



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, Nyanyano and Ofankor,

Ghana

Target population:

Adolescent girls aged 10-21 and their communities

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Who we are

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



Comfort Nukpeta
Director of Operations

Matilda Sarquah Sewing teacher

Veronica Amlado Office Manager

Joseph Deedu Ampofo
IT Teacher

Tina Owusu Asare *Volunteer & Mother Club Coordinator*

Dorcas Nukpeta Social media manager

Leonie Heppener Founder and CEO



Our other stakeholders

In 2024, GGG worked with 10 active volunteers with supporting mother club volunteers in the communities as well as international volunteers.

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

- Ghana Health Service Gomoa East
- Ghana Education Service Gomoa East
- Social Welfare Department Gomoa East
- The District Chief Executive Gomoa East
- The MP For Gomoa East
- The Chief of Lowye Awutu Senya East

We work together with the following schools

- Awutu Winton SHS Awutu Breku
- Saint Gregory SHS Buduburam
- Saint Gregory Primary/JHS Buduburam (New collaboration)
- Nyanyano primary Nyanyano Fishing Community
- Zion 'A' and Zion 'B' Basic schools Nyanyano
- Nyanyano Kakraba School Primary Nyanyano
- ♦ D/A 'A' and D/A 'B' Basic Schools Nyanyano (New collaboration)
- D/A 'A' and D/A 'B' Basic Schools Buduburam
- Point Hope Basic School Buduburam

Context situation in Ghana 2024

Overall

Like last year, we hoped that 2024 would show an improvement in living standards and education. And yet again, this is not the case. So our context has not really changed since that of last year. Cost of living has gone up drastically again making it next to impossible for people to make ends meet. Additionally, the change of party in power made things like power outages more common in turn making life a little more difficult. Teen pregnancy has been stable last year which is great but on the other hand STD's have become more common. The good news which we have noticed is that education has become more of a priority with families in our communities and parents seeking more support to ensure their children have the support they deserve.

Poverty

The cost of living keeps going up. That is the truth in Europe but that is more felt in Ghana. The ongoing instability in the world is driving up cost. We see this across all materials. Because the conversion from euro to cedi is high, imported materials are much more expensive. But that includes petrol too so things like transport and local foodhas also gone up. Unemployment is also going up, sales are going down and therefore people are slipping deeper and deeper into poverty. So even though people see the importance of education, if they struggle to make a living, they will still look at their children for support. Making it hard for them to focus on their education. We noticed a lot of our girls not even having 1 meal a day which is very concerning indeed.

Context situation in Ghana 2024

Education

The biggest lesson we have learnt in 2024 is the quality of education. Because even though our girls get support and work hard, their output has not improved. Class sizes are too big, access to school books is rare. In government run primary schools you will easily find 60-100 kids per classroom and teacher who perform extra classes often do so out of finances and not support. You can imagine what that does to the quality of education.

Free education in Ghana means only free classes. In primary school additional costs include extra classes, enrolment for tests/exams, printing fees, uniforms, books, bags, shoes, exercise books and pens amongst others. For secondary school the list goes up exponentially. So the same as primary school items but then also practical materials for classes (think of a sewing machine or cooking materials for instance) but also materials for boarding school and feeding. This can go up to €500, just at the start of the term and with additional costs coming throughout the year. Note again also for this that the conversion rate had drastically changed. So even though the cost in EU is the same, realize that the cost in Ghana's currency cedi has in many cases doubled or tripled!

For Senior High School the quality is also still a concern. The double track education keeps children at home for months on end as they will be on on term and off the next. 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 while they are out of school?

AGENDA

- 01 Go Girl Groups, mother clubs & other meetings
- 02 Go Girl Ghana Center
- 03 Back to school
- 04 Sanitary pads project
- 05 Feeding program
- **06 Personal stories**
- 07 Finance
- 08 Moving forward in 2025

Girl Groups Mother Clubs & other meetings



Go Girl Groups

It all starts with our girls. Go Girl Groups are currently there for girls in school and aim to create a safe environment for them to share and learn. They are a very important mechanism in building girls' confidence and fostering the spirit of teamwork among girls. This year we held girls' meetings in schools, our own center and our various communities.

