SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

mmofrado

Issue No. 16

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for the love of children



www.sosghana.org


EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE
Strengthen their care and employability
ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN
Give them a voice and increase advocacy impact
CREATE A MOVEMENT
Mobilise people for quality child care
SIMPLIFY SOS
Create a simpler, agile and digital organisation
INVEST FOR FUNDING GROWTH
Grow federation funding boldly from diverse markets
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES
Focus on preventing family separation and on emergency response
INNOVATE ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE
Innovate and grow alternative care and deepen its integration
MANY MORE CHILDREN SUCCEED IN LIFE
CHILD CARE MOVEMENT
SAFEGUARDING
ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMITMENT
COURAGE
TRUST

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IMPRINT

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Editorial

48 Years of Impacting the Lives of Vulnerable Children and Families in Ghana

Over the past 48 years, the organization's interventions have expanded to include innovative alternative care, youth development, family strengthening, child protection and advocacy for the rights of children. Our programme implementation aligns with Ghana's developmental agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 6 (Clean water and Sanitation), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

Despite the laudable achievement over the years, we acknowledge that there is still more to be done to reach out to many more vulnerable children and families in Ghana with our humanitarian services. To achieve this goal, we will rely on the collaboration, support and goodwill of individuals and institutions. From our editorial lenses, this is a call to partnership and to benevolent individuals to support quality care for underprivildged children and young people in our target group to reach their highest potential, in order to contribute meaningfully to national development

'Mmofrado' - for the love of children

It was for the love of the children that Hermann Gmeiner set up the SOS Children's Villages to cater for children who need help.

It is for the love of the children that our co-workers work tirelessly to help cater for the children and help fulfil the vision of Hermann Gmeiner.

It is for the love of the children that SOS mothers devote their lives to provide love and affection for the children.

Indeed, it is for the love of children that we are all encouraged to support all SOS Villages in our communities.

Kindly share your views, suggestions and feedback with us via email @ sos.ghana@sosghana.org after reading Mmofrado Issue No. 16. We welcome the opportunity to build a partnership towards improving quality care for the children in our programmes and Ghana at large. You can call 0302 222 867 or 0279 577 779 / 0274 877 779.

Enjoy this edition of Mmofrado!



THE LEGACY OF HERMANN GMEINER

Founder of SOS Children's Villages
(23 June 1919 – 26 April 1986)

He was born to a big family of farmers in Vorarlberg (present-day Austria), Hermann Gmeiner was a talented child and won a scholarship to attend grammar school. His mother died while he was still a young boy, and his eldest sister Elsa, took on the task of caring for the smallest of the children.

Having experienced the horrors of war himself as a soldier in Russia, he was then confronted with the isolation and suffering of the many war orphans and homeless children as a child welfare worker after the end of the Second World War. In his conviction that help can never be effective as long as the children have to grow up without a home of their own, he set about implementing his idea for SOS Children's Villages.

With just 600 Austrian schillings (approx. 40 US dollars) in his pocket and a number of other child welfare pioneers, both women and men, Hermann Gmeiner established the SOS Children's Village Association in 1949, and in the same year the foundation stone was laid for the first SOS Children's Village in Imst, in the Austrian state of Tyrol. His work with the children and development of the SOS Children's Village organization kept Hermann Gmeiner so busy that he finally decided to discontinue his medical degree course.

In the following decades, his life was inseparably linked with his commitment to a family-centred child-care concept based on the four pillars of a mother, a house, brothers and sisters, and a village. Given his exclusive focus on the need to help abandoned children, the rest of his biography reads like the history of SOS Children's Villages themselves. He served as Village Director in Imst, organized the construction of further SOS Children's Villages in Austria, and helped to set up SOS Children's Villages in many other countries of Europe.

In 1960 SOS-Kinderdorf International was established in Strasbourg as the umbrella organization for SOS Children's Villages with Hermann Gmeiner as the first President. In the following years the activities of SOS Children's Villages spread beyond Europe. The sensational "grain of rice" campaign raised enough funds to permit the first non-European SOS Children's Village to be built in Daegu, Korea in 1963, and SOS Children's Villages on the American and African continents followed.

By 1985, the result of Hermann Gmeiner's work was a total of 233 SOS Children's Villages in 85 countries. In recognition of his services to orphaned and abandoned children he received numerous awards and was nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize. However, he was always at pains to stress that, it was only thanks to the support of millions of people that it had been possible to achieve the goal of providing abandoned children with a permanent home, and that still applies today.

Although, Hermann Gmeiner died in Innsbruck in 1986 and was buried at SOS Children's Village Imst, his legacy of excellence is what drives SOS Children's Villages to be the largest global defenders of children who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it.

Credit: SOS Children's Villages International

Who we are



OUR MISSION

We build families for children in need
We help them shape their own future
We share in the development of their communities



OUR VALUES

COURAGE: We Take Action
COMMITMENT: We Keep Our Promises
TRUST: We Believe in Each Other
ACCOUNTABILITY: We are Reliable Partners

OUR VISION

Every Child Belongs to a Family and Grows Up with Love, Respect and Security.



Message from the Board Chair

MR. CHRISTIAN APPIAH

I am privileged to be part of this organization that is making so much impact in the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children in Ghana. To every valued employee of SOS Children's Villages in Ghana; I wish to graciously thank you for your dedication, hard work and contribution towards quality care for the underprivileged children in Ghana. Your efforts towards the successful implementation of our programmes have been unmatched. I encourage you to keep up the good work in service of underprivileged children and their families.

To our committed partners, we wouldn't have been able to achieve this feat without your support. Considering the state of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in Ghana, we believe the way to go is to collaborate with strategic partners that share a common goal of improving the lives of children and young people.

To reach many more vulnerable children and families, there is a need to foster increased collaboration of expertise and resources in promoting the development of vulnerable families to better care for their children. This is the true value of partnerships that seek to strengthen, support and transform the lives of innocent children through the effective alignment of goals and efficient utilization of resources for the implementation of quality community projects.

Building valid partnerships require broadening our outreaches, community intervention schemes and alliances with development agents and organizations to create an effective synergy to negotiate and petition decision-makers for the inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in national development.

We will increase our ties with relevant stakeholders to explore developmental opportunities that respond to trends and amplify our impacts by aligning our programme activities with emerging perspectives and expertise.

It is time to widen our network of partnerships and I entreat existing partners to identify like-minded stakeholders to join us on this endless journey of prioritizing community development with emphasis on OVCs.

Best regards!



Message from the National Director

MR. ALEXANDER MAR KEKULA

It has been 48 wonderful years of providing quality care for underprivileged children in Ghana. As an organization, we are filled with immense gratitude when we look back at the successes we have chalked and the lives we have impacted over the period of our existence.

Let me take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to our Donors, Corporate and Individual Friends, Programme Partners and Stakeholders for your diverse contribution towards the achievement of our programme objectives.

To the dedicated staff and care co-workers in our programme, I appreciate your commitment to the goal of ensuring the fulfilment of our care priorities and programme impact in all our interventions. Irrespective of the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization was able to extend its support to many more vulnerable children and families due to the benevolent contributions and donations of our donors and friends.

