



The difference you've made

Impact report 2019





ייחסי 7 יחסי →2A ייחסי 3 ייחסי →3A ייחסי 4 ייחסי →4A ייחסי 5 ייחסי →5A ייחסי 7 יחסי
 Dedicated to our supporters and friends



ייחסי 7 יחסי →2A ייחסי 3 ייחסי →3A ייחסי 4 ייחסי →4A ייחסי 5 ייחסי →5A ייחסי 7 יחסי
 You made this possible



ייחסי 7 יחסי →2A ייחסי 3 ייחסי →3A ייחסי 4 ייחסי →4A ייחסי 5 ייחסי →5A ייחסי 7 יחסי
 Thank you!





953,018

big smiles since 2002

Since 2002, your support has enabled us to deliver 953,018 cases of support to vulnerable children in northern Ghana and their families.



A prosperous and
thriving world
where the rights
of every child are
valued, protected
and met by all

This is our vision, and we exist to make it the
reality for children in northern Ghana,
where more than half of all families live in poverty and
1 in every 15 children dies before their 5th birthday

Pre
2002

- The beginnings of AfriKids. Georgie met Sister Jane, AfriKids' first local hero, while travelling around Ghana on her gap year and began fundraising to support the Mother of Mercy Babies' Home in Sirigu.

- Basis of Operation Sirigu emerges – reducing the death rate of babies in the home successfully to 0.

- 93 children at risk of abuse and neglect were supported at the Mother of Mercy Babies' Home in Sirigu with support from Georgie's fundraising efforts in the UK.



2002

- Work in Ghana expands to support other local heroes, Nich Kumah and Joe Asakibee who are already tackling child street-ism and the Spirit Child Phenomenon in their communities. Georgie together with school friend, Georgie Coombes, registers AfriKids as a charity in the UK.



2004

- By 2004, AfriKids has supported renovation and expansion of Sister Jane's babies home and a drop in centre for street children originally set up by Nich Kumah and friends.

- The origins of further AfriKids projects develop, such as The School of Night Rabbits for children living and working on the streets of Bolgatanga, support for Mama Laadi, a local hero caring for some of the most vulnerable children and Pastor Charles, who has been voluntarily teaching 30 children under the shade of a mango tree. In 2005 a school was built which was later successfully handed over to Ghana Education Service, making it sustainable.

- AfriKids launched our first official project, Operation Sirigu, as work tackling the Spirit Child Phenomenon expands. The project supported mothers and babies at risk and delivered preventative community education on the importance of ante and post natal support.

2005

- AfriKids Ghana is registered as a Ghanaian NGO, with Nich Kumah leading the small team.

- The Next Generation Home is built as a safe centre for up to 80 children on the streets

- A school is built in Pastor Charles' community. Responsibility for it is later successfully transferred to Ghana Education Service

- The AfriKids ICT Academy is launched to bring IT education to school children and adults in Bolgatanga, with support from UK funder Reed Elsevier.



2006

- Following a successful pilot phase - rescuing 10 girls from the streets of Kumasi after they moved south to find work - AfriKids receives funding from the Big Lottery Fund to scale this work up (the second largest donation they had ever made to Africa).

- AfriKids purchases a small clinic as a social enterprise providing free basic healthcare while raising funds for the charity. The AfriKids Medical Centre is now a primary hospital and sees 50,000 cases every year.

- Mothers and babies in the Kassena Nankana district benefit from improved maternal and infant health services following the construction two new clinics, with support from Pears Foundation.

2007

- An award winning year! AfriKids wins the International Service Award for the Protection of Children's Rights and Third Sector Excellence Award for Accountability and Transparency.

- AfriKids' project portfolio continues to grow, providing support in education, child protection, health and livelihoods across 10 projects.

- Work tackling child trafficking expands AfriKids' first ever institutional grant. The project helps 160 children resettled back at home with their families and return to school or receive skills training.



2013

- Major expansion of AfriKids' projects reaches more communities, with new focus on tackling the root causes of issues impacting children's education, safety and health, alongside direct support to children at risk now

- AfriKids becomes the charity partner to major law firm, Allen & Overy. The two year partnership provides over £1.3m in fundraising and in-kind support

- AfriKids' Energy for Life Initiative sells thousands of subsidised clean cook stoves across northern Ghana to reduce the high costs and environmental and health impacts of traditional open fire cooking.

- Chiefs and elders of the Sirigu community officially declare the end of the spirit child phenomenon.



2012

- AfriKids Squared provides consultancy to 57 organisations active in 25 countries, extending the reach of AfriKids' knowledge and experience to benefit people worldwide



2011

- Gordon Brown commends AfriKids in the G8 Education for All progress report.

- AfriKids hits the headlines as The Telegraph's Christmas charity, raising over £200k.



2010

- Deutsche Bank staff select AfriKids as their Charity of the Year - their first African partnership - raising over £1m.

- With 17 projects running, AfriKids shifts focus from single projects to regional programmes, as the organisation matures and attracts larger, strategic grants from funders.

- An independent evaluation of AfriKids' work with street and working children reports a 95% success rate and paves the way for AfriKids' first Comic Relief grant.

- The GAS Partnership launches between Ghana Health Service, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and AfriKids to drive up healthcare standards across northern Ghana.

2009

- AfriKids becomes the first international charity to receive the prestigious Impact Award for Education from STARS Foundation



2008

- BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning West African journalist, Sorious Samura, hails AfriKids' model of sustainable development in his documentary - 'How to make a difference in Africa'

- 450 children are rescued from working in mines as part of eliminating the worst forms of child labour in the Talensi and Nabdam districts of northern Ghana.



