



Annual Report 2016

1 January - 31 December 2016





FRONT COVER: Cheeky Victor is one of thousands of at-risk children who we ensured were safe, healthy and in school in 2016



31,174

children supported through education

1,000+

families supported to grow businesses

130

children helped off the streets

50,000+

medical cases seen

~23,250

Child Rights Club members

38

families living with disabilities supported

12,760

children health screened in schools

120

volunteers recruited as education and health campaigners

80

children provided safe homes

AfriKids' project manager, Richard takes a break with children starting school for the first time

We believe in the rights of all children, everywhere and that they should be valued, protected and met by all.

We exist to make this the reality for children in northern Ghana, where more than half of all families live in poverty. With our support, they are lifting themselves out of poverty and ensuring their children are healthy, safe and in school.

What we do

We work with all levels of society from parents and community groups, to the government and private sector, to ensure that child protection, education and health systems work for all children, but especially those most at risk, including children without a safe home, children living with disabilities and girls.

How we do it

Our work is entirely led by local staff with a simple approach of listening to their communities and empowering them to make sustainable changes themselves.



John Hickman (right) this year stepped down as Chair, handing over to Duncan Spencer (left)

A message from our Chair



I am delighted to report that 2016 was a year of significant growth for AfriKids, with many successes to celebrate.

Firstly, we expanded the number of districts we operate in to 16 - and for the first time started work in Ghana's Upper West Region with the launch of a new programme focussing on early years education.

2016 was also a record year for fundraising; a remarkable performance by the team, particularly given the uncertainty arising from major political and economic events in the UK, Ghana and globally. I congratulate Amy and her team on this fantastic achievement, which in turn is only possible as a consequence of the outstanding work delivered on the ground by Nich and his team in Ghana.

By way of illustration, we are proud that this fantastic fundraising effort ensured the continuation of services to treat more than 50,000 cases at the AfriKids Medical Centre; a critical investment given the turmoil in the provision of healthcare in Ghana due to ongoing delays in National Health Insurance payments, which has forced other facilities in the Upper East region to either close or significantly reduce services they provide to the community.

It has also enabled AfriKids to scale up both our student loan scheme for trainee teachers and nurses, and our work tackling teen pregnancy and child marriage, ahead of schedule.

2016 also saw an increase the number of mothers we support through our microfinance programme, principally as a result of our Back a Family Business campaign in September. With the help of our supporters, we have been able to support over 1,000 families as a consequence of this important programme.

In addition to – and also as a consequence of - these successes, 2016 also saw a change in the AfriKids strategy, which will see AfriKids UK continue to partner with AfriKids Ghana to deliver so much good on the ground in Ghana beyond 2018.

I, and all the Trustees of AfriKids UK, are in full support of this positive and important step and the considered and careful way that Amy, Nich and the wider AfriKids leadership set about refining the organisational goals and operating framework to reflect this new approach.

2016 also saw a change in the leadership of the AfriKids UK Board, with John Hickman stepping down as Chairman after more than 10 years of loyal and steadfast stewardship. John was the first Chairman of AfriKids UK and since 2002 has been part of the significant successes and growth of AfriKids.

John has always given selflessly of his time, experience and expertise to the organisation, and in the big-hearted spirit synonymous with all things AfriKids. Please join me in thanking and congratulating John for his important contribution to AfriKids. I am delighted to say that the organisation will continue to benefit from John's involvement as he remains a Trustee on the UK Board.

Lastly - and most importantly - the biggest thanks go to you, the dedicated supporters of AfriKids, without whom none of these incredible achievements would be possible.

Here's to the next stage in the AfriKids story, and to a fantastic year ahead.

Duncan Spencer
Chair, AfriKids Ltd.

Activities and achievements



More than 300 women and traditional leaders turned up to sing, dance and welcome new-comers celebrating “My First Day at School”

Top: Students on their way to school in northern Ghana

Above: Young students enjoy more fun and interactive learning at specially designed Kindergarten classes

Improving Early Years Education

In partnership with Ghana Education Service and Sabre Trust we started a new programme in 2016 to improve the quality of Early Years Education in northern Ghana. This work is particularly focussed on raising literacy standards for 4 to 8 year olds and the programme will provide vital training to Kindergarten teachers in order to enhance their teaching skills.

