



GO
GIRL
GHANA



Annual Report 2022

Executive summary Go Girl Ghana

Overall objectives:

- ❖ Girl equality
- ❖ Improving girl enrollment and attendance in primary and secondary school

Specific objectives:

- ❖ Reducing teen pregnancy
- ❖ Mobilizing girls, building on self empowerment & strengths
- ❖ Changing parents perception on girls' equality and the importance of girl education
- ❖ Providing better access to information on reproductive health, personal hygiene and family planning
- ❖ Promoting inclusive community ownership by bringing parents, officials, teachers and youth together with as common goal equality and education of girls

Locations: Buduburam and Nyanyano, Ghana

Target population:

Adolescent girls aged 10-21 and their communities

Founder and CEO: Leonie Heppener

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Who we are

**We advocate social change with communities
for the equality of girls and the improvement
of their education**



Matilda Sarquah - Sewing teacher

Jonathan Darko - IT Teacher

Leonie Heppener - Founder and CEO

Comfort Nukpeta - Field Coordinator

Gifty Dwumah - Office Manager

Our other stakeholders

Currently GGG works with 9 active volunteers and 6 supportive volunteers from the mother clubs

We collaborate closely with the district, most specifically with the teams of:

- ❖ Ghana Health services - Gomoa East directorate
- ❖ Ghana Education Services - Gomoa East directorate
- ❖ District Chief Executive - Gomoa East District

We work together with the following schools

- ❖ Winton SHS - Awutu Breku
- ❖ Zion A basic school - Nyanyano
- ❖ Zion B basic school - Nyanyano
- ❖ Nyanyano Kakraba school - Nyanyano
- ❖ D/A 'A' basic school - Buduburam
- ❖ D/A 'B' basic school - Buduburam
- ❖ Point Hope basic school - Buduburam
- ❖ St. Gregory basic school - Buduburam

And of course all our girls, their families and wider communities

Context situation in Ghana

Poverty

The enormous depreciation of the Ghanaian currency cedi and the energy crisis are clearly felt here. The cost of living goes up every day. Everything from transport, food, but also all food and household materials that are imported from abroad. You think we are in recession in Europe? Ghana is feeling the crisis much stronger and people are falling deeper and deeper into poverty as a result. With poverty comes fear of the future as today is enough of a problem. This makes our work more difficult too.

Education

In government run primary schools you will easily find 60 kids per classroom. They will hardly have access to textbooks. You do not have to imagine what that does to the quality of education.

Education is free but this only includes the classes. So you still need to pay for tests, the uniforms, books, bags, shoes, exercise books in primary school. Or the massive requirement lists in secondary school which can go up to €500, just at the start of the term.

However making Senior High School (SHS) classes free saw an influx of a lot of students. Too many. Because of this there is something called double track education. Meaning that a student will be in school for a semester, and home for a semester during their stay. This means that kids take twice as long to finish SHS, making it more difficult for people to commit to it. This especially affects the lower ranked schools and so the poorer people. And what do you think these kids do in the 3 months they are home?

AGENDA

01 Go Girl Groups, mother clubs, community & volunteer meetings

02 Go Girl Ghana Center

03 Back to school

04 Some personal stories

05 Finance

06 Moving forward in 2023

01

**Girl Groups
Mother Clubs
Community &
Volunteer meetings**



Go Girl Groups

To create a safe environment for girls to share their hopes, dreams and concerns, we have formed various Go Girl Groups in our communities. In these groups we aim to discuss relevant topics like teen pregnancy, peer pressure, social norms and other girls stuff. Additionally we give them vocational information and mentorship.

How many girls?

We have groups in each of the basic schools we work with. With 95 girls in all. 50 from Buduburam and 45 from Nyanyano. We also created groups with girls out of school, 36 in all. 26 from Buduburam and 10 from Nyanyano.

This means we have **a total of 131 girls** in our groups.

How many meetings?

