



DREAM BIG GHANA
NGO



ANNUAL REPORT
2024

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CO-DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share with you this Annual Report for 2024. As we reflect on another successful year running our community development programmes, we are proud of the progress our teams have made. The main theme for 2024 was to focus on improving the operations of our programmes and using data collection to help show the impact being created. A very special highlight includes our Safe Sanitation Programme being showcased by BBC Africa!

In 2024, our Safe Sanitation programme prioritised operations in an effort to improve and consolidate on the infrastructure we currently had in place. We did this mainly through the recruitment of a WASH Officer, Bright Mensah, who was tasked with supporting our seven partner schools, ensuring their EcoSan toilet blocks were all functioning to a high standard. To streamline the process, Bright used the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme Impact Report to pinpoint key areas each school needed to improve in order to score a baseline for better sanitation. We are delighted to report that since adopting this new system, all seven partner schools have seen their scores rise from an average of 23 to 30 - the highest possible score. These points reflect various factors, from the availability of soap and sawdust, to cleanliness and regular maintenance. Having seen the impact the recruitment of a WASH Officer has made in 2024 for our School Sanitation Programme, we plan to recruit a second WASH Officer to head up our Family Sanitation Programme in 2025.

In 2024 our Sports Development programme has continued to support six volunteer football coaches – fostering the growth of male and female teams in the community. These sessions had a fantastic 7,479 visits over the year, with females making up 64% of them. We have also appointed Miracle Ahiablie as Sports Co-ordinator to support our coaches, growing his responsibility. He has been meeting with these coaches on a monthly basis as well as supporting the planning and execution of a monthly league system. These monthly league events are great for bringing our local communities together, displaying unity, excitement, and generating increased participation in the matches.

Our Quality Education programme has gone from strength to strength in 2024, with Miracle Ahiablie coming into his own. Through creating a really welcoming, interactive, and engaging Learning Centre we have seen the number of visits for the year increase by 23% compared to 2023. We have also seen fantastic growth in the IT Courses being offered, with participation increasing by 100%. At Dream Big Ghana, part of our ethos is to provide training and development for our staff as we know this improves motivation and ownership when it comes to their performance; we know Miracle is interested in graphic design and photography, so we plan on researching some relevant courses so he can pursue these passions in 2025.

Entrepreneurship has always been a key focus of ours, and the new programme that we dedicated to it in 2023 has been progressing fantastically. The Made In Dzita Shop has provided eight female entrepreneurs with the platform to grow their businesses and increase their sales and product visibility. We are delighted to report that the shop has been a huge success, generating GHS 93,996 in 2024 for our partner artisans. We hope to partner with two more artisans in 2025 and continue creating more impact and stimulating our local economy.

2024 saw the rise of our most exciting new music programme. What started off as an ambitious dream of constructing a Community Music Studio and Creative Hub, stemming from the success of the Meet Me There Weekender Festival, the infrastructure is now close to completion. The construction has featured sustainable building techniques such as rammed earth, which we hope the centre will become renowned for. In 2025 we expect to complete the infrastructure and work on equipping the centre and designing operations.

The Meet Me There Eco Lodge continues to provide our NGO with a solid platform to operate from. In 2024, we provided full-time employment for 30 people who live in the communities we work with. The sustained success of the lodge also means we can now provide full wages for the NGO staff, reducing our reliance on international funding.

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 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 over 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 30 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 Eco Lodge, a 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 KPEDOR
Local Advisor



AKPENE HOGGAR
Treasurer



JAKAMANY WINFRED
Secretary



**AGBOTADUA
TORGBUI KUMASSAH**
Chairperson



RITA RAY
Patron



POETRA ASANTEWA
Ambassador



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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



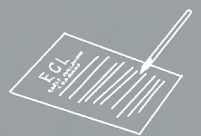
HOSTING THREE IT COURSES FOR BEGINNERS, INTERMEDIATE, AND ADVANCED LEVELS.