We’re working with 117 schools to improve their governing systems and staff monitoring, to ensure teachers are performing at a good standard and are equipped with the training to do so. We’re encouraging the formation of reading clubs in schools as well as establishing Community Education Champions; who are individuals who promote early years education in remote and rural communities and ensure that their local schools are held accountable for providing their children with a good education.

Opening Doors to Schools

Our work with 60 schools to increase the number of children successfully completing a basic education is achieving phenomenal results ahead of schedule.

This year we celebrated 98% of children in these schools completing their Basic Education Certificate Exam (which marks the end of their basic education), a year ahead of target. Pass rates for English and maths, which were previously very low, were also improved beyond targets set.

These successes have been achieved through long-term changes to attitudes around education and the systems ensuring its delivery. By involving parents and community members in the governance of schools and advocating the importance of education, these communities are now proactively ensuring every child receives an education.

A highlight was more than 300 women and traditional leaders singing, dancing and welcoming new-comers to celebrate “My First Day at School” on the first day of term – a hugely influential event on public opinion and pride in children attending school.

Far left: School students get to grips with a real computer at the AfriKids ICT Academy

Left: An evening class for children on the streets takes place at the School of Night Rabbits



Inclusive education

12,760 children were health screened in schools to identify any basic issues that might be impairing their learning like poor sight and hearing. 6,000 of them were found to have minor issues and provided treatment or support to overcome them. 701 teachers and education managers were trained in inclusive education, making their classrooms more welcoming and appropriate to children with disabilities and learning difficulties. This work is ensuring the right to education and reducing stigma for the most marginalised children and improving the learning experience and outcomes for all children.

School of Night Rabbits

The sound of drums continued to ripple through Bolgatanga three nights a week this year as 130 children living and working on the streets enrolled at the School of Night Rabbits. 100 children attended classes and 30 older ones were supported with vocational training. Covering basic numeracy, literacy and English as well as cultural learning in drumming and the famous “Dance of the Night Rabbits”, the classes give children who have dropped out or never attended school the skills and confidence they need to enter formal education. The school celebrated 83 children graduating and beginning school full time this year.

Transforming Futures

Building on the success of getting more children into school and progressing through all stages, we increased our support for teens and young adults looking to further

their education beyond the basic levels. 46 students were supported with sponsorship or student loans to train in teaching, nursing and higher education, boosting the skills base of the region to improve much needed public services. Our new student loan scheme provides a sustainable solution – when students are able to repay their loans, these are used to fund new loans for more students.

IT education for all

The AfriKids ICT Academy saw 1,917 people through its doors including children, students and adult learners. This facility in Bolgatanga provides free IT classes to children who would otherwise have limited or no access to computers despite needing to pass IT exams as part of the national curriculum. It also provides valuable skills training to IT teachers in the area and to adults keen to develop their CVs to and improve their employment prospects.

A new road for Samuel

As a child, Samuel lived and worked on the streets of Bolgatanga. With AfriKids’ support, he found a home with Mama Laadi, went to school and this year, he graduated from university.

Samuel first came to know the AfriKids team when he was living and working on the busy streets of Bolgatanga. While he dreamt of going to school, his everyday reality involved finding whatever work he could to feed himself and get by.

Samuel moved into the Operation Mango Tree foster home run by “Mama Laadi”, supported by AfriKids, in 2005 and began school again. With a secure and supportive home and his own hard work and determination, he progressed through the years and finished Senior High School with impressive grades that secured him a sponsored place at a university in Ghana’s capital, Accra.

After four years of study, Samuel graduated this year as a Physician’s Assistant, and will return to Bolgatanga to apply his much-needed skills in the public health sector of northern Ghana.



Activities and achievements



Child Protection



Ending child marriage

In its second year, our Futures' Freedom programme is exceeding ambitions to reduce teenage pregnancy and end child marriage.

This year we've educated over 7,000 community members on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, trained 30 Public Health Nurses and 250 head teachers so they can better support adolescents and prepared 231 peer educators so they're confident to share their knowledge back at school.

A need for the programme was identified through our work in education which revealed that the pressure for girls to marry and have children was acting as a major barrier to education. This is not only holding girls back, and putting their health at risk, it's holding back entire communities. The programme is transforming the futures of young women by promoting gender equality and empowering them with knowledge on their sexual health and rights.

This year we also worked with UNICEF in tackling child marriage and underage pregnancy. This included empowering 4,080 teenagers with knowledge about their rights and how they can play an active role in changing attitudes to end harmful practices and keep all children safe.



