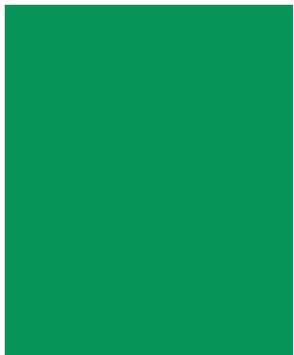
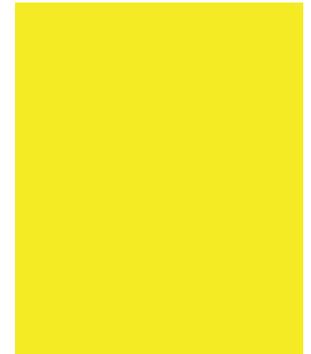
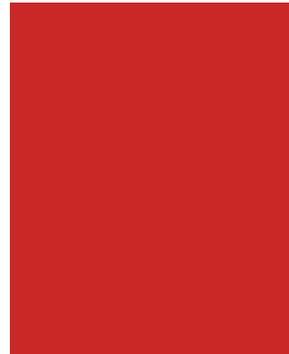
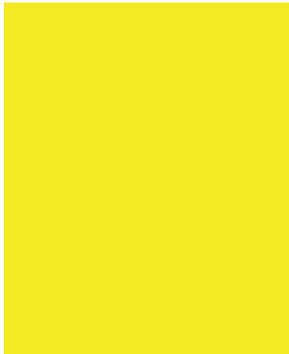
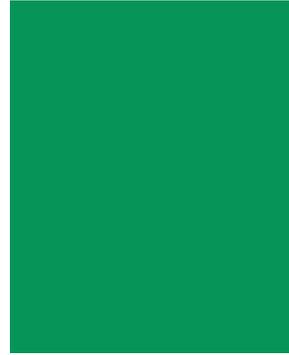
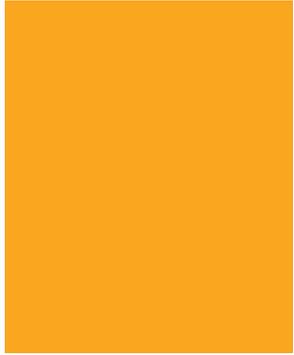


2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Friends,

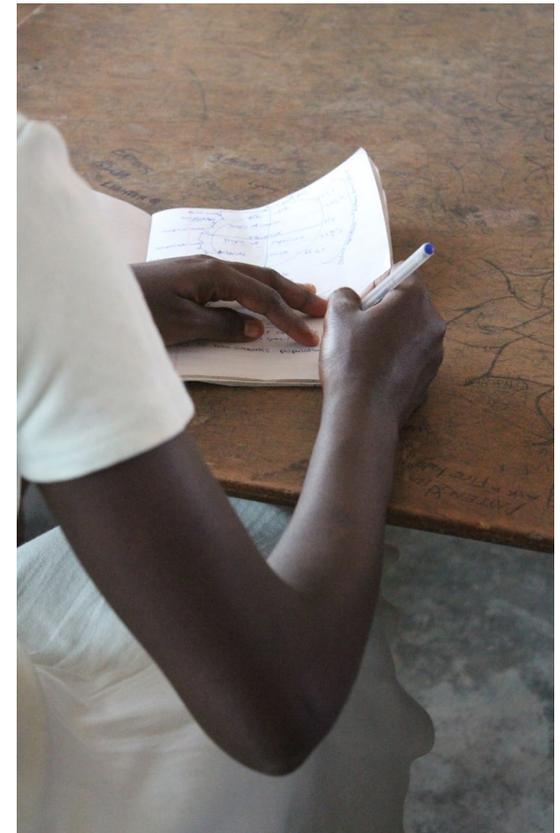
We are proud to present our 2019 Annual Report, which showcases the life-changing work that we've undertaken in our communities and the impact of the generous support from our donors and partners.

2019 was a season of change and progress for GHEI! Throughout the year, girls and boys came through our doors and participated in one or more of GHEI's seven core programs! First-time mothers received vital assistance to meet their existing health needs and maximize the future well-being of their first child. We achieved exciting milestones including the successful graduation of seven healthy mothers and their babies from our flagship Mother Mentor for Child Development Program. Moreover, the impact of our education programs reflects the excellence of our teachers and the consistent quality of their work. With gratitude for their leadership throughout the year, we extend a heartfelt thank you to GHEI's Board of Directors and other members of the Global Support Team. The "team" is comprised of volunteers who devote considerable time and effort to supporting our in-country staff. Their service to GHEI not only makes us more effective stewards of resources, but also stronger change agents in the communities we serve.

We are deeply proud of our team in Ghana for their unwavering commitment towards ensuring the smooth execution of our programs despite the obstacles they face.

Lastly, we are constantly reminded that it is the people we serve who teach us our most valuable lessons: perseverance, hope and the desire to build an empowering future.

Dr. Diana Rickard, MD, MSHS
Co-founder, Chairperson of the Board



THE ISSUE

Ending the Cycle of Poverty

The image on the right is of a classroom from a public school in Humjibre, Ghana. The classroom does not have benches and desks for students and lacks critical instructional materials. The school does not have hygiene and sanitation facilities, threatening the health of its pupils. Dilapidated educational infrastructure and inadequate health facilities are a common sight in Humjibre and other rural communities in Ghana. Lack of access to decent health and education not only negatively impacts a child's development but also that of pregnant mothers, posing a threat to young infants. It impedes improvements in health and creates serious obstacles to attaining education. The result is a community trapped, together with its future generations, in an endless cycle of poverty.

We're on a Mission to Change This.

Since 2004, the Ghana Health and Education Initiative (GHEI) has worked hand in hand with local communities in the rural, Western North region of Ghana, to help villages realize the full potential of their children. We do this by working with our trusted local leaders, who help us design innovative solutions to the communities health and education needs. We do this even if it requires challenging established limits.



WHO WE ARE

GHEI is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization, founded in 2004. We are based in Humjibre, a village of approximately 5,500 inhabitants located in Ghana's Western North region in the Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai (BAB) Municipality.

Our co-founder, Dr. Diana Rickard visited Ghana as a medical student in 2001 to study the accessibility and quality of available healthcare services. During her initial visits to communities in the BAB Municipality, she met Clement Donkor, then the assemblyman of Humjibre electoral area. As a lifelong resident of this community, Clement provided an in-depth understanding to the context of rural livelihoods and the educational and healthcare systems. Thus, began an empowering initiative, a journey of 16 years, driven by the belief that all individuals have a right to good health and education regardless of their circumstance.

Through our health and education programs, we have helped ensure healthy pregnancies, high-quality hygiene and sanitation standards, promoted child development, enabled children to attend senior high school and advanced vocational and technical training!



Ghana

WHERE WE WORK

We work in five communities in the BAB Municipality: Humjibre, Soroano, Ampenkrom, Muoho and Kojina. The communities boast lush forests, cocoa plantations, bustling markets and vibrant local cultures. Unfortunately, they are also home to poverty. Lack of access to good quality health and education creates obstacles for people to realize their full potential.

Our catchment communities exist in the tropical climate zone and are surrounded by fertile land. Majority of people work as farmers, primarily cocoa. Although cocoa farming is their main source, most people in our communities also find alternative strategies to supplement their incomes between cocoa harvests. Entrepreneurship is common, and many people take part in several trades. Common occupations include traders, teachers, taxi drivers, seamstress/tailors, and hairdressers.





OUR MISSION

To enable communities in the Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai Municipality of Ghana to improve their children's health, learning success and opportunities by building local capacity and providing necessary resources and support.

OUR VALUES. OUR STRATEGY.

Our values are enduring, passionate and distinctive core beliefs. And they are an essential part of our strategy. We adhere to these guiding principles daily and they are an indispensable part of our strategic foundation. Our values guide our conduct, activities and goals. They are deeply ingrained, have become a way of life within GHEI, and they mold our organizational strategy.

INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We envision a future where children—free from illness and illiteracy—can realize their full potential, a future where healthy, educated young people will lead their communities out of poverty. Our health and education interventions empower communities in the BAB Municipality to build that future by investing in their children and youth.

AN EMPHASIS ON GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Through our programs we aim to ensure that girls and young women have the same opportunities as boys and young men. We improve educational opportunities for girls by helping them pursue their goals and ensure that girls and young women are equipped with the health knowledge, support and counseling to navigate the obstacles they face growing up and into adulthood. To lower the education gap between boys and girls, **60%** of students enrolled in our education programs are female.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

We believe that implementing high-quality programs requires integrity, hard work, and creativity, and we are committed to finding the most innovative solutions. Our programs improve children's health, learning success and create opportunities by building local capacity and providing necessary resources and support.