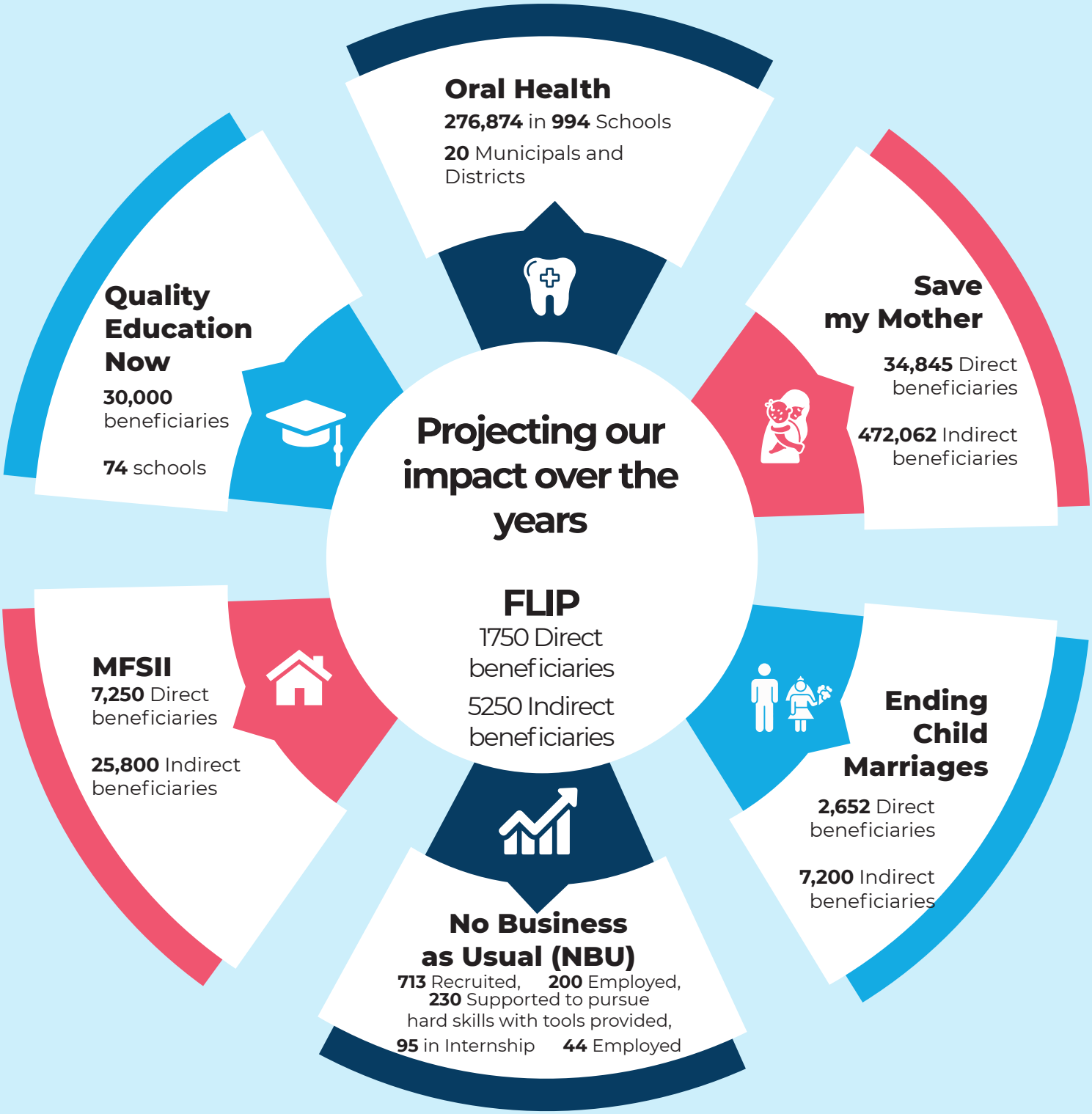
The pandemic has gradually evolved as recorded worldwide, becoming a significant challenge to most governments. Ghana is no different, hence the need to double up efforts to complement the work of government by supporting underprivileged children, vulnerable families and young people who are the worse affected group by this global crisis.

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana has embraced a much more dynamic and impactful measure to ensure that, the local communities we support gradually emerge from the negative effects of the pandemic through Economic Empowerment. This model is targeted at providing caregivers with the requisite skills and knowledge to venture into income-generating activities to provide a stable source of revenue to help families better care for their children.

To effectively expand our scope and reach many more children, it behoves us to build more partnerships, collaborate with like-minded organizations, and pool resources together to implement interventions and projects to benefit a wider group of people in deprived communities in Ghana.

Importantly, let us not forget that truly 'It takes a Village to raise a child". The welfare of the underprivileged Ghanaian child is the responsibility of us all. As citizens, we must provide for the underprivileged children in Ghana to also have a chance to life, grow in a safe and healthy environment and experience a happy childhood.
This is a call to service and a charge to partner with SOS Children's Villages in Ghana in building a sustainable future for the vulnerable children in Ghana.
Become a local sponsor today and support us to make a difference in the lives of these children.

Facts and Figures





ALTERNATIVE CARE: Building Loving Homes for Children who have lost Parental Care

When a child cannot be cared for by their biological parents, SOS Children's Villages in Ghana collaborates with the Department of Social Welfare and the community to innovate and assess other locally relevant care options that are most suitable for the child, using the strict gatekeeping system in place. Based on this principle SOS Children's Villages in Ghana currently implements SOS Family Like Care, Foster Care, SOS Families in the Communities and Short-Term Care. In order to ensure coherence of all programmes, the organization's Alternative Care Programme has been aligned to the National Care Reform Initiative and UN Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children. Our alternative care is supporting 668 children in the 4 programme locations in Tema, Asiakwa, Kumasi and Tamale.



FAMILY STRENGTHENING: Contributing to Community Development

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana runs a Family Strengthening (FS) programme that serves as a community outreach initiative geared towards supporting vulnerable families with children who stand the risk of losing parental care. We work with families, caregivers and communities to prevent crisis that can lead to child and family separation and abandonment. Our services strengthen and stabilize families and their social networks so that children are better cared for and protected in their families of origin.

The organization continues to collaborate with community based organizations, government institutions, private groups, the Metropolitan, District and Municipal Assembly, etc. in facilitating capacity building exercises to boost economic empowerment, access to social services, child protection and ultimately to build a strong civil society. By partnering with other agencies, we seek to provide vulnerable families with the needed support through economic empowerment and skills acquisition. This is to strengthen their capacities to live together and care for their children. We do this with the belief that a 'family' is the basic unit of society. The organization has supported over 10 million children, young people and their families across the country over the years through its community intervention projects.

Our Programmes at a Glance

CURRENT DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Children in Alternate Care
668

Children in Family Strengthening
4,495

Number of Families
2,479

Children in Other Projects
30,620

Number of Young People
16,720

PROJECTS

SOLIDARITY FUND

The project seeks to support the economic recovery of vulnerable families and children to navigate the negative impact of COVID-19 through grants, soft credit, entrepreneurship and financial management training to caregivers and youth (in need) to boost their income-generating activities. With a total budget of 381,213 Euros, the project provides parental skills and child protection training to caregivers and supports vulnerable children to have increased access to education by providing educational materials and extra tuition as well as provides funds to support vulnerable schools with WASH facilities by renovating or constructing new ones. The project provides enhanced stability of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of staff, mothers and children in the Children's Village. It is expected that at the end of the one year project, there will be increased support for 30,000 vulnerable children, 500 caregivers and 100 youth to enable them access quality social services within their communities.

PROTECTING THE FUTURE

This is an intervention to reduce child labour and trafficking in the fishing industry on the Volta Lake and strengthen the capacities of communities, families and duty-bearers (Police, Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Ghana Education Service (GES), the Judiciary) to effectively address child labour and child trafficking in 2 source districts i.e. Awutu-Senya West and Ada West Districts. With Challenging Heights as its implementing partner, and a total budget of 578,000 Euro, SOS Children's Villages envisages that the desired outcomes of the project will be achieved by rescuing, rehabilitating and integrating 500 survivors of worst forms of child labour; supporting their 380 caregivers to provide their basic needs; empowering their communities to protect them; and lobbying duty bearers to enforce existing legislature.

FS TAMALE

a. **FS Cheshe Project:** The project is aimed at improving the self-reliance of 60 families and helping them to create a protective and supportive environment for 120 vulnerable children and 20 young people. Under this project, a 10 unit classroom (KG: 4 classes and Primary: 6 classes) has been renovated for Cheshe R/C Basic School.

b. **French Solidarity Project (Sagnarigu Women Empowerment):** This project spearheaded by SOS CV Ghana with funding from the French Embassy in Ghana is to facilitate economic empowerment among women in the Sagnarigu District of the Northern Region. Estimated to benefit 11,500 beneficiaries in the district, the project is expected to reduce gender-based violence (including child marriage) and strengthen the capacity of women for improved sources of income.

c. **FS Fooshegu:** SOS CV Ghana will continue Family Strengthening services to support vulnerable families in Fooshegu, Gbilahibilla, Chanshegu, Adubiliyi and Banvim through a variety of services with a focus on capacity development and empowering local organizations and target-groups, to develop and organize service delivery and economic development initiatives on their own to promote sustainability of the project. This Project is financed by SOS Sweden with a budget allocation of 160,000 Euros annually for 3 years to directly promote the provision of quality care for 1,200 children and the strengthening of 300 families and 250 youth.

SAGNARIGU WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

As part of measures to facilitate economic empowerment among women as well as promote gender equality and curb gender based-violence in the Sagnarigu District of the Northern Region, SOS Children's Villages in Ghana with support from the Embassy of France in Ghana has launched the Sagnarigu Women's Empowerment Project on at its Children's Village in Tamale. This initiative seeks to reach out to an estimate of 11,500 beneficiaries in the district after a survey by the organization revealed that women in the municipality are the most disadvantaged group hence, the need to focus on activities that

foster economic empowerment as part of capacity building to enable them participate and contribute to self-growth and community development at large. The project will achieve two (2) main objectives being to reduce gender-based violence (including child marriage) and to strengthen the capacity of women for improved sources of income. Through the implementation of this project, the organization will work to strengthen community based structures like community schools, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), women and youth groups to understand the effects of gender based violence on women and their communities and to equip them on how to respond to associated issues that arise.