2014

- AfriKids joins the People's Postcode Lottery charity family, providing invaluable unrestricted funding to support where it's needed most

- Blue Sky Travel launches as a new social enterprise, providing a variety of responsible tourism packages

- The AfriKids Medical Centre treats 68,000 cases, 17% more than the previous year.

- AfriKids is chosen as a partner to roll out a major nationwide programme supporting out of school children into education.

- UNICEF partners with AfriKids to reach 46,000 children with health and education support.



2015

- The UK government's Department for International Development awards £1m to AfriKids Ghana. The largest single grant in AfriKids' history.

- UNICEF and the International Labour Organisation approach AfriKids Ghana as an implementation partner for ground-breaking new initiatives, including maternity protection

- AfriKids Ghana takes full control of the design and delivery of all AfriKids' programmes, as UK programmatic support comes to a close.

- External consultants help develop AfriKids' Theory of Change; the basis for building a stronger strategy going forwards.

2015

- AfriKids becomes the first 'International Charity of the Year' at the Charity Times Awards.

- AfriKids celebrates reaching over 10,000 children with our Child Rights Club model. The clubs are set up in schools to teach children about their rights and build confidence to speak out against violations.

- Samuel Yin graduates from Medical school! AfriKids met Samuel when he was living and working on the streets and supported him with a safe home and an education.



2016

- Over 33,500 children benefit from the launch of AfriKids' Early Years Education intervention to improve the quality of Kindergarten teaching which is fundamental to their future educational attainment



2017

- 'Clearer Focus, Wider Reach', AfriKids new four-year programmes strategy is launched, announcing that AfriKids UK will continue to help raise funds beyond 2018, enabling the team in Ghana to reach more children.

2018

- The UK government commits to match fund AfriKids' Time to Shine appeal through their UK Aid Match scheme. The appeal raises over £1.2m to support 18,000 children to complete their Basic Education.

- June Sarpong MBE becomes an AfriKids Ambassador and presents AfriKids' BBC Radio 4 Appeal, raising close to £20,000.

- Joe and his team working to eradicate the spirit child phenomenon expand their intervention to reach 40 more communities over three years.

2019

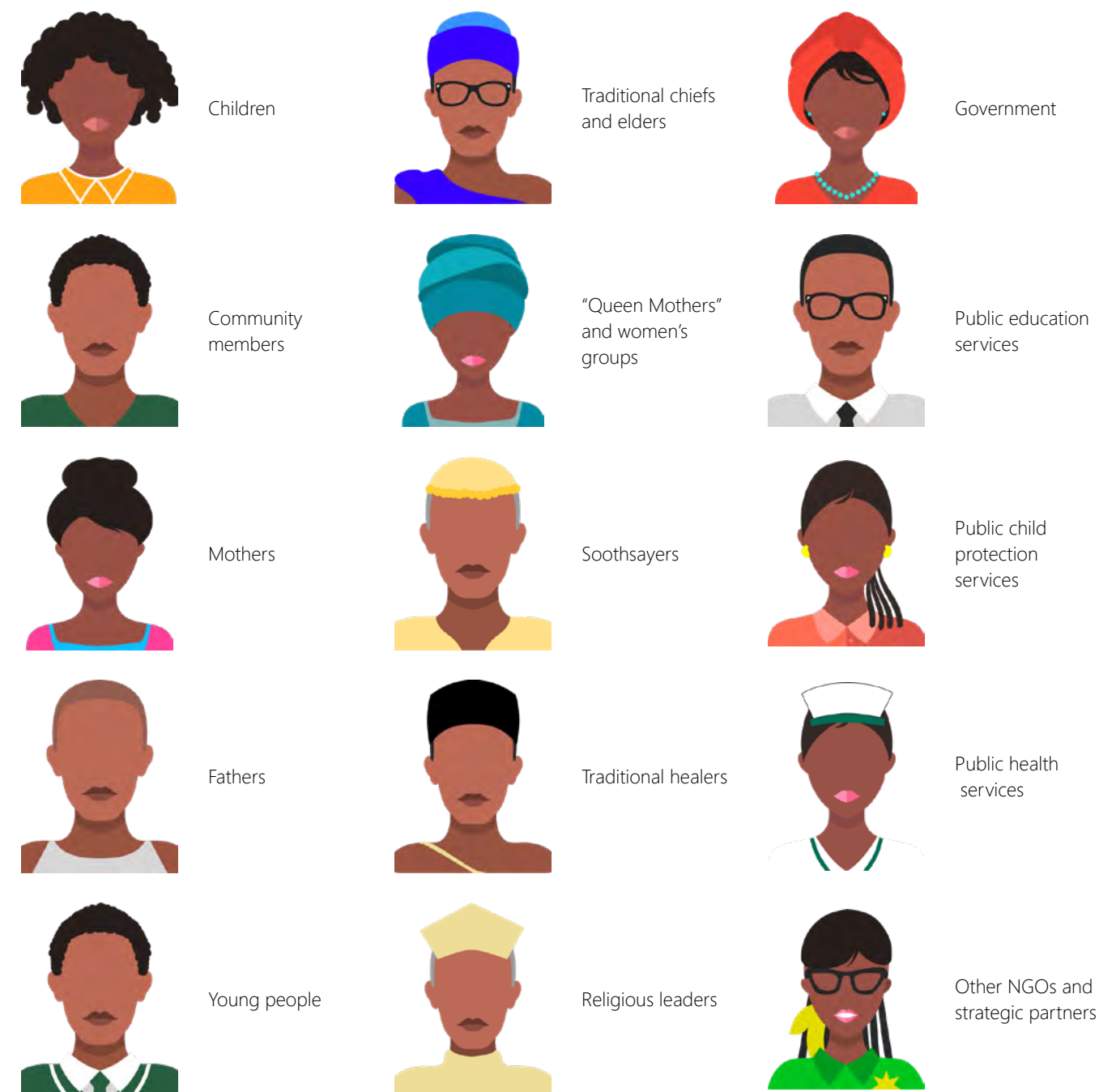
Our journey so far

Organisational Development and Recognition Social Impact




Working with everyone it takes

Critical to our success is our involvement of all stakeholders - everyone with an influence or interest in issues affecting children, at all levels of society. These are some of the key individuals and organisations we work with:



The difference you've made in:

Education

the problems	what we do	the impact this is having	the long-term vision this is working towards
<p>high rates of children dropping out of school</p> <p>schools aren't equipped for girls (washroom facilities) and children with disabilities</p> <p>ineffective teaching methods result in low attainment</p> <p>families and communities do not value or struggle to prioritise education, especially for girls and children with disabilities</p> <p>financial barriers prevent children from progressing beyond basic education</p> <p>children aren't enrolled in early years education which profoundly reduces their future learning outcomes</p>	<p>modern, effective teacher training</p> <p>improve schools and make them accessible to all</p> <p>mobilise communities to hold schools to account</p> <p>train education champion volunteers</p> <p>strengthen school governance</p> <p>set up Child Rights Clubs in schools</p> <p>work with communities (inc key local influencers) to promote education</p> <p>support families to grow their income</p> <p>Bursaries and student loans for further education</p> <p>mobilise children and communities to advocate for better public education services</p>	<p>children, parents and communities value education and ensure children stay in school</p> <p>schools improve, so attainment improves</p> <p>poverty and child suffering is reduced</p> <p>more people progress further in education</p>	<p>all children complete a quality education, enabling them to secure employment, provide for their own families and ensure their own children's education, breaking the cycle of poverty</p> <p>ultimately this builds educated, economically empowered communities who drive their own socio-economic development and contribute positively to the global community</p> <div><p>Education</p></div>

Who's involved



WINNER
Education
Award

STARS Impact
Awards 2009

WINNER
International
Charity of the
Year

Charity Times Awards 2015

We have provided 307,276 cases of educational support to 292,261 children and young people.

We have supported children at every age and stage of their education – from their foundational early years, right through to training as nurses, teachers and attending university. When our work began, just 1 in 5 women had completed primary school and 1 in 100 had higher than secondary education. So the 14,071 young people (around half of whom are girls) we have helped train in skills and and higher education are an army of new potential for their communities.

Improving access to quality education

One of the first challenges we tackled was low enrolment – in 2003 less than half of children who should have been in primary school were. Working with Ghana Education Service and local communities, we increased attendance in partnered schools by more than 70%. Once we had ensured most children were starting school, the next challenge was to improve the education they were getting and stop them dropping out. When AfriKids was founded, more than 8 in 10 families in northern Ghana lived in poverty. The long-term benefits of education can be impossible to prioritise over putting food on the table today and this pressure pushes children into child labour, life on the streets and child marriage - and further away from the opportunity to escape poverty for good. Changing this Catch 22 involves addressing all of the factors pulling children out of school.

Giving children a voice

We support families to grow their income, educate communities on the value of education and work to improve schools. Most

importantly, we put children, parents and communities in the driving seat.

Child Rights Clubs are one of our most successful initiatives. More than 50,000 children have signed up to these in-school clubs where they learn about their rights through confidence-building activities. Equipped with this knowledge and confidence, they influence their families and peers to reject practices like child marriage and child labour which are holding them – and their communities – back. These children, of their own accord, have taken to the media and the streets with these messages - they fiercely value their education and are determined that their families' poverty stops with them.

Making parents and communities the agents of change

For the majority of parents who did not go to school themselves, school can be not just a low priority, but an intimidating world to which they don't "belong". We have opened that door. First, we enlist the support of traditional authorities – chiefs, elders, Queen Mothers - who still hold the biggest influence in marginalised rural communities, and we bring the education system to them. Joined by public education representatives, under the shade of mango trees, we have spoken to nearly 80,000 parents and community members about how critical they are to education, and how critical education is to their children's futures. We have helped them build Parent Teacher Associations, School Management Committees and become Education Champions. This mobilisation has led to communities ensuring all children go to school and holding their schools to account. Communities have successfully lobbied local authorities for more teachers and resources, and people have even volunteered time and materials to repair and expand school buildings – to accommodate their growing numbers of pupils.





292,261

people supported by our education programme

1,480

teachers trained

79,114

community members have attended
talks and training

14,071

young people supported in skills
development and further education

18,358

AfriKids IT Academy trainees

1,093

improved schools

28,196

out-of-school kids supported into
education or vocational training

30%

more children passing exams*

73%+

more children enrolled in school*

** in schools we've worked with*



"AfriKids has really spoken light into my dark world"

"[Together with my grandmother,] I was accused of witchcraft at the age of eight and was beaten mercilessly and as a result my grandmother died. Life was so difficult for me because we were forced to live an isolated life as nobody talked to us nor came near us. I was also constrained to stop schooling because I was not allowed to join my colleagues for studies because they believed I will bewitch them.

AfriKids has really spoken light into my dark world. They gave me the greatest gift I can ever imagine getting and that is education. AfriKids took my formless dreams and gave me a hopeful shape where I joined students in school for studies without fear and panic. My life started its changing process when my dormant gifts and talents were resurrected again by AfriKids."