CULTIVATING LOCAL LEADERSHIP

We believe that progress in health and education is best achieved by the community itself. Therefore, we value empowering local individuals and cultivating local leadership to develop and manage all our programs. These local leaders make up most of our in-country staff and they are committed to mobilizing others in the community to increase engagement at the grassroots level.

OUR TEAM

GHEI's team is comprised of dedicated people, from different walks of life, based all over the globe. From community leaders and international development professionals doing hands-on work in rural Ghana - to the volunteers on our Global Support Team who provide leadership and capacity building guidance from afar, we are united to alleviate poverty in rural Ghana.

GHANA STAFF

Clement Donkor
Co-Founder, Country Director, Board Member

Enock Happy Nkrumah
Assistant Country Director

Ernest Saga Badu
Education Program Administrator

Felicity Yaa Pomah
Education Program Assitant

Lawrence Donkor
Library Adminstrator

Bethina Loiseau
Health Program Coordinator

Mensah Gyapong
Health Program Administrator

Agnes Obeng
Health Program Administrator

Alice Ofori Amanfo
Mother Mentor

Henrietta Dwomour
Mother Mentor

Sarah Nyarko
Mother Mentor

Pratik Tandon
Communications Officer

Adelaide Owusu
National Service Volunteer

Bright Obeng
Volunteer Teacher



GLOBAL SUPPORT TEAM

Diana Rickard, MD, MSHS
*Co-Founder, Program Development and
Quality Advisor, Chairperson of the Board*

Jason Clevenger, MS, PMP
Executive Director, Board Member

Sarah Gustafson, MD
*Education Program Development Advisor,
Director of Medical Education*

Christina Schuler, MIH, MSc
Maternal and Child Health Program Advisor

Rebecca Dudovitz, MD, MSHS
*Director of Pediatric Resident Education, Board
Member*

Michael Kacka, MD
Treasurer, Board Member

Louise Rickard, PhD
Financial Secretary

Kate Belser, MD
Board Member

Elena Szajewski, MPA
Board Secretary

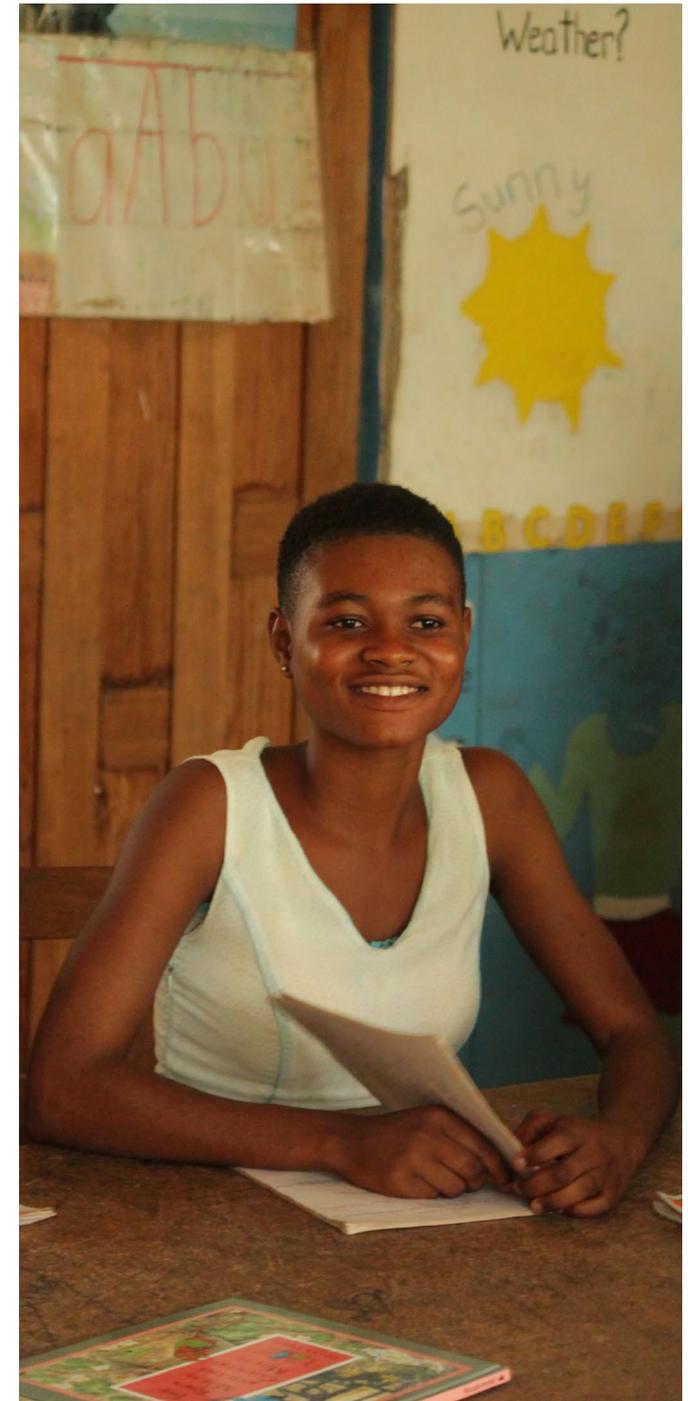
Alfred Appiah, MSc
Board Member

Emily Wei, JD, MPP
Board Member

Angad Berar
Website Development Advisor

Merisa Muharamovic
Program Development Intern

Alex Briñas
Graphic Design Fellow



2019 AT A GLANCE

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED DURING HOLIDAY GIVING SEASON

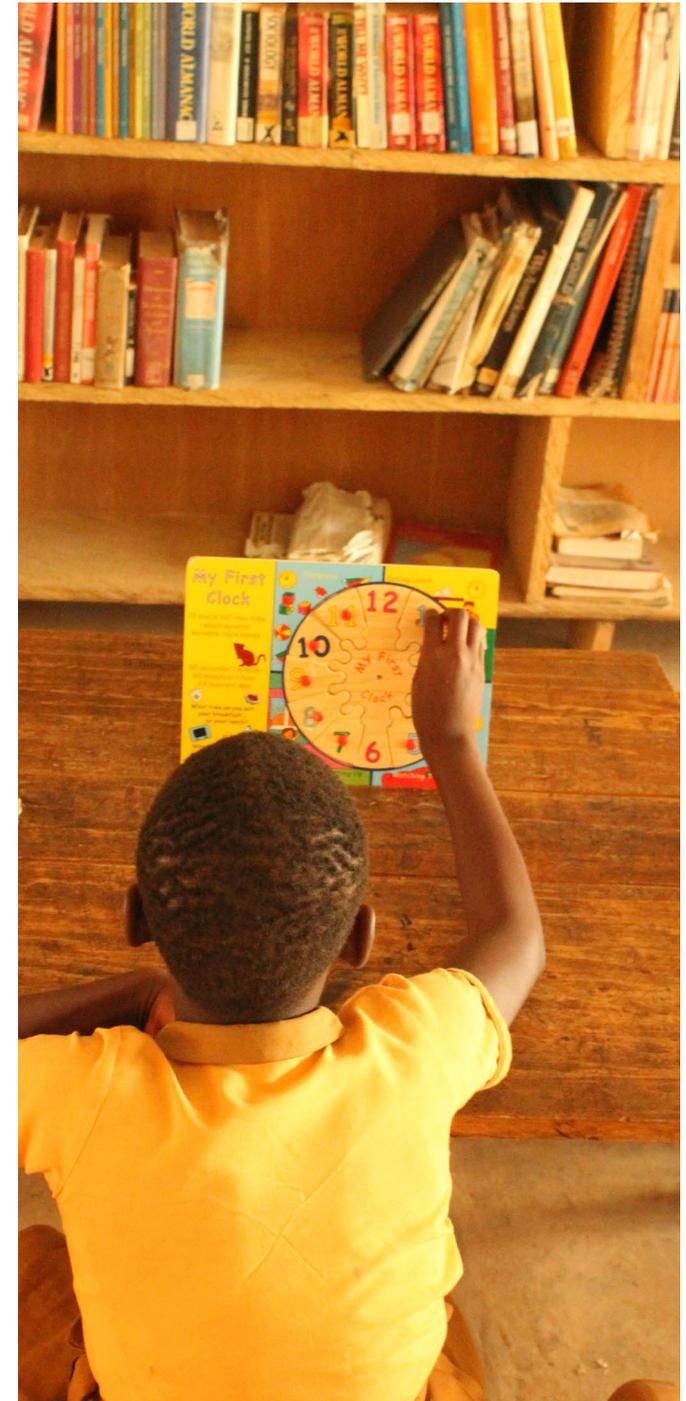
\$19,612

PROGRAMS IN OPERATION

10

PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH THOSE PROGRAMS

3000+



OUR INITIATIVES

EDUCATION

- Youth Education Program
- Career Opportunity Lecture Series
- Early Childhood Literacy Program
- Sexual Education and Reproductive Health

