

THE LINK Newsletter

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POWERED BY GENEROSITY: Projects, Progress, and Lives Transformed



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When Minutes Matter: Providing Life-Saving Care

For nearly 20 years, International Needs Burkina Faso has worked alongside communities in and around the city of Bobo-Dioulasso, improving access to healthcare for families living in deep poverty. At the heart of this work is Ophel Medical Centre, a lifeline for nearly 50,000 people every year, including 15,000 children.

Ophel Medical Centre includes a dispensary, maternity ward, and pharmacy. Malaria, respiratory infections, and pregnancy-related complications are among the most common and most dangerous conditions treated.

Despite its reach and impact, the centre lacks basic emergency equipment. When a patient goes into respiratory distress, suffers cardiac arrest, or experiences complications during childbirth, staff often have no choice but to transfer them to distant hospitals, losing valuable time during life-threatening emergencies and leading to preventable deaths.

This Emergency Equipment Project is equipping Ophel Medical Centre with the tools doctors and nurses need to respond immediately when a life is at risk, allowing more emergencies to be treated on site, reducing dangerous delays and transfers, and ultimately saving lives.

Thanks to generous support already received, Ophel Medical Centre has begun purchasing several major pieces of equipment, including hospital beds, laboratory testing instruments, and sterilization tools.



Scan the QR Code to support the **Emergency Equipment Project**



The most urgent equipment still needed includes:

- **Defibrillator (\$9,700)** - Used to restart the heart.
- **Oxygen concentrator and cylinders (\$3,200)** - Provides oxygen for patients struggling to breathe.
- **Monitoring device (\$4,300)** - Tracks vital signs such as heart rate, oxygen levels, and blood pressure so staff can respond quickly to sudden changes.
- **Fetal monitor (\$4,700)** - Monitors a baby's heart rate during labour and alerts staff to distress.
- **Aspirator (\$2,800)** - Clears airways of fluids or obstructions during emergencies, newborn resuscitation, and medical procedures.
- **ECG machine (\$2,500)** - Detects heart abnormalities and guides treatment for patients with cardiac complications.

Each of these tools equips medical staff to treat patients on site, reducing emergency transfers and dramatically improving survival rates for mothers, newborns, and critically ill patients.

By helping close this gap, you are giving doctors and nurses the tools they need to act immediately, save lives, and bring critical care closer to home for families who have nowhere else to turn.

\$35,718
secured

\$74,880
needed



Finding Stability: A Mother's Journey in Cambodia



Scan the QR Code
to support the **Economic
Development Program**

When Sokha, a 58-year-old mother in Cambodia, tried to support her family through raising chickens, the odds felt stacked against her. With no farmland, limited income, and no access to training or capital, she relied on a small, makeshift chicken coop behind her home. Though she did her best to care for the chickens, without proper knowledge or supplies many of them became sick and died, especially during the cooler months.

Her family of four depended on this small-scale livestock raising and her husband's occasional income delivering water in the village. **Without stable earnings, meeting basic needs was a constant struggle, and the future felt uncertain.**

Everything began to change when our partners invited her to join the chicken raising program in her village. Through the program, Sokha received support to expand her chicken coop, purchase hens and chicks, and install protective netting. Just as importantly, field staff worked closely with her, providing regular coaching on proper feeding, hygiene, vaccination, and simple record-keeping. She also learned how to prepare easily accessible, natural herbal remedies using local ingredients. These remedies help treat common poultry illnesses, reduce losses, and improve flock health.



With consistent guidance and encouragement, Sokha's confidence grew alongside her income. She adopted improved, standardized practices and soon began to see results.

Within five months, her chickens were healthy, growing faster, and ready for sale. For the first time, her family had a more stable financial foundation.

The impact went beyond earnings, shaping how Sokha managed her household and supported others. She began saving money, planning expenses, and passing on what she learned to her neighbours. She shared, "Before, I raised chickens without knowing what I was doing, but now I understand how to feed, vaccinate, and care for them properly. **I feel proud and confident that I can earn more and improve my family's life.**"

Today, Sokha is planning for the future. She hopes to save enough to build a new home for her family, dig a small pond for irrigation, and, alongside selling mature chickens, expand her poultry business to produce chicks for sale.