GrEEn

GrEEn is a four year action implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) with the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development and SNV with funding from the European Union and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. SOS Netherlands and SOS Children's Villages in Ghana is contracted by UNCDF to implement the Cash for Work Component of the project ensuring 4000 beneficiaries are skilled and ready for the green economy. The project target include youth, women and returnees (18 – 65 years). By facilitating this project, SOS Children's Villages in Ghana seeks to improve the ability of women, youth and returning migrants to take advantage of green job and entrepreneurship opportunities in their local economies. Operating in two regions of Ghana, the project is being implemented in ten (10) Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs) in the Ashanti and Western regions. It is worth to note that six (6) in Ashanti and four (4) in Western with focus on rural, high density of migrant youth, bedeviled with the immediate impact of climate change, mainly involved in agriculture, women form majority of labor force but earn very little, lack soft skills to position them for employment and exploring entrepreneurship opportunities.

- **NBU YEC:** This two-year project is a sustainable continuation of the NBU with the objective to provide both in-house and outdoor training through mobile services on core life skills to 400 disadvantaged youth each in the Kumasi region at the NBU Hub and SOS CV premises respectively.

- **Moonshot Pirates:** MA Ghana is collaborating with Moonshot Pirates based in Austria to organize a Boot camp for young people in Ghana. Moonshot Pirates is a Global Movement of Future-Oriented Talents & Young Change makers with the aim of empowering young people to build on their passion, gain relevant skills, and explore the possibilities of the latest technologies to solve global problems.

- **Africa GreenTec Project:** This is a youth-led initiative by SOS CV Ghana youth Patrick Narh Akweitey who uses solar lamps to enable children in Besia community to study at night. SOS CV Ghana is partnering Patrick to set up a Besia Community Energy Center (BCEC) to provide Besia and its surrounding communities with essential services at affordable prices i.e. portable water, charging of phones, and rental of solar lamps to improve the living conditions of residents. The project is targeted at 40 households including 200 persons (30% school-going youth and children). SOS-Kinderdorf Weltweit provided a seed donation to cover the set-up of the center, its operation and maintenance from 1st January 2023-31st Dec 2023.



Community Awareness Campaign on Menstrual Hygiene

A group of young people from SOS Children's Villages in Ghana embarked on a community awareness exercise in commemoration of the Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrated on 28th May. This campaign was aimed at sensitizing students in basic schools on the need to ensure good hygiene while teaching them proper ways of using sanitary pads.

The group visited some schools within the Kumasi Municipality and took turns interacting with young girls on some challenges they face during menstruation and further made recommendations on how school authorities can improve hygiene in schools.

Upon arrival at Sakafia Islamic and Adenyase M/A Basic Schools, the students and teachers warmly welcomed the group. In an interactive session, the students shared experiences and thoughts on the theme 'Making Menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030'.

The event's objective was to avert misconceptions about menstrual care, learn the proper use of sanitary pads and proper ways of maintaining personal hygiene.

To climax the event, all 164 young girls who participated in the day's event received free sanitary pads.



Ghana Police Service Donates to Children at SOS Children's Villages in Ghana

The Ghana Police Service led by the Inspector General of Police, Dr. George Akuffo Dampare have made a generous donation of assorted food items to SOS Children's Villages in Ghana. Accompanied by a team from the Eastern Regional Ghana Police, the group paid a visit to the Children's Village at Asiakwa to acquaint themselves with staff and children at the location.

The visit was also an opportunity for the team to familiarize themselves with the care services provided by the organization, activities and programmes designed to meet the basic and developmental needs of vulnerable children in the community.

During his interactions with Management Team, Dr. George Akuffo Dampare assured the team of the Ghana Police Services' dedication to ensuring child safety and security at all levels. He also pledged the Police Services' support to work with Childcare Providers in eliminating barriers which hinder the growth and development of children. The Officers from the Police Services engaged the children in various fun activities to climax their visit to the Children's Village.

Making Mental Health a Priority in Child Care Service





Mental health is an important factor of enforcing quality child care service to children and young people and this is why the organization prioritizes its assessment in a bid to reassure early diagnosis, intervention and elimination of harmful practices that hinder each child from reaching his/her full potential.

It is important to note that mental disorders can interfere with a child's individual development and go a long way to negatively influence adulthood.

Experience has proven that interacting with children helps reduce mental stress, stigma and other forms of psychological stress while encouraging them to speak up for themselves and seek help where necessary.

Embracing Mental Health

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana has in 2022 included the expertise of a clinical psychologist in conducting evaluation in Alternative Care to assess their emotional, social and psychological challenges.

This led to the development of therapeutic strategies and intervention for children and staff's mental health. One key role was to provide guidance on caregivers' education and training while supporting SOS families with positive parenting programs. By liaising with other child care professionals on beneficiaries' wellbeing, support is given to caregivers on proactive behavioural prevention strategies as well as support for staff mental well-being. The process also entailed the observance of children, care givers and staff in various situations, select, administer, and interpret intelligence, personality or other psychological tests to diagnose disorders and formulate plans for treatment. In addressing some challenges, some crises intervention in situations requiring immediate psychological treatment for the children under the care of SOS and staff members was enforced.

Mental health awareness in SOS is an important initiative to educate and improve understanding of mental health conditions of children and staff.

Impact on children

Mental health refers to cognitive, behavioural and emotional well-being. It includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. Being mentally healthy during childhood means reaching developmental and emotional milestones and learning healthy social skills and how to cope when there are problems. Mentally healthy children have a positive quality of life and can function well at home, in school, and in their communities. It helps children build positive social, emotional, behaviour, thinking and communication skills. Good mental health helps children develop the resilience to cope with life challenges and also lays the foundation for their future wellbeing.

Importance of mental health awareness to Children, Caregivers and Staff

Because of the misconceptions and stigma surrounding mental health issues, both children and adults often suffer in silence and don't seek treatment for their conditions. Mental health awareness in SOS is an important initiative to educate and improve understanding of mental health conditions of children and staff. However, make known the available services and increase access to mental healthcare and psychosocial support for those who need it. Nevertheless, awareness reduces negative adjectives that have been set to describe our people with a metal illness. By creating awareness, mental health can now be seen as a condition that can be managed and/or treated.

Challenges

We accept children with many challenges and some range from emotional challenges, behavioural and attention deficit disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), learning difficulties and disabilities, unresolved grief and addictions among others. Equally so, some challenges have been identified among adults that range from mental stress, work induced stress, chronic physically induced mental challenges, marital dysfunctions and work interpersonal/ relationship conflicts. However, every child, youth or staff's challenges require a unique and specific therapeutic intervention or behaviour modification strategies. As an organization we seek to identify these challenges in order to provide the necessary support to prevent the situation where children and staff face personal and work challenges that hinder their full potential.

Experiences so far

With regards to impacts so far, children with anxiety have received the necessary treatment, PTSD is treated among few, children can now share their feelings, improvement in children with behavioural challenges, and children with low self-esteem are improving in confidence building. Moreover, caregivers are able to manage their stress levels. Besides, utilisation of skills and tricks in teaching phonics as a result of a training workshops organised for HGS KG and Lower primary teachers in all the locations to curb dyslexia among children. Mental health awareness creation covered all children in care, caregivers, staff and teachers in all the four locations. Besides, the awareness creation was extended to all FS programme communities in all the location.



SOS Children's Villages in Ghana Draws the Curtains on the 'No Business As Usual Project'

The No Business as Usual Project (NBU), spearheaded by SOS Children's Villages in Ghana, in collaboration with SOS Netherlands and the Asokore Mampong Municipal Assembly with funding support from the European Union, has successfully ended.

The NBU project which spanned from 2017 to 2021, was tailored towards youth empowerment and community development. Youth in Asokore Mampong and its environs were enrolled in an intensive training through three main selection categories namely Alpha (young people with little or no education), Beta (Senior High School graduates) and Gamma (university graduates or young people who have either been to nursing training or attained some level of tertiary education).

In all, the project achieved results with respect to ensuring that 713 young people (223 males and 490 females) were recruited. Again, 200 young people made up of 118 males and 82 females were employed while 230 youth comprising 8 males and 222 females were supported with tools to pursue hard skills. The project also saw 95 youth (50 male and 45 female) in internships at credible institutions and 44 (22 male and 22 female) had start-up businesses.