HEALTH

- Mother Mentor for Child Development Program
- Health Facility Delivery Incentive Program

LIBRARIES

- Humjibre Community Library
- Books in a Box

HERS - HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

- Girls and Women's Empowerment

SUMMER SERVE AND LEARN

- Summer Serve & Learn, Ghana



HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

Household Toilet Construction

Small Change with a Big Impact

Owning and having access to her own toilet was a distant dream for Rita Ama Yeboah. "All my life I have been compelled to use a toilet which was also used by other people in my neighborhood," she said. Due to this Rita was susceptible to diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, hepatitis A and her worries exacerbated when she got pregnant with her first child.

The answer to her worries was in GHEI's Mother Mentor for Child Development Program. We constructed a toilet for Rita and her family. She is now better able to protect her family from sickness, diseases and other threats. "The biggest positive is that I have my own toilet now. It is clean and I don't encounter bad odor anymore," she revealed with a smile.

To date, we have built more than 35 toilets for families in Humjibre. Constructing toilets has helped to reduce the spread of infections especially in pregnant mothers and provided them with an access to a private sanitation facility. In 2019, we adopted an eco-friendlier approach by constructing bio digester toilets. Bio digester toilets digest organic solids in an ecologically friendly way and is a totally maintenance free system. They prevent human waste and untreated water from contaminating groundwater. Since there are no existing sewage systems in the community, our solution is a good alternative to open defecation. So far, we've built three such toilets and will continue to build more in our community.



EDUCATION

We are passionate about unlocking children's potential! Since 2004, our education programs have helped children learn to read and write, enabled them to think critically and fostered leadership skills. Educational attainment among youth is critical to alleviating poverty. As such, we are continually looking for ways to empower youth with necessary learning resources and support.

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Inadequate infrastructure and learning materials hinder academic performance of young children and negatively impact future possibilities. Our Youth Education Program (YEP) addresses these challenges by improving the quality of education for junior high school students, enabling them to attend senior high school and create better opportunities in life!

Our approach entails allocating a comprehensive number of supplemental classroom hours every week and maintaining a significantly smaller student to teacher ratio than those offered at the students' regular schools. They include a variety of materials and resources that are not commonly available, and focus on fostering active learning, critical thinking and leadership skills while helping students prepare for their critical Basic Education Certification Examination (BECE). The BECE is the main admissions exam that students must take in order to attend a senior high or vocational school. The classes cover students' core subjects, which are the focus of the BECE as well - English Language, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies and Information Communication Technology.

YEP classes are engaging and allows students to express themselves freely. The goal is to help motivated junior high school students in Humjibre achieve better academic results, thereby enabling them to attend senior high school and increase career prospects. YEP is an important tool that plays a significant role in designing the future of our students as successful persons. It lessens the challenges they will face and prepares them for the time after senior high school. Consequently, through YEP we tackle the systemic factors which impede community development and lead to generational poverty.

2019 OVERVIEW



54

Students Enrolled in YEP



18:1

Students/Teacher Ratio



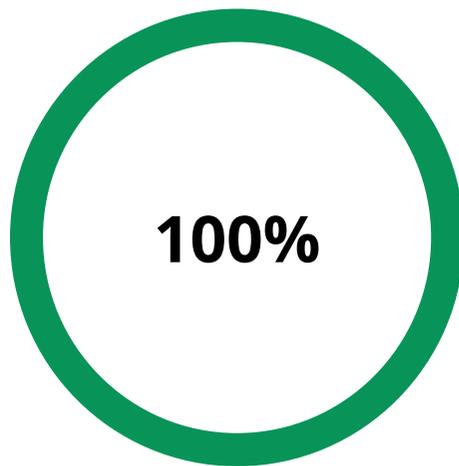
88%

Average Monthly Attendance

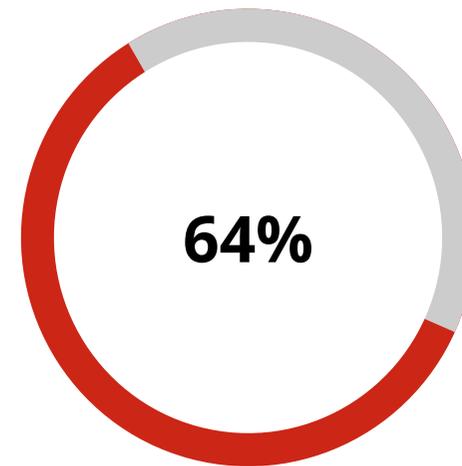
IMPACT

- YEP increases educational attainment in our community by helping junior high school students continue their education. In this regard, it has proven to be highly effective. Last year, our 2016-19 YEP cohort successfully completed the program and all the students passed the BECE examination. Moreover, **64%** of the students achieved high passing score, which means their performance was excellent in BECE.
- Through YEP, students gain more knowledge that opens a wider variety of opportunities, allowing them better possibilities for career and personal growth. Since the beginning of YEP, the majority of the students have pursued higher education while others have opted to contribute to their communities by becoming teachers or nurses.

Achievements of 2016-19 YEP cohort



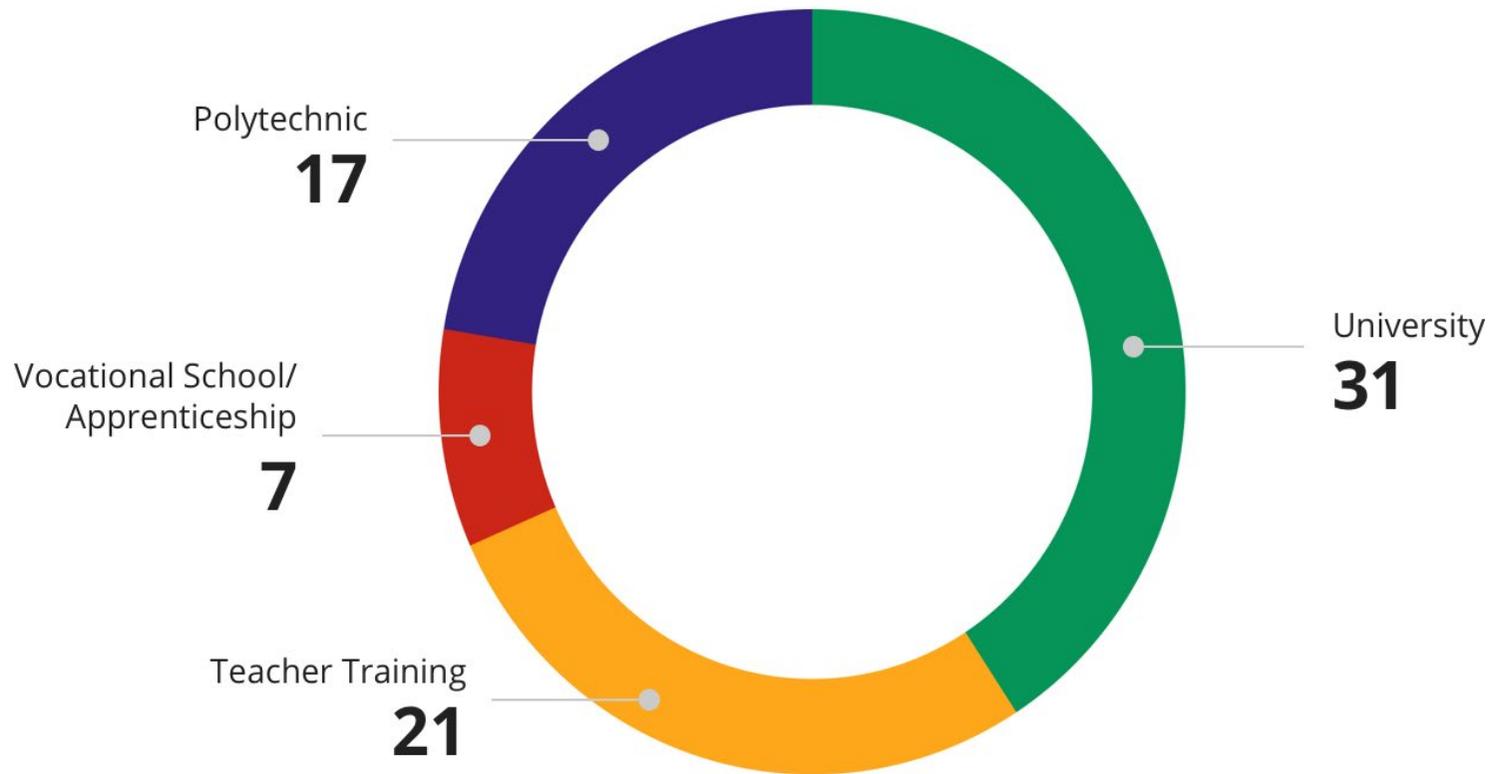
Passing rate in BECE



High Passing score in BECE

Post Senior High School Outcome (Cohorts 2003-16)

100% of students completing YEP and attending Senior High School, go on to attend college/university or technical training.



EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY PROGRAM

Our Early Childhood Literacy Program (ECL) offers 12 extra classroom hours per week of individualized instruction to low performing primary school students. ECL classes are especially important at this critical age when these students in rural communities such as ours are often not seen as worthy investments and their true potential begins to be neglected by their parents and teachers.

With a focus on building literacy skills, the classes use a phonics-based curriculum and incorporate purposeful play, songs, and art, as well as ample time for guided and independent reading and writing. To improve word comprehension, our teachers incorporate the use of sight wall words. GHEI's education team is dedicated to self-improvement and continually researches improved, progressive ways of delivering early childhood education

To encourage attendance amongst students and ensure that students stay focused throughout the day, we give nutritional snacks such as cocoa beverage, Ice-Kenkey, cookies and peanut butter provided by Project Peanut Butter. As a follow up, teachers also visit students in their schools to remind them to attend their ECL sessions at GHEI.

2019 OVERVIEW



24

Students Enrolled in ECL



12:1

Students/Teacher Ratio



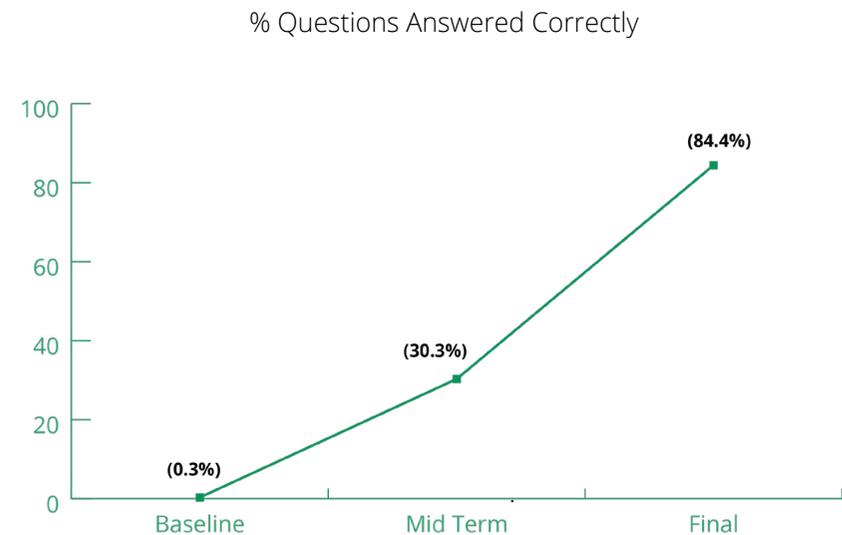
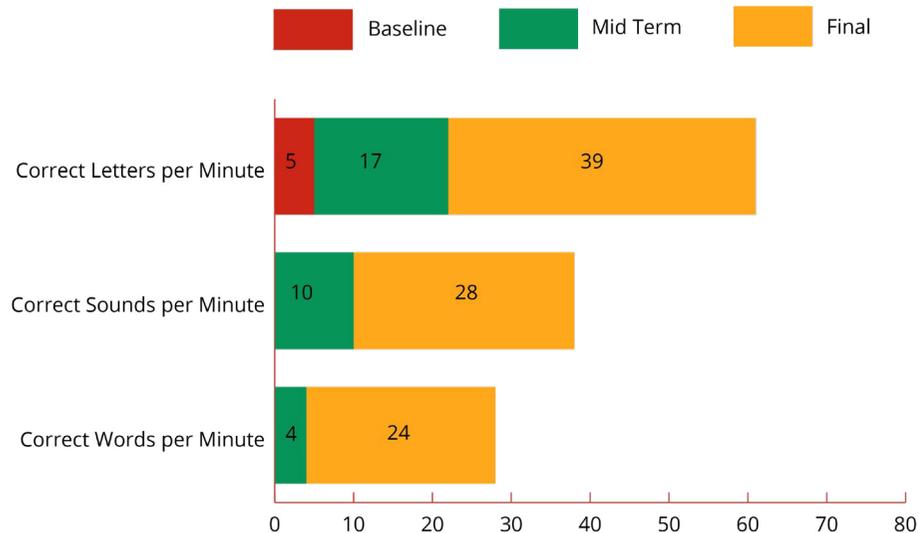
91%

Average Monthly Attendance

IMPACT

- To measure the foundation of literacy acquisition in ECL students, we administer the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) individually to all the students participating in the program. Developed by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) through funding provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank, EGRA provides a battery of assessments of basic reading skills for developing countries to monitor the status of early reading in primary school children.
- ECL program creates a solid and broad foundation for the lifelong learning and wellbeing of children who may have had to drop out of school due to below average performance. Over the years, we have achieved positive results highlighting improved identification of words/letters amongst ECL students. By contributing to harmonious and holistic development of the child's personality, ECL program lays the groundwork for a successful future.
- EGRA assessments of ECL's recently concluded 2017-19 cohort highlight the success and importance of our intervention. Baseline, mid-term and final assessment results show an extraordinary leap in the acquisition of basic literacy skills, knowledge and abilities required for school promotion and overall life achievements!

Results from EGRA Assessment of 2017-19 ECL Cohort



CAREER OPPORTUNITY LECTURE SERIES

The absence of proper career guidance contributes to the lack of higher education preparedness among junior high school students in our communities. Our Career Opportunity Lecture Series (COLS) invites local role models to address junior high school students annually, informing them about possible career paths, and encouraging them to set goals and continue their education in order to realize their professional aspirations.

In 2019, we invited successful persons from the municipality including the police commandant, bank manager and head nurse of the community clinic. They shared information about their respective professions and under-lined the importance of working hard and believing in oneself. GHEI staff also conducted four workshops for the students on the following topics -

- Career Review - Looking at options
- Job and Skills Match
- Vocational and Technical Education
- School Subjects and Job Match

We explained to them different career options and highlighted the necessary skills that would help them stand out in the job market. It was an empowering day for more than 200 students, inspiring them to take the best decisions to achieve their dreams!



SEXUAL EDUCATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Teenage pregnancy and early motherhood are serious obstacles to female empowerment in rural Ghana. Through Sexual Education and Reproductive Health Program (SEaRcH), we deliver comprehensive workshops on sexual education and reproductive health to young girls in rural communities, helping them navigate through challenges they face growing up and into adulthood.

This is a semi-annual program wherein junior high school students from different grades participate in the interactive classes and important subjects such as emotional maturity and sex, menstruation, pregnancy and the transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) are discussed.

SEaRcH consists of the following five modules -

- Sexuality, Sex, Puberty and the Body
- HIV/AIDS, STI's, Pregnancy Prevention
- Life Skills
- Adolescent Gender and Rights
- Passing on What You Have Learned

The objective of the program is to set an example of best practices in reducing teenage pregnancies and STI's in rural Ghanaian communities, which is what we strive for.



IMPACT IN ACTION

Empowering Ghana's Next Female Leaders

In Ghana, girls and young women are faced with cultural, social, political and economic challenges that make their pathway out of poverty and into empowerment even more challenging and difficult. At GHEI, we work to improve educational opportunities for girls by helping them pursue their goals, while demonstrating to their parents and community that girls are not only worth the investment, but that they have a right to it.