We have held 3 meetings a week with **a total of 126 meetings** in 2022

Success stories

Our girls have made a positive change since joining GGG. They were very shy at the beginning of our group engagements. After some months we saw massive improvement where girls can communicate freely and they are more confident in sharing their concerns, hopes and experiences. But not only we noticed a change in the girls. Both the heads of the schools and the parents have noticed a behavioural change in the girls as well. They noted the girls are more committed to studying and learning new things and are more helpful around the house. For instance, some of the girls have become prefects in their schools.



Home visitations

To better understand the girls' home situation, we do home visitations. We meet with families whose girls are at risk of dropping out and with difficult domestic situations. We also visit homes where we know is a school drop out. We speak with their caretakers about the girls education and their hopes and concerns about their families' lives.

How many visitations

In 2022 our team visited **42** homes (sometimes multiple times)

Issues raised often pertain to the following

- ❖ Unemployment / low income
- ❖ Broken homes / marital problems / single parenting
- ❖ High cost of living
- ❖ Girls not staying with their own parents

Success stories

- ❖ Foodstuffs were donated to families who needed support.
- ❖ We employed Madam Juliana (whose daughter is a GGG girl group member), after GGG paid her a visit, as a cleaner so that she can support her family
- ❖ As orphans pregnant Charlotte Imbrah (21) is taking care of her sister Rachael (16) who is a GGG member too. We gave her a part time job so that she will be able to support herself until she is ready to give birth. And we supported Rachael to go back to SHS after 2 years of dropping out.



Health talks with girls

Born out of the collaboration with Ghana Health Services and observing the lack of knowledge among our girls on things like menstruation and hygiene, we decided to organise a few health talks with them.

How many meetings

GGG and GHS held **6** community girls meeting together. **3** for only GGG girls and **3** for our GGG girls and girls in the community.

Topics discussed

- ❖ Teenage pregnancy
- ❖ Personal hygiene
- ❖ Menstrual cycle
- ❖ The importance of education
- ❖ Career choices based on abilities and potential

Success story

At the end of the menstrual education, girls were given menstrual pads. Total number of pads distributed, **186** pieces. Why did we give these out? Because they are very expensive and most girls can not afford using them. This means that during their period, they will not go to school.





Mother clubs

We have asked the mothers of the girls that have joined GGG to become part of our Mother Clubs. The purpose is to share their hopes and concerns and come together to find solutions to the problems they see with girls education in general.

How many clubs

We currently have **3** groups. 2 in Buduburam and 1 in Nyayano.

How many meetings

At first the meetings were held monthly. But the women themselves wanted to increase to bi-weekly. We have held roughly **48** meetings

Topics discussed

- ❖ GGG computer center
- ❖ Community concerns and hopes
- ❖ Getting drop-out girls back to school
- ❖ Support for their girls
- ❖ Creating a community girls group to create safe a space for girls to share their stories and concerns.
- ❖ Community business projects for members of the mother club
- ❖ Mothers concerns at home
- ❖ Mothers taking up responsibility and work as a team



Mother clubs

What have been some of the success stories that have come out of the Mother Clubs?

Business plans

All clubs realised that they can only make a change by working together. In discussions we have agreed that they will create a business together to sustain themselves, their girls and in support of GGG.

Community outreach

The mother club in Buduburam is organizing their own community outreach to reach out to the community on the present issues in the community. Thus, teenage pregnancies, school drop-out, sexual transmitted diseases and adolescent sexual relationship(Premarital sex). The mothers primary aim is to educate and find the root cause of the issues of concern in the community and find a solution together.

Go Girl Group formation

Due to the mother club, a Go Girl Group has been formed in Buduburam and is very active. The group includes about 20 girls from the various SHS in Ghana. They come together to inspire each other and talk about their future.



Community meetings

To better understand and learn about the communities concerns, to better transfer information to them and to create social change, we hold community meetings. We work together with the education and health directorates to transfer information to the communities.

How many meetings

In 2022 we held **7** community meetings.

Topics discussed

- ❖ Teenage pregnancies
- ❖ Family planning / Reproductive health / Menstrual cycle
- ❖ Home concerns
- ❖ Importance of education
- ❖ Computer training for girls
- ❖ Back to school support for girls who have dropped out
- ❖ Career guidance and school placement education for parents and girls
- ❖ Parents responsibility towards education

Success Story

Out of one of the community meetings, a parent club was formed which included fathers.



