortey entreated the students to embrace each other's differences and promote interfaith harmony, to build stronger, more inclusive communities that value the contributions of every individual. <https://dailyguidenetwork.com/across-faiths-accra-high-observes-un-world-interfaith-week/> Executive Director of the foundation who is also the Zorsimdi-Naa I, Paramount Chief of the Chamba People of Ghana, Chief Zakaria Tahir Chambas on his part seized the opportunity to sensitize the students on the global changes caused by climate change, emphasizing that they have a role to play as students in addressing the challenges.

Rear Admiral Muniru Tahiru (rtd) and Hajj Abdul Samad Said encouraged the students to stay united and urged them to respect each other's faith, culture background, "Recognized that your classmates, friends, and neighbors may have different beliefs and values but they are all human beings deserving of dignity and respect,"

The open forum saw the student asking very important questions and pledging to stay together and take care of the trees. Headmistress of Accra High School, Madam Evelyn Sagbil Nabia, pledged to ensure the students leave in harmony on campus of the Secondary School,"

#### **2.4. 4th February 2025 - Visit to Kanda Cluster of Schools**

The Acrossfaiths Foundation visited the Kanda Cluster of Schools to educate students on interfaith cooperation and climate change. A tree-planting activity followed, with Christian and Muslim students participating side by side. This event aimed to educate pupil and teaching staff about the importance of environmental conservation and the role of faith communities in promoting harmony and sustainability. The event was hosted by the Head of the Cluster, the School Improvement and Support Officer (SISO) Madam Antoinette Ajar. Participated by pupil from Kanda AMA Basic, Kanda 3&5 Basic and Kanda Real Estate 1 Basic.

#### **2.5. 7th February 2025 - National Thanksgiving Prayers for Interfaith Peace in Ghana and Tree Planting**

The weeklong event culminated in Thanksgiving Prayers at the National Mosque. the National Chief Imam (Dr. Sheikh Osman Nuhu Sharubutu) graced the occasion, along with prominent Christian and Muslim leaders. The President of the Acrossfaiths Foundation addressed the congregation, emphasizing the need for continuous interfaith collaboration. <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1APca9G8Xr/>

Tree planting ceremony which symbolized the commitment of faith communities to work together for a more harmonious and sustainable future. Both the Christian and Muslims leaders planted the trees in the ground of the National Mosque. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/169kxyxrJ6/> ,  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/158iGSCnev/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1ESwNedCnW/>

### **3. Key Achievements**

The AcrossFaiths Foundation's 2025 World Interfaith Harmony Week commemoration in Ghana was very successful in terms of executing all planned activities as scheduled and how the churches, mosque, schools and community members collaborated and support the program to achieve the following outcomes:

- Promoted interfaith harmony and understanding among diverse faith communities
- Raised awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and climate change mitigation
- planted 106 trees in our communities, school, mosque and churches
- Encouraged faith communities to work together to address common challenges and promote sustainable development
- Provided a platform for student to dialogue with community chiefs and elders from different Faiths.
- Contributed to the planting of trees and the promotion of environmental sustainability in Ghana
- Formation of an African Interfaith Network: The resolution to establish a continental interfaith body marks a significant step towards strengthening interfaith collaboration across Africa.

### **4. Recommendations**

Based on the success of these maiden edition of World Interfaith Harmony Week commemoration organized by AcrossFaiths Foundation in Ghana, the following recommendations is needed for successes and sustainability.

- To sustain the momentum and build on the achievements of the World Interfaith Harmony Week, regular interfaith dialogue and cooperation should be encouraged and supported.
- Faith communities should continue to work together to promote environmental conservation and climate change mitigation, and to address other common challenges.

- The government and other stakeholders should provide support and resources to faith communities to enable them to continue their efforts in promoting interfaith harmony and sustainable development.
- Participation institutions should make sure they fully take care of the tree.

## 5. Conclusion & Way Forward

The 2025 World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration was a historic success, showcasing Ghana's leadership in promoting religious tolerance and interfaith cooperation. The commitment to establish an African Interfaith Network sets the stage for greater regional collaboration

Being the first to be celebrated by Acrossfaiths Foundation in Ghana and with the scarce resources, the celebration has a resounding success, bringing together people of different faiths to promote interfaith harmony, environmental education, and climate change awareness. The event demonstrated the potential for faith communities to work together to address common challenges and promote sustainable development. It is hoped that the outcomes and achievements of this event will be built upon and sustained in the future, and that the World Interfaith Harmony Week will continue to be commemorated in Ghana and around the world.