In these meetings they discuss various topics like teamwork, dream building, teen pregnancy, STD's & reproductive health, vocational information, peer pressure, family situations and just simply girls stuff. We also want to inspire them and bring in speakers, do workshops and other events together.

How many girls?

We have changed our set up slightly and we now have 10 groups that are named with strong female leaders and are a combination of girls in and out of school. in each of the basic schools we work with as well as community groups. These girls come from our 2 main communities Buduburam and Nyanyano. Each group holds between 24 and 26 girls. This means we have **a** total of 250 girls in our groups.

How many meetings?

We have held 18 meetings per group which means a total of 180 meetings in 2024.

Success stories

Every year we get better feedback from the parents, schools and wider communities because of the change they have seen in the girls we support. They have grown more confident and have developed skills in IT, presentation, writing and public speaking. We managed to inspire them to read more so our goal is to extend our library to support this.



Home visitations

Home visitations are an important part of our programming because they help us better understand the girls' home situation, we can stimulate social change and the people appreciate the moments that we listen to them. After our training in 2023, we make sure that we use the SALT/CLCP method in doing all our visits. We meet with families whose girls are at risk of dropping out and with difficult domestic situations but we also visit them in their workplace. We also visit homes where we know is a school drop out and who we want to help go back to school. We speak with their caretakers about the girls education and their hopes and concerns about their families' lives.

How many visitations

In 2024 our team visited 170 homes

Main recurring topics in these meetings

- Unemployment / poverty
- Broken homes / marital problems / single parenting
- Parental neglect
- Disrespect and disregard from the girls
- High cost of education

Success stories

- We identified girls who needed additional support in going (back) to school.
- Parents are more inclined to share their stories with us which in turn enables us to provide better support.
- Girls formed study groups to increase their academic performance.



Mother Clubs

Our Mother Clubs have been challenging in 2024. Despite parents seeing a change in their girl and being happy to receive support, it has been difficult for them to show that same support towards our cause or that of their girls needs. We will focus on these meetings moving forward as they are an integral part of our vision for social change.

How many clubs

We currently have **3** *groups*. 2 in Buduburam and 1 in Loye (our new community). The Nyanyano group was dismantled in 2024 but as you read this, it was reinstated in January 2025.

How many meetings

In 2024 we held a total of **16 meetings** across our communities.

Topics discussed

- Role of mothers in their girls education
- GGG programming and IT classes
- Transport to GGG center
- Community concerns and hopes
- Back to school support
- Team work
- Support for their girls
- Community business projects for members of the mother club
- Marital and single parenting concerns



Loye community

Early 2024 we expanded our help to the rural community of Loye, located half an hour drive from Buduburam. Loye is a small farming community made up of a few families where most of the girl get pregnant around the age of 15-16. The illiteracy rate and school drop out rate of girls in this community was extremely high. They do not have a school in the community which does not help. Due to the distance and the road conditions it is not an easy place to reach.

What did we do there?

We formed **1** separate girl group in Loye (outside of the 10 mentioned earlier). We visit Loye every **2** weeks as a team to talk to the mothers in the newly created mother club as well as educate the girls in reading and writing and more soft education too. We have also held **2** community meetings.

Topics discussed

- Lack of market to share their produce
- Absence of school
- Education
- Illiteracy and what this means
- Teenage pregnancy
- High rate of early child marriage

Success stories

- The girls were hesitant at first but are now interested in school.
- We helped the girls develop the attitude of teamwork and being there for eachother.
- ❖ We are able to teach girls to write their own name for the first time.
- Families asking us to come more often so their girls will be more educated.
- 2 girls were enrolled in school (1 ten year old who had not been to school before!).