Bernice, aged 21, now studying for her BA in Sociology and Linguistics

Outstanding
Contribution to
Child Protection
in Ghana

Government of Ghana

The difference you've made in:

Child Protection

the problems	what we do	the impact this is having	the long-term vision this is working towards
<p>poverty puts pressure on children to work and live on the streets</p> <p>poor knowledge of family planning, antenatal and child health results in high rates of conditions and circumstances that attract stigma and isolation</p> <p>poverty and traditional customs promote early and forced marriage and under-age pregnancy</p> <p>harmful traditional beliefs "diagnose" children as evil spirits, resulting in abuse, neglect and infanticide</p> <p>women's and girls' rights are not understood and valued, resulting in gender-based violence and discrimination</p> <p>sexual and reproductive health services are inadequate, stigmatised and not widely available</p> <p>under-resourced public welfare services fail to adequately protect and provide for children at risk</p>	<p>safe centres for children without safe homes</p> <p>respond to cases of child abuse, neglect and infanticide</p> <p>promote child rights and end harmful traditional beliefs and practices</p> <p>empower women through microfinance, business training and family health education</p> <p>set up Child Rights Clubs in schools</p> <p>find alternative livelihoods and roles for those who profit from harmful practices</p> <p>improve the quality and availability of sexual and reproductive health services</p> <p>counselling and education for children living and working on the streets</p> <p>train young mums in childcare and tackle stigma in communities</p> <p>mobilise children and communities to advocate for better public child protection services</p>	<p>parents and communities understand, value and advocate for child rights and ensure children are safe</p> <p>poverty and child suffering is reduced</p> <p>harmful traditional beliefs and practices are eradicated</p> <p>more people access quality sexual and reproductive health services, improving maternal and child health</p> <p>stigma and isolation is reduced</p> <p>the potential of women and girls is unlocked</p>	<p>all children are safe and supported</p> <p>ultimately, this builds happier, healthier communities who drive their own socio-economic development and contribute positively to the global community</p> <div><p>Child Protection</p></div>

Who's involved



Our Child Protection programme has supported 189,630 people through frontline services and projects tackling issues at the root.

Almost if not all indicators of a child's health and development correlate with their mother's educational level. With every additional year of education, a girl improves her future children's chances of survival, health, educational attainment and prosperity. When AfriKids was founded, 72% of women in northern Ghana had no education at all. Unsurprisingly, their children lived in poverty and rarely completed school themselves. Instead they needed to work or marry young – and the cycle began again.

Our Child Protection programme provides both frontline services to children at risk now, while also working to affect systemic change – tackling issues at the root and working with partners to prevent children being put at risk in the first place.

Safe and supportive homes

Children living in poverty are most at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Pressures to make ends meet at home often put pressure on children to work and marry young, putting them in danger. We have provided 11,353 support packages to help poor families grow their income, so they can sustainably provide for their children and reduce the pressures that put them at risk. Microcredit, business training and vocational skills training has helped women make themselves financially secure. Economic security and independence not only empowers women to better provide for their children (their education is usually the first thing they prioritise), data shows it also increases their say in key household decisions (including about their own health) and reduces the power imbalance which fosters gender-based violence and discrimination. When AfriKids was founded, a third of women in northern Ghana had no say in decisions affecting them. Today, nearly 9 in 10 do, and 7 in 10 married women who earn money are the main decision makers on how it is spent. 8 in 10 women believed domestic violence can be justified for reasons like burning the dinner or refusing to have sex, today this has reduced to less than half. Perhaps surprisingly, fewer men agree.

In the traditionally patriarchal societies of northern Ghana, women are highly dependent on men. Traditional customs largely prevent women from owning houses or land (85-90% do not) and some customs dictate that when a husband dies, his property is transferred to his male relatives. Unless his widow agrees to marry them, she and her children can be left destitute. This vulnerability makes it even more important for women to have their own economic security, and when they do, they earn more authority and society benefits from her unlocked potential.

1 in 10 children in Ghana have lost at least one of their parents. We have ensured 3,664 highly vulnerable children have safe homes and are cared for while working to resettle them into

communities.

Safe and supportive communities

Girls and children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in rural northern Ghana, where child marriage and fear of "spirit children" is common. Bridewealth (dowries paid by the groom's family to the bride's) is negotiated on 97% of marriages, creating a strong culture in poor communities of child brides and underage pregnancy. Girls are at higher risk of dropping out of school, particularly secondary school (22%), where a widespread lack of washroom facilities also excludes them.

Our work tackling child marriage and the spirit child phenomenon has had a huge impact. We have educated more than 17,000 children on their sexual and reproductive health and rights and given community education talks on this subject to 50,000 people, helping to change negative attitudes and practices towards women and girls. We have worked with 250 schools to improve sex education and with public healthcare providers to improve the quality and availability of adolescent sexual health services and reduce stigma around their use. More than half of the women in northern Ghana have not encountered public health education on family planning, so this work is critical to maternal and child health and reducing issues like dangerous "DIY" abortions, often presented at the AfriKids Medical Centre.

We have established more than 1,000 Child Rights Clubs in schools to educate and empower children on their rights. These children have become some of the most effective agents of change, encouraging their out-of-school peers into education and even reporting cases of child marriage, abduction and sexual abuse. In two recent cases, girls were abducted on the basis of traditional customs, and the actions of Child Rights Club members resulted in the girls being rescued and their perpetrators being criminally convicted and imprisoned. This is a huge testament to the next generation being ready to tackle deep-rooted conventions that put children at risk.

The same community education model has now been used in 58 communities to tackle the harmful traditional belief in "spirit children" which puts children with disabilities in great danger. All of these communities have now proudly declared an end to the spirit child phenomenon and associated harmful practices. We have won several international awards for this work.

