



ENGAGE GLOBALLY IMPACT REPORT

2024

WHO WE ARE



OVERVIEW: Engage Globally supports community-led sustainable development in collaboration with nine village communities in rural Ghana. Our local partners work with traditional leaders, women's groups, families, and program participants to choose priorities, design projects, and implement programming. We provide capacity building, funding, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic planning to ensure project effectiveness. By focusing on long-term partnerships, we pursue a truly grassroots and collaborative approach to creating meaningful, inclusive, and sustainable progress.

OUR MISSION: Engage Globally enables community-led sustainable development by engaging local partners in education, job training, small business development, food security, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation.

OUR VISION: We envision a world in which communities have the educational, economic, and environmental resources they need to develop equitably and sustainably.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



2024 was a year of significant progress for both Engage Globally and our local partners, Community Empowerment Resources (CER). We were grateful to begin the year with an amazing trip to Ghana where we saw first-hand the incredible impacts of our collaborative work.

Conversations with participants and community stakeholders helped us to identify opportunities for growth and core priorities, leading to the following major achievements in 2024:

- Construction and opening of our fourth Community Learning Center in the rural village of Duahi for students like Rabiatsu, pictured above left. Duahi residents have never had access to formal education, and the community was thrilled to celebrate its opening in December. Their new school will significantly expand opportunities.
- Youth in our partner communities are increasingly vulnerable to trafficking to urban centers. To address this, we designed an innovative Vocational Education Center (VEC) for youth ages 13 to 15. Construction of the VEC, pictured above center, involved local companies and many community volunteers. The Center will open in early 2025 with 20 female students who will study reading and math in the mornings, and train as seamstresses and weavers in the afternoons.
- Expansion of our women's agriculture program to include a third village of women and the addition of health education meetings. Women farmers, like Hawabu pictured above right, successfully grew crops despite experiencing the worst drought in 40 years.

In 2025, with your help, we look forward to continuing to transform lives through community-led sustainable development. Thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather D. Heckel".

Heather Heckel, PhD, Director, engage@engageglobally.org

Ghana January 2024



Three Engage Globally team members traveled to Ghana in January to meet with our partners, visit projects, talk with participants, conduct technology and education trainings, and deliver donated learning supplies including tablets and over 200 environmental children's books. The visit was very productive and inspirational. Here are a few of our favorite photos.



Seeing the results of the work firsthand, while knowing that the majority of these incredible leaders and all of our students live in homes with no running water or sanitation filled me with both inspiration and urgency. Drinking water is still being collected from standing ponds. Food and resources remain scarce. However, every community CER touches is filled with hope, possibility, and opportunity. I walked away from this trip believing in the strength of the human spirit and that generational change can happen with us, here and now, when we collaborate together.



Jessica Mardo, Engage Globally Board President

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS



In 2024, our four community learning centers educated 406 children ages four to eleven. This year we constructed and opened the new Duahi Learning Center, pictured below with new student Mukisina receiving her first uniform. This is the first school in Duahi, and we look forward to expanding the program to provide broader literacy and learning opportunities.

All of our schools are creating many positive impacts including:

- A school lunch program provides essential nutrition in a region that is facing severe food shortages due to the worst drought in 40 years.
- School uniforms sewn by our vocational trainees inspire pride in students.
- Employing 21 teachers, cooks, and staff. Most of the teachers are graduates of our Youth Education Program. All of the cooks and caretakers live in the villages where the schools are located. On average, each employee uses their income to support nine other family members.
- Environmental education with school gardens, tree planting, and environmentally themed reading materials and curriculum.



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM



When children graduate from our Community Learning Centers, they have the opportunity to join our Youth Education Program (YEP). Because there are no public junior high schools within bicycling distance, students attend regional private schools. Some continue on to public boarding schools and university while others join our vocational training program.

This year, we welcomed 30 new students who graduated from our Learning Centers and provided them with bicycles, desks, and learning supplies. As our early childhood and early primary school programs expand, we anticipate having more graduates each year and are planning strategies to ensure they can continue their learning.