The Acrossfaiths Foundation remains committed to fostering interfaith harmony and looks forward to strengthening partnerships with local and international stakeholders to sustain these efforts in the coming years.

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

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Acrossfaiths Foundation Ghana



PICTURES REPORT OF THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2025 BY  
ACROSSFAITHS FOUNDATION GHANA



Arrival of the President of the Interfaith Network-Kenya



**MORNING RUSH**

**FRIDAY**  
**7TH FEBRUARY 2025**  
**5:30am - 7:30am**

Topic: **WORLD INTERFAITH HAMONY WEEK**

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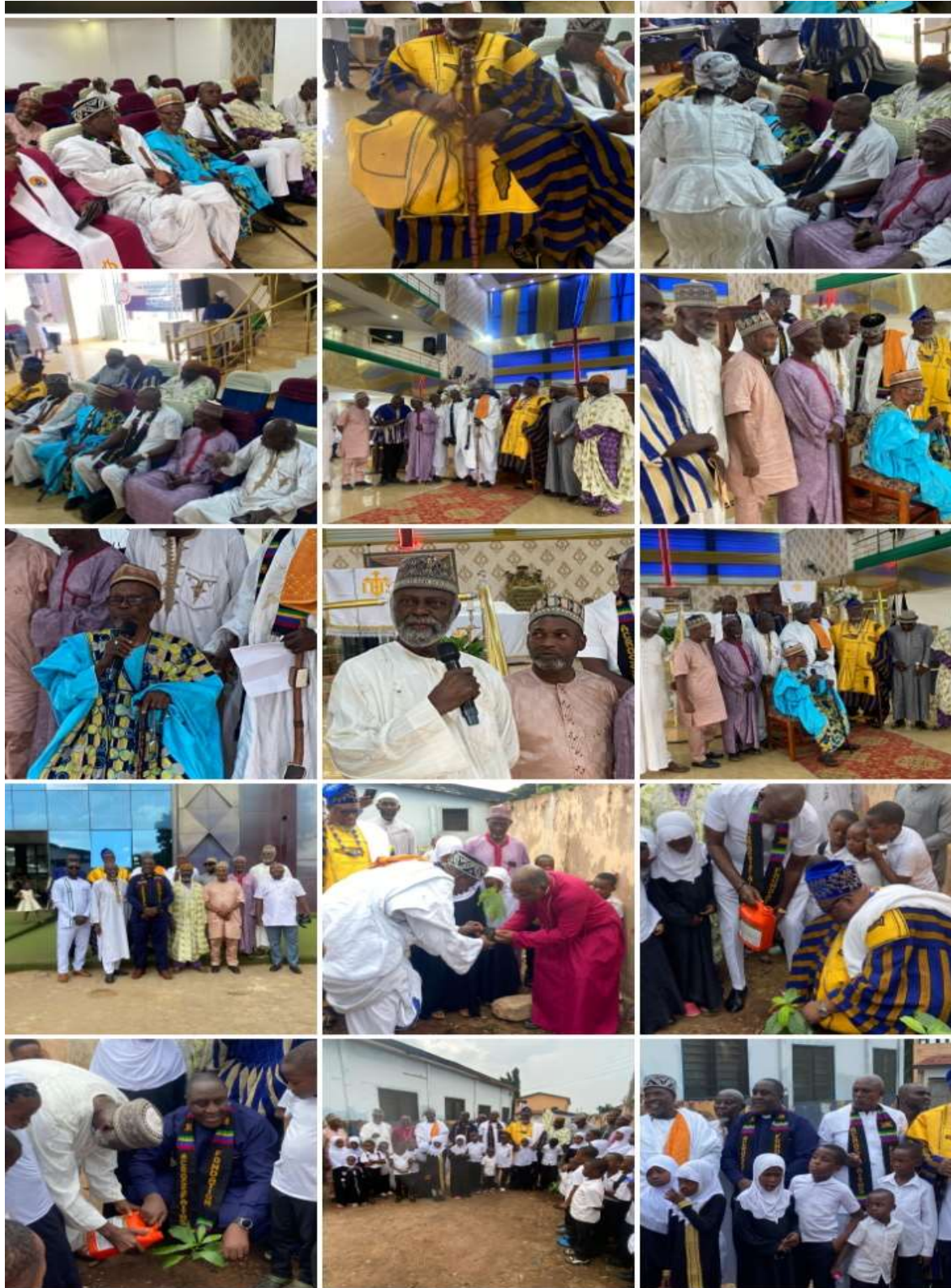




