

act!onaid ghana

20 YEARS OF CHILD SPONSORSHIP



**Reflections of the Pioneers from
Chereponi & Bawku West**

**! End poverty.
! Together.**



20 YEARS OF CHILD SPONSORSHIP

**Reflections of the Pioneers from
Chereponi and Bawku West**



STORIES FROM PAST BAWKU WEST & CHEREPONI CHILD SPONSORED SPONSORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

INTRODUCTION

Child sponsorship is one of the most regular and reliable fundraising schemes ActionAid uses to work towards ending poverty together with poor and excluded people. Child sponsorship in our premier development areas in Bawku West and Chereponi in the northern part of Ghana enabled supporters who share in ActionAids' vision and mission to sponsor, or fund children in these developing areas. The supporters financially supported education, health, many livelihood projects (including agriculture) and security of the sponsored

children. More importantly these supporters have contributed more widely to the children's communities development. These "children" are now self sufficient young adults living lives of dignity.

As we celebrate 20 years of work in Ghana, we deemed it appropriate to get back to our pioneer communities, locate the pioneer sponsored children and give them the opportunity to give us their reflections on ActionAid's work in their communities.

These reflections have been put together in this handbook for your assessment and reading pleasure. We have also tried to respond to issues that some of them have raised.

It is gratifying to note that most of the sponsored children have become responsible members of their communities and are contributing in diverse ways to the development efforts of their people. Majority of them are still aspiring to greater heights. We are really proud of them.



ALICE AKUKA



My name is Alice Akuka. I am married and I have - two children- Priscilla Awinso, and Ezekiel Awini. I am 28 years old and have completed SSSCE. I am currently a youth employment teacher. I completed Bawku Senior Secondary school. In my child sponsorship days I was doing my drawings and writings in Googo Primary School.

The community was one of the fortunate communities in the Bawku West District which had the blessings of ActionAid Ghana.

Existing groups and the individuals especially the vulnerable benefitted a lot from

this organisation. The support to the community included the provision of dam, schools, clinics, accommodation for teachers and health workers, seed stores, grain bank, hand dug well and so on.

Moreover, the vulnerable were supported with food for the family and sometimes the group leaders were assisted to purchase grain to store and to be sold during the lean season at an affordable price.

The farmers were trained on modern methods of farming. An example is the use of animal droppings and other materials for compost. Individuals were also

supported with small ruminants for rearing.

The schools were provided with learning materials. We, the sponsored children were provided with uniforms, books, pens and pencils. Furniture and cupboards were also provided to the schools. A clinic was built for the community.

Rural Education Volunteers (REV teachers) were recruited and trained to help in the teaching held. REFLECT facilitators were also trained to handle adults as well as children of school going age which were not in school.

I acknowledge that ActionAid has helped me and the entire community so much. The many young men and ladies who are educated now would not have gotten that opportunity had it not been the timely intervention of ActionAid.

It is my hope that should the community have a little push on the part of providing more classroom blocks, clinics, training centres for the youth and support to needy but brilliant students, it will go a long way to solve the many problems that the community still encounters due to its fast growing population.

AZUMBILLA AFUBILLA



My name is Azumbilla Afubilla and I have completed Bawku Secondary School successfully in the year 2007. But due to lack of money to further my education I am still in the house with my “number seven” meaning my farming hoe. I am 25 years of age and I come from Googo community and I am single. I am a pupil teacher in Ghana Education Service.

ActionAid is a non governmental organisation that supports individual community and governmental activities in the areas of production of services and skills.

In the first place ActionAid of Ghana has done good work by giving out farm inputs such as tools, seeds, chemicals to farmers of Googo traditional area. They organised and sponsor agricultural workshops and training programmes for farmers in the community. They also assisted in training agricultural experts in the area. The organisation also did well by building seed store and the grain banks in the Googo traditional area. This helped many poor farmers to have farm input for production.

Secondly ActionAid as an NGO also did its best by constructing a dam for the community. This dam is very useful to farmers, animals and fishermen in the community. The animals drink from it, and even have fresh grass to supplement their feeding. The community also get advantage by growing enough vegetable for sale for income during the dry season. This helps them to support their family and even pay their children school fees.