We also responded to requests from female students for support with health issues. We began a menstruation pack project and provided supplies to girls, like those pictured above. The bags were designed and sewn by vocational trainees, who also received menstruation supplies. We also hired a nurse midwife who has begun meeting regularly with our girls club.

2024 Enrollment

Total participants	95
Primary students in private schools	70
JHS students in private schools	15
SHS students in public schools	7
Attending university	3



Abiba, pictured left, began high school this year. She hopes to become a midwife. She has been chosen as a youth leader and helped to design the menstruation pack project.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING



In 2024, our vocational training program celebrated progress including:

- Nine trainees in hairdressing, sewing, and weaving graduated and received national level certification in 2024.
- We helped five graduates open new small businesses, including four that have become trainers at our new Vocational Education Center.
- Our local partners mentored trainees to ensure that they could complete their training and pass evaluations for certification. They met with families to gather information on the program's impacts and to reduce barriers to completing the full two years of training.
- Program graduates continued to support our other work by creating all of our desks, bookshelves, school uniforms, and carpets for our early childhood classrooms. Youth bicycles are also repaired by a graduate.

Asana graduated from her hairstyling program and earned her national certification as a hairdresser. She hopes to open her own shop in 2025.



2024 Enrollment:

Girls ages 13 - 15	20
Youth ages 16 - 24	26
New small business owners	5
Total	51

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER



This innovative project emerged from interviews with families in our partner communities. Many parents were worried about their daughters, some of whom were leaving for southern urban centers. This practice, locally called Kakaye, places girls at great risk of trafficking and abuse. To keep them home, families asked if their children could join our vocational training program. However, because they are under 16, a full-time training program would be inappropriate and travel to training could be unsafe.

To support girls ages 13 to 15, who were never able to go to school or attended only in early grades, we developed the Vocational Education Center. Students will study literacy in the mornings and then learn vocational skills like sewing, weaving, and hairdressing in the afternoons. After completing the program, and turning 16, we will help them obtain local employment in shops owned by our vocational graduates.

Construction of this impressive new facility was completed in December and classes will begin in January 2025. The first cohort of 20 girls have been selected by their community leaders (most pictured below). After evaluating impact, we plan to add boys and additional training opportunities. For now, extra classrooms are being used by pre-school students at our Taha Learning Center.

We are very grateful for generous grants from the R&H Gemberling and L&P Miller Foundation and the Circle of Sisterhood for their support of the construction and operation, of this center.



WOMEN'S AGRICULTURE



"THE SENSE OF
COMMUNITY IT
BUILDS
AMONG US
WOMEN IS
AMAZING."

Fatimatu

Our women's agriculture project demonstrated the resilience of community-led sustainable development this year. We eagerly began the year by expanding to include a third rural village, thanks to the continued generous support of the Action Africa Giving Circle. Under the impressive leadership of program director Rahmatu, thirty women farmers participated in multiple trainings, held village community empowerment meetings, and received agricultural inputs including fertilizer, tools, seeds, and plowing.

Tragically, in July, the farmers, and much of the northern regions of Ghana, faced what the World Food Program identified as the worst drought in over 40 years. Our local partners realized the challenge quickly and met with participants to discuss possible strategies. At their request, we provided more seeds so everyone could replant. Though their outcomes were not as positive as in 2023, all of the women were able to gather a harvest, which will be critically important to their families this year. Sadly, without support from programs like ours, many farmers throughout the region had low or no harvests this year.

Interviews of participants highlighted that this program not only helps with community food security, it also provides confidence, support, leadership skills, and enhances how women are perceived in their families.



"IT HAS GIVEN ME
HOPE THAT I CAN
IMPROVE MY FARM
AND MY LIFE."