UPDATING OUR BOOKS, GAMES, AND ART SUPPLIES.



UNDERTAKING OUR ANNUAL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT AT OUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE.



DEVELOPING OUR MONTHLY IMPACT REPORTS.



REACHING 701 CHILDREN THROUGH OUR QUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME



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 and 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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



DISTRIBUTING 335 REUSABLE PADS ACCOMPANIED BY REGULAR FEMALE HYGIENE EDUCATION SESSIONS.



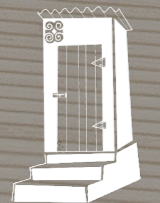
PROVIDING SEVEN SCHOOLS WITH 377L OF LOCALLY-MADE SOAP FOR HAND-WASHING.



OUR 'SOAP FOR SCHOOLS' INITIATIVE FEATURED ON BBC AFRICA.



FIVE SCHOOL ECOSAN TOILET BLOCKS CONSTRUCTED AND TWO REPURPOSED TO DATE.



147 FAMILY ECOSAN TOILETS CONSTRUCTED TO DATE.



UNDERTAKING ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF THE ECOSAN TOILETS AT ALL SEVEN PARTNER SCHOOLS.

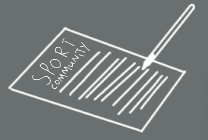


HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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 190 players with weekly sports sessions. Our seven coaches organise their own teams and play monthly fixtures against other teams in the community. Our female coaches lead our girls teams and our male coaches lead the boys teams ensuring that both genders have relevant role models to relate to.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



DEVELOPING OUR MONTHLY IMPACT REPORTS.



CREATING AN EMPOWERING SPACE FOR WOMEN IN SPORTS, WHERE 64% OF ALL VISITS ARE FEMALE.



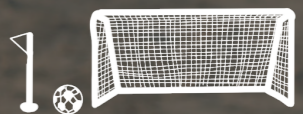
FABRICATING A NEW VOLLEYBALL NET FOR AGBLEDOMI COMMUNITY.



PROVIDING FIRST-AID TRAINING TO OUR FIVE PARTNER COACHES.



UNDERTAKING OUR ANNUAL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT AT OUR SAHARA PARK.



DISTRIBUTING EQUIPMENT AND FOOTBALLS TO FIVE PARTNER COACHES.



PROVIDING MONTHLY MENTORSHIP TO FIVE LOCAL FOOTBALL COACHES.



WORNANA - CREATIVE HUB

The United Nations 2030 Agenda sees cultural heritage as a prime enabler of sustainable development. Embracing Ghanaian culture will ensure Ghana develops the Ghanaian way. A country of wonderful art and a renowned music scene, we want to ensure that cultural heritage and creativity is fully incorporated into our community development projects.

In 2018 we ran the first ever 'Meet Me There Weekender' music festival held in our community. The music festival showcases up-and-coming West African artists to an international audience and is a source of pride as well as income in the local community.

In 2023 we began working towards building, equipping and sustaining a community-led music studio that will unleash the potential for local artists, provide employment and offer opportunities for responsible tourism and collaborative projects.

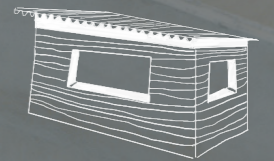
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



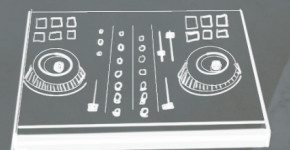
RUNNING WEEKLY DRUMMING CLASSES IN OUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE.



PROVIDING TRAINING IN SUSTAINABLE BUILDING TECHNIQUES TO SIX ARTISANS.



COMPLETING UP TO THE ROOFING STAGE AT 'WORNANA' (COMMUNITY CREATIVE HUB).



RUNNING ONE DJ COURSE.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship is an exciting way to help bridge the high unemployment rates in our rural communities. It helps strengthen the local economy and provides much needed diversity to a local economy.

