



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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CO-DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends

2022 has been another successful year for Dream Big Ghana NGO. We have continued to consolidate and enhance the sustainability of our programmes – enabling us to fulfil our mission of making a positive difference to the lives and livelihoods of people living in the communities we work with. We want other communities in rural Ghana to benefit from our knowledge and practice, so we have been growing our collaboration with prospective partners over the past year – in order to achieve our goal of becoming a recognised demonstration site.

In 2022, our Safe Sanitation programme prioritised the construction of an 8-cubicle ecological sanitation (EcoSan) block for Akplorwortorkor Basic School providing improved sanitation to 182 students. We also built 20 family toilets, bringing our total to 147. In the coming year we will continue to work with communities to increase access to safe and sustainable sanitation.

During the past year our Healthy Communities / Sports Development programme has supported 7 football coaches with session planning and data collection – allowing male and female teams in the locality to thrive and grow. These sessions are currently attended by 70 females and 142 males. Given its potential for improving the health and wellbeing of young people in our communities, we will continue to support this strand of activity in the coming year.

Our Quality Education programme has been moving along nicely over the past year. Young people and adult learners continued to make good use of the Dream Big Community Learning Centre. In the coming year there will be a special focus on the delivery of classes and workshops in the priority areas of health and hygiene education, business skills and entrepreneurship.

Meet Me There African Home Lodge continues to grow and flourish. In 2022, we provided employment for 25 people who live in the communities we work with. We also launched the Lodge's new 'zero-import' menu, with a focus on locally sourced ingredients – thereby contributing to the strengthening of our local economy.

As always, we would like to send a very special thank you to the Dream Big Ghana Foundation in the UK and to our incredibly generous donors and supporters who provide the vital funds needed to sustain our work in Ghana.

For this we are deeply grateful!

Sincerely,

Dougal Croudace and Christian Ganah
Co-Directors of Dream Big Ghana NGO



ABOUT US

Our work in community development has been ongoing for a decade, providing sanitation, education and youth sports development in the Anlo-District of the Volta Region. We pride ourselves on creating opportunities that are sustainable and locally originated. We work closely with community members to find the right solutions to solve the problems they experience daily, employing 25 full-time staff members from the Anlo-District.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

Our main operations are in the communities of Dzita and Dzita-Agbledomi, but our work is expanding to other communities in the Anlo-District. Fishing and farming remain the dominant livelihood for families, both of which are becoming more unpredictable with the impact of climate change.

WHERE ARE WE BASED?

Our home is at the Meet Me There African Home Lodge, an eco lodge and socially responsible tourism destination that provides us with funding and infrastructure. Meet Me There was named one of the 14 best things to do in Ghana by CNN travel, providing much-needed awareness of our community development programmes to a wider audience.

OUR PATRON

Rita Ray has worked in the music industry for over 30 years starting out as a founder member of one of the UK’s premier chart-topping groups, Darts. She used that experience later in band management, artist development, and workshops, where she uses music and culture as tools for social change and activism.

OUR AMBASSADOR

Poetra Asantewa is a sensational balance of poetry, music, intellect, and wit. She is a storyteller who is committed to community. Her work is focused on investigating, revealing, healing or addressing things that affect her community, city, country or the world. She is founder of Tampered Press – a literary and arts journal for Ghanaians and Africans, and Black Girls Glow, a feminist non-profit initiative that fosters collaboration among black women creatives. She is the author of You Too Will Know Me and Woman, Eat Me Whole.

OUR BOARD

Our Board of Trustees ensures our operations are accountable to the communities in the Anlo-District we work alongside, as well as the organisations and people who provide us with funding. Their wisdom, advice and guidance are crucial to our success.



KENNETH KPEDITOR
Local Advisor



AKPENE HOGGAR
Treasurer



JAKAMANY WINFRED
Secretary



**AGBOTADUA
TORGBUI KUMASSAH**
Chairperson



RITA RAY
Patron



POETRA ASANTEWA
Ambassador

SAFE SANITATION

Having a toilet is a human right and we believe in doing this in an ecological way. Our sanitation work covers households and schools. We are concerned with not just the provision of a physical toilet, but also the accompanying health and hygiene education that is taken for granted in the West.

We install ecological sanitation (EcoSan) toilets, based on the latest international evidence. EcoSan toilets are above ground units that recycle human waste and use natural processes to transform the waste into safe, organic compost and fertiliser. We pride ourselves on construction quality, building aesthetically pleasing units that last for up to 30 years. We believe in changing the narrative of sanitation from a dirty subject to a pleasant, user-friendly and ecological experience.

A great deal has been achieved over the past 10 years, nearly 4000 children, women and men have gained access to safe sanitation in their homes or at school, and hygiene practices are improving. Despite our work, nearly 50% of households in our locality still lack access to a toilet, a figure we will continue to work to reduce.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



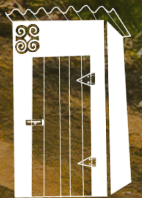
CONSTRUCTING A NEW ECOSAN SCHOOL TOILET BLOCK. WE NOW HAVE FOUR.