Although the initial target was to train 500 young people to start-up their own businesses or secure meaningful jobs, interestingly over 500 young people have passed through trainings offered at the Hub.





Speaking at the event, the National Director, Mr. Alexander Mar Kekula called for increased investment in the development of young people as key human resource to contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic and sustainable development of Ghana.

“Discussions on exploring avenues for youth empowerment need to focus on some key areas such as Education, Entrepreneurial Training Skills, Information and Communication Technology, Youth Employment, Gender Mainstreaming and Reproductive Health” he said.

Sharing a key impact of the project in the Municipal, he said the Aboabo locality within the Asokore Mampong Municipality, is a typical crime prone area, associated with social vices that hinder community development. Several security agencies have identified the location as a convenient hub for criminals and the NBU project sought to engage young people and provide them with a chance to earn legitimate means of income while contributing to the development of their communities. Today, the young people in this community have explored series of job opportunities to unveil their skills and achieve their full potential, due to the NBU training”.

The NBU project was implemented in partnership with the Community-Based Organization and other relevant stakeholders in providing sustainable solutions to series of challenges hindering youth empowerment and crippling community development at large. Beneficiaries of the NBU project took turns to appreciate the level of support given to them by SOS Children’s Villages in Ghana and pledged their willingness to contribute to social reforms and nation building.

Some beneficiaries of the project also provide free training for other vulnerable youth to build their capacity to improve their livelihoods and sustainably care for their children and families.

SOS Children’s Villages in Ghana continues to support community development through partnership with local authorities to ensure coordinated mechanisms that address issues pertaining to youth development.

Kiddie Corner

Question of the Day: How do you Understand Ghana's Current Economy?



Agnes,
JHS 2, HGS

"Snacks and candies are now expensive. For example, kalyppo drink, which was previously Ghc1 is now Ghc3 at the store. I believe it is due to the state of the economy. Now my friends and I cannot buy it anytime we want. We first have to save up to buy so that we can also afford food"



Emmanuel,
JHS 3, HGS

My teachers are constantly complaining about how expensive food is on the market. This makes me believe that it is due to the poor state of the economy and that times are indeed hard.



Wealthy,
Primary 6, HGS

The economy has worsened to the point where the snack money does not get me the same quantity of snacks that it used to. I either have to forgo the drink or biscuit because the prices are higher than before. The quantity of food sold has also decreased and whenever we complain the sellers tell us that things are expensive at the market.



Delight
JHS 2, HGS

Whenever I accompany my mother to the market, we end up paying a high lorry fare. And I occasionally see other passengers arguing with the bus drivers about the lorry fare.



Child Rights and Responsibility Clubs

Our Interest in Child Rights and Protection

As a leading child welfare and social development organization in Ghana, SOS has over the years implemented community activities that seek to advocate for Child Rights and Child Protection.

These initiatives empower children to understand their rights and equip them with relevant information in making informed decisions on matters that influence their lives and guarantee their survival in a democratic world. Prominent among these rights include the Right to Education, Health, Family Life, Adequate Standard of Living as well as to be protected from Abuse and Harm.

The Purpose

These community programmes are carefully designed to address challenges that hinder Child Rights and promote activities that enable children explore opportunities to unveil their full potential. The organization is committed to engaging the full participation of children in fighting against poverty and beckoning on caregivers, traditional leaders, community-based organizations as well as child and family protection groups to safeguard the best interest of children.

The creation of Child Right Clubs in schools within the community is part of implementation measures that seeks to advocate on child rights issues, inspire children, support child-led initiatives and assist children to explore skills and opportunities.

Our Community Footprints

The Abuakwa North Child Rights Club creates children's grassroot groups at the school and community level which empowers children to lead,

learn, decide and implement their own activities that promote their rights.

Since its formation, SOS has put in effort towards the promotion, protection, fulfillment, and respect of these clubs within the Municipality.

Activities

Some of the activities being embarked on include; trainings, workshops, roundtable discussions, campaigns, exhibitions, study tours, radio shows to advocate on issues that affect their daily lives.

What do we believe about children?

- Every child can learn and has the right to education
- Children want to be heard, be seen, feel love, and experience joy
- Children are naturally good people, honest and innocent;
- Children need diverse experiences to broaden their minds to what's possible;
- Children often ask about how to deal with issues that affect them, which will in return make them exceptional adults;
- Children speak the truth and observe everything, which makes them natural learners;
- They are vulnerable, and highly impressionable and are often shaped by what they see, hear, and experience;
- We also believe that all children with disabilities and children with special needs can do more when they obtain possible opportunities to achieve their potential.

Areas of focus

- Child Rights, Advocacy, Child Participation and Child Empowerment
- The establishment of child grassroot groups at the community level and empowerment of participants to lead, learn, decide and implement their own activities that promote Child Rights

What has changed?

With the formation of the child rights and responsibility club, there has been massive behavioural changes among children and this can be affirmed by the school and community.

- The rate and incidence of teenage pregnancy has reduced drastically; thus about 75%
- Children are now very assertive and can confidently defend their rights
- Peer educators are now enlightened about the reporting procedures of Child Abuse
- The club has also been a major enrollment drive because the activities have helped to retain more children (especially girls) in school.



Spending Time with The Longest Serving Staff

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana appreciates the efforts and hard work of its staff who collectively contribute towards the achievement of the organization's goals. For this publication, we share with you a memorable moment spent with the longest serving staff, Mr. Paul J. Asaam who is the Project Accountant at the Tema Programme Location. Sit back, read and be inspired!

Interviewer: Thank you so much for sparing some time off your busy schedule to have a nice chat!
Respondent: The pleasure is mine. I am glad I have the chance to share some insight and my experience working with the organization over the years.

Interviewer: Which year did you joined SOS CV in Ghana?
Respondent: 1992

Interviewer: How would you describe some of the experiences gathered from any role transition since you first joined the organization?
Respondent: They are a lot. Positive and negative, bitter and sweet. However, they all work together to bring out a positive results.

Interviewer: Take us through your journey with SOS.
Respondent: I joined SOS in June 1992, as an Accounts Clerk at the National Office. My duties were to handle petty cash, staff welfare funds records and store keeping. I found these duties far below my capacity. I had no intention of staying. But I changed my mind when I experienced the unique care and support from the members of staff at the National office when I fell sick and was admitted at the Hospital, in January 1993. That same year, I was sent to Tema on relieving duties at the Hermann Gmeiner School and the Children's Village. I was transferred from the National Office to Tema in 1995. A very interesting location, where one has a wide range of experiences to acquire by interacting with the children, the youth, mothers, teachers, parents, co-workers and visitors.
In 2006, I was transferred again to the National Office as an Accounts Officer. In 2009, at the early stages of Tamale. I was sent to Tamale to work for two weeks. In the same year, I was elected as the National Financial Secretary for the Staff Welfare Association. In 2011, it became necessary that I had to go back to Tema Village, when the Project Accountant resigned. During my 30 years work in SOS, I have worked directly with five Village Directors, four Heads of School, four Vocational School Heads and four KG Principals.

Interviewer: How does it feel to work in a child-oriented environment? How does it affect your work?
Respondent: Very Fulfilling. I wasn't working directly for the children and the youth but I became more interested in their development. At a point, I knew the names and houses of all the children and the youth

in the Village. There are children from different backgrounds, with different characters, different conditions. I have to learn how to listen to them to understand and to support them. I must testify that, It has been a fruitful learning field. The effect of working in a child oriented environment on my work is positive. I accepted the environment from day one and determined to learn and support the work.

Interviewer: Has there been a point where you felt overwhelmed with some stories relating to the background of the children the organization supports?
Respondent: No. The stories are the reason for working here so I have to be strong to be able to support in changing any one like that to the result everyone expect.

Interviewer: In your line of work, what are some of the challenges you encountered and how did you overcome them?
Respondent: That was when I had to report at the Tribunal to answer some questions on a case involving Ghana Water Company and some companies in Tema including SOS Children's Village. I went to the Tribunal without any assistance from the Administration. Handling aggrieved Parents of the students in the school in a way that will not affect the image of the organization.

Interviewer: How best do you think the organization can improve its care for children?
Respondent: I think, the current direction of caregiving suits the way the world is moving. The different alternative cares approach gives a lot of vulnerable children and families the opportunity to access the needed support.

Interviewer: Share some memorable experiences you have encountered
Respondent: No one knows about this, but I acted as a Village Director for 10 days. The experience for the 10 days is a long story. Let us do that another day.

Interviewer: Looking back at the journey so far, what would you say are some achievements the organization has chalked?
Respondent: The organization has done well in changing the lives of the vulnerable children and young persons and supporting families in their care.