Community outreach

In May 2024, we wanted to create awareness of our cause in Buduburam by doing an awareness walk.

Starting at 7am, the whole team went out and we were joined by **50 of our girls, parents** and volunteers to make sure we could make an impact. And with a lot of singing we did! We walked through the community and finally ended up in the community market where we spoke to people who were buying and selling there. We shared our story of change, the need for girl child education, computer education for girls and teenage pregnancy.

Success stories

- Girls felt confident in sharing their stories in the community
- Significant enrollment of girls from Buduburam in our Girl Groups (and mothers in our mother club)
- Volunteers became more inspired because of the positive response in the community do go out more and advocate for social change



Creative minds challenge

To help our girls do better in school we want to ignite their creative spirits. And what is a better way to inspire than a good competition? So in August we launched our first annual Creative Minds challenge.

Girls from our 2 communities first did their trials after which *4 girls* from each community were selected to represent their community. And after a few training sessions they were ready to take eachother on. All our other girls, parents, teachers and dignitaries came together in our GGG center to see them compete in the following subjects

Reading
Creative Writing and presentation
Spelling bee
Words scramble
Charade

The girls from Nyanyano came out as the **winners** in this challenge. The event was huge success and has in fact inspired more of our girls to read more. We are looking forward to the 2025 challenge!



Other girl programs and meetings

Cultural exchange

Una from the Netherlands visited us to not only help GGG but also learn the culture, food and dance of the people of Ghana. Our girls researched their own tribes and presented their traditions. Una also presented her culture. The girls prepared different local foods and performed different Ghanaian traditional dances. The 16 year old volunteer inspired the girls and the girls were impressed that the volunteer was brave enough to travel to Ghana by herself as a teenager.

SHS outing

In February, our SHS two group, Michelle Obama, went on a field trip to the Kwame Nkrumah museum and the Independence square in Accra. Girls learnt about the first president in Ghana and how Ghana gained independence after Britain's colonization. It was a fun and interesting visit. The girls know about Nkrumah but to experience and learn the detail was a privilege they said.

JHS 3 outing

Our JHS3 girls went on an excursion to Gomoa wonderland on October 29th 2024. Most of the Oprah Winfrey group girls had not left their communities before so it was a real experience for them. They had the chance to do various activities and in the newly created park. Being together and eating together really created a stronger bond. But the one thing that really stood out was a boat ride. As being on the water was a first time experience for most of them.

Volunteer meetings and workshops

Every 3 months, we meet with out volunteers to discuss progress and concerns from their respective communities. We had workshops for the GGG team and our volunteers and team where we learnt about how to engage people in the community in a conversation but also how to work better as a team. Additionally we held SALT/C lessons with our new volunteers on how we work. In all we had **7 volunteer meetings** and **4 workshops**.

16





New Go Girl Ghana center

We moved!! A big part of our plans in 2024 were about a new place and we made this happen in February. We are so very happy about that! Our new space is safe and spacious as it is on our own gated compound. We can finally do a lot of our events on our own premises and give multiple classes at the same time making it easier to help more girls.

What have we done there in 2024?

- Held all our IT classes
- Held our sewing classes
- Started our extra classes
- Worked on our sanitary pad project
- Hosted the Creative Minds Challenge
- Hosted various parent meetings
- Hosted various volunteer meetings
- Hosted workshops

And many more. Our girls and their parents are happy with our move as it gives them a safe space to learn.

Our greatest *challenge* for all our programming in the center though is *transportation*. Our girls parents do not have money to pay for their transport so we step in to ensure they come. *115 girls are transported* by us and the transport budget has increased with more than 30% due to the increase of classes we offer and increase of girls in GGG as a whole.



IT Classes

2024 was a very successful year for our IT classes. We increased not only the amount of girls we taught but also the quality of our curriculum. As there is little to no practical knowledge of computers, because schools only teach theoretics, our lessons are focussed on giving basic lessons for our girls. How to open a laptop, which buttons are for what, typing, etc. Extending our curriculum for the more advanced students.

