



**CELEBRATING GROUP
EMPOWERMENT**

GHANA | FEBRUARY 2023



Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to share the second semi-annual report for 2022 on the International Needs Group Empowerment Program in Ghana. We're so grateful for your commitment to improving the lives of children in Ghana.

Over the last period, your gifts were used to provide hundreds of children and youth with education, learning materials, health care, nutritious meals, and recreational programs. The schools have also provided counselling to strengthen the students' mental health, and mentoring to help them understand how their strengths and interests might set them up for success in the future.

The Ghana Group Empowerment Program has been making a huge impact, changing the lives of vulnerable children and communities. We're excited to keep this positive momentum rolling into 2023 and watch the children continue to flourish and grow in every aspect of their lives. A big thank you again to all of you supporting this remarkable program. Here's to another fantastic year!

I hope you enjoy reading about all the amazing work taking place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Festus Addei', with a small star-like mark above the end of the signature.

Festus Addei

Not a sponsor yet?

[Click here to support the children in Ghana](#)

EDUCATION

Over the last period, your gifts allowed **375 children to attend school**. Without tuition support, these children would not have been able to afford the school fees. They also received materials that allowed them to learn effectively, such as exercise books, pencils, and notebooks.



NUTRITION

The school provides a hot meal each day to many children who would not otherwise eat. There's a direct link between nutrition and a child's ability to learn, which means the feeding program is a critical strategy for ensuring strong academic performance.

Food is also a powerful motivator for families living in poverty, and the parents are more diligent about sending their children, rather than keeping them home to work in the fields.



In addition to the daily meals, the **375 children also received food baskets** in December to share with their families during the holiday season; this gift prompted lots of smiles and Christmas cheer going into the break!

**Children can't
learn when they're
malnourished**

GROUP MEETINGS

The weekly group meetings have been full of excitement and learning opportunities! Mentors engaged the students in **lively discussions**, covering a range of topics like child rights, environmental preservation, puberty, menstrual health, toxic masculinity, and financial literacy.

Students took part in **fun activities** too, like bible trivia and verse finding, spelling competitions, and a program called Jolly Phonics. This multi-sensory learning program helps the students to improve their reading and writing in a way that supports different types of learners.

"I have begun depositing my coins in a piggybank. I believe that when I grow up, this attitude will serve me well and help me when I am grown and start working." -- Student



The group meetings have been so helpful in **improving academic performance**. Aisha, for example, is in Grade 8 and used to struggle with English. Because of this, she had low self-esteem and avoided speaking in class. But since joining the Group Empowerment Program, she has seen **massive improvement** in her language skills and even her social life. With the support of her mentor, Eric, Aisha started taking part in a variety of extracurricular activities like drama and seminars, all of which have been shaping her into the successful learner she is today. **Way to go Aisha!**

Higher confidence and self-esteem!



MENTOR TRAINING

Our team of mentors continues to work hard to provide the **best possible support** for the students. During the last period, mentors attended monthly meetings where they would develop teaching plans, offer **encouragement**, and share insights to tackle difficult situations together.



They also received training to deepen their understanding of learning styles and how they can adapt lessons to meet the unique needs of each learner. The mentors are now equipped with VAK (Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic) skills, and are thrilled to make the group sessions more **interactive, inclusive, and fun!** It's been a joy to see the growth and development of our mentors and the positive impact it's having on the students.



CAREER COUNSELLING

Our partners recently held a three-day career counselling session for high school students, facilitated by a professional career counsellor and lecturer at the University of Professional Studies. The assessments conducted with students provided them with a deeper understanding of their interests and capabilities, and helped them to **identify possible careers** that aligned with their passions.

Abigail has been performing very well in her sewing class. She can now sew neatly with a needle and thread without needing to use a sewing machine. During the career counselling session, she learned more about how her skills and interests in sewing make her a great fit for professions that require concentration and steady hands. **She was excited to learn that her abilities would make her a great nurse**, a profession she's considered since she was very young.

Abigail and the other participants learned that they should choose their careers based on what they love and what they're good at, not what society or gender norms say they should do. It was an inspiring and empowering experience for everyone involved.



"Nursing is the direction I wish to work towards, and I will select classes throughout high school and university that help me develop my skills in this area."
- Abigail



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

On October 12th, International Needs Ghana celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child, which was organized by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. The event aimed to combat inequality and raise awareness about the challenges girls face on a daily basis.

Some representatives from Amrahia Community School got the chance to take part in advocacy work through a local radio program. They engaged in a panel discussion on critical issues affecting their participation and development in society. One of the hosts said this: "Your children are very aware of issues surrounding child protection. They asked a lot of relevant questions and provided key insights into tackling child abuse and discrimination. It was a pleasure to meet them."

"Children from your school are confident and ready to share their ideas."
– Radio host



WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

On November 20th, the schools celebrated World Children's Day by organizing a Children's Parliament. The participants received training and coaching in contemporary parliamentary proceedings, which is helping them work on key skills like confidence, deliberation, presentation, and debating. During the parliamentary proceedings, participants presented and debated on important topics such as child abuse, trafficking, and the rights and responsibilities of children. It was an inspiring event and wonderful to see the students actively engage in topics that affect their day-to-day lives.

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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