Interviewer: Based on how demanding your position is, how did you manage work and family life?
Respondent: Very difficult. Sometimes I have to wake up between 11pm and 4am to complete some outstanding work before the day begins. Working on Saturdays and Sundays became normal working hours for me. Yes I have to do it for the smooth running of the general work.

Interviewer: What has been your greatest achievement in your line of work?
Respondent: Making sure the daily activities at office goes on well, irrespective of the hitches. Each and every day brings a greatest achievement. Sometimes it is how I spoke to a parent who was angry to cool down or a distressed staff to be comforted.

Interviewer: What one thing would you be remembered for after your retirement?
Respondent: This question can be answered better or best by the youth, retired mothers and staff, current staff, teachers and parents of the school. Or anyone who knows Uncle Paul at SOS Children's Village. You will not believe that I introduced the use of Request Form as part of the document for Payment process.

Interviewer: What words of advice/encouragement would you give the younger generation?
Respondent: The universe is a school or a platform for education. Anything that one encounters must be considered as an opportunity to learn or an examination that needs to be passed. That is what brings maturity. The younger generation must not stop learning. They must pick lessons from any situation they encounter.



Highlights of Activities



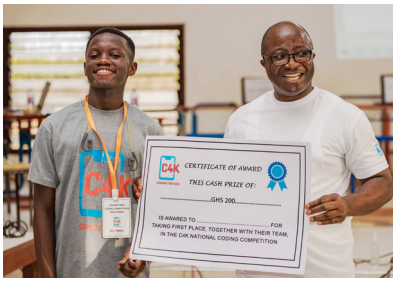

























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SOS Children's Villages in Ghana Retains First Position in Sponsorship Quality Feedback

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana has celebrated the excellent performance achieved by the Sponsorship Unit of the Fund Development Department per the global sponsorship rating. The Unit retained the 1st position among 26 countries within the SOS Children's Villages, Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESAF) by scoring 99% in the global Individual Giving Quality Feedback for 2021 after a similar performance in 2020. The 99% is the regional and global highest, thus putting SOS Children's Villages in Ghana above more than 118 other countries in the Federation.

Quality Feedback is an assessment carried out by IG which mirrors the quality of sponsorship work in the country. It includes the sum of tasks that are carried out across different functions from programmes to ICT including quarterly and yearly updates, digital content and facility reports sent to sponsors with support from the Regional Office.

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana for the past four (4) years has received good recommendations from the ESAF Regional sponsorship score team and in honor of its sterling performance and great achievements, the department organized a meeting to foster experience sharing and highlight key performances by the winning team.

Although the year 2021 was challenging at many levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sponsorship Unit put its best foot forward in working hard above the challenges to meet the sponsorship requirement and deadline. In view of this, a day was set aside to celebrate the sponsorship team in recognition of their hardwork, dedication and for achieving this great feat in the ESAF Region.

After School Support for Improved Teaching and Learning: The Glefe Experience

Homeschooling is an after school support programme is a programme organised by SOS Children's Villages in Ghana within the Glefe community with the aim to:

- Assist children with their school assignments
- Help students have a better understanding of lessons taught in schools
- Equip students (especially final years) with skills and knowledge on how to approach Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) questions

The programme started with seventeen (17) pupils, but due to its immense impact, the numbers have increased to 64. The home schooling programme is highly beneficial to students whose parents are not able to assist them with school assignments due to the nature or their jobs or illiteracy.

This has taken the responsibility off the shoulders of such parents, to assist and monitor students after school to learn and do their assignments while their parents have enough time to focus on providing the other developmental needs of their children. The attention of children are taken from the streets and other forms of social vices that hinder their development.

The project recognizes that every educational system offers great opportunities for children to learn new skills while harnessing their own unique capabilities and interests. Home schooling is not intended to discourage children from attending school however it is intended to provide additional support to their learning path.



The process does not attract any form of financial costs from caregivers and provides some free basic resources such as textbooks, paper, and writing materials among others.

In addition, final year students enrolled unto the programme are being introduced to pass questions to get familiar with mode or format of Basic Education Certificate Examination and how to correctly answer to attract high marks. There were three (3) girls who had challenges with solving mathematics before they joined the home-schooling sessions, but it is worth noting that one of the girls is among the best mathematics students in her school currently. Her fears for approaching the subject has been addressed and she is very confident in also teaching her peers at school. There were also two (2) pupils who were challenged with reading and comprehension however, this narrative has been averted as they have improved with the intervention of the home-school project in their community.

Community members have attested to the fact that the home-school initiative affords academic flexibility for their children and promotes meaningful learning experience and efficient learning. It also gives children the chance to avert misconceptions associated to complex subjects as they comprehend in a warm and friendly environment that accommodates their learning methods and gives them a chance to learn from their mistakes.

Testimonials from students that benefited from the home-schooling programme

”Before I enrolled unto the home-schooling scheme, I did not really like mathematics because I thought it was too difficult to comprehend. My mind was changed when I started the home school and the difference with their learning approach is that the volunteer teachers leave no pupil behind and make time to address our individual needs. I am now among one of the best maths students in my school”

- Rafiatu, Mamprobi South “4” basic JHS 3

“I am happy I enrolled unto the home-schooling programme because I was initially having challenges in pronouncing words due to the fact that I was unable to read well, but now I can read and pronounce words in syllabus with no fears. Thank you for bringing this to our community”

- Christian, Star of the Sea Basic School, P4






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40 young people participated in the Moonshot Pirates Bootcamp

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana in partnership with the Moonshot Pirates have organized a three-day boot camp for forty (40) young people from the four SOS Programme Locations in Ghana. The Bootcamp as part of the youth development initiative of SOS Children's Villages in Ghana, is targeted at equipping young people with the skills in the development of technical innovations to address the increasing challenges that hinder community development.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer of Moonshot Pirates, Mr. Marko Haschej said the workshop was an opportunity for young people to gain practical expertise from experienced entrepreneurs to take on the role of being game changers and inspiring leaders. "Young people need to collaborate on ideas and be supported with professional pitch training in order to realize their aspirations of contributing to national development. It is a journey of personal growth" – he added.

Being the first country in Africa to benefit from this initiative, Mr. Haschef explained that the Boot camp was built on three main pillars:

Moonshot Mindset which encompasses learning to dream big despite unforeseen barriers and circumstances

Exponential Thinking and Trends which involves learning the major challenges confronting the world and how to use exponential thinking and technologies to develop actual solutions

Start Building What Matters involves developing ideas into tangible projects to make an impact

Speaking on the impact of the Bootcamp, the National Youth Advisor, Mr. Godknows Kporha, stated that participants were privileged to be supervised by fifteen (15) mentors and motivational speakers (from credible institutions including AmaliTech and DHL). These mentors have provided unique expertise from practical fields of work to encourage young people in their quest to broaden their scope of learning and the acquisition of skills for career opportunities in the advanced world.

Mr. Kporha explained that Pirates from Ghana will team up with Pirates from other countries for collaborative projects on Business Planning and Development, Prototyping, Technologies like Robotics, Coding and Programming among others.

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THANK YOU



SOS Children's Villages in Ghana partners with Zoomlion Ghana Limited in sanitation awareness campaign at Ejisu

In line with the organization's commitment to the realization of SDG Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and community development, the SOS Children's Villages in Ghana collaborated with Zoomlion Ghana Limited to undertake a massive clean-up exercise at Ejisu in the Ashanti Region.

The clean-up exercise was targeted at creating awareness on the dangers of poor sanitation and its effects on the health of residents, especially children.

The Staff, Teachers and Children from SOS Children's Villages Ghana, Kumasi Programme Location joined workers from Zoomlion Ghana Limited to de-silt drains, sweep streets and dispose of heaps of refuse at vantage spots in the market and at other designated streets.



In addressing participants of the clean-up exercise at the forecourt of Ejisu Municipal Assembly, Mrs. Mavis Agyemang, the Social Worker at the Kumasi Programme Location tasked the Ghana Education Service (GES) to incorporate sanitation activities in the school's curriculum to build the culture of cleanliness in students to maintain a clean environment at all times.

She further urged the Municipal Assembly to enforce existing bye-laws, provide dustbins at vantage points in communities to ensure compliance with sanitary laws and prompt residents to prioritize sanitation issues.

"Poor sanitation is likely to cause childhood diseases and malnutrition that affects the health and overall development of children. It is important for community leaders to advocate for proper sanitary measures in increasing basic facilities for safe disposal of all forms of waste which includes human waste, industrial waste management among others" – she cautioned.