Appeal for funds from members



Official Launch WIHW & Interfaith Climate Change Project





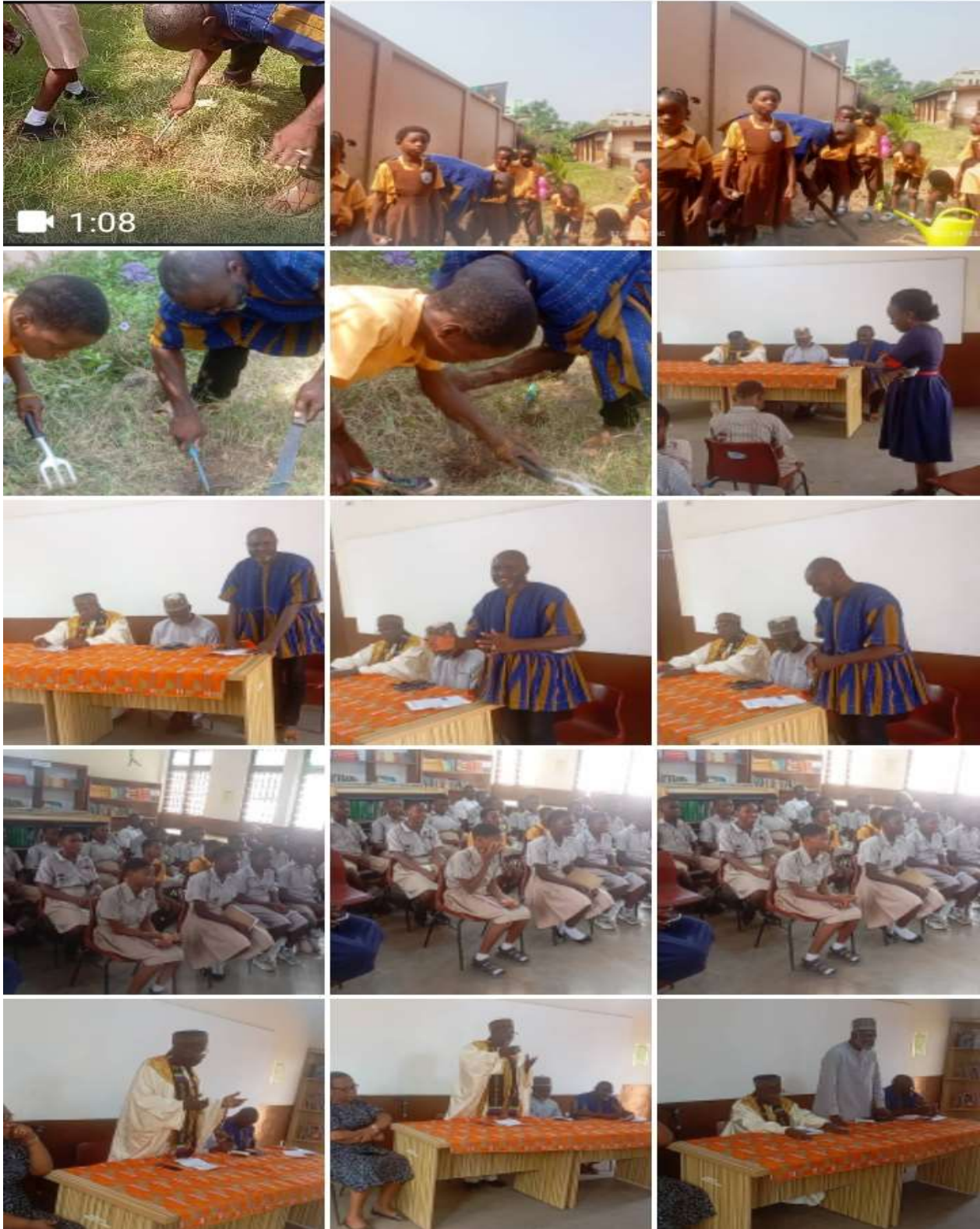
Symposium and Tree Planting



Visit to Kanda Cluster of Schools









National Thanksgiving Prayers



Thanks