Sekina

Women's Farming Program
October 2024

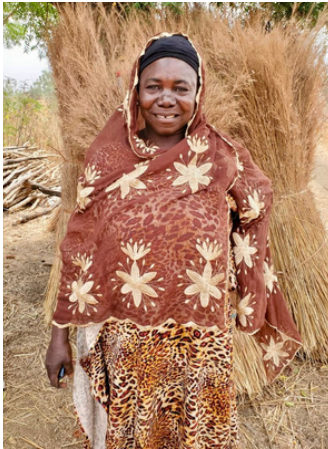


"WE NOW WORK
IN GROUPS,
WHICH MAKES
FARMING EASIER
AND LESS LONELY."

Bugli

Women's Farming Program
2024

RESPONDING TO LOSSES WITH A NEW HEALTH PROGRAM



In memoriam

Earlier this year, we shared several stories about Haruna who inspired us with her joyful enthusiasm for the farming program and how she felt it helped her and her five children. Tragically, Haruna, and two other women farmers, died this year, all from treatable illnesses. Later, two children in our kindergarten classes died of malaria. Devastated by these horrific losses, we consulted our partners on how we could help. Recognizing that we are not a medical organization, we sought to identify strategies to help women and children obtain health care.

Health Education

None of the women farmers in our programs ever had the opportunity to attend school and, as a result, they cannot read or write. Knowledge of one's personal health is generally limited to traditional teachings passed down through generations. Cultural practices and severe poverty also limit learning opportunities.

To help women understand more about pregnancy, childbirth, malaria, and signs of severe illness in adults and children, our partners suggested a health education project. We hired a nurse midwife, who grew up in the region and speaks Dagbani. She began regularly meeting with the women farmers and provided both health education and an opportunity to ask questions and discuss their circumstances. She will also be training our teachers and school staff in basic first aid.

Resource Support and Emergency Health Fund

Through interviews, it became clear that there are many barriers to women accessing health care including lack of money, their roles within the family, lack of transportation, no at-home supplies like thermometers, and beliefs about medical treatment. While we continue to explore opportunities to be supportive, we realized that for some women, and their children, we could quickly assist by providing an emergency health fund. This fund, operated by our local partners, will pay for transportation to the regional hospital and medications. We are also considering first aid supplies and pregnancy packs. Both of these projects are generously supported by a grant from Women International Leaders.

Community-Led Sustainable Development

The lists below illustrate our comprehensive and intersectional approach to sustainable development. Our programs have many components to ensure that our projects create meaningful, long-term impacts for participants and their communities.

Community Learning Centers

- Quality school buildings designed to last
- Local, bilingual teachers
- Learning supplies including little libraries
- Desks made by vocational training graduates
- Carpets woven by vocational training graduates
- School lunches to increase nutrition
- Teacher training
- Motorcycles for female teachers
- School gardens & tree planting with curriculum
- Hand washing with rainwater catchment
- After-school soccer teams

Youth Education

- All fees for regional private schools (there are no nearby public schools).
- All learning supplies
- Uniforms
- Bicycles and bicycle maintenance
- English language and exam tutoring
- Mentoring
- Girls health education and menstruation packs
- Story telling and photography
- Leadership and service opportunities

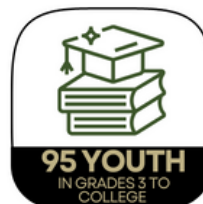
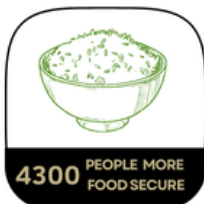
Women's Agriculture

- Provided organic fertilizer, pesticide and seeds
- Agriculture training from experts
- Rented tractor for plowing
- Assistance with fencing
- Health education with nurse/midwife
- Purchase of King Motos (motorcycles with beds) to transport crops before spoilage
- Cell phones to share their farming experiences.
- Community building with multi-village events
- Rice processing for storage

Vocational Training

- Placement with local businesses
- Training fees
- Trade supplies/tools
- Bicycles to reach training sites
- Mentoring
- Classes with small business owners
- Mentoring
- Graduation fees for national certification and ceremonies
- Small business start-up grants

2024 Impacts



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!



R&H Gemberling & L&P Miller Memorial Foundation Inc.