Ending the Spirit Child Phenomenon for good

AfriKids recorded the end of the Spirit Child Phenomenon (SCP) in the village of Sirigu four years ago and since then we have expanded the work tackling this damaging cultural belief which puts children at risk. In short, the Spirit Child Phenomenon is a belief that a child born with health problems, disabilities or whose birth coincides with tragic events, is a spirit sent from the bush to cause misfortune for their family. As a result the child may be subjected to abuse, neglect or even infanticide.

We have been working to put an end to this harmful traditional practice for a number of years, working closely with local communities and their chiefs to ensure a lasting change is

Top: A mother and children in a rural village

Middle: More than half of all girls in northern Ghana are married before the age of 18. We are working to end child marriage and promote education for girls

Above: AfriKids Manager, Joe, and Richmond, a child with Cerebral Palsy



Above: Sister Jane with babies and their carers at her home for babies at risk in the Northern Region

made. Following the success of this work, last year we expanded into the Bongo district and are currently working with 11 out of the 33 communities there. Looking ahead to this year we hope to start work in the remaining Bongo Communities and see an end to SCP in many more.

Safe homes for babies and children at risk

80 babies and children at risk and without a safe home were cared for at children's homes run by Mama Laadi, Uncle Fred and Sister Jane.

As well as ensuring a safe, nurturing environment and ensuring these children go to school, these projects also run community outreach activities to work with families and overcome issues that have put these children at risk, including fear they are "spirit children" and inability to provide for them as a result of extreme poverty.

Sister Jane, who specifically cares for babies and young mums in danger, runs antenatal clinics in very rural communities where education and health coverage is low and maternal and infant mortality rates some of the highest in the country. She works with ostracised teen mums as young as 14, supporting them with childcare and nutrition and working with their families and communities to rehabilitate them while educating communities in family



Miracle starts school!

Miracle is a little girl that lives up to her name. She was born fighting for her life, due to a congenital heart defect – a hole in her heart – and this year took her biggest step yet.

Miracle was born at the Regional Hospital in Bolgatanga, which is the capital of the Upper East Region (UER) of Ghana. The UER faces significant challenges in delivering healthcare; there is only one doctor for every 35,010 people in the region (in the UK this is 369), it also lacks qualified healthcare professionals, and there are no cardiology specialists in the UER.

After months of confusion, concern and fear for her daughter's health and travelling back and forth between Bolgatanga and Tamale, Miracle's mother Lydia got a referral to a hospital in the national capital, Accra, where her daughter received her diagnosis.

Miracle needed a surgical procedure, but to be effective it would have to be done before she was six months old. The hospital in Accra had a long waiting list, and at three months old, Miracle was not likely to survive the wait. The doctors in Accra recommended that the family travel to India for the procedure, and despite her father fundraising at work, they did not have the money they needed to do this.

AfriKids helped contact local journalists, radio and TV shows and used social media to tell people about Miracle's plight and help her family fund her treatment. Thanks to the generosity of people in Ghana and the UK, enough was raised for Miracle and Lydia to travel to India for the life-saving treatment, just before Miracle was turned six months old. The operation was a complete success and now back at home in Ghana, Miracle is doing really well and this year started school!

Activities and achievements



Health



AfriKids Medical Centre

It was another challenging year for Ghana's health sector as the National Health Insurance Scheme continued to miss payments due to public and private health facilities like the AfriKids Medical Centre. A primary hospital, the AfriKids Medical Centre now sees around 55,000 cases a year, most of which are children and families who, without the National Health Insurance Scheme which funds services like ours, would not be able to access basic healthcare including antenatal services and malaria treatment, which make up 70% of the cases we treat.

This year we fought hard to maintain this vital service despite payments from the government falling 12 months behind, with cost cuts and support from charitable donations to keep the centre going. Following a general election in November, the new government have made a strong commitment to resolving this issue and reviving the health sector. If payments are made, the AfriKids Medical Centre will in fact generate a profit (~£50,000 in 2016 alone) that will be reinvested to improve the facility and its services, particularly in maternal and paediatric health.

Top: The AfriKids Medical Centre sees more than 50,000 cases every year

Above: Our new Cerebral Palsy clinics are providing physiotherapy, advice and emotional support to families living with disability

Changing attitudes about disability

In the Upper East Region there are particularly high numbers of children living with disabilities including Cerebral Palsy (CP), a term used to describe various conditions which cause loss or impairment of movement. These conditions often result from a lack of medical care during childbirth causing complications that result in lasting brain damage. Many of these disabilities are then untreated and undiagnosed for years due to a lack of education about health and medical facilities.