Tree planting was another exercise that was taken by the ActionAid Ghana in the Googo community. They gave out seedlings for planting in residential and public places such as schools, clinic, dams. AAG even tried to create agro-forestry in many communities in Ghana. More so the organisation also came out with bullocks to support the poor farmers. These animals helped many poor farmers in Googo to come out with good harvest from their farms.

Additionally, AAG also constructed some classroom buildings and bungalows for the community.

During their time, they trained some Senior Secondary School leavers to teach the children in the community.

Another important thing ActionAid Ghana did in Googo during their era was to give loans as capital to the people in the community. They saw that many were having the zeal to do business and farmers were without capital. As a result of the loans, people were able to work and pay their children's school fees and also commercial activities and farming in the area got enhance as people reared fowls, cows, sheep and goats to support their family income.

ActionAid also came out with savings and credit schemes to make sure the monies given to people do not go to waste but are used well to generate income for their own development.

Finally, friendship was another great thing ActionAid formed between Googo community children and the whites. As a result of this relationship, many people were offered gifts such as school bags, money, clothing, books, school uniform, toys and

even pictures of our friends. ActionAid did well and I wish they were still in our community. Many more dams, school, and health centres would have been built by now.

Since ActionAid left the community, many NGOs came but were not able to cooperate with the people and even others promised and failed.

The construction of the dams and building of more schools were able to prevent the active labour force from going down to the south to do white colour jobs. Because they were able to use the dams for farming and the schools as job sources. This helps to prevent social vices such as armed robbery and corruption from the community.

After the withdrawal of ActionAid's support from the land of Googo,

many farmers and businesses collapsed because there were no loans or credit facilities to support their work.

Additionally, ActionAid Ghana also played an important part by assisting orphans by donating food items, worth thousands of Ghana cedis to orphans and persons with disabilities in the community. The items included bags of rice, sugar, cartons of key soap and cash. But in the absence of ActionAid Ghana, many orphans and disabled people are no more having food items to collect from any NGOs and I suggest that ActionAid comes back.

I wish to end up here and say well done to ActionAid Ghana and may God bless you.

Thank you.

COMFORT MOAKE BICHESO



Comfort Moake Bicheso is my name. I come from Naboni, a village in Chereponi District in the northern region of Ghana. I am 21 years old and completed Naboni R/C Primary School. I am employed as a teacher in the same school (Naboni), at the moment.

This year, I am contesting the district assembly elections in my electoral area (Naboni).

ActionAid Ghana has helped my community by putting up a three classroom block, teaching and

learning materials, polytanks, and grain banks. They also supported farmers with loans. Personally, I attended the Girls' Camp in Accra through ActionAid's support.

My problem is that, I drew several images and these were sent out to my sponsor/friend but I never received any mail from my sponsor. I will also be happy if ActionAid could sponsor some of us to go for further education when we gain admission.

Thank you.

TILLI YOMBU



I am Tilli Yombu a beneficiary child from E.P. primary school Chereponi, formerly sponsored by ActionAid Ghana. I am a young man of 25 years old. I am now a trained teacher at Sangbana R/C Primary School.

ActionAid Ghana had helped me and my community because they constructed a three classroom block in my community (Kwame-Nansoni).

Also they gave loan to farmers in my community to farm and after harvest.

I also remember that, in 2000 ActionAid gave the assembly man of my community 300 plants

to be planted which helped the community a lot.

Personally, I was appointed as a Rural Educational Volunteer (REV) teacher in 2004 and I was paid an allowance of (¢170, 000) per month. This helped me a lot.

Additionally, ActionAid Ghana registered me for the SSCE private examination in 2005 where I made all my passes and moved to the training college.

During my work as a REV teacher, ActionAid gave me a bicycle and a solar lamp for studies.

There were however, some problems:

As a sponsored child, I never saw my own picture throughout my stay in the school. And sometimes my letters will come but the address will be deeply shaded in order to make me not see it clearly.

I indeed wish ActionAid Ghana should help us further our education to the sky level.

But in any case, ActionAid sponsored me and many other colleagues in the district to pursue the untrained teachers' diploma in basic education (UTTDBE) programme throughout the five years.

Since ActionAid is about to organize 20th anniversary we the old sponsored beneficiaries wish ActionAid could get us some of the anniversary T-shirts.

AYI ELIASU



I am Ayi Eliasu, a