Care and support services

We work with many stakeholders to improve child protection and respond to children in danger. We have established and trained a child protection team of volunteers who identify children living and working on the streets and our drop-in centre provides a safe space and counselling to these children. We work with child protection authorities like the Department for Social Welfare in responding to cases of abuse and exploitation, as far as possible working to ensure public services take the responsibility of child welfare, and in ways which ensure children's health and wellbeing.

**“When you educate
a girl, you educate a
whole nation.”**

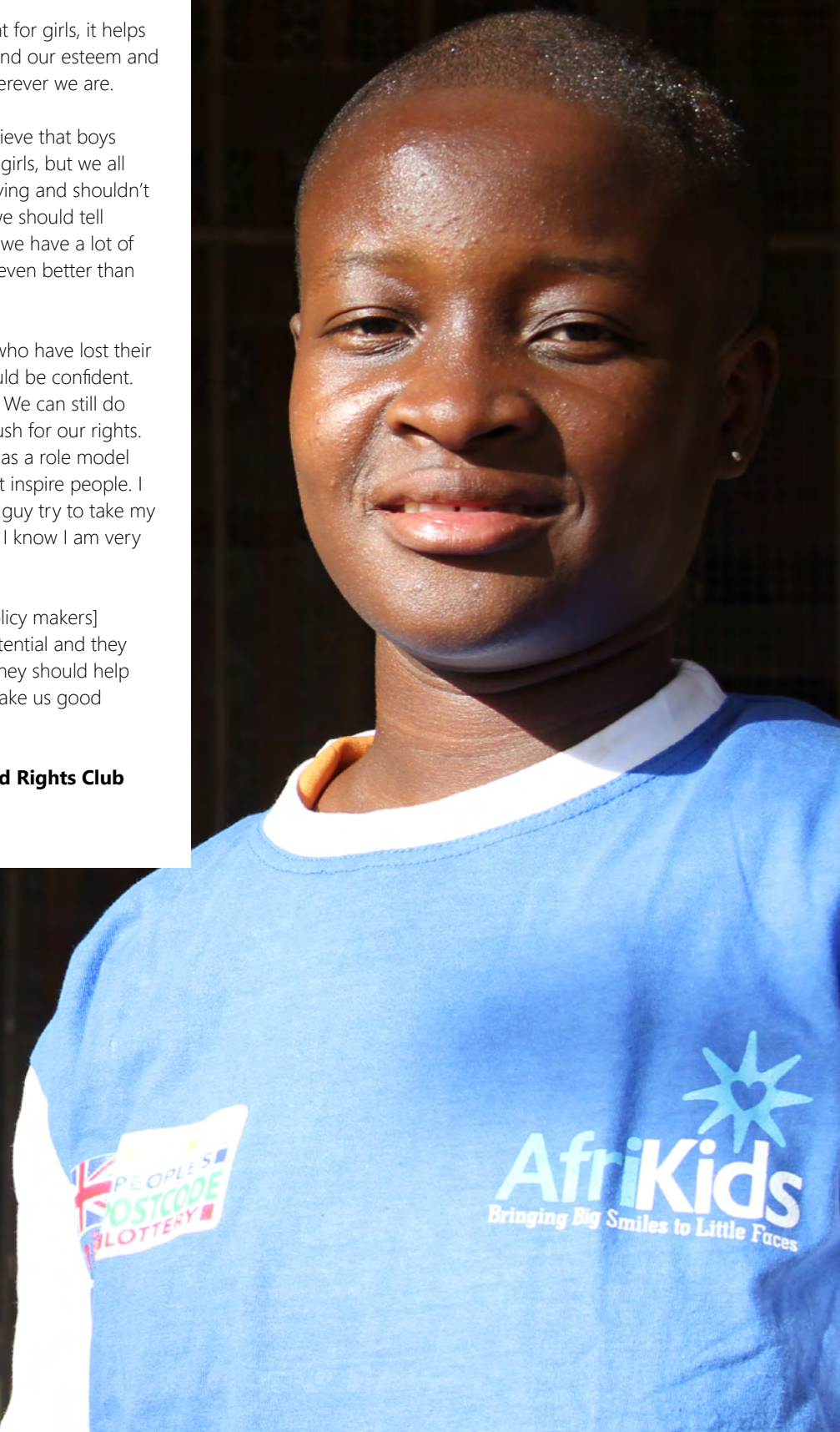
“Education is so important for girls, it helps us to build our courage and our esteem and it makes us feel good wherever we are.

In our community, we believe that boys are more important than girls, but we all know that this is just a saying and shouldn't be believed. I think that we should tell our parents that we girls, we have a lot of potential and we can do even better than what the boys do.

I want to say to the girls who have lost their confidence that they should be confident. The battle is not yet over. We can still do something; we can still push for our rights. Me like this, I take myself as a role model for myself. I do things that inspire people. I work hard. I don't let any guy try to take my position in class, because I know I am very good.

I would tell [education policy makers] that girls have a lot of potential and they shouldn't underrate us. They should help us... encourage us and make us good people.”

**Blessing, aged 14. Child Rights Club
Peer Leader**



189,630

people supported by our child protection programme

3,664

at-risk children
provided safe homes

243

“spirit child”
deaths prevented

53,639

Child Rights Club members

1,415,105

meals provided to at-risk children

4,438

children not living in
safe homes resettled

11,353

microloan and livelihood support
packages provided to women and girls

4,741

children removed from
life on the streets

1,535

children removed from
child labour

Changing age-old beliefs

58

communities have eradicated harmful belief in "spirit children"

243

"spirit child" deaths prevented

96%

of people now agree disabled children should live a full life (in the communities we've worked with so far, 14% did before we intervened)

74%

of births now take place in modern health facilities (25% in 2003)

As well as individual suffering, endemic poverty puts communities under huge pressure. In these circumstances, and in the absence of education and modern healthcare, superstitions can emerge to explain the unexplainable and cope with additional strain.

