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# CELEBRATING GROUP EMPOWERMENT

Ghana | July 2023



Dear friends,

I'm excited to share with you a new report for the Group Empowerment Program in Ghana, which highlights all the amazing activities that took place between January and July of this year. To all of you who have been supporting this program, whether from the very start or just recently, **we want to express our heartfelt appreciation.** Your support and trust have been crucial in bringing this program to where it is today. Thank you!



**Festus Addei**  
Director of Programs and Projects

## THE PILLARS OF THE GROUP EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

When you contribute to the Group Empowerment Program in Ghana, **you make a meaningful impact** by providing vital support and necessities to participants. Your generosity ensures that the children receive consistent and well-rounded assistance in the following key areas:



### EDUCATION

Every day, 375 students have the privilege of attending school, equipped with educational essentials such as textbooks, notebooks, pens, and pencils. New uniforms are also provided to the children who require them. Over the last period, **23 students transitioned from Junior to Senior High School!** They're taking new classes for the first time; chemistry and physics, coding and computer skills, and advanced arts like jewelry making.

The students also receive dedicated support from their group mentors. These mentors are there to provide tutoring, guidance, and assistance not just in academics, but also in personal challenges. They are a reliable source of support, helping students navigate both school and the personal aspects of their lives.





## NUTRITIOUS MEALS

375 students are given a daily meal at school, accompanied by clean water and snacks to make sure they're healthy, energetic, and participate well in class. Over the last period, while on school holidays, **all the students received food baskets containing rice, oil, mackerel, tomato paste, milk, and sardines.** This prevented many of the children from engaging in child labour as a way to earn money for food.



## HEALTH CARE

375 students are given health insurance so they can always go to the hospital and get medical care whenever they need it. During this last period, our partners signed up all the new children and renewed insurance for those whose cards were expiring.



On top of this, **the schools organized a medical camp** during this period to prioritize the children's well-being, ensuring they received necessary health support and check-ups. It was an opportunity to **proactively address any health concerns** and promote the overall health and well-being of the students.

## LIFE & VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

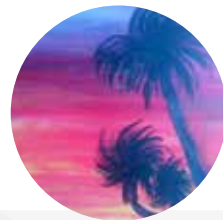
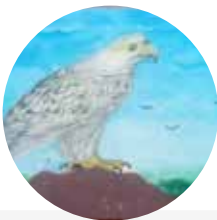
This program provides students with practical skills such as sewing, art, computer skills, crocheting, and jewelry making. However, it goes beyond skill development. The program also strives to empower students, **fostering their confidence and self-awareness** as they grow.

In the last period, the students learned about topics like cultural awareness, manners, public speaking, and how to manage a household. They also had discussions on children's rights and responsibilities, covering topics such as the dangers of child marriage, gender-based violence, and internet safety. To make sure the students had all the information they needed, they were given pamphlets with more details on these topics. The pamphlets included contact information for reporting any child rights violations and helpline details in case they ever feel unsafe.



### MEET MAWUPE

A talented seventh grader in the Group Empowerment Program. Mawupe is not only a bright student who loves reading but also possesses a gift for art! With his mentor's encouragement, Mawupe took a leap and decided to start showcasing his artwork to friends and teachers. **The support and encouragement Mawupe received has had a great impact on him.** Inspired by their positive response, Mawupe has become more confident and actively involved with art, eager to explore where his talents may take him.



## PARENTAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Active parental involvement and community awareness are integral to the program. During this last period, regular meetings were held and covered important parenting topics like effective communication strategies, active listening, positive discipline, fostering emotional wellbeing, and promoting healthy relationships. **Parents learned to set a good example and become more engaged and responsive in their parenting journey.**



### MEET LYDIA

One parent, Lydia, found immense value in the positive parenting meetings and experienced significant personal growth. She always disciplined her daughter, Josephine, in the same way she herself was disciplined – with verbal and physical abuse. She believed that this was the only way to make sure Josephine was respectful. However, after attending sessions on positive parenting, Lydia felt a renewed sense of hope and inspiration.

Grateful for the newfound knowledge, Lydia enthusiastically shared with the staff how empowered she felt upon discovering alternative approaches to guiding her daughter. Participating in these sessions marked a significant milestone for Lydia, **helping her to break free from the cycle of abuse** and create a healthier dynamic with her daughter, Josephine, one built on understanding and respect rather than fear.

### MEET FELIX

Felix is another parent who has been inspired by the Group Empowerment Program and the sessions for parents. With two children supported by the program, it has been a huge relief for his family. Felix is excited about the program's growth and hopes that it can reach more schools in the future. **He's so passionate about it that he wants to volunteer as a mentor!**







## WHAT'S NEW?

### A DAY OF HEALTH EDUCATION

Medical professionals from the Ghana Health Service visited the schools in June to teach the children about a number of important topics. Some topics covered were substance abuse and its long-term impacts, menstrual health and breaking the stigma around it, and dental care.



Theodora and Nana, two high school students, had **an eye-opening day of learning**. Theodora was surprised to discover the significance of good nutrition for a healthy menstrual cycle. She learned how it helps with hormone balance, iron levels, energy, mood swings, and even bone health. On the other hand, Nana gained valuable insights into the long-term impact of alcohol abuse on the liver and overall well-being. These lessons have equipped them with important knowledge to make informed choices about their health and lifestyle.







Not only did the students learn about these important topics, they also received practical care. Dentists checked the children's teeth and gave them toothbrushes and toothpaste. The teenage girls were supplied with sanitary napkins and soap, so they could navigate their periods with comfort and confidence.



## BIBLE CAMP

In May, the children had an exciting all-day Bible camp supported by the Child Evangelism Fellowship. The camp aimed to nurture their faith, develop character, and strengthen their relationship with God. They delved into important lessons, including the Bible story of Naaman, who was miraculously healed of leprosy by following Prophet Elisha's instruction to wash in the Jordan River. This story highlighted the significance of faith, humility, and God's ability to bring unexpected healing and restoration.



Throughout the day, the children also enjoyed games, songs, and team-building exercises. Visuals and interactive discussions were used to engage their attention and encourage active participation. It was a time of learning, joy, and building a sense of community among the children.





## ***A HEARTFELT THANK YOU***

Thanks to your support, every child in this program receives the education, guidance, and care they truly deserve. You make this group program possible. Your generosity has brought about incredible transformations and touched the lives of these children in the most beautiful way. We can't wait to share more good news and stories from Ghana with you in our next update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Festus Addei'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Festus Addei

## ***PRAYER CORNER***

We kindly request your prayers as our partners continue to deal with the soaring prices of food. Factors like inflation, transportation costs, and limited infrastructure have all contributed to this challenge. They have been doing their best to address the situation by buying items in bulk to get discounts, but it would mean a lot to them if you could pray for a stop to the dramatic price increases.



# ***THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***

EMPOWERING THESE CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF A PEER  
GROUP WILL PAY DIVIDENDS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME



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