Volunteer meetings

We can't do the work without the support of our volunteers. They are dedicated to their girls, communities and our cause and we are extremely happy to have them! We hold meetings with them every 3 months to learn from each other, to review the work done and to plan ahead.

How many meetings?

We held **8** volunteer meetings with our **15** volunteers from our two communities Nyanyano and Buduburam.

Topics discussed

- ❖ SALT approach
- ❖ How to find dropped out girls and how to get them back to school
- ❖ How to approach teen pregnancy
- ❖ Community concerns
- ❖ Community planning for meetings
- ❖ GGG computer center and community Go Girl Group formation.
- ❖ Review of work done

Success story

If you are lucky, you will find a diamond in the rough. Madam Tina has outdone herself as a volunteer for GGG and we are grooming her to become a permanent part of the GGG team. We are very excited!



Go Girl Ghana meetings in short





02

**Go Girl Ghana
Center**

Safe space and library

Open from Monday to Saturday, we wanted to create a space where our girls feel safe to be themselves. Where they can talk about their hopes and dreams. A place they feel supported and where they feel part of a new family.

To us, reading is the best way to learn and travel without going anywhere. This is why we have opened a library with books from beginners to teens together with text books to encourage more reading and learning.

Go Girl center is a place to

- ❖ Get educational support
- ❖ Do their homework
- ❖ Read to expand their minds
- ❖ Connect with peers
- ❖ Creating a sense of belonging
- ❖ Mentorship
- ❖ Give space to dream

Success story

We encouraged Deborah Asantwaa (16), who got pregnant in school when 15 to continue her education after giving birth. She will return to school in 2023.



Sewing Classes

In June we started giving sewing classes which are being taught by our wonderful teacher Matilda Sarquah. Not because we believe that the girls future should rely on this but because we want to teach them a skill they can always use. By giving the classes in our center, we want to inspire them to go back to school. And by being around other girls they get a sense of belonging and being part of a team.

Set up

We work with **4** hand machines, **1** industrial machine, **1** knitting machine and **5** machine motors.

How many girls

Number of girls; **7** girls out of school girls and **10** in school girls.

Success stories

Most of the girls who joined the sewing class have dropped-out from Junior High School (JHS), 2 girls dropped out from the SHS. Emmanuella, who joined the sewing class, has gone back to school. We are very proud of her!

The girls have made great progress and are now able to sew dresses, shirts and skirts.



Computer Center Opening

To bridge the gender gap and ensure that more girls can be part of the changing future, GGG has created a safe place for girls to experience the digital world by giving them IT classes. We officially opened our computer center on Wednesday September 7th, 2022. It was a great milestone and we are extremely proud of that!

Initially, we approached companies to donate second-hand laptops. It turns out that many companies destroy their laptops and do not give them a second life. Inspired by primary schools in the Netherlands, we then decided to buy Chromebooks. These are used here and are cheaper, more secure and easier to use than normal laptops. In addition, from experience with our sewing tables, we have chosen not to make the laptop tables and chairs locally to guarantee quality / price and sustainability. So we shipped these together with the laptops from the Netherlands to Ghana, a total of 24 sets.

About 150 people attended the opening. Delegates from the ministries of education and health, schools we work with, media, other NGOs, GGG team and volunteers, parents and of course our girls gathered to celebrate the opening.

We had a lot of people speaking at the event, the most notable was Mrs. Paulina. A member of the mother club who could not hide her joy. She encouraged the mothers to allow their girls to use the center for their research and not to go to their male friends for their phones. She also expressed her profound gratitude towards GGG for their

timely operations in the district.

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Computer Center

Since the opening, we have started basic lessons for girls in both primary and secondary school. We found out that there is little to no knowledge of computers so we had to start at the beginning. How do you open a laptop, which buttons are for what, etc.