How many girls

In 2024, we taught IT to **220** for both JHS and SHS students across **9** *groups* from our 2 communities.

How many classes

We have classes 3 days a week. On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. In total we had about 136 lessons and 484 contact hours.

Curriculum

- Introduction to Chromebooks
- Google Docs Beginners
- Google slides
- Microsoft office word

- Google sheets
- Introduction to internet
- Introduction to Cava

Success story

- We graduated 18 girls in February 2024 for successfully completing a google sheet course.
- The SHS students completed a 3 month course on canva. They used this online design platform to create flyers, citation of honours, birthday cards etc. The girls excelled greatly with this new skill.



Extra classes

We introduced extra classes this year because the quality of education in the school is below par but also most of our girls do not get time to study at home. They sell in markets do laundry for people to help support their families. So despite the girls best intention, they were not getting to the academic level they need to to go further in their education. We give extra classes both in the weekend classes as well as vacation classes.

Subject

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Social studies

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology

Library

Reading is a big part of learning so we have increased the amount of reading books in our library so the girls have plenty to read when they visit our center.

Success story

- It helped reduce idleness and increase academic performance. Our girls who were once afraid to study science related subjects are now offering general science at the senior high school
- There is a positive learning competition emerging in the girls
- We are able to identify weak students and we give them assistance
- Rosemond Sey who hardly speaks in public and finds it difficult to study currently represents her school during debate competitions



Sewing Classes

Our sewing classes are used as a stepping stone for girls who are out of school and are not entirely comfortable with jumping straight back into school. Our classes are not meant to teach them a trade 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. We give our classes **2** days a week.

How many girls

Number of girls; 6 school girls to get them back to school

Challenges

- Punctuality, girls sometimes came late or did not attend regularly.
- Cost of transportation; the classes are free but the girls need to bring themselves to the center. They could not always afford this.

Success stories

- 4 out of 6 girls returned back to school.
- Our girls also supported in the sanitary pad project so they did not only learn a skill, they helped their peers too!



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Back to school support



Back to school

Poverty is one of the biggest reasons why girls drop out of school. Ghana's free education only means free classes and they need to pay for all other things. It will cost a family between €350 and €500 to start SHS. It does not stop there with more costs throughout the year and following years. Most families can not afford that.

Go Girl Ghana supports girls with good grades (we have a grade limit) but not the financial means with 50% of the cost for SHS. We do not want to take full responsibility of the girls as their school going needs to be sustainable without us too. So we expect the parents to take responsibility. We do what we can to support. For Primary school and JHS we support with for instance exercise books, uniforms and shoes.

In 2024, GGG helped a total of 150 girls:

- 22 new girls were supported to go (back) to SHS with 50% support.
- 8 girls with a continued SHS support scholarship as there is no family to support them.
- ❖ 10 girls were supported back in school without financial support
- 137 girls were supported with new shoes in collaboration with Sal's Shoes as most of them did not have proper footwear to go to school
- ♦ 125 girls were supported with stationeries, note- and exercise books

Success story

- We had our first graduates from SHS in 2024. We now have 3 girls who have completed SHS because of GGG support!
- Our 10 year old girl in Loye who had never set foot in a school is now in school!

Sanitary pads project



Sanitary pad project

Sanitary pads are expensive and most girls cannot afford them. As a result, they often do not go to school during that time of the month and of course this is at the expense of their education. That is why Go Girl Ghana started a project in 2024 to make reusable sanitary pads for our girls and by our girls.

This sounds easier than it is! Because we had to find the right materials, make the right size and of course test whether it was comfortable and worked well. Our sewing teacher and the sewing students have been working on it for months but with success! The 5 of them with other volunteers have made 3 sets for all **200 girls** that Go Girl Ghana supports in about 5 months! So **600** sanitary pads **in total**.