AfriKids is working with families supporting children with CP and other disabilities to ensure they have access to the help and resources they need; including nutritious food, medical care and access to schooling, as well as training for families in physiotherapy that will improve mobility and comfort for their children. Following success in Kassena Nankana, this year we introduced CP clinics to the Bongo district.

Enabling initiatives

Activities which support work towards our goals



Livelihoods

Supporting family businesses

Our micro-finance initiative this year empowered over 1,450 women through loans and training to set-up or grow their own small businesses to generate the income needed to support their families and keep their children safe, healthy and in school. A new campaign, Back a Family Business, raised extra funds for this work, enabling us to provide 1,047 more loans to families on our waiting list. Thank you to everyone that supported the appeal.

Rights and Advocacy

Child Rights Clubs

One of AfriKids' most successful initiatives is our Child Rights Clubs. These after school youth clubs teach children about their rights and give them a voice to build their confidence through debates, quizzes and youth empowerment activities in the community like radio discussions and demonstrations against child labour and child marriage.

Testament to these clubs are its members – now active ambassadors for child rights who are preventing issues like child marriage among their peers and educating their families and communities on the importance of protection, health and education for all children as routes out of poverty.

AfriKids' Child Rights Clubs have proved so popular that they have now been rolled out in more than 250 schools and are being replicated by Ghana Education Service in more. This year, they were adapted to include Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights education, to form an essential part of our Futures' Freedom project, working to reduce teenage pregnancy and end child marriage.



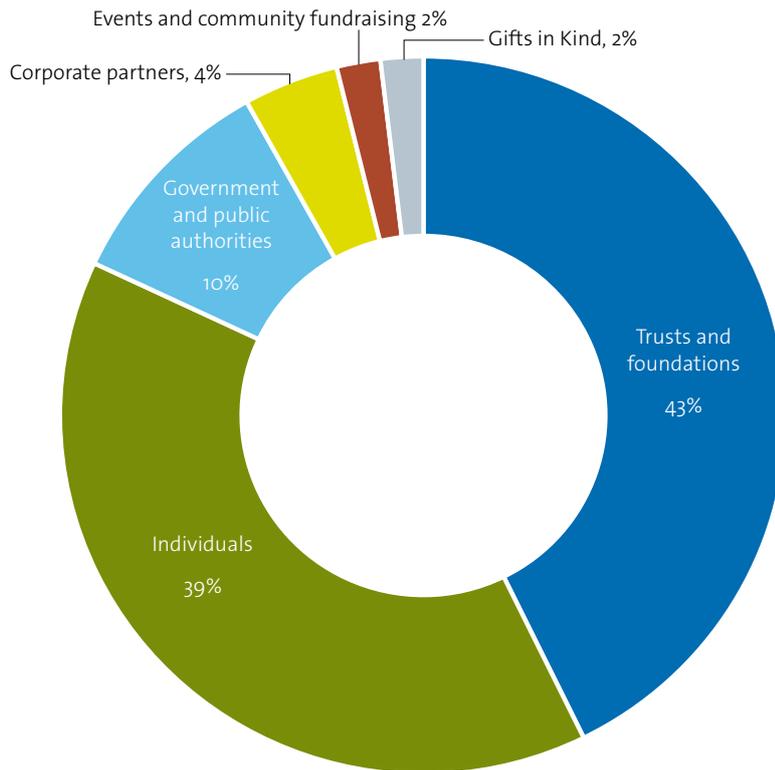
Social Enterprise

Go Solar!