CONSTRUCTING A COMPOSTING UNIT FOR SAFELY TREATING COMPOST.



SETTING UP A TRIAL FARM SITE FOR BEST METHODS OF COMPOST APPLICATION.



CONSTRUCTING 20 FAMILY TOILETS BRINGING OUR TOTAL UP TO 147.



REACHING SIX SCHOOLS IN OUR LOCALITY, PROVIDING THEM WITH TOILETS THAT MEET INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA.





QUALITY EDUCATION

We believe in a world where everyone has access to quality education and lifelong learning so that they can reach their full potential.

In order to realise this ambition, we have built and staffed the Dream Big Learning Centre. The Centre is a vibrant hub for a host of activities considered important to our village communities. As well as a library, which is designed to help people read for education, economic opportunity, better health or just for pleasure, the Learning Centre is home to a computer lab. The centre is also used to host a series of locally specific courses such as renewable energy and entrepreneurship.

GODSWAY DODOR
Learning Centre
Manager



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

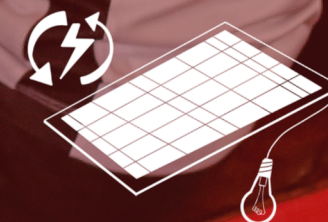
HOSTING 3 DJ COURSES.



SPONSORING OUR
EDUCATION MANAGER,
GODSWAY, TO UNDERTAKE
AN ACCREDITED COURSE IN
EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEARNING.



HOSTING THE FOURTH
'DREAM RENEWABLES'
PROGRAMME FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR
COMMUNITIES.



UNDERTAKING A
REFURBISHMENT
PROJECT AT OUR
COMMUNITY LEARNING
CENTRE.



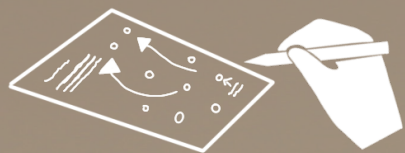
HOSTING 'GIRLS CLUB
GHANA' WORKSHOPS
FOR 33 FEMALES.



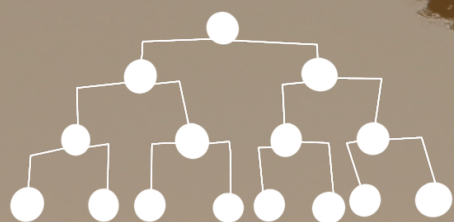
RECEIVING A DONATION
OF NEW BOOKS FROM
OUR AMBASSADOR AMA
ASANTEWA.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



**SUPPORTING SEVEN
LOCAL FOOTBALL
COACHES WITH SESSION
PLANNING AND DATA
COLLECTION.**



**HOSTING THE
INTER-SCHOOLS ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT AT OUR
SAHARA PARK.**



**UNDERTAKING A
REFURBISHMENT
PROJECT AT OUR SAHARA
PARK.**



**REACHING 70 FEMALE
PARTICIPANTS THROUGH
OUR WEEKLY COACHING
SESSIONS.**



**RECRUITING 1 NEW
FEMALE COACH. WE NOW
HAVE 4.**

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Sport is essential in promoting equality, solidarity and inclusion, making it a foundation for building healthier communities.

For this reason, we deliver a sports coaching programme that allows male and female youth teams to thrive. As well as providing mental and physical benefits, participation in the programme teaches young people vital life skills such as discipline and team work. It also brings an important sense of self-worth and belonging. Using our high-quality community space, Sahara Park, and other spaces, we are able to deliver over 250 players with weekly sports sessions. Our 7 coaches organise their own teams and play monthly fixtures against other teams in the community.





MEET ME THERE

Meet Me There African Home Lodge is run as a not-for-profit business. Its primary focus is to raise income to help sustain the mission of our NGO.

We are immensely grateful to our lodge guests whose visits to the Volta Region not only provide a stream of funding for our community but also help to keep 25 staff in full-time employment. A number of guests have been hugely supportive of the work our NGO does and have been instrumental in raising funds for us through their own networks around the world. We are truly grateful to the efforts and enthusiasm that our guests have showed towards our vision.

As well as providing employment our lodge also supports a number of local businesses, including boat tours, drivers and seamstresses. Meet Me There's ability to attract a reliable stream of visitors from within Ghana and internationally has raised awareness of the beauty that Dzita and Dzita-Agbledomi has to offer.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



20.6K FOLLOWERS ON OUR
INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT.



GETTING A 5-STAR RATING ON
TRIP ADVISOR.



PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO
25 FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBERS.



PROVIDING TRAINING AND
EMPLOYMENT FOR TWO NEW
YOGA AND SPA EMPLOYEES.



LAUNCHING OUR NEW
ZERO-IMPORT MENU
SUPPORTING THE LOCAL
ECONOMY AND SHOWCASING
LOCAL INGREDIENTS.



CONTINUING TO SUPPORT
LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS
THROUGH SALES IN OUR
SHOP.