The Ejisu Municipal Manager of Zoomlion Ghana Limited, Mr. Eliasu Alhassan who led the clean-up exercise also bemoaned the attitude of some individuals who engage in indiscriminate disposal of waste and described this practice as detrimental to the health of all residents.

Empowering Children to Lead: Child-Led Risk Assessment at CV Tema

The child-led assessment of SOS Children's Village Tema of the Core Care Professionals was initiated at the Tema Location as a pilot assessment to allow children receiving care and protection in the CV to give feedback on what they think about the care and protection they are currently receiving and what needs to be improved.

Findings from the assessment later served as a learning opportunity for the location management team and also helped to develop strategies to improve quality care provision for the children. A total of 49 children (26 males and 23 females) responded to the pilot assessment and this represents 86% of children from primary one (1) to JHS 2 who are currently resident in the Children's Village.

Selection of children for the assessment was done based on the following criteria; the ability of the child to read and write, the educational level of the child and the age of the child. The selection also made sure that at least one child from each family house participated in the assessment to ensure a fair representation.

In this pilot assessment, children assessed the overall care they are receiving in the Children's Village and all core care professionals i.e. the Alternative Care Coordinator, Social Worker, Alternative Care Educator, Youth Development Worker as well as all the eighteen (18) Mothers and Aunties in the CV.



Behaviour Assessment Improvement Inititive (Token System)

The behavior improvement initiative (token system) was initiated by the Alternative Care Unit as a reward scheme for children who put up good behavior, as a reward for their conscious effort as well as encourage other children to emulate discipline.

The initiative also seeks to teach children/young persons the value of things placed at their disposal in the village and the value of money. Children in the Children's Village are assessed on eighteen (18) identified behavioral areas every month. Children who earn high scores per area earn accumulated tokens and these tokens are used in replacement of actual money to purchase items of their interest in a token shop established in the Children's Village.

A baseline assessment was conducted in 2020 before the start of the initiative to assess children in these eighteen (18) areas to provide the basis for comparison with annual follow-up assessments to measure whether the initiative is achieving the desired results.

In December 2021, a whole year of implementing the initiative, a follow-up assessment was conducted to assess progress towards achieving the desired outcome, which is an improvement in the behavior of children in these identified areas.



TALENT DISCOVERY: Classical Excellence Project

The SOS Children's Village (SOS CV) at Tema has commenced with preparations to enable it establish an orchestra with the hope of enabling children undertake public performances at places such as the national theatre or a concert hall of comparable scale by performing local compositions; as well as masterworks from the baroque and classical among others.

The Children's Village is optimistic that this commendable initiative will enable children to also participate in international music festivals as well as in the numerous masterclasses and performances worldwide. The achievement of children would result in compositional development for new music and arts projects which are essential to securing scholarships for students interested in pursuing careers in the arts and music industry.

With the development of a music studio and computing laboratory equipped with 'state of the art' equipment for 3D cartoon production, it is expected to put together ideas in film which might be projected at film festivals. It is essential to provide the children in this program and in the general arts programs with the much needed skills to thrive in the existing and future music industry.

This current project is being implemented in partnership with Mr. Julius Richardson (GeniusHive) and with support from volunteers from Accra Youth Sinfonietta (AYS), Emmanuel Fiifi Quayson, James Kwesi Bamfo, Bernard Odai, and Calvin Gyasi.

It is worth noting that the project was piloted for 6 months (January – June 2021) with 5 AYS music professionals and 14 children (between





8 and 14 years) from the CV Tema to complete a beginner's strings program on performance. The project also received donated instruments through AYS affiliations with Palo-Alto Chamber Orchestra in the United States of America. Delivery of these instruments to Ghana was secured with the support of the Australian High Commission (AHS) who are chief patrons of the AYS.

In January last year, the selected children met their volunteer teacher for the first time for the purpose of familiarization with each other and their musical instruments. At this first meeting between volunteer teachers and the children, the latter got the opportunity to listen to their teachers play three different string instruments (violin, viola and cello). Subsequent meetings gave them the opportunity to also affiliate themselves with the new instruments through practical sessions as they also got the chance to play their first music notes.

On June 19, 2021, the maiden concert of the SOS CV Tema String Ensemble was organized. In attendance was the outgoing British High Commissioner, H.E. Iain Walker who played the clarinet during the program, the wife of the Australian High Commissioner to Ghana, and Mr. Frederic Larcher from the French Embassy.

It was a memorable day for the children as they played nine (9) different music pieces to the admiration of all present at the event.

Subsequently, children have been equipped with the skills to enable them to play any of the 198 pieces in the Essential Elements Book 1 as well as Suzuki Book 1 and; they are also able to play in an ensemble with a piano backing.

Re-integration Project Rationale



SOS Children's Villages is a pioneer in providing alternative family-like care services to children without parental care through its SOS family care Model. The organization recognized that children need a protective family environment that boosts their development and improves their health, education and wellbeing so that they develop their capacities to be parents, citizens and productive members of their societies.

It is widely recognized that a safe and secure family is the optimal environment for the growth and development of children (UN Convention of the Rights of the Children 1989) therefore, maximum efforts should be made to promote reunification and reintegration of separated children globally back into their families of origin and or other suitable care settings based on the best interest of the child.

The SOS Care Promise (2018), umbrella policy of SOS CVI also asserts that the organization actively supports the development and implementation of alternative care quality standards and demand continuous monitoring of these standards. This includes appropriate support for gatekeeping, reintegration, social workforce de¬velopment

and the leaving care process. In our advocacy, we draw on evidence gained through our work in alternative care and family strengthening. Despite the importance of family reintegration, to date, solid guidance and strategic investment for safe and effective reintegration is limited. The proposed project will attempt to bridge the gap, explore cross-cutting principles of good practice in children's reintegration; provides guidance and technical support, builds capacity, establish evidence to support responsible reintegration of children and young people back to their families and communities of origin.

We envision our MA programmes reaching the right children with the right resources and at the same time contributing towards Regional and international Child rights frame work and targets. Any care reforms should be evidence based, carefully planned, tested, locally driven and should reflect aspirations of the Children.

The MA operates in line with Ghana Care Reform Initiative and its actions compliment the SOS Care Promise commitments, Strategy 2030 along with country development goals. SOS Children's Villages programme is fully aligned with the programmes of the Department of Social Welfare.

The Reintegration Project in MA Ghana is the the outcome of Rapid Assessment of Programme (RAP) conducted by SOS CV Ghana in 2017 indicated that many of the children in SOS Villages in Ghana have at least one-parent alive or other family relations who may be able to support their care. The PDB data also indicated that 82% of the children in the CVs have either one or both biological parents alive. Therefore, their continuous stay in the children's villages may not be in their best interest. This development brought to the fore, the need to begin the gradual process of reintegrating children back to their family of origin. The result of the RAP is line with Care Reform Initiative (CRI), which stipulates that the family provide the best environment in which a child can grow. However, the reintegration of some of the children has been delayed because of precarious social-economic situation of their families of origin, which in most cases cannot ensure continuous stay of their children in school, especially at the tertiary level. Even though most parents of these children have expressed their interest and willingness to receive their children back, poverty and other socio-economic constraints have prevented them from accepting them back. Against this background, this project will focus on three key areas, namely case management, capacity building and advocacy as the main strategy to ensure responsible reintegration of children with their families of origin. The MA will use case management processes in accordance with the UN guidelines and Ghana care reforms Initiative to ensure that eligible children and young people are successfully reintegrated into their families and communities of origin. As a result, the families of origin of children admitted in SOS Family Care (SFC) will be assessed annually and once the outcomes of the tracing and assessment point to reintegration to be in the best interests of the child, the child or children will be reunified with their families of origin.

The project will also build the capacities of various stakeholders to enable them to effectively support responsible reintegration of children and youth. Finally, the project will use evidence-

based advocacy to lobby government for increased resources for the implementation of the gatekeeping and reintegrated policies in the country. This initiative will be implemented in four locations within MA Ghana and will target children and young people currently in family-like care and those that have exited from care due to reunification since 2017. The total number of beneficiaries are 240 children and young people and 110-families. The project will be implemented in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare in a period of 3 years.

In line with the CRI and the recommendations of the RAP report, MA Ghana is committed to reviewing its Alternative Care options to include Short-term Care, Foster Care, Reintegration / Reunification of children with their families of origin and Integration of SOS Families in the community. MA Ghana has initiated the reintegration process in the 4 Children's Villages (CV). Family tracing has been conducted for each child to establish or re-establish links with their families of origin. In establishing these links, children in the CVs embark on regular visits to their relatives during holidays. Family assessment has been conducted on the families of each child for the possibility of reintegration. The Department of Social Welfare is supporting the MA to implement the reintegration process.