Of course, no beginning goes without a hitch. An internet connection that doesn't work well enough to teach the girls. Petrol prices going up which means our transporting the girls is getting more expensive than planned. But above all, participation is not so obvious. We also face the same problems that schools face. Parents who prefer to see their children work or who simply do not see the point. But, we learn from setbacks! So as a team, we made a plan which will make 2023 even stronger.

How many classes

We have classes **3 days a week**. We have started a basic course for our JHS3 students, an advanced class for our SHS girls and weekend class for for the community girls.

How many seats

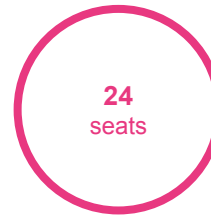
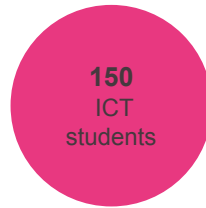
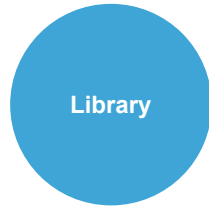
Our computer center currently holds **24 seats**.

How many girls

We are teaching **150 girls** from both communities.



Go Girl Ghana Center in short



03

Back to school



Back to school

One of the biggest reasons why girls drop out of school is due to poverty. Even though Ghana provides free education, it will cost a family between €150 and €225 to start SHS. Most families can not afford that.

Go Girl Ghana supports the girls with good grades but no finance with 50% of the cost for SHS. We can not take full responsibility of the girls. We need the parents need to do so. However we do want to lend a hand. For Primary school and JHS we support with for instance exercise books, uniforms and shoes.

In 2022, GGG helped:

- ❖ **20** girls were supported to go (back) to SHS
*2 of whom GGG takes full responsibility for as they have no family to help
- ❖ **2** girls were helped by GGG to move into another SHS as the appointed SHS was too far away
- ❖ **5** girls were helped with uniforms and shoes in JHS
- ❖ **1** girl was supported to go back to JHS after pregnancy
- ❖ **1** girl was supported to go back to JHS after being dropped out for 2 years

04

**Some personal
stories**

Forgive

I am Forgive Adinku, 17 years old. I stay with my mum and my step father at Buduburam. I completed junior high school in November 2021. I never wanted to continue with my education, the reason being that my life is full of struggles. My mum wasn't working and I wasn't on good terms with my step father who wanted to have an affair with me. I have been sexually abused by older men and I just wanted to save my mum from my step father. So I started working at a pub in my community. I was paid 200 cedis and I supported my mum with what I earned.

I was introduced to GGG in January 2022, initially I never wanted to pay attention to them but in the end they gave me reasons to go back to school. My greatest support came from Miss Comfort she encouraged me and shared her personal stories with me. Meeting miss Leonie also gave me hope and assurance. It wasn't easy for me to go back to school but finally I did. I received full support from Go Girl Ghana and I am currently in school offering visual art. I would like to be an officer in the Ghana police service. I love my current situation with all the support and love from the NGO. I am optimistic and proud to be part of GGG girls. I would say no matter the challenges that life throws at us as girls we have no reason to keep quiet.



Rachael

My name is Racheal Imbrah and I am currently a student of Winton senior high school. My story is a sad one. I lost my mum in 2016 and my father is a peasant farmer at Komenda in the central region. I stayed with my elder sister after the death of my mum. I had to drop out of school for two years until I came in contact with Go Girl Ghana through a kind hearted woman in my community called Lawrencia. It was the happiest day in my life after a long wait without any assurance of going back to school.

I was then working in a pub which wasn't a good place for a teenager like myself. I work very late at night. I was just praying patiently hoping to find myself a better job and here comes GGG ready to support me to go back to school. I told people in the community that I am finally going back to school. I am offering Home Economics precisely food and nutrition. I started as a day student and my elder sister got pregnant and couldn't support me with my transport and a decent accommodation. I thought my education was coming to an end but GGG girl there as usual, paid my hostel fee in full and gave me items needed for me to feel comfortable to study at school. I am in my second year and doing well at school. Thank you Go Girl Ghana.