Protecting the community

Fear of "bewitched" people has existed throughout history and all over the world. In rural northern Ghana, a disabled or orphaned child is at high risk of being "diagnosed" as a "spirit child". Deeply-held beliefs instruct that such children be neglected or even killed, in order to protect the wider community. AfriKids is the only organisation to have successfully changed this.

Communities celebrate the end of the spirit child phenomenon

58 communities have now celebrated the end of the spirit child phenomenon – 100% of those we have been able to reach so far. Spirit child infanticide is notoriously difficult to monitor, but we estimate our work has prevented 243 children from being killed and many more from suffering, marginalisation and neglect. Before we intervened, just 14% of people in these communities agreed a disabled child should be allowed to live a full life. Three years later, 96% did.

Why our model works

Our unprecedented success in changing harmful beliefs is down to our genuinely locally-led approach. The team leading this work themselves grew up in this region, surrounded by these beliefs. They are known, trusted and culturally sensitive in their approach. Many push and pull factors perpetuate myths, and in the case of spirit children, these include poor antenatal health and livelihoods dependent on fear.

As with all of our projects, our work tackling the spirit child phenomenon includes community education and mobilisation. Thousands of parents and community members have attended local talks and presentations where they have learned about the causes

The problem

Poverty and lack of healthcare causes high rates of maternal mortality and preventable disability in children

Poverty + lack of education and support = people do not understand disability and struggle to care for children with extra needs

orphaned/ disabled children can be feared as cursed "spirit children" who must be removed to protect the community

Perceived "spirit children" are neglected, abandoned or even killed

of some preventable disabilities, heard from professional healthcare workers, met disabled adults and children successfully managing their conditions and been taught about the importance of good antenatal health and accessing professional services, especially during child birth. When AfriKids was found, just a quarter of babies were born in modern health facilities. Our work has contributed to this figure tripling to three quarters of births today.

Removing the push factors

Traditional healers and soothsayers are revered in their communities and among other services, help "diagnose" spirit children, sometimes providing lethal herbal "remedies". Critical to their cooperation and support in ending the harmful belief is finding alternatives both for their livelihoods and social status. We have supported hundreds of former practitioners to amend their occupations, and they are now respected as "Right to Life Promoters" – child rights champions in their communities. Right to Life Promoters are still approached for advice on perceived spirit children, though now the support they give is referral to healthcare providers, including the specialist support clinics AfriKids has established for children with disabilities.

Pioneering support for children with disabilities

Our clinics have introduced care for conditions like cerebral palsy that simply wasn't available before, and we are working with Ghana Health Service to adopt and mainstream them into the public health system. Physiotherapy, massage and tailor-made papier mâché furniture provided at these clinics have made children more comfortable, increased their muscle strength and even helped many stand and take their first steps. This "evidence" of potential in children with disabilities has further bolstered public confidence in letting disabled children live.

WINNER
Humanitarian
Award

Bond International
Development Awards 2018

WINNER
Merit
Award

World Cerebral Palsy Day
Awards 2018



What we do

Educate communities on health and explain disabilities

Dispel fear in spirit children

Stop neglect and infanticide of children with disabilities

Support children with disabilities and their families

Improve access to antenatal health

Improve maternal and child health, reduce preventable disability

The difference you've made in:

Health

the problems	what we do	the impact this is having	the long-term vision this is working towards
<p>under-resourced public health services offer limited services which can be poor quality</p> <p>lack of medical professionals, especially doctors and specialists</p> <p>poor knowledge of family planning, antenatal and child health results in high rates of child and maternal mortality and morbidity including preventable disabilities</p> <p>very limited specialist services available for children with disabilities</p> <p>poor public health education results in poor child health and treatable conditions going undiagnosed</p>	<p>train and equip healthcare workers and facilities</p> <p>promote good health and access to professional medical services, esp. for childbirth</p> <p>deliver primary healthcare services</p> <p>medical screenings in schools</p> <p>bursaries and student loans for healthcare training</p> <p>Establish specialist support clinics for children with disabilities</p> <p>promote good water, sanitation and health practices</p> <p>improve sexual and reproductive health services</p> <p>support poor families to access life-saving treatment not available through the public health service</p>	<p>more people access quality healthcare</p> <p>parents and communities understand, value and advocate good health and ensure children are healthy</p> <p>access to training and improved facilities attract and retain more healthcare professionals</p> <p>child suffering is reduced</p> <p>more people access quality sexual and reproductive health services</p> <p>more women have healthier pregnancies</p> <p>stigma and isolation is reduced</p> <p>the potential of women and girls is unlocked</p>	<p>people live long, healthy lives</p> <p>ultimately, this builds stronger, healthier communities who drive their own socio-economic development and positively contribute to the global community</p> <div><p>Health</p></div>

Who's involved



WINNER
Merit
Award

World Cerebral Palsy Day
Awards 2018

FINALIST
Social Enterprise
of the Year

AfriKids Medical Centre
Social Enterprise Awards

Our health programme has delivered 600,988 cases of support to 302,450 people.