SOS CV Ghana needs to align its operations to the guidelines of the Care Reform Initiative and address any capacity gaps at the institutional level that may undermine the full implementation of the Care Reform Initiative. Thus, the MA needs to review its policies, guidelines and internal processes to implement the Care Reform. However, inadequate funding hampers the process. Furthermore, the reintegration of some of the children has been delayed because of precarious social-economic situation of their families of origin, which in most cases cannot ensure continuous stay of their children in school, especially at the tertiary level. Even though most parents of these children have expressed their interest and willingness to receive their children back, poverty and other socio-economic constraints have prevented them from accepting them back. It is therefore prudent to support these families to prevent children from falling back to alternative care.

The MA operates in line with Ghana Care Reform Initiative and its actions compliment the SOS Care Promise commitments, Strategy 2030 along with country development goals. SOS Children's Villages programme is fully aligned with the programmes of the Department of Social Welfare. In fact, it is registered under the Ministry of Social Services and recognized as a care option provider for children needing care and protection. SOS Children's Villages has been working in close collaboration with the government for years, and subsidies have been a strong basis for current programmes. When a child loses parental care, MA Ghana has become the first choice of the state to admit children while considering the best interest of the child.

Sagnarigu Women's Empowerment Project (SWEP)

As part of measures to facilitate economic empowerment among women as well as promote gender equality and curb gender based-violence in the Sagnarigu District of the Northern Region, SOS Children's Villages in Ghana with support from the Embassy of France in Ghana last year launched the Sagnarigu Women's Empowerment Project on at its Children's Village in Tamale.

This initiative seeks to reach out to an estimate of 11,500 beneficiaries in the district after a survey by the organization revealed that women in the municipality are the most disadvantaged group hence, the need to focus on activities that foster economic empowerment as part of capacity building to enable them participate and contribute to self-growth and community development at large.

The project will achieve two (2) main objectives being to reduce gender-based violence (including child marriage) and to strengthen the capacity of women for improved sources of income.

Through the implementation of this project, the organization will work to strengthen community based structures like community schools, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), women and youth groups to understand the effects of gender based violence on women and their communities and to equip them on how to respond to associated issues that arise. This is also based on the belief that access to livelihood, new technology and credit via Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) will increase income generation activities of women and productivity in general.

It is important to note that this will provide an avenue for men, women and children to have equal opportunities to exercise their rights, access resources and participate in decision making for their well-being.

For the implementation of this project, women and young girls will receive technical/vocational training including digital, financial and entrepreneurial training among others. Trainings will also be organized for traditional/religious leaders, police, CBOs and healthcare workers to respond and advocate against gender-based violence including Child Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM) in the community. As part of creating an enabling environment to support a much more sustainability aspect of the project, the organization will establish and improve financial schemes to strengthen social networks for women.

Community members will also be engaged in organizing awareness campaigns in schools through club activities and inter-school debates. This is with a belief that the child right clubs will serve as a permanent platform in dealing with issues that threaten the rights and protection of children even beyond the project timeline.





SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES IN GHANA LAUNCHES CODING FOR KIDS



To equip young people with the requisite knowledge and skills in improved technology and modern digitalization for development, SOS Children's Villages in Ghana, in partnership with AmaliTech Ghana, has launched the 'Coding for Kids' (C4K) Project.

The project which was introduced in all four (4) SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools in the country namely, Asiakwa, Kumasi, Tamale and Tema in May 2021 has currently benefitted over 900 pupils from primary 4 to Junior High School.

Speaking at the launch held at the Tema Programme Location, the National Director, Mr. Alexander Mar Kekula stressed the need for young people to be competitive in the fast-paced digital world of technology and innovation.

"Modern economy is changing from agricultural and industrial economies to information and digital economies. It is worrying that we are in the 4th Industrial revolution but unemployment is higher among young people. It is essential for young people to build the right skills to meet the demand of the face-changing technological market. The World Development Report 2019 has revealed that the future labour market will require new skills, including digital fluency" he emphasized.

Mr. Kekula further stated that the partnership between the SOS Children's Villages in Ghana and AmaliTech Ghana focuses on Life Skills Education, Employability Skills and Digital training workshops, internship opportunities and career mentorship.





CELEBRATING THE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

British High Commission Accra

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN GHANA

SOS Children's Villages Ghana appreciates the British High Commission in Ghana for funding the construction of the Resource Center to facilitate the implementation of the Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) at Mataheko in Tema. This facility was donated to the Ghana Health Service to be used as a CHPS Compound for the Community after the end of the Project.

EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

With our greatest appreciation to The European Union for funding the 'No Business As Usual' Project (NBU) from March 2017- February 2021. This youth empowerment and employability programme which targeted young people in the Asokore Mampong Municipality benefited over 5000 youth with skills to either start up their own businesses or gain decent employment in diverse fields of work and contribute to the development of their communities and the economic growth of the country at large.

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU GHANA
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

FRENCH EMBASSY IN GHANA

To facilitate economic empowerment among women to promote gender equality and curb gender-based violence in the Sagnarigu District of the Northern Region, SOS Children's Villages in Ghana with funding support from the Embassy of France in Ghana launched the Sagnarigu Women's Empowerment Project in 2021 in the Sagnarigu. Through innovative economic empowerment interventions, the project reached out to 11500 beneficiaries. Accordingly, the initiative enabled beneficiaries to participate and contribute to self-growth and community development at large. We applaud the French Embassy in Ghana for making an impact in the Sagnarigu District.

Activity supported by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales
Canada

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN GHANA

We appreciate the Canadian High Commission in Ghana, for providing funding support towards the implementation of the End Child Marriage Now! in Chorkor and Sagnarigu. These projects empowered girls and women to be agents of change, mobilized community-based organizations and local authorities to respond to end Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM), and facilitate access to psychosocial support services for vulnerable girls and women . At the end of the project in Sagnarigu, 500 children made up of 300 females and 200 males were rescued. Also, 20 females were enrolled in TVET while 300 formed the Village Savings and Loans Association to be empowered economically to reduce poverty. Again, a 50-member Community Protection Committee was formed to advocate and ensure that children were protected against CEFM. At Chorkor, the project

benefitted 1652 children out of which 1252 were girls and 400 were boys. As a result of the awareness creation, the residents have become enlightened on ending child marriages and unions in Chorkor.

UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNCDF)

With deep appreciation for the distinguished support and funding from the UNCDF towards the implementation of the Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana (GrEEn). The four (4) year project, led by SOS Children's Villages Ghana is geared towards creating greater economic and employment opportunities for youth, women and returning migrants by promoting and supporting sustainable, green businesses in ten (10) MMDAs in the Ashanti and Western Regions.

HERMANN GMEINER FUND DUTCHLAND (HGFD)

SOS Children's Villages Ghana expresses its in-depth gratitude to the Hermann Gmeiner Fond Deutschland (HGFD) for providing support towards the economic recovery of vulnerable families and children to navigate the negative impact of COVID-19. The Project also provides funding to support vulnerable schools with WASH facilities and organize interventions to deal with mental health and psycho-social problems of children and caregivers.

HEIMSTADEN

SOS Children's Villages Ghana wishes to express its profound gratitude to Heimstaden for funding The Protecting the Future (PTF) Project. The project seeks to reduce child labour and trafficking on Volta Lake and strengthen the capacities of community members, families and duty-bearers (Police, Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Ghana Education Service (GES) and the Judiciary) to address child labour and child trafficking in the Ada West and Awutu-Senya Districts.
We also thank SOS NORWAY for their instrumental role in facilitating the partnership leading to the funding support from Heimstaden to rescue vulnerable children on the Volta Lake in Ghana.

DHL

With a common goal to foster empowerment and employability through Bootcamps and employee volunteering organized for young people in our programme, SOS Children's Villages Ghana appreciates DHL for providing local learning opportunities, coaching, and mentorship and internship prospects to boost the employability of our young people.

WRIGLEY SWEDEN

In recognition of Wrigley Sweden for funding the Wrigley Oral Health Project (October 2013 to March 2020), an initiative of SOS Children's Villages Ghana with support from SOS Sweden. Through the provision of oral health education and training for children, teachers and parents respectively, the project reached over 276, 874 vulnerable children in 994 deprived community schools in 20 Districts and Municipals in Ghana.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES THE NETHERLANDS

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES THE NETHERLANDS (SOS KINDERDORPEN):

SOS Children's Villages in Ghana appreciates the technical and financial support of SOS Kinderdorpen towards the SOS Family-Like care and the Family Strengthening programmes in Asiakwa, Tema and Kumasi programme locations. We especially acknowledge your immense support in raising funds for the construction of the Children's Village in Kumasi and supporting the implementation of the 'No Business As Usual' project, which benefitted over 10,000 young people in the Asokore Mampong Municipality in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

Again, your dedication towards economic and youth empowerment is commendable and we laud your effort in funding the implementation of the ''No Business As Usual Youth Empowerment Center'' (NBU-YEC) to provide training opportunities through mobile services on core life skills training to 400 disadvantaged youth in Kumasi and other programme locations.