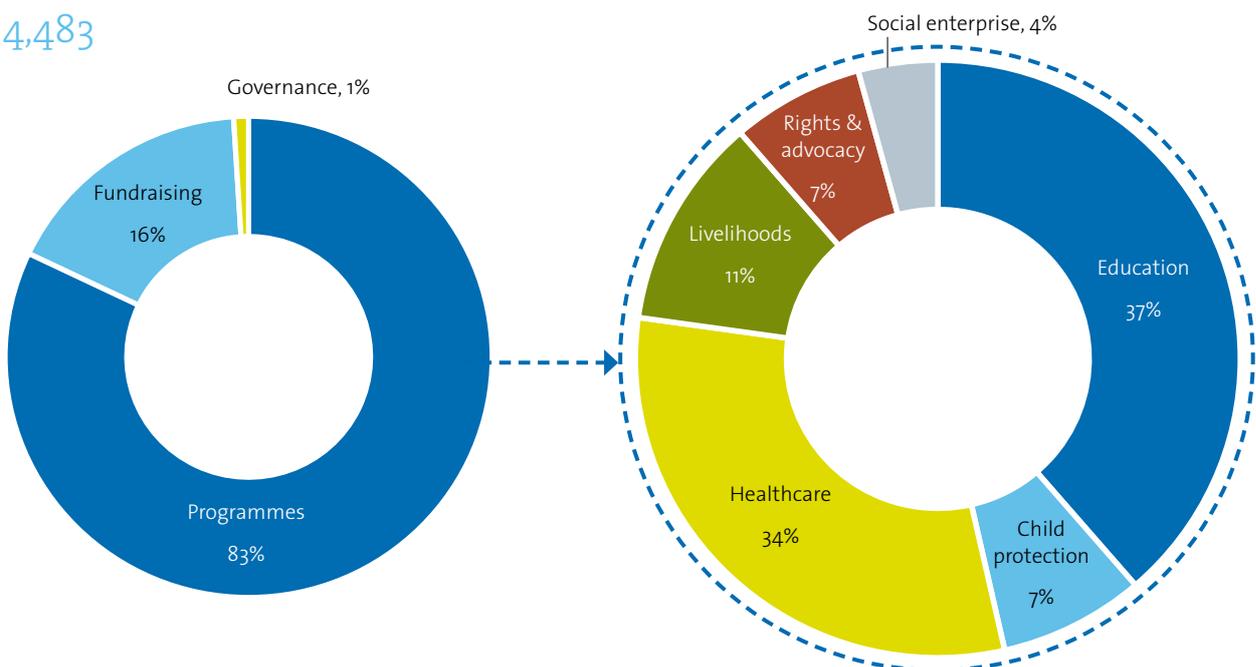
This year we launched our first solar lighting initiative, bringing affordable lighting to homes across northern Ghana. The electric grid in Ghana is highly temperamental and extremely limited in the north. Most of the families we work with do not have electricity at home and this can be the difference of their children being able to do homework in the evening, parents being able to work longer hours on family businesses and having reliable access to basic technology like mobile phones and radio, which make a huge difference to people's access to information and learning.

2016 income and expenditure

Income
£2,815,318



Expenditure
£2,194,483



Looking forward



2016 year has been a pivotal year for AfriKids; reviewing our impact to-date and designing our strategy for the next four years.

Our Theory of Change

This year we finalised our Theory of Change review, which examined the changes AfriKids exists to make and, through consultation with all of our stakeholders, distilled the systems and activities we need in place to make them happen.

We also consulted samples of all of our stakeholders – partners, donors, beneficiaries, communities, authorities, etc. – in developing our strategy to 2018 and beyond. These discussions revealed the changes AfriKids has made to hundreds of thousands of lives across northern Ghana, and the increasing influence we are now having at the national level, affecting public policy and strategies impacting children and poor families.

Our full Theory of Change document is available to read here:
<http://bit.ly/2sV7ESQ>

Our Strategy for 2017-2020: *Clearer Focus, Wider Reach*

Building on our Theory of Change, we developed our strategy for 2017-2020 to turn the theory into practice. Over the next four years, AfriKids will hone its work with a clearer focus on three priority areas: child protection, education and health. Our work in livelihoods, advocacy and social enterprise will continue but as secondary, “enabling” activities to support these three primary goals.

Over the last fifteen years, we have continuously evaluated and developed our programmes to make them as effective as possible. We will now be delivering our award-winning approaches to improve child protection, education and health across a wider area – into 12 of the 13 districts of the Upper East Region and select districts of the neighbouring Upper West and Northern Regions, where we have the opportunity to help many more children and families that greatly need our support.

We will also be increasing the depth of our involvement in these three key issues, investing more in “systemic change” to maximise our impact and sustainability.

Our full strategy document, *Clearer Focus, Wider Reach*, is available to read here:
<http://bit.ly/2sPASlN>

Acknowledgements

We are incredibly grateful to each of the individuals and organisations who made our work possible in 2016.