The feedback for the pads was very positive and we will continue this project in 2025, for the new girls and the girls that go onto SHS. Even the mothers have asked for it so maybe it will become a social project in the future.



Feeding program

Our support for the girls goes beyond providing transportation and a center for learning. We had noticed that a lot of our girls would come to the center without having a meal and they would share that they often go a day without eating. We could not let that go.

So because of that, once a month, we feed our girls with a warm meal when they come to our center. Initiative may not be in our scope but we are happy that we can make this small additional support every month. The families and the girls really appreciate it too



Personal stories

Jane

My name is Jane Appau, and I come from a family of four. Life has never been easy, but the hardest moment came when I lost my father in Junior High School (JHS 1). From that moment on, my mother became a single parent, carrying the weight of our family's survival alone. Since 2021, she has struggled to provide for us, doing everything in her power to make sure we lacked nothing. But no matter how hard she tried, there were days when things felt hopeless.

That same year, something happened that would change my life forever. Go Girl Ghana (GGG) came to my school, A.M.E Zion JHS, and by God's grace, I was selected to be part of the organization. At that time, I was a shy girl with no confidence, struggling with my academics and losing hope in my future. I believed I wasn't smart enough, strong enough, or worthy enough to dream big. But GGG saw something in me that I couldn't see in myself.

At first, the journey wasn't easy. Change never is. But GGG held my hand through every challenge, lifting me up every time I fell. They taught me to believe in myself, to be courageous, determined, and bold. The timid girl who once hid in the shadows slowly found her voice. I learned to speak up, to embrace my strengths, and to face life's struggles with resilience. A girl who once had no hope now dares to dream.

Although my mother doesn't have much, she has always done her best to provide for me and my siblings. But there were still things she couldn't afford, and that's where GGG stepped in once again. In 2023, as I prepared to enter Senior High School (SHS), they provided everything I needed—a trunk, chop box, bed, and essential school supplies. Without their support, I don't know if I would have made it to SHS.



Jane

In 2024, things became even harder when I was placed in a school without boarding facilities. My mother couldn't afford hostel fees or the books I needed for my studies. But once again, GGG did not abandon me. They paid my hostel fees, bought all my books, and ensured that I stayed in school. Without their help, I would have been forced to drop out. They even went further to provide free vacation classes, IT training, and transportation so I could attend without worrying about money.

Looking back, I can't believe how much I have changed. GGG has given me a new life, one filled with confidence, knowledge, and hope. I am no longer the shy, doubtful girl I once was. I am a girl with dreams, with courage, and with a future that I believe in.

I am beyond grateful to Go Girl Ghana, their donors, and everyone who has made this possible. My only prayer is that they continue to bless and uplift young girls like me who just need someone to believe in them. My biggest wish is to complete SHS with flying colors and prove that no obstacle can stop me from achieving my dreams.

Thank you, GGG.



Erica

My name is Erica Boakye Nana Asiamah, a 16 year old girl from Obo Kwahu in the Eastern Region of Ghana. I live in Kasoa Adade Kotokoli Junction with my family. Life has never been easy, but my journey has taught me resilience and hope. I come from a large family my parents, Mr. Emmanuel Somuah Sasu and Mrs. Victoria Mensah, have given me nine siblings, but I have four more from my father's side, making us thirteen in total. Growing up in such a big family meant that resources were always stretched thin.

When I was in basic school, I had everything I needed school materials, food, and a sense of security. But as I moved into Junior High School, everything changed. Money became scarce, and some days, I had to go to school on an empty stomach. My parents, struggling to make ends meet, sometimes asked me to stay home because they couldn't afford to give me money for the day. But I knew missing school would only make things worse, so I pushed through, enduring hunger just to keep learning.

Aside from the financial struggles, I also battled with self-doubt. I was painfully shy and lacked confidence in myself. I felt small, as if I didn't belong anywhere. That changed in my second year of Junior High when I met Go Girl Ghana (GGG). Joining this organization was the turning point in my life. They taught me to be strong, to believe in myself, and to embrace my potential. I learned that my background does not define my future and that my struggles today can be overcome with hard work and determination.