We are deeply grateful for a generous grant from the Gemberling Miller Foundation. Their passion for making a difference in the world enabled us to construct the new school in Duahi, create and build the Vocational Education Center, and provide additional resources to our women's farming program. For children like Mariam, pictured left receiving her first school uniform at Duahi, this funding will change their lives forever.

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Motorcycles are essential for reaching rural communities on dirt roads. They are especially important for the safety of women teachers, and travel during the rainy season. We are very grateful to Suzanne Owens, and her college friends, and Eileen Patten, and her family, who each sponsored a motorcycle for new female teachers, like Aisha pictured right.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Engage Globally was thrilled to receive a donation for two months of a child's education from ten-year-old Caroline this summer. Jena, an Engage board member, showed Caroline photos of our trip to Ghana. After seeing the pictures, Caroline shared, "I felt very fortunate to have all the stuff I have now, but I also felt very sad that they didn't have the stuff they might need or want to live. So, I thought about raising some money to help with that."



FINANCE SUMMARY

2024

Total income	\$196,685
Programming	\$127,004
Operational expenses	\$12,707
Total expenses	\$139,711

Welcome to our new
advisory board members!



Eileen Patten



Hailey Chalhoub



Taylor King

IN APPRECIATION

Engage Globally is grateful to have such a wonderful community of supporters who make our work possible. In 2024 we are sending special thanks to:

- Our board members
- Our 2024 interns & volunteers
- Business supporters including AXIS, Gartner, Guido's Heart, and Happily Ever Exploring
- Action Africa Giving Circle
- Circle of Sisterhood
- R&H Gemberling & L&P Miller Memorial Foundation
- Women International Leaders
- Education sponsors
- Anonymous individuals
- Anonymous family foundations
- Anonymous donor-advised fund contributors

2025 GOALS

In 2025, we plan to ensure that our new projects - the Duahi Community Learning Center, the Vocational Education Center, and our health education and resource support program are successful. We will evaluate their impacts through interviews of participants and stakeholders, as well as data collection. We will use this feedback to make adjustments before expanding enrollment.

Our other priority will be food security as we seek to minimize the damage caused by the severe drought, and subsequent floods, experienced in 2024. This challenge has intensified as promised US emergency food aid to the region has not been delivered. Without this food, prices will rise and supplies will become even more scarce.

Our efforts will include:

- Distribution of food to mothers of children under five years old.
- Providing larger lunches with more ingredients at our community learning centers, as it will be the only meal of the day for many of our students.
- Our trainings with women farmers will begin earlier, and we are collaborating to identify farming and health resilience strategies.
- We have asked a vocational training graduate to design small rainwater catchment devices, using local materials, to test on the farms.
- We are researching other potential rainwater irrigation methods.



Expanding our Sponsor a Child's Education Program

This September, we hope to add a kindergarten class at each of our four learning centers. To achieve this goal, we will need to expand our education sponsorship program and identify 100 sponsors for children, like five-year-old Mohammed pictured left at his new school in Duahi. Through monthly or annual support, sponsors provide children with education, nutrition, and uniforms. These sponsorships also help us to plan our education programs in advance ensuring we have space, teachers, and learning supplies for all our students.

ENGAGE WITH US IN 2025

- **Sponsor a Child's Education!** Sponsors donate \$25 a month (\$300 a year) to provide a child with the opportunity to go to school and have a daily lunch. We would be grateful if you would share this opportunity to make a genuine difference with anyone who might be interested.
- **Donate your birthday** to support our programs in 2025. This is a great way to help kids and to share our work with others. We will send you a guide to make this an easy way to make a difference!
- **Like and follow** Engage Globally on social media and share with others who are interested in global sustainable development, education, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation.
- **Invite** an Engage Globally team member to be a guest speaker for your community. We can share our work or discuss any sustainable development topics ranging from foreign aid to global women's issues.
- **Join our team!** Volunteer, be part of our internship program, or serve on our Advisory Board or Board of Directors.
- **Let's connect!** If you work with a business or community organization that might like to collaborate, please reach out for more information.
- **Share your suggestions** about how we can better engage with our supporters and what information you would like to receive from us.





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