Entrepreneurship has become one of our more prominent programmes over the past few years.

On the 1st December 2023 we completed the construction of a new shop space to provide a platform for our partners to sell their products. We currently work with six female entrepreneurs and support them with the development of their businesses and their products. Each artisan receives 90% of their shop sales while 10% is set aside for a fund to help support entrepreneurship in our community. We hold monthly 'Hang-out' meetings with our partner artisans where we discuss successes and challenges we face in running a small business as a way of knowledge sharing.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



RAISING GHS 10,444 FOR OUR 'ENTREPRENEURS DEVELOPMENT FUND'.



HOSTING 12 'ENTREPRENEURS' HANGOUTS'.



COLLABORATING WITH EIGHT FEMALE ARTISANS.



GENERATING GHS 93,996 THROUGH SHOP SALES FOR OUR PARTNER ARTISANS.



PROVIDING A GRANT TO SUPPORT FORGIVE'S FASHION HOME WITH THE COMPLETION OF A NEW SHOP.



MEET ME THERE

The Meet Me There Eco Lodge primary focus is to raise income to help sustain the mission of our NGO, to provide much needed employment opportunities for the communities we serve and to help elevate the tourism industry in the Volta Region.

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 keep 30 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 shown towards our vision.

One of the aims of Meet Me There is to be as eco-friendly as possible in an effort to inspire sustainability in Ghana. We do this by having compost toilets in 80% of our rooms, employing solar power as our primary source of energy, and eliminating single-use plastic in our procurement and operations practices. We also strive to have a positive impact on the local economy wherever we can. We achieve this through our ethos to only employ from our locality, using local ingredients in our bar and kitchen, and supporting local craftspeople through the use of handicrafts in the decor throughout our lodge. Alongside providing employment, our lodge also supports a number of local businesses through the newly constructed shop.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



NEARING COMPLETION OF OUR MEET ME THERE COOKBOOK.



CONTINUING TO SUPPORT LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH SALES IN OUR SHOP.



MAINTAINING A 5-STAR RATING ON TRIP ADVISOR.



HOSTING WEEKLY STAFF YOGA SESSIONS.



PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO 30 FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBERS - 18 FEMALES / 12 MALES.



REACHING 23K FOLLOWERS ON OUR INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT.



PROVIDING FIRE TRAINING FOR ALL 30 STAFF MEMBERS.



OUR FINANCES

The figures presented are for the Ghanaian financial year ending 31 December 2024. Full audited accounts are available upon request. The figures presented are for the Ghanaian financial year ending 31 December 2024. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

INCOME FOR THE PERIOD:

Grants from Dream Big Foundation	GHC527,058
External Grants	GHC29,800
Bank interest	GHC470
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	GHC557,328

DIRECT COSTS:

Quality Education	GHC(30,423)
Safe Sanitation	GHC(63,897)
Entrepreneurship	GHC(750)
Community Grants	GHC(63,737)
Healthy Communities	GHC(43,428)
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	GHC(202,235)

General & Admin Expenses	GHC(16,342)
Capital Expenditure (MMT Music Studio/ Wornana)	GHC(274,089)
Total Costs	GHC(492,648)

INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FROM THE YEAR'S CASH ACTIVITIES

GHC64,680

SUPPORT FROM MEET ME THERE

What makes us unique?

You will notice Dream Big Ghana NGO has minimal running costs. This is due to Meet Me There Eco Lodge covering part of the administration, overhead and management costs in support of these programmes. In addition MMT contributes directly to the programme costs as well as paying all NGO staff salaries. For this we say a big thank-you to all of our Meet Me There guests for directly supporting us!





WRITTEN & PREPARED BY:
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CO-DIRECTORS
DREAM BIG GHANA NGO

DESIGN AND LAYOUT:
IANTHE AGBLOR



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SUPPORT OUR WORK



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