\$47,800
secured

\$79,600
needed 2026

Meeting a Growing Need: Update from Real Hope Safe House



Scan the QR Code
to support the **Real Hope**
Safe House



Real Hope Safe House in Kenya was originally established to rescue and support children aged 6 to 9, walking alongside them through education and long-term care. Over time, however, a new need in the community began to appear. **Local police increasingly reached out with heartbreaking cases of abandoned babies and toddlers who had nowhere else to go.**



Unwilling to turn away the most vulnerable, the Real Hope team stepped in, doing everything they could to care for these infants within the existing safe house. As this need became more frequent, it was clear that a more focused approach was required.

In response, Real Hope established a dedicated baby unit to provide safe, nurturing care for abandoned infants.

Since March 2024, the baby unit has supported 14 babies through both short- and long-term care. This work has been made possible through the commitment of two dedicated baby carers, Linet and Jane, alongside a group of volunteers and interns who help meet the babies' daily needs.

Today, the baby unit is home to four infants, each receiving care while the team works closely with authorities to identify permanent, loving homes for them. **For babies who arrive with nothing and no one, the unit offers safety, stability, and the chance for a hopeful future.**

Thank you for standing with Real Hope and helping ensure that even the smallest lives are met with compassion, protection, and love.

\$500
secured

\$5,170
needed per month

Guided Every Step: A Story of Faith and Perseverance



Scan the QR Code
to sponsor a child today

Years ago, Sam was a young student in Ghana with a simple but powerful dream of becoming a doctor. Through the support of a sponsor, he was able to stay in school and pursue his education year after year. **Although Sam graduated many years ago, the impact of that sponsorship has never faded.** Recently, he wrote a letter to his former sponsor, reflecting on the journey that shaped his life, strengthened his sense of purpose, and guided him toward the calling he continues to pursue today.



Dear Joyce,

It is always a pleasure to write to you. How are you doing? It is my hope and prayer that you are doing well by God's grace.

The first time I wrote to you, I was a little boy at Amrahia Community School with an ambition to become a medical doctor. It is with great joy that I inform you that I have successfully completed my medical education at the University of Ghana Medical School.

It was a journey that seemed very long in the beginning, with its own peculiar ups and downs. But with the guidance and help of the Almighty God, as well as your unwavering support, I was able to surmount every challenge. After completing all the rotations, I have identified obstetrics and gynaecology as a field that I want to specialize in.

It is my choice because I believe that prioritizing such a field will lead to a great reduction of morbidities and mortalities among our mothers, sisters, and friends, which will help improve birth outcomes.

This letter is to say thank you for helping a child realize his childhood dream and gifting our community a medical professional who intends to impact society in ways even beyond medicine. It is my prayer that the Lord continues to strengthen you and offer you immense guidance and blessing. May your household be blessed abundantly.

Thank you.

Your friend,
Samuel

Cassie's 35 by 35 Fundraiser: A School Bathroom in Ghana



Scan the QR Code
to support Cassie's
35 by 35 fundraiser

We want to recognize the incredible efforts of Cassie Jilek, who travelled to Ghana with the International Needs Canada medical team in 2025. During her visit, Cassie saw firsthand the unsafe and unsanitary bathroom conditions many students face in local schools, including facilities with no running water and little privacy.

At the same time, she also had the opportunity to see what is possible. Cassie visited the new bathroom facilities at Avakpedome School, which were built in 2025 thanks to your generous support.

Motivated by what she saw, Cassie set a personal goal for her 35th birthday to raise \$35,000 to help build a safe and accessible bathroom facility for another school in need. Her initiative will help protect student health, restore dignity, and create a safer learning environment for children.



We hope you'll take a moment to learn more about Cassie's story and support her fundraising efforts, helping turn her compassion into lasting impact for students in Ghana.



Praise & Prayer Corner

Praise: We give thanks for the many new donors who have joined our community, stepping forward with generosity and compassion. Your support is helping meet urgent needs and bring hope to vulnerable families around the world. We are deeply grateful for each person who has chosen to walk alongside us in this work.

Prayer: Please join us in prayer for Board Member Mel Newth as he grieves the passing of his wife, Valerie. May Mel, their family, and all who knew and loved her find comfort, peace, and strength during this time of loss. We pray that God's presence surrounds them and that treasured memories bring hope and healing.