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GSA, eos and Water for West Africa Launch Joint Partnership to Empower Women Shea Processors in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

Accra, June 5th, 2025: The Global Shea Alliance (GSA), eos Products (Evolution of Smooth) and Water for West Africa (WfWA) are proud to announce a strategic partnership to empower women shea processors and improve access to clean water, quality infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods in Northern Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

This partnership forms part of the Shea Investment and Jobs Creation Program, (SHIP) a two-year initiative (2023–2025) funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, through the Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition” of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The program is designed to strengthen the capacity of 12,000 women in shea kernel and butter processing by enhancing product quality, creating decent jobs, and enabling greater private sector investment in women-led cooperatives.

A Shared Vision for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Shea

At the heart of this collaboration is a shared commitment to building a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient shea industry, one that recognizes and invests in the women at its foundation. By combining the technical expertise of the Global Shea Alliance, the supply chain leadership of eos Products, and the water access solutions of Water for West Africa, the initiative brings together complementary strengths to tackle longstanding barriers in the shea sector. Together, the partners are enabling women to lead the transformation of their cooperatives, their communities, and the wider shea ecosystem.

Delivering Tools, Training, and Water Access

Through the partnership, 150 women processors from the Bobobo Women’s Shea Butter Association Network in Ghana and Coopérative Clojo in Côte d'Ivoire will benefit directly from targeted interventions that support productivity, wellbeing, and economic advancement. This phase of the program will provide access to the critical resources needed to scale their operations and improve their livelihoods, including:

- Modern shea butter processing equipment to reduce physical labor, increase processing efficiency, and ensure consistent, high-quality products
- Entrepreneurship and business development training to strengthen cooperative leadership, enable income diversification (such as soap-making), and foster climate-smart enterprise



- Clean water infrastructure through the construction of mechanized boreholes, coupled with WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) training, to improve processing hygiene and protect community health

“This partnership is a demonstration of how global brands, NGOs, and local actors can come together to build resilient, women-led economies,” said Wunmi Osholake, Deputy Managing Director, Global Shea Alliance. “It’s not just about productivity, it’s about dignity, sustainability, and long-term change.”

“At eos, we believe in sourcing with purpose. Investing in the women behind our shea supply chain is not only the right thing to do—it’s essential to building a responsible, traceable, and sustainable supply chain,” said Jonathan Teller, CEO of eos Products.

“Access to clean water is transformative. By improving the water quality used by shea farmers, we are enhancing product quality, reducing health risks, and opening new avenues for sustainable growth,” said Ricky McWhorter, Executive Director of Water for West Africa

About the GSA

The Global Shea Alliance is a non profit industry association with 849 members from 36 countries, including women’s cooperative groups, brands and retailers, suppliers, and NGOs. Through PPPs, the GSA promotes industry sustainability, quality practices and standards, and demand for shea in food and cosmetics. For more information, please visit <http://www.globalshea.com/>

About eos Products

eos is a U.S. based beauty and personal care company recognized for its high-performance skincare products, including lip care, body care, shave creams, and hand care. The company is committed to advancing ethical sourcing and sustainability, and formulates products with natural, cruelty-free, and responsibly sourced ingredients. eos champions transparency and supports social impact initiatives within key areas of its global supply chain. For more information, visit www.evolutionofsmooth.com.

About Water for West Africa (WfWA)

Water for West Africa is a nonprofit organization delivering clean water and WASH solutions across rural West African communities. WfWA designs and implements high-impact systems that improve health, productivity, and livelihoods.

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