Deborah

I am a girl called Deborah Asantewaa Darko. Who is now at the age of sixteen. I have five siblings who are not regularly in school. I live with my mum and my step father. I have normally faced serious life struggles but for some they are very difficult to succeed. At the age of nine, my parents got separated from each other, so my mum has to take over as a double parent all together on her own. Later when I was in class four, I was taken to stay with my grandmother. Anyway, I was able to continue my education but got repeated three times all because my grandmother said she wasn't in good support with my school, but I kept on moving without listening to what others said. So a day finally came for me to move back and stay with my dear mum again but as a child I thought my mum couldn't afford for me to continue my education but I got to know how it is to at least have a single parent all because she did her best to enroll in a school, then later she joined together with another man for support. But unfortunately for me, at my near end at junior high I got pregnant. I didn't know that I was pregnant, so for just two weeks until BECE I realized I was pregnant. I didn't know what to do, either to abort the baby or give birth. I was humiliated by others which I couldn't stand, but fortunately I was given a heavier and great hope from my mum and also an NGO called Go Girl Ghana (GGG). So I kept the pregnancy and completed my junior high education. But finally the BECE result came out not too good. I am now with a baby. How am I going to further my education and achieve my goals in life???? Even though I have parents due to financial problems, they can't afford to enroll me in the Senior High School. But for the NGO I spoke about earlier, I look forward to receiving support to be able to go back to school. I conclude by saying if you educate a man you educate a person but if you educate a girl you educate a whole or entire nation. I want to be an ambassador for change and support for teen mothers in my community.

THANK YOU.



05

Finance

Finance - spend 2022

Expense	Amount
Salaries	€ 3.630,-
Go Girl Digital	€ 8.096,-
Back to school support	€ 2.860,-
Go Girl Group /Mother Club/ Community meetings	€ 1.314,-
Sewing costs	€ 1.761,-

We take great care in making every euro go the farthest and to have a transparent spendings.

Our total spend in 2022 was **€ 30.876**

We have highlighted a few of our most important expenses.

For our financial tax report, please see [HERE](#). If you need any more detail on our expenses, please feel free to reach out to us.

Finance - income 2022

Donor	Amount
Stichting Familiefonds Wierda-Baas	€ 18.930,-
Stichting Elishua	€ 7.500,-
Anna Muntz Stichting	€ 5.000,-
Hofstee Stichting	€ 5.000,-
Kuijte Warong stichting	€ 3.000,-

Without our generous donors, we would not be able to do our work. We are happy that we have found donors that share our vision in girl equality and education!

Our total income in 2022 was **€ 43.592,-**

These are our biggest donors. We thank you very much for your support!

For our financial tax report, please see [HERE](#). If you need any more detail on our income, please feel free to reach out to us.



06

Moving forward in
2023



Moving forward

What are the plans for 2023?

Moving into other communities to expand our reach. Proposed communities are:

- ❖ Nyanyano fishing community
- ❖ Ofaakor
- ❖ Awutu-Senya

SALT CLCP training

- ❖ 30 attendees
- ❖ 3 days
- ❖ Trainers from Go Girl Kenya/ The Constellation
- ❖ Working on community owned solutions

What else do we want to do?

- ❖ Give educational support through math and science classes as well as remedial courses for girls with lower grades
- ❖ We want to start a sewing business to start sewing our own menstrual pads
- ❖ Raise funds for 2 group businesses in our communities
- ❖ Start collaborating with social welfare for the needy

The rise of HIV and other STDs

THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE HAS SHARED ALARMING DATA THAT HIV IS BACK ON THE RISE, MOST ESPECIALLY IN BUDUBURAM

GGG is teaming up with Ghana Health Services, making the education of STDs a bigger part of our reproductive health education program.

Now the problem in this is data. Because, the official numbers are kept low. Why is not entirely clear but we suspect not to admit that there is a real problem. Incidentally, the same is the case when we talk about teen pregnancies.

The number we got from the community nurses is 50 new cases a month, mostly women. Data we received from the Ministry: **196 total number of new registered cases in 2022**





**“EDUCATION IS
THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON WHICH YOU
CAN USE TO CHANGE
THE WORLD”**

NELSON MANDELA



**MEDAASE/ DANK U/
THANK YOU!**

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