Access and quality

The AfriKids Medical Centre has now treated 587,454 cases since it opened its doors in 2007. This award-winning facility provides a vital service in a region with only 1 doctor to every 26,000 people (the UK has 1:360) and has been the heart of a health partnership involving Ghana Health Service and Southampton University Hospital in the UK. The GAS Partnership has provided training to more than 3,000 health workers, improving healthcare in areas including paediatric and maternal health, while helping to attract and retain skills in a region which typically loses professionals to more affluent locations.

We have also provided over 1,000 bursaries and student loans to young people, around half of whom have studied nursing and under the terms of this support, will apply their skills in northern Ghana for at least a few years after qualifying.

We have also trained 115 healthcare workers in improved sexual and reproductive health service and 91 community health workers to help care for children with disabilities.

Our work in education revealed that minor ailments in school children were going undiagnosed and developing into conditions that affected their learning, like eyesight and hearing problems. In response, we have begun screening children in schools for basic health issues and have so far screened 16,134 children. Of these, 6,876 children have subsequently received treatment and support.

Our small fund to support poor families to access life-saving treatment for their children has been able to support 225 cases.

This is usually a part contribution, with parents contributing what they can and fundraising to cover the costs of treatment not available on the National Health Insurance Scheme. Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) is severely under-resourced; very limited services are offered free of charge and medicines are often out of stock. 1 in 5 women in northern Ghana pay additional costs for healthcare on top of their membership fee to the NHIS and 64% of women say they have serious difficult accessing healthcare for themselves, mainly due to costs and distance to services.

Special services

Our work eradicating the spirit child phenomenon has included establishing specialist clinics and support groups for families living with disabled children. We have worked with schools, healthcare providers and communities to tackle stigma around disability and improve quality and access to healthcare services.

Parents and carers have received training in special massage and physiotherapy techniques for children with physical disabilities like cerebral palsy, helping to relieve pain and increase muscle strength and mobility. This care has transformed life for hundreds of children, including some who have astounded their communities by learning to walk and starting school.

Health advocacy and outreach

When AfriKids was founded, 1 in 7 children in northern Ghana died before their 5th birthday. Most of our work involves some form of health advocacy in communities - promoting the importance of good health and accessing modern healthcare, particularly during pregnancy and childbirth. This has contributed to a reduction in child mortality to 1 in 15 children, and one of Ghana's northern regions (the Upper East) achieving the best under 5 mortality rate in the country (1 in 21).





302,450

people supported by our health programme

587,454

cases seen at the
AfriKids Medical Centre

16,134

school children
health screened

3,808

healthworkers
trained

225

life-saving treatments
for poor children

6,876

children supported with
healthcare to stay in school

1,523

children with disabilities
supported

"I hope he will get up and walk and go to school one day. And be somebody in the future too."

"I am a midwife myself and I care for all my children. It's not easy, it's not easy at all. Narcissus is two years old, my first is thirteen years and the second is eight years.

As a midwife, I have been sent to a village and I stay at the village, so I have to go there with Narcissus and then the older ones stay with their father and attend school in town.

When I work, he is at my back. He doesn't allow people to pick him, so he comes with me to work. I have him on my back and I conduct delivery for women.

He had neonatal jaundice and later on we were told by the doctor that it affected him. My sister-in-law recommended that we should come to [the AfriKids support group] so we came here and we are seeing great improvement.

Now he can even feed himself, initially he could not do that. Initially when he was lying down, he could not turn, he could not get up. But now he can do all those things on his own. I am hoping that he will get up and walk, even now he is trying to stand up. When he gets hold of something, he grabs it and stands up.

I hope he will get up and walk and go to school one day. And be somebody in the future too."

Benedicta and her son, Narcissus. Narcissus has been accessing physiotherapy support at an AfriKids specialist support group for children with cerebral palsy. Narcissus and his mum travel an hour and a half on her motorbike twice a week to attend.



Ghana: what's changed?

Ghana was the first Sub Saharan African country to achieve Millenium Development Goal 1: halve extreme poverty

Ghana was the first country in the world to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Government of Ghana has a strong record of commitment to child rights and has made strides in poverty reduction and educational attainment.

Progress under the Millenium Development Goals

Ghana has made great progress since AfriKids was founded. When our work began, 83% of people across the country's three northern regions lived in poverty. Around the same time, the global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were launched and the Ghanaian government mainstreamed these eight goals into its development framework, shaping its national poverty reduction strategy. Rapid economic growth accelerated this agenda and in 2011, the country was upgraded to middle income status. Pierella Paci, Lead Economist with the Poverty Global Practice at the World Bank noted "Ghana [has] entered a new stage of development...their challenge is to ensure that prosperity is shared across the entire population."

Ghana was the first Sub Saharan African country to halve extreme poverty (MDG 1A), and also achieved halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water (MDG 7B), universal primary education (MDG 2A) and gender parity in primary school (MDG 3) by 2015.

Looking beneath the surface

However these headlines mask large disparities across a highly polarised country. Today more than half of northern Ghanaians still live in poverty and while the primary school gross enrolment rate (the number of children attending) has exceeded target, net enrolment rate (the proportion of children attending at the right age) has not. Most boys and girls are now enrolling in school, but significant numbers of children in poor communities continue to drop out. Girls are particularly at risk, especially at secondary school when they are vulnerable to child marriage.

The MDG era ended in 2015 and made way for a new, much longer list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An official report stated one of Ghana's main lessons of the MDGs: "implementation and monitoring should be localised. This will ensure stronger ownership and better prospects for attaining the SDGs in record time."

Ghana's commitment to progress

Ghana was the first country in the world to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has a strong record of commitment to development and improving quality of life for Ghanaians. Between 2004 and 2014, 25% of Ghana's GDP was spent on education and investments in the north of the country have included local conflict resolution, agricultural development, cash and health insurance for the extreme poor, school meals, school capitation and infrastructure, particularly roads.