We cannot overemphasize the significance of your support in transforming the narrative of these vulnerable children, young people and their families in fulfilling their potential and making economic decisions of their own.

SOS BARNBYAR

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SWEDEN (SOS BARNBYAR):

We cannot forget the tremendous impact made by SOS Children's Villages Sweden in promoting economic empowerment of vulnerable families, supporting quality care of children and young people and building the capacity of local organizations and communities to take charge of economic development initiatives in the Northern Region of Ghana.

We appreciate SOS Sweden for playing a key role in the funding and construction of the Children's Village in Tamale in 2010 and for supporting the implementing of the Family Strengthening Programme intervention in the Tamale Metropolis. With a budget allocation of 160,000 Euros annually for 3 years to directly promote the provision of quality care for 2,500 children and the strengthening 300 families and 250 youth in 5 communities in Tamale: Fooshegu, Gbilahibilla, Chanshegu, Adubiliyi and Banvim.

We are also grateful to SOS Children's Villages Sweden for funding the Cheshe Family Strengthening Project, aimed at improving the educational facilities including the construction of WASH facilities in the Cheshe community located in the Tamale Metropolis. With your support, 60 families have reached self-reliance and empowered to create a protective and supportive environment for 120 vulnerable children and 20 young people.

Extend a helping hand today

SPONSORSHIP

01 Sponsor a Child – Become a sponsor of a child's general well-being with a minimum donation of GH₵200 a month.

02 Sponsor a Child's Education – Education forms an integral part of a child's development. At SOS Children's Villages, we believe in inclusive education for all children in our programme. With a minimum of GH₵250 a term, you can provide a child's basic needs for school.

03 Become a Friend – Become a committed friend to the children in our care. Pledge to support our cause with any amount of your choice on a consistent basis with the overall aim of sustaining the smiles on the faces of these children. Sign on today!

04 Become a corporate friend- Are you a corporate entity considering services to render as part of your Corporate Social Responsibility? Why don't you support SOS Children's Villages Ghana with Mentorship, Coaching and offer Internship opportunities to our young people? Talk to us today for a great partnership experience.

05 Advertise in our brochure- Contribute to our humanitarian cause to support vulnerable children and families to be self-sufficient. Buy a space and advertise your services and products to over 150,000 people who read our sleek magazine, the Mmofrado.

06 Payroll Giving - contribute to quality care through periodic payroll deductions.

PARTNERSHIP PRODUCTS / OPTIONS

Your partnership will support SOS CV Ghana in sustaining and expanding our impactful interventions.

01

Adopt a house(s) in any of our four locations Tema, Asiakwa, Kumasi and Tamale to support the care and running of the home of about eight SOS children and their SOS Mother with a minimum donation of GH₵ 25,000 annually

02

Leave a legacy by making a donation in the SOS CV Ghana Endowment Fund with a one-time donation of GH₵ 100,000 or multiple donations as you choose

03

Partnership to support successful youth with startup capitals towards their entrepreneurship path with a minimum of GH₵ 5,000 per youth or as stated in the business plans

04

Partnership towards Educational scholarships for youth in tertiary institutions with a minimum of GH₵ 8,000 per academic year

05

Partnership towards underprivileged caregivers Income Generation Activities (IGA) at GH₵ 3,000 per family to help them start or expand their business and sustain it effectively

06

Partnership towards WASH in deprived communities for public Schools, to construct a twelve- seater toilet equipped with hand washing facilities to serve pupils/ children and teachers in the schools with GH₵ 80,000

07

Partnership to support the cost of tuition to build up and nurture talent and creativity for 20 children in our care with GH₵ 15,000 annually

08

Partnership towards the achievement of National Youth Development objects including: training programmes, mentorships and internship opportunities with a minimum donation of GH₵ 80,000 annually

BENEFITS

- When you Adopt a house, your adopted house shall be named after you and shall be known as House …… with a Plaque on the house stating the same.
- Towards the Endowment Fund, you shall receive recognition as a Legacy Sponsor in reports, publications and at events.
- You and or your organization shall appear in our Annual Report to SOS Children's Villages International as a corporate sponsor of SOS Children's Villages. You shall enjoy free publication of your Corporate Social Responsibility activities with our children and youth in our Mmofrado Magazine which is widely distributed and read by over 150,000 people.
- You shall be exposing yourself or your organisation to all our branches in 137 countries worldwide as an individual or corporate sponsor.
- We shall display your logo on our website.
- We shall present you with a partnership appreciation for display at your premises.

Board Members Profile



Mr. Christian Appiah
(Board Chair)

Over 40 years of working experience in various industries including manufacturing, logistics, construction, consultancy, education, print media and real estate. He is a Chartered Global Management Accountant and a Passionate farmer.



Mr. Jon Abbeo
(Member)

He is the former Director at the Office of the National Security and a B. Comm Graduate from the Cape Coast University with over 28 years of experience in Public Service. He is also a farmer and joint owner of Jokat Farms with his wife Kate (John & Kate).



Mrs. Nana Abena Kwakyi
(Vice Chair)

She has worked in the Education industry for over 30 years in teaching, research and administration. Former Director, Academics at The Morning Star School and currently the Managing Director. She is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, USA and a member of the Management Committee for the School of Educational Leadership and Research, College of Education, University of Ghana, Legon.



Dora G A Inkumsah Eshun (Member)

She was called to the bench as a Magistrate in 2014 and presided over a few courts particularly the Family and Juvenile Courts Accra for about 6 years contributing to reforms in court. She was also appointed as the representative of the Judiciary at the fora for the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection on Early Marriages in the Ghana and Amendment of Child Laws in Ghana. Dora is the Circuit Judge at Adentan Circuit Court.



Victoria Barth
(Member)

An Adept legal practitioner with an exceptional ethical record of integrity in the law community. Mrs. Barth has over 19 years extensive experience in legal and administrative practice. She is a motivated and passionate leader driver by the desire to lead a movement of excellent, ethical and professional legal practitioners. Currently, Mrs. Barth is a Managing Partner at the Sam Okudzeto and Associates, a pioneer firm in Ghana, providing top tier legal services in corporate and commercial practice.



Ms. Zenaye Solomon
(Member)

SOS CVI Representative for Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Somalia and South Africa.



Peter Mensah – Abrampah (Member)

He is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Accounts (ACCA, UK) and a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana (ICAG). He has over twenty years of experience in the Public Service of Ghana and has worked as Head of Internal Audit while he is currently the Director of Finance of the Ghana Shippers Authority for over thirteen years.



Truedy Osae (Member)

A lawyer of twenty-two years standing with four years' experience in private legal practice and eighteen years in the Banking Industry. Mrs. Osae's practice areas include Banking Law, Corporate Law, Labour and Employment. She is currently a Senior Legal Counsel of GCB Bank Limited.



Isaac Sackey (Member)

Experienced Chief Executive Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the Human Resources Industry. Skilled in Coaching, Team Building, Management, Leadership, and Strategic Planning. Strong business development professional with a Master's degree; Post-Graduate in Organization Development, Change Leadership & Human Resources focused in Human Resources, Organizational Development, Change Leadership, Quality Management, Training & Development from University of Cape Coast; Cornel University School of Industrial & Labour Relations.

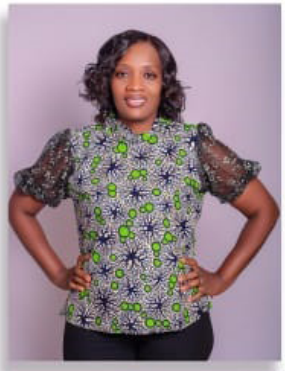


Constance Swaniker (Member)

She is the Chief Executive Officer/ Managing Director for Accents & Art Limited and also the Founder of Design and Technology Institute (DTI) which nurtures youth in TVET livelihoods across West Africa. She has over 20 years of experience working in the arts industry and with key qualifications in the area of Sculpture, carpentry, welding, and spraying. She is passionate about serving her community and nation and currently, the Accents & Art workshop is located at Bubiashie - a deprived area in Accra where she works hand in hand with the local Assembly representative to organize periodic clean up and tree planting campaigns within the community. She also mentors tertiary students in her area of expertise to equip them with invaluable industry skills.

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