Our YEP student, Abigail Manu Benson shares her learning experience and empowering journey at GHEI.

"I was admitted to GHEI's YEP nearly three years ago. When I learnt the news about my enrollment, I was very happy since I knew that this was an opportunity unlike any other. Ever since that day, I have enjoyed attending classes at GHEI. In fact, if I miss a YEP class, my day seems incomplete and I feel that I have lost something valuable in life.

YEP has helped me improve my academics and has given me the confidence to believe in my abilities. As compared to my school, the classes are much more engaging and fun. The teachers provide a wider perspective on core subjects and regularly provide thorough feedback. Moreover, they are supportive and understanding, especially on days when I feel low or tired of studies.

I will be beginning my senior high school journey in a few months and I am excited for it. My time at GHEI empowered me by giving necessary knowledge and support. I am truly grateful to GHEI and I hope that they continue to empower young girls like me for years to come!"

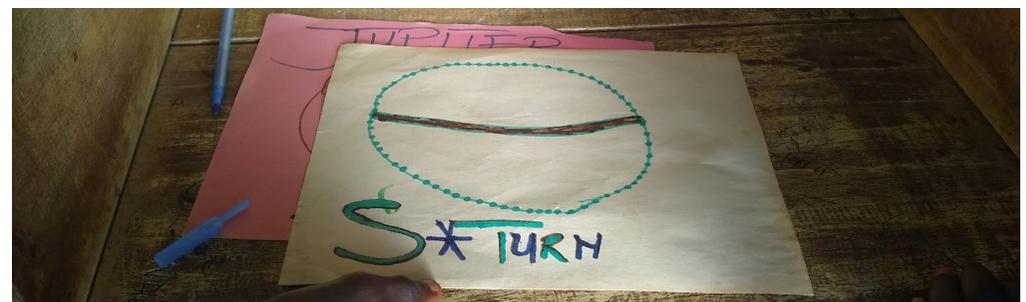
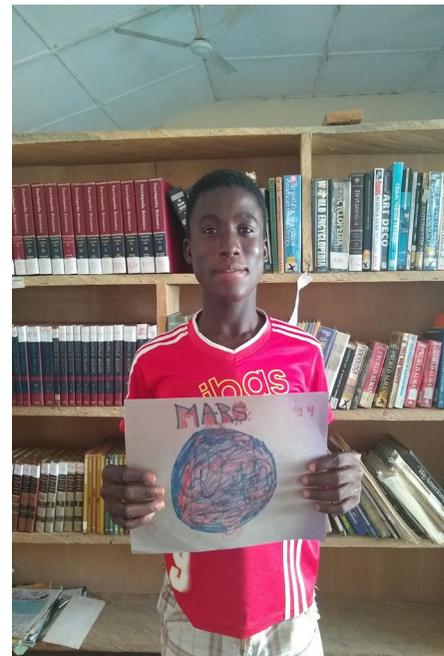


World Science Day 2019

In November 2019, GHEI celebrated The World Science Day for Peace and Development. Together with YEP students, we unraveled and explored the solar system (and beyond...) through an engaging experiential activity that invited them to learn about the distances of Solar System planets from the sun. With the help of clues, they worked with each other to deduce the correct answers.

Science is a part of the compulsory school curriculum in Ghana, but in practice obstacles such as lack of access to learning materials and facilities that support the learning of science prevent children in rural areas from acquiring an adequate grounding in the subject.

At GHEI, we are devoted to opening the field of science to children and leaving no one behind! Our endeavor is to stimulate their curiosity and engage children on important, emerging scientific topics that they otherwise might not have an opportunity to learn about in such a participatory and dynamic way.





Word wall supports literacy instruction during classes, helping children learn words, alphabets, pronunciation etc.



ECL students immersed in learning!



We received portable solar lamps from Altrusa International Foundation, enabling our students to study when there is no electricity.



YEP class in action!

HEALTH

Since its inception, GHEI has established a range of health programs to benefit Humjibre and the surrounding communities. Currently, our health programs focus on enhancing sanitation and hygiene standards, improving the health outcomes of first-time mothers and their babies, and promoting early childhood stimulation through a peer-to-peer support system between first-time mothers and mentors in the community.

MOTHER MENTOR FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Pregnancy and birth are the first of many decisive life events that shape health outcomes within the course of an individual's lifetime. Unfortunately in rural communities in Ghana, there are few healthcare facilities and a lack of critical infrastructure. Consequently, women and newborns are the most vulnerable to health problems.

Our Mother Mentor for Child Development Program (MMCD) pairs first-time pregnant women with trusted mothers in Humjibre who serve as "Mother Mentors." The mentors work with the participating mothers and their families from pregnancy all the way through the first two years of the child's life in order to maximize its health and development. Providing mothers and families with individualized support, education, and vital resources ensures that their child thrives.

MMCD is divided into three distinct phases. Throughout these phases, regular guidance and counseling are delivered, a supply of essential nutritional supplements is provided to the mother and her child, sanitation and hygiene facilities are built in the household and early childhood cognitive development is promoted by creating a stimulating home environment for the child.

Phase 1 – This phase focusses on supporting the mother through the period of pregnancy and lasts until the child is born.

Phase 2 – This phase begins with the birth of the child. Apart from ensuring mother's well-being, the focus now also includes the health and development of the young infant.

Phase 3 – When the child is six months old, our focus widens to promote early childhood cognitive stimulation in addition to the ongoing health component.

2019 OVERVIEW



33

Participants were in the program



7

Healthy mothers and babies successfully graduated



9

Toilets built in participants household

IMPACT

Nutrition

- Due to financial stress, pregnant women in our communities face many barriers such as not getting essential nutrients during pregnancy and after the birth of the child. The absence of good nutrition prevents them from having a healthy pregnancy and this, in turn, adversely impacts the health of infants, leading to poor health outcomes in young children¹. A lack of nutrients affects fetal brain development, healthy birth weight and increases the chance of birth defects (ibid). Therefore, ensuring a nutritious diet is a vital component of the MMCD program.
- When the child is six to nine months old, MMCD participants receive food vouchers worth 7 Ghanaian Cedis per week from GHEI, enabling them to include eggs and bread into their daily diet. We also provide oats, iodized salt and iron folate pills. Additionally, a number of the home visits conducted by mother mentors focus exclusively on highlighting the importance of good nutrition. They also facilitate group discussions on this topic among MMCD participants, giving everybody an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences. Our efforts over the past several years have improved nutrition significantly, as well as increased awareness and understanding among mothers.

¹ Cox, J. T., & Phelan, S. T. (2008). Nutrition during pregnancy. *Obstetrics and gynecology clinics of North America*, 35(3), 369-383.



1000

Food vouchers were provided to MMCD participants, ensuring that they can buy eggs and bread to support their and the babies' health.



91%

MMCD babies had minimum meal frequency. Minimum meal frequency is defined as when a 6-8 month old is fed at least 2 meals and when a 9-24 month old is fed at least 3 meals.



97%

MMCD participants had taken iron tablets provided to them by GHEI, 24 hours prior to enquiry. Iron during pregnancy is important because it's used to produce additional blood for the baby.



100%

MMCD babies (6-8 months old) were introduced to solid foods, compared to 73% babies of the same age in the community.

Sanitation & Hygiene

- In our community, pregnant women and newborns face threats from diseases and infections such as diarrhea due to poor hygiene and sanitation standards in their households. Since its inception, GHEI has been continually emphasizing the importance of sanitation and hygiene to pregnant mothers and their family members. Improving sanitation, hygiene and promoting awareness of such topics among MMCD participants is an imperative component of the program.
- To tackle poor hygiene and improve sanitation, we build toilets in every MMCD participant's house. Since the program's inception, we have constructed over 35 toilets benefiting more than 500 people including immediate family members and relatives of MMCD participants. By building toilets, we reduce instances of open defecation, provide ease of access and prevent the spread of infections by reducing the number of people using the toilet. Moreover, participants receive a regular supply of soaps and veronica buckets, as well as being educated on correct handwashing technique, helping them achieve better hygienic standards.



278

Bottles of liquid soap were provided to MMCD participants.



12

Veronica buckets were provided to MMCD participants.



95%

MMCD babies did not have diarrhea in the two weeks prior to enquiry.



96%

MMCD participants disposed stools appropriately by either rinsing the diaper into the latrine or after when the child had used the latrine himself or herself.