GGG didn't just encourage me; they equipped me with knowledge and skills. They introduced me to IT classes, opening a whole new world of technology that I never had access to before. It was life-changing to finally learn about computers and realize how much they shape our world today. For the first time, I felt like I was gaining a skill that could help me build a better future.



Erica

Even after Junior High School, GGG continued to stand by me. My grades were not the best, and getting into Senior High School seemed impossible. But in 2023, they stepped in once again, providing me with everything I needed—a trunk, chop box, school bag, calculator, iron, exercise books, and all the essential items for a first-year SHS student. I could never have afforded these on my own. GGG also gave me free Pre-SHS classes, helping me prepare for the new academic challenges ahead.

Their support didn't stop there. In 2024, GGG sponsored my SHS vacation classes, even covering my transportation so I could attend without worry. It was more than just financial help, it was a reminder that I was not alone, that someone believed in my potential and wanted to see me succeed. Their kindness gave me hope, strength, and the courage to keep pushing forward.

I am very thankful for everything Go Girl Ghana has done for me. They have shaped me into a more confident and determined young woman. I pray that God blesses GGG, their donors, and everyone who supports this incredible organization. My greatest wish is to complete Senior High School with good grades and further my education. I want to make something of myself, not just for me, but to prove that where we come from does not determine where we can go.

Thank you for believing in me.



Finance

Finance - spend 2024

Expense	Amount
Salaries	€ 6.411,-
Go Girl Digital (hardware, software, internet, class materials, no salaries or transport)	€ 3.381-
Back to school support	€ 4.715,-
Feeding program	€ 1.610,-
Go Girl Group /Mother Club/ Community meetings	€ 4.376,-
Transport costs (meetings, girls to center and IT classes, car maintenance)	€ 8.465,-
Sanitary pad project	€ 855,-
Office, general operating and other costs (2 year pre-payment rent for Go Girl Center included) Go Girl Ghana Annual Report 2024	€ 6.773,-

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

Our total spend in 2024 was € 36.586,-

We have highlighted a few of our most important expenses.

For our financial tax report, please see the download page on our website <u>HERE</u>. If you need any more detail on our expenses, please feel free to reach out to us.

Finance - income 2024

Donor	Amount
Stichting Familiefonds Wierda-Baas	€ 7.500,-
Vastenactie	€ 5.250,-
Elishua Stichting	€ 5.000,-
Anna Muntz Stichting	€ 5.000,-
Hofstee Stichting	€ 5.000,-

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

These are our biggest donors. We thank you and the rest of our donors very much for your support!

Our total income in 2024 was € 26.875,-*

*Our spend was higher than our income partly because some of the donations for 2024 were already received 2023. The other part is due to a balance that we have on our bank in Ghana.

For our financial tax report, please see the download page on our website <u>HERE</u>. If you need any more detail on our expenses, please feel free to reach out to us.





Moving forward

What are our plans for 2025?

Our programming is quite diverse and we want to mainly continue and strengthen our work this year. Having said that, there are a few things that we will want to focus on.

- Partner with the *national service secretariat* to provide us with interns to help meet educational needs of our girls
- Create GGG girls board and parents board. As we want to make sure our programming aligns with our stakeholders
- Create a community girls group to help solve peer pressure
- Create a more vibrant mother club in Nyanyano and Buduburam community
- Include boys and men more!
- Give additional educational support through various classes
- Proceed with sewing our own menstrual pads
- Raise funds to buy *our own bus* for transporting of girls. Transport remains a big concern for us!
- Plan for a daycare for our teen mothers who want to go back to school but do not get support from their family in taking care of their babies.
- Plan to buy a property so we are more independent and can expand our work
- More (international) volunteers so we are able to expand our work, inspire the girls and raise more funds