Our special thanks this year go to:

Patrons and Trustees (including retirees and new appointments in the period)

Baroness Lynda Chalker of Wallasey (Patron)
Dr Gunther Faber (Patron)
Duncan Spencer (Chair)
Frances Cleland Bones (Trustee)
Georgina Fienberg (Founder and Trustee)
Jacqueline Moller Larsen (Trustee)
Jason Haines (Treasurer)
John Hickman (Trustee)
Loughlin Kennedy (Trustee)
Martin Ott (Trustee)
Sophie Hug Williams (Trustee)
Vedrana B. Riley (Trustee)

Ambassadors

Ali Tovey
Alistair Turner
Dave Brown
Diane Mackie
Emma Watkins
Fred Cohen
Graham Hodgkin
Hugh Taylor
James Ball
Jane Howard
Jim and Tessa Rice
Jo Coles (nee Grimshaw)
Kate Cavelle
Laura Parrett
Lissa Golaszewska
Nick Lawson
Nina Spencer

Patrick and Paula Grossman
Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock
Paul Hill
Paul Leonard
Carole Cohen
Sam Witney
Simon Wooller
Stuart and Erica Peters
Stuart Roden
Sir Trevor Pears
Vidya Naidu

Individuals

Ben and Katherine Bond
David and Rochelle
Bloomberg
Dax Patel
Emily Barker
Emily Cowan
Fienberg Family
Frances Lindsay
Gabi Matthews
Helga Van Peer
Jill Hughes
John Kemp
John Richards
John Ward
Jude Saldanha
Mark Arrowsmith
Mark Ellis
Matthias Russwurm
Michaela Rayner
Nick and Lisa Kent
Richard Buxton
Richard Newman
Stephen Marchant
Susan Corby and John Ward
The Kennedy Family
The Wright Family

Community fundraisers

Charterhouse School
Hannah Martin
Keith Theodore
Langley Grammar School
Let's Read!
Roger Webb
Snaresbrook Primary School
The Cathedral School, Llandaff
The Rowans School

Institutions, Trusts and Foundations

Big Lottery Fund
City & Guilds
Comic Relief
Commonwealth Foundation
David and Claudia Harding Foundation
Erach & Roshan Sadri Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Martin and Eugenia Ephson Education Trust
Medicor Foundation
Liechtenstein
Pears Foundation
People's Postcode Lottery
RELX
Sir Ernest Cassel Educational Trust
St. James's Place Foundation
The ALMT
The Chalk Cliff Trust
The Commonwealth Foundation
The E D Charitable Trust
The Evan Cornish Foundation

The Marple Charitable Trust
Tropical Health & Education Trust (THET) as part of the Health Partnership Scheme, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID)
UK Department for International Development (DFID)
Vitol Foundation

Corporate partners

Aberdeen Asset Management Charitable Foundation
Alpha FMC
Alquity Investment Management Limited
Capco
Chameleon Communications International Ltd
CITAC Africa Ltd
Frances Lindsay & Co
Generali Worldwide
Nasarius Switzerland GmbH

Pro Bono and Gifts in Kind

Allen & Overy LLP
BeyondMe and the Sky High EY Team
Capco
Dave and Mark
Georgie Fienberg
Martin and Eugenia Ephson Education Trust
Solid Management

How you can help

Be a change-maker today

Donate

Online

www.afrikids.org/donate

By bank transfer

From the UK

Lloyds Bank | 77-91-13 | 27029468

From outside the UK

Sort Code: 77-91-13
Account number: 27029468
IBAN: GB10 LOYD 7791 1327 0294 68
BIC: LOYDGB21J15

By cheque

Please send a cheque made payable to AfriKids to:

AfriKids, 21 Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA

By text message

Text "AFRiO2" followed by the amount you would like to give (£1, £2, £2, £4, £5 or £10) to 70070 (maximum £10)

Fundraise

Bring big smiles to little faces by helping children and families that need your help in northern Ghana. At work, school, in your community or doing a challenge, there are lots of fun ways to help us raise funds and we'll support you all the way.

Please get in touch to find out more.

Follow

www.afrikids.org
facebook.com/afrikids
twitter.com/afrikids

Contact

General enquiries

info@afrikids.org
(+44) 0 207 269 0740

AfriKids UK
21 Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA
UK

(+233) 0 382 023 829

AfriKids Ghana

PO Box 166
Bolgatanga
Upper East Region
Ghana

(+233) 0 382 023 829