Early Childhood Stimulation

- Early Childhood Stimulation contributes to children’s cognitive and socio-emotional development. Poverty limits the parents’ ability to spend time and money to play with, feed, and educate their children, resulting in a less stimulating home environment¹. In order to mitigate the negative effects of poverty on the development of young infants, the MMCD program promotes Early Childhood Stimulation in its final phase. As the child reaches six months or above, mother mentors conduct house visits that focus exclusively on training parents to provide cognitive stimulation to their babies. We also organize monthly playgroup sessions giving mothers the opportunity to share their experiences and seek guidance from GHEI staff, while their young ones socialize with others within their age group, engaging with toys and simple play activities.
- To keep track of developmental status and place formal milestone checklists, we rely on Parents Evaluation and Developmental Status (PEDS), which is a tool that measures and understands development in young children. The approach entails asking parents the right questions in the right way, because they are generally accurate observers of their child’s strengths and weaknesses. 2019 PEDS assessment scores of crucial indicators reveal a healthy rate of development amongst the MMCD babies. The scores in other activities such as reading, singing and telling stories highlight a good level of engagement between parents and their babies, revealing a positive development due to GHEI’s continuous training and guidance.

¹ J-PAL. (2020, 2 26). Early Childhood Stimulation. Retrieved from [povertactionlab: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/policy-lessons/education-health-labor-markets-crime-violence-conflict/early-childhood-stimulation](https://www.povertyactionlab.org/policy-lessons/education-health-labor-markets-crime-violence-conflict/early-childhood-stimulation)

PEDS Assessment (Average Scores)



Gross Motor Skills

90%



Social Emotion

92%



Expressive Language

86%

Other Activities (Average Scores)



Read Books

75%



Sang Songs

89%



Told Stories

82%

HEALTH FACILITY DELIVERY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

When a mother chooses to deliver her baby outside of health facilities, she puts her own life and that of her newborn in danger, particularly if complications arise. In rural Ghana, health facilities can be difficult to reach and without proper transportation, pregnant women are forced to deliver at home.

We aim to reduce such preventable deaths through our Health Facility Delivery Incentive Program (HFDIP) in Ampenkrom community. In collaboration with pediatric residents from the David Geffen School of Medicine at The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), GHEI staff and Community Health Workers designed this program with the intention of increasing the proportion of deliveries performed in health facilities by reducing the financial barriers preventing women from delivering their babies in clinics and hospitals.

Pregnant women who are in their sixth to ninth month of pregnancy attend distribution days hosted by GHEI's health team to answer questions about their past and intended delivery locations and receive pre-delivery packages of items commonly needed at health facilities during childbirth. After delivery, women return to GHEI to collect a post-delivery incentive package and answer questions about their delivery location and experience.

In 2019, **89%** of HFDIP participants reported that they had delivered their baby at a medical facility. All of them expressed that the pre-delivery packages were very important as the health workers asked them to provide the commonly needed items during childbirth. Participants stated that the incentives reduced financial stress and helped them to opt for safer childbirth locations such as clinics and hospitals.

2019 OVERVIEW

74

Pre delivery packages were provided to pregnant mothers



2 antiseptics



2 bottles of bleach



4 cakes of soap

66

Post delivery packages were provided to pregnant mothers



2 baby blankets



4 baby diapers

10 in 11

HFDIP participants delivered their baby at medical facility



IMPACT IN ACTION

Sparking a Child's Imagination

"During the day, I make sure I take out time to read to Hilda. She loves listening to stories and I encourage her to ask questions. I also read aloud together with her. I am trying to make reading a regular part of her life. She likes to guide my hand towards pictures and saying names aloud. I am happy that she is learning and improving.

Two years ago, when I got pregnant with Hilda, I did not know the importance of reading to my child. I am extremely glad, and I feel lucky to have participated in the program. Mother mentors regularly visited my house and we spent time with Hilda together. I saw how happy and excited she would be when we are singing or reading. The interaction with mother mentors was extremely useful and it informed me about new ways I can engage with my daughter and keep her happy.

Today, I am confident and positive about Hilda's future. She is a bright girl and I know that she will achieve whatever she wants and become successful in life. Thank you for everything!"

The Mother Mentor program is bringing lasting impact to future generations in rural Ghana. For Betty, the MMCD Program has built confidence in the power of reading and for Hilda, it has created a foundation for a bright future and lasting achievement.



Global Handwashing Awareness Day 2019

"Clean Hands-A recipe for Health"

On Global Handwashing Awareness Day 2019, we conducted outreach in four junior high schools and four primary schools in Humjibre and surrounding communities of Kojina and Muoho. This is an annual school-based initiative that reinforces proper Handwashing with Soap (HWWS) techniques at the schools, hands out prizes to students who practice correct HWWS methods and provide yearly soap supplies to the schools.

We spoke to the students about the importance of HWWS and GHEI staff conducted a live training to raise awareness of the proper hand-washing methods. Students demonstrated these methods in front of their peers and we discussed washing hands with soap at critical times during the day, especially before preparing food. We were able to reach more than 1000 students that day!





Mother Mentor explaining aspects of breastfeeding to MMCD participants.



HFDIP Pre incentive package given to pregnant mothers



Mother Mentor seen here engaging with MMCD children to improve their cognitive development.



Group session where GHEI staff can be seen providing guidance and knowledge of critical nutritional aspects to MMCD participants



HFDIP is a proven intervention that focuses on raising women's awareness on the benefits of delivering in a health facility.



Mother Mentor is providing guidance to first-time mothers on how they can engage better with their child and stimulate their minds.



By pairing first-time mothers and with trusted mothers in the community who serve as "Mother Mentors", we maximize their health and development by providing individualized support, education, and resources.



Play group sessions provide children the space to express themselves freely, make new friends and play with toys. This adds to their overall cognitive and emotional development.

LIBRARIES

A library is an important cornerstone for any community. Our libraries promote the progress of knowledge in the children of our communities, giving them a chance to learn new ideas and immerse themselves in wonderful stories, while at the same time helping to improve literacy skills.

HUMJIBRE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In Humjibre, there is a lack of literary resources available, which is exacerbated by the lack of textbooks in schools. Moreover, students do not have access to quiet spaces that are conducive to learning. We believe that every individual - regardless of age, gender, or socio-economic status should have access to a learning environment where they can expand their knowledge and increase their literacy level.

To give our community, and in particular our students, the opportunity to learn and improve their literacy in preparation for obtaining a higher education, we constructed a library in Humjibre in 2007. It has a collection of books on wide ranging topics such as Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Science, Travel, Health, Classics and History. However, there is a special emphasis on children's books, school textbooks and books authored by African authors.

The library provides students and adults a quiet, text-rich environment to improve literacy skills by engaging with various types of reading materials, while at the same time providing a place for gathering.

The Humjibre Community Library is generously supported by the Books for Africa Library Project who provide books every year and organize training to support the library administrator's role.

2019 OVERVIEW



6500+

Books



981

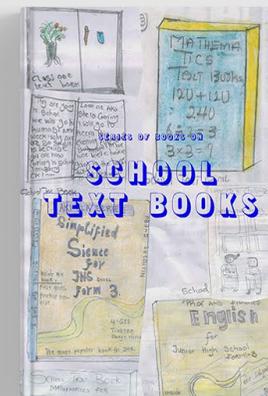
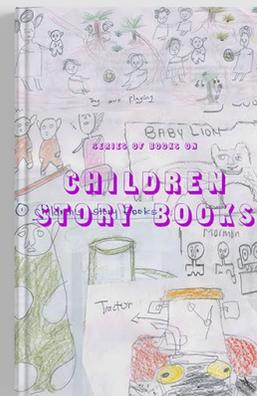
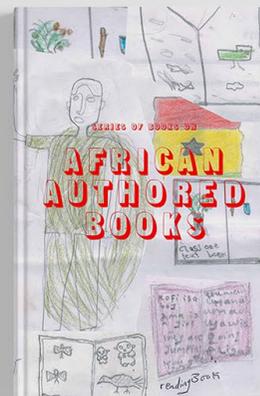
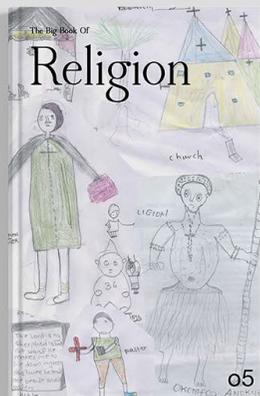
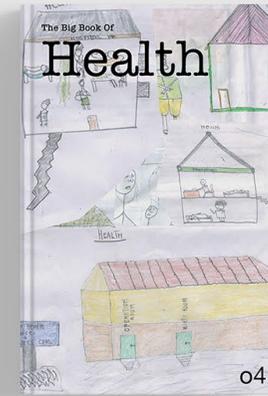
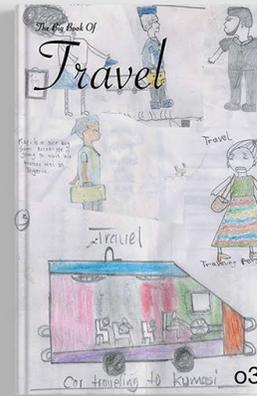
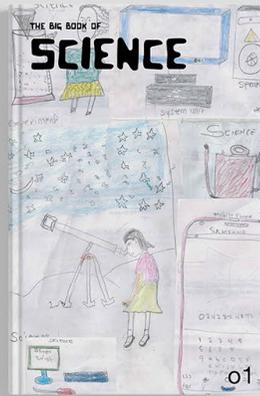
Average users per month



