



## **CLIMATE CRISIS JOURNALISM PROJECT**

### **Background**

Ghana, like many African countries is reeling from the dire effects of climate change. More recently, the country has become a hotspot for tidal waves and chronic flooding resulting from increasing rain levels which are putting millions of families at risk across different parts of the country.

When these disasters happen, there is a dearth of awareness on the part of citizens on the causes and the role climate change is playing. To compound this problem, the media is ill-equipped to play their role of informing and educating the general public about the adverse effect of climate change and also to hold duty-bearers accountable on laws and policies around climate change. The usual stopgap measures employed by the media are short-lived and last only until the next big headline. Exploring a climate change perspective to the problem which is the starting point for arriving at solutions remains a green area in the Ghanaian media space. It is for this reason that Penplusbytes is undertaking this initiative to build the capacity of a cohort of journalists to specialize in climate change reporting.

### **About the Project**

This Climate Crisis JournalismProject is a pilot project by Penplusbytes with funding from DW Akademie, which seeks to enhance the capacity of selected Ghanaian media persons to better understand the science at the heart of climate change to enable them raise awareness on its impact, shape public understanding and measures to mitigate the phenomenon.

Project activities include trainings to enhance the capacity of environmental reporters/journalists to strengthen and sustain their focus on climate change issues. The trainings will also build their competencies to develop engaging content both online and offline on climate change. Journalists will also be oriented on the intricacies of climate change, international best practices, trust building and addressing climate mis/disinformation among other topic areas.

To assess and sustain in the short term the impact of the trainings received, journalists will be motivated through a competitive micro grant system for in-depth stories generation around climate change in Ghana.