OUR FINANCES

The figures presented are for the Ghanaian financial year ending 31 December 2022. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

INCOME:

Grants from the DBG Foundation – **GHS 373,141**
External grants – **GHS 28,377**

EXPENDITURE:

Family Sanitation – **GHS 75125**
School Sanitation – **GHS 148543.58**
Healthy Communities – **GHS 6220**
MMT Music – **GHS 53876**
Admin/Staff Salaries – **GHS 77813**
Accountancy and Audit – **GHS 8850**

SUPPORT FROM MEET ME THERE

What makes us unique? You will appreciate that our NGO has minimal running costs. This is due to the Meet Me There Lodge covering many of these costs in support of these programmes. For this we say a big thank-you to all of our Meet Me There guests for directly supporting us!

In 2022 we calculate that the Meet Me There Lodge contributed approximately **GHS 200,000** towards these running costs, under the following headings:

- Full board for Dream Big Ghana Foundation Programmes Director;
- General administration;
- Servicing and insurance of motor vehicle.



OTHER NEWS

GENDER EQUALITY WORKSHOP

We always strive to empower our Queens through all aspects of our work and the structure of our organisation. In July 2022 we collaborated with Move The World, an NGO dedicated to educating youth in Ghana to become active global citizens. As part of their work they offer gender equality workshops so we invited their team down to Meet Me There to run a workshop for our staff and the Dream Renewables team and students.



DREAM BIG GHANA FOUNDATION TRUSTEES VISIT

Jerry Agblor and Charlie French came to visit in December 2022 and attended our opening of the Akplorwortokor School toilet block. It's always a pleasure hosting the Dream Big Ghana Foundation team for a first-hand update on all our programmes they support.



OUR AMBASSADOR POETRA ASANTEWA

In August 2022 our ambassador Poetra Asantewa made an incredibly kind donation of books which she had carefully chosen. The books were all written by African authors making them relevant to our students as well as supporting the local economy. In 2023 we hope to collaborate with our ambassador in more of her endeavours.



CHEF IKE

In August 2022 the Meet Me There Lodge took the bold step of improving the sustainability of the food and drinks menu. The consumption of food and drinks at the Lodge can be a considerable amount due to the number of guests we receive on a weekly basis. We realised we were not reaching our full potential in utilising the local economy and local ingredients so we collaborated with Chef Ike, a young, conscientious and immensely creative chef who shares the same values for sustainability.

Chef Ike helped us create a stunning new menu which is bursting with health benefits, supports local businesses, supports the local supply chain, supports local farmers, and showcases delicious local ingredients and dishes with a special Chef Ike/Meet Me There creative twist.

The association with Chef Ike was so successful we hope to collaborate again in 2023 with a culinary course for guests and students to learn about the importance of sustainability within the food sector.



THE SHOP AT MEET ME THERE

In 2021 we established a shop at the Meet Me There Lodge in an effort to support local entrepreneurs. We stock 100% Dzita-made products made solely by female entrepreneurs. 100% of profits go directly to each of our partners.

In 2022 we continued to work with local fashion houses Asime and Shalom Shalom which both saw impressive sales to our guests. The Fresh and Lovely team also had notable sales after guests used their products in our rooms and spa. In 2023 we hope to partner with more local entrepreneurs and to expand our shop.

MEET ME THERE RECORDS

On the 20 May 2022 MMT Records was officially launched. MMT Records was set up to raise funds for our music programme, specifically the proposed creative hub Wornane. This will provide a diverse range of creative opportunities such as DJ classes, music production, sound engineering, dance classes and traditional music classes.

Our first album was with the amazing Saltpond City Band, a buoyant 8-piece outfit hailing from Ghana, blending a soulful highlife and percussive funk. The band was initially formed by the legendary Ghanaian highlife musician Ebo Taylor and is now led by his son, Henry Taylor. We hope more collaborations will follow.



In August 2022 we officially began work on the Wornane creative hub. We now have the fence wall up and plan to continue with the project in 2023.



DREAM RENEWABLES

In March 2022 Dream Renewables launched their first Solar Powered IT Lab for Bomigo Basic School. Dream Renewables alumni students from previous years were amongst those supporting the installation. In a recent site visit by the Dream Renewables directors the installation was reported to be working well with all equipment still in good working order.

In July 2022 we hosted Dream Renewables 4th annual 4-week programme. This year their focus was on solar installation, energy management, clean cooking stoves and dish installation. The course was well attended with 10 females and 27 males. We look forward to hosting the 5th Dream Renewables programme in 2023.





REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE CUTTING THE RIBBON FOR THE AKPLORWORTOKOR BASIC SCHOOL ECOSAN TOILET BLOCK.



OPENING CEREMONY OF OUR 147TH FAMILY ECOSAN TOILET



@ D R E A M B I G G H A N A

PREPARED BY:
DOUGAL JOSHUA CROUDACE & CHRISTIAN GANAH
CO-DIRECTORS
DREAM BIG GHANA NGO

DESIGN AND LAYOUT:
IAN THE AGBLOR

**DONATE NOW AND
SUPPORT OUR
WORK**

**SIGN UP TO
OUR FREE
NEWSLETTER**