"Ghana Beyond Aid"

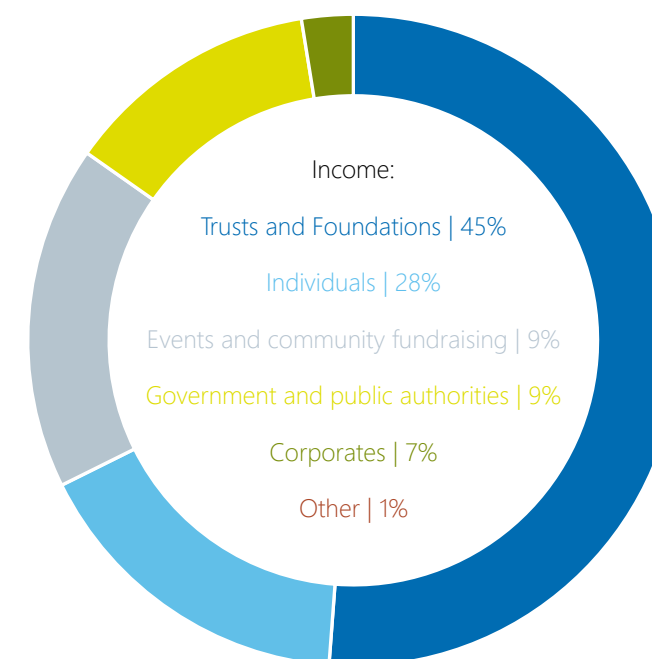
This commitment to progress underpins a new "Ghana Beyond Aid" agenda, with education one of four pillars to this vision. The work of NGOs like AfriKids has been recognised as critical to this plan. In the last few years government contracts have funded some of our work and it is likely this will continue to increase – strengthening local ownership and sustainability. It is worth noting healthcare and child protection are not stated priorities under the Ghana Beyond Aid vision, and the national health service is extremely overstretched and fragile.

By involving all stakeholders, our work complements and enhances public policy and programmes affecting children, especially those hardest to reach and most vulnerable. By bringing authorities, services and communities together, we influence policy, mobilise public resources and unlock the potential of communities to help drive progress. Our work helps bridge the gap between good intentions and the poor families they still fail to reach. Our work alleviating poverty, educating communities and tackling traditional customs which hold children back is fundamental to Ghana's brighter future, and ensuring it is open to all children.



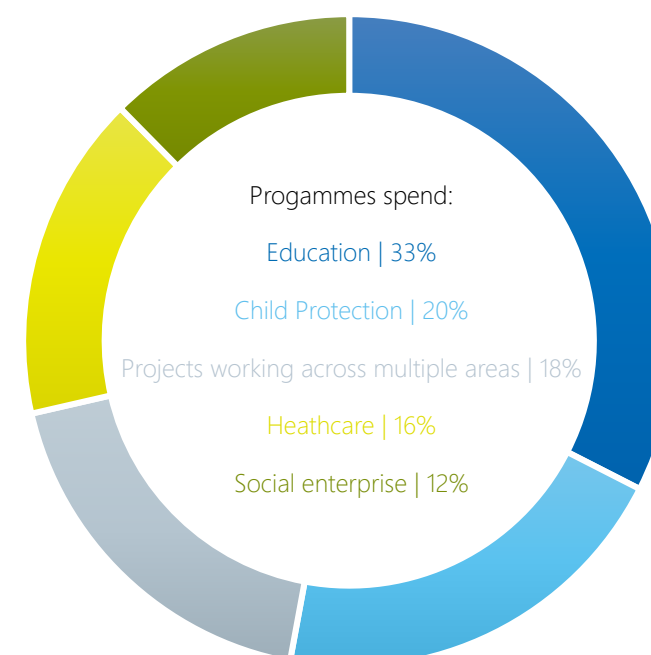
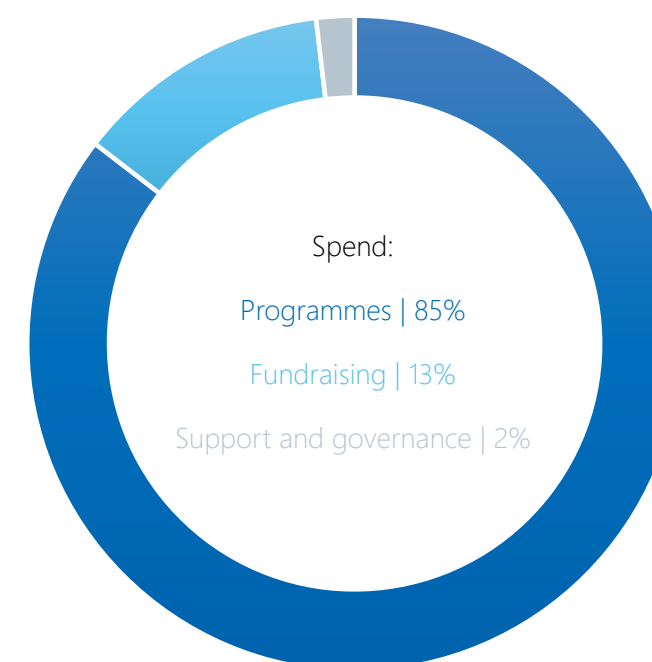


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→2A מציגים את הילדים **Let's create more big smiles!** 4 מציגים את הילדים →4A מציגים את הילדים 5 מציגים את הילדים →5A מציגים את הילדים 6 מציגים את הילדים →6A מציגים את הילדים 7 מציגים את הילדים



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