451

Average monthly attendance of girls

LIBRARY BOOK COLLECTION



IMPACT

Humjibre Library Reading Club

- The Reading Club is an opportunity for junior high school students to engage with various African-authored books in a supportive atmosphere. Students gather at the Humjibre Community Library to read selected titles from the Junior African Writers Series or African Writer Series, answer comprehension questions, and discuss the different topics presented in the materials. The Reading Club is open to all junior high school students in Humjibre.
- The Reading Club initiative has garnered increasing popularity since it was introduced. Once enrolled, the students actively participate in the meetings and enjoy gaining new perspectives. It contributes to improving the writing and speaking skills of the members and boosts their interpersonal interaction and teamwork skills. Moreover, the club has inculcated positive reading attitudes, increased the self-confidence of our students as readers and promoted intercultural understanding. The children also display higher engagement at school. Undoubtedly, the joy of reading, especially reading with confidence, has a big impact on the child's success.



Increased Vocabulary



Improved Text
Comprehension and
Grammar



Improved Writing Ability



Improved Speaking
Ability

BOOKS IN A BOX

The Books in a Box Project aims to improve literacy in the Soroano community by providing culturally appropriate and educational books to primary school students. Our 2013 baseline assessment revealed a low knowledge of letter names in primary school students in Soroano. The average score was a mere 39%. To tackle this issue, we decided to provide more than 300 books to students. They are divided into six sets, one for each classroom and placed in wooden boxes for safe storage.

In 2016, we evaluated the impact of our intervention and learnt that the average score of letter name recognition among the 210 students at the Soroano District Assembly Primary School had increased to **82%**!

We work diligently with local authorities and other key stakeholders of the Soroano District Assembly Primary School to continue strengthening the students' literacy skills by implementing the program and monitoring its impacts.

2019 OVERVIEW



300+

Books



6

Boxes



210

Students Reached

IMPACT IN ACTION



Reading Club in action!



We organized a movie night for our children and watched Tom n Jerry!



School children posing with their Book Box library provided by GHEI!



Humjibre Community Library is a perfect environment for children to improve their literacy skills.

HERS - HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

In response to severely restricted opportunities for girls and young women living in rural Ghana, we launched Health and Educational Resources for Success (HERS) on International Day of the Girl Child 2018. Through HERS, we ensure that girls and women are equipped with the tools and resources necessary to live healthy, safe and productive lives.

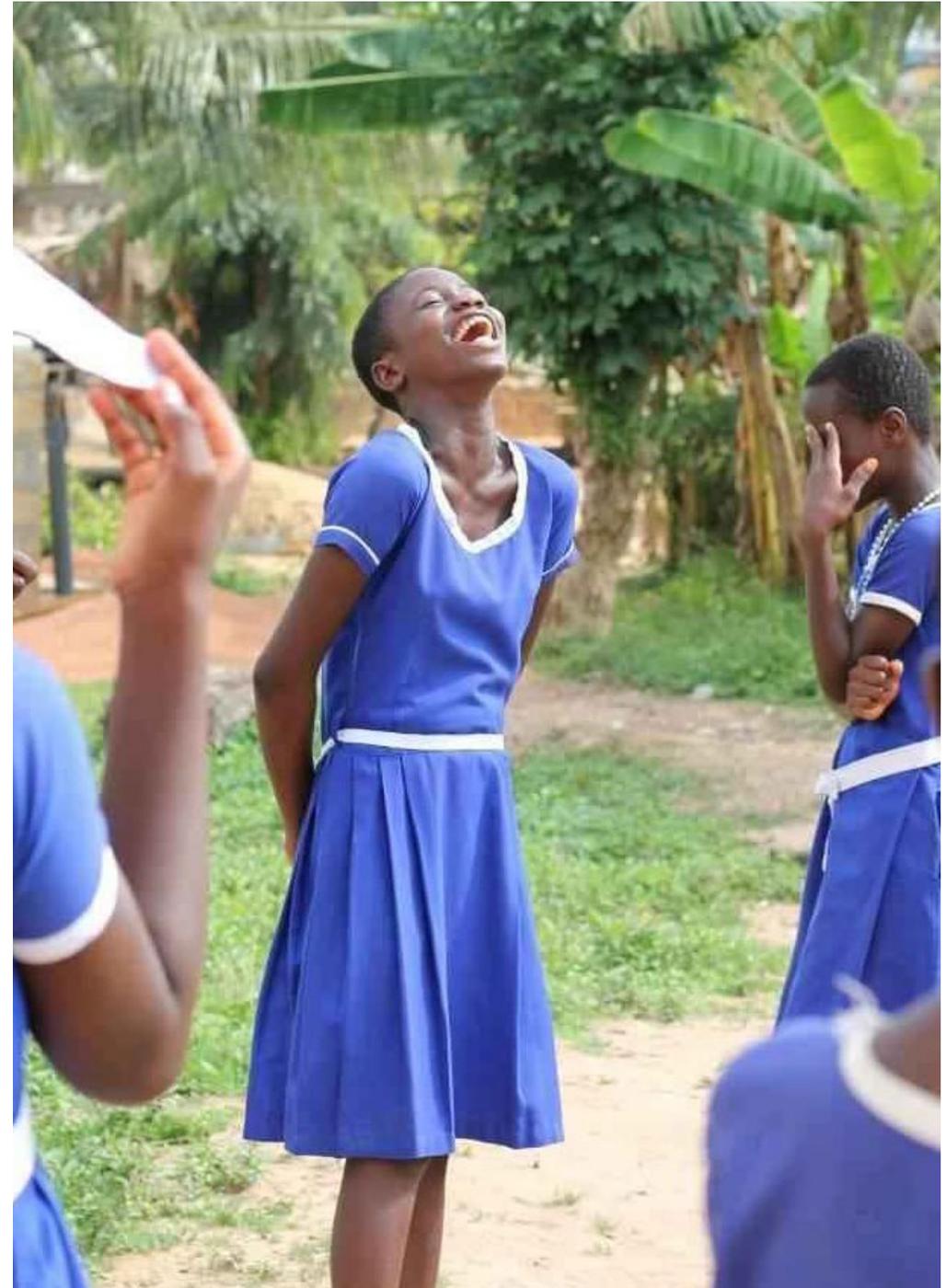
HERS - HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

For girls and young women in rural Ghana, poverty obstructs prospects of becoming independent and influential individuals. It is their greatest barrier to accessing good health and education. Girls are the first to drop out of school because they are often seen as a financial burden and have to earn money to support their families, forcing them to discontinue their education. Without education and faced with the perils of early marriage, early pregnancy and abuse, they are denied the chance to fulfill their limitless potential and break the cycle of poverty for good.

While girls and young women want the best for themselves and their families, they lack the necessary knowledge and resources to succeed and become leaders of change in their communities. We believe that educating them is an imperative investment we can make to defeat poverty and create empowered communities.

Through HERS we are supporting girls and young women from poor households in rural Ghana. HERS gives girls and young women the chance to learn, thrive and lead change within their communities. It multiplies the number of girls achieving education at different levels, improves access to good health care services, increases awareness and accelerates their path to better livelihoods and leadership.

HERS catalyzes the power of vulnerable girls and young women to create a future they imagine and deserve - for themselves, their families, their communities, and for Ghana.



IMPACT

- Our Education Programs are revolutionizing how education is delivered to girls. To lower the education gap between boys and girls, **60%** of students enrolled in ECL and YEP programs are female. During the course of our programming, the BECE passage rate for girls has increased from 4% to 96%! Interventions such as SEaRcH helps to reduce instances of teenage childbearing and dismantles barriers to educational attainment by allowing them to remain in school and do well academically. Moreover, the Girls Empowerment Camp held annually each summer provides a holistic and targeted mentoring support to 40 teenage girls covering topics such as Gender-based violence, Safe Sex, Money Management, Self Esteem and Leadership.
- Our Health Programs begin with an individual young woman in rural Ghana. We believe that getting pregnant shouldn't be a dangerous thing for her and her family. Through our community based health interventions we are making sure that becoming a mother is a special time full of happiness and excitement. Since our inception, we have improved health outcomes in hundreds of young women living in rural Ghana by providing them medical support and care, thereby ensuring safe deliveries and protection from diseases. We are providing convenient and confident access to health care facilities. Our efforts have brought empowering and positive change for so many young women and their families.

Why HERS?



She'll be less likely to be infected with diseases and have a healthier family



She will resist Gender-based violence and discrimination



She will avoid teenage pregnancy and marry later



She will not only value her education but also invest in her children's studies

SUMMER SERVE AND LEARN

Our annual Summer Serve and Learn (SSL) Program offers participants the chance to be immersed in a rural Ghanaian community and work alongside local staff and community members in support of our year-round health and education programs.

SUMMER SERVE & LEARN, GHANA

Established in 2004, the SSL program gives participants unparalleled access to our catchment communities and a unique chance to do hands on development work through transformative sessions aimed at ending poverty and empowering rural communities. It is an opportunity to serve vulnerable people and learn while exploring and enjoying local experiences.

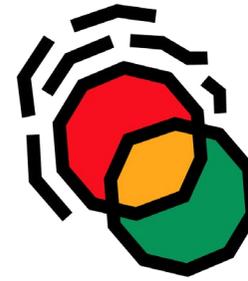
The SSL sessions include -

Community Health Evaluation

Participants in this session become a part of a thorough and in depth evaluation of community health, concentrating on achieving better understanding of current and emerging health needs of rural communities. Crucially, our health programs are informed by Community Health Evaluation surveys which involve collecting data from households in our communities. In 2015, Community Health Evaluation was conducted in order to assess the problems that existed pertaining to maternal and child health. This information collected was the basis for the MMCD program.

Girls Empowerment Camp

In this session, participants conduct an exhaustive empowerment camp for teenage girls and design engaging curriculum for essential themes such as sexual and reproductive health, money management, leadership etc. This session aims to motivate teenage girls in realizing their full potential. Through interactive group sessions and one on one mentorship, It contributes towards a renewed sense of awareness and many of the girls later credit Girls Empowerment Camp for their achievements.



**Summer Serve
& Learn, Ghana**

Est. 2004

New Identity in 2019

Last year, we proudly unveiled a logo for the SSL program. Designed and created by Sachit Shyam, the design philosophy of the symbol has ethos inspired by the Adinkra symbols. Inspired by nature, it represents the symbiosis of the sun and the earth coming together to *serve communities and bring a change*.

The aesthetics are inspired from the traditional Ghanaian art style, borrowing stroke structures and form from the traditional kente fabric.



FINANCIALS

Thanks to the hard work and the generosity of so many, 2019 was an impactful year for GHEI! We continued to look for ways to increase our income and reinforced fundraising efforts. Moreover, we are committed to transparency, not only in sharing our impact outcomes but also our financial information. Our life-changing work is possible because of our supporters who are now part of our fight against poverty.

2018 -19 Fiscal Year		
Revenue	421,740 GHC	\$84,348
Operating Expenses	314,940 GHC	\$62,988

100% of GHEI's operational costs in Ghana go directly towards supporting our programs and benefitting the communities we serve.



IN GRATITUDE

To Our Donors and Partners,

Your significant contributions to GHEI has ensured better health and education for children and families, while giving hope and delivering profound impact to rural communities in Ghana.

Your belief in our vision continues to inspire us! We value the gifts received from all individual donors and are in deep gratitude to the commitment of our partners.

Thank you for believing in us and joining us on this journey towards a better future for Ghana.

Altrusa International Foundation

BAB Municipal Department of Social Welfare

BAB Municipal Education Directorate

BAB Municipal Health Directorate

Books for Africa Library Project

German Rotary Club

GIVN Water

One Day's Wages

Photographers Without Borders

Project Peanut Butter

UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Zongo Story Project





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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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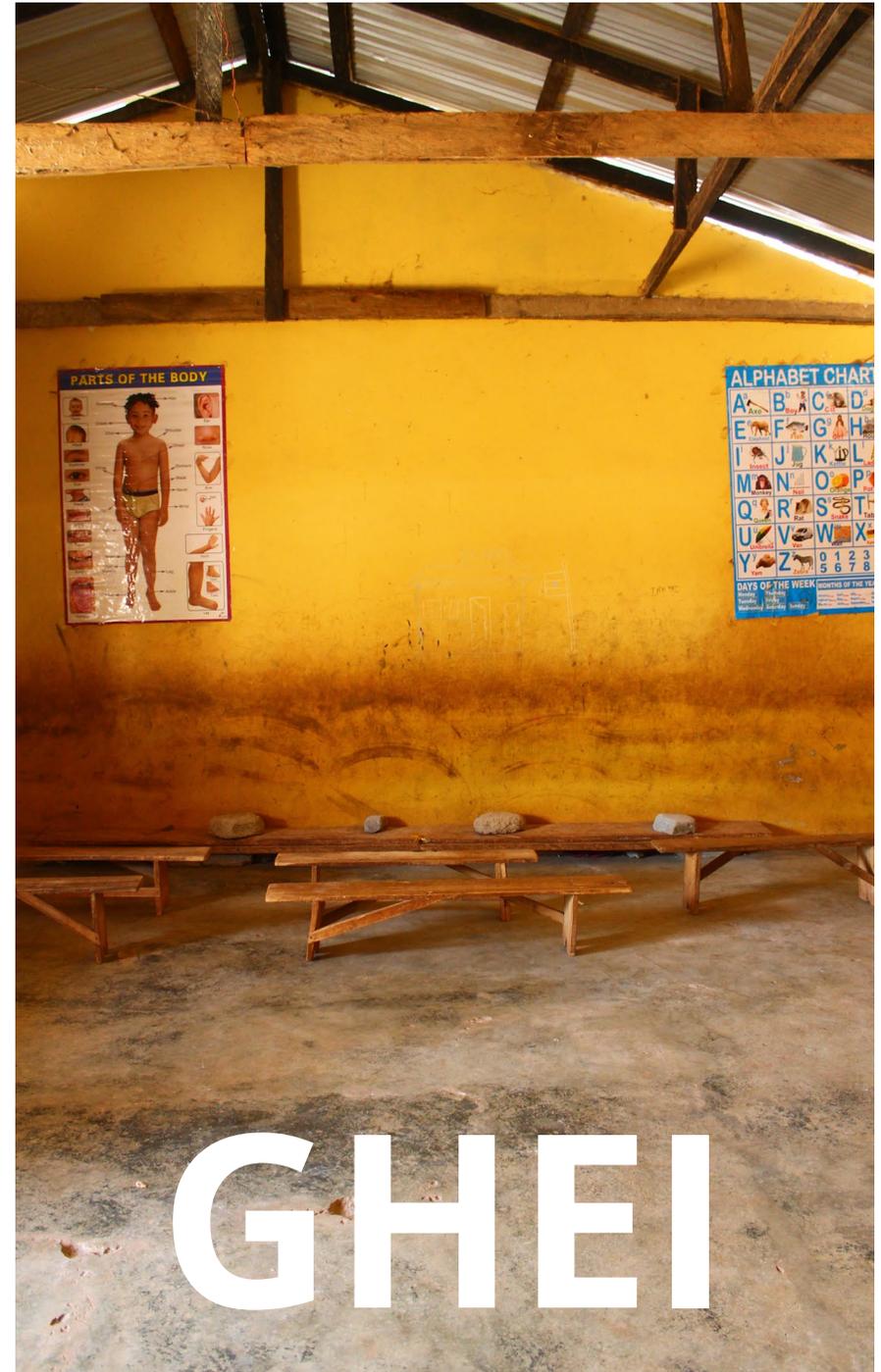
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 Ghana Health and Education Initiative

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The mission of G.H.E.I. is to enable communities in the BAB District of Ghana to improve their children's health, learning success and opportunities by building local capacity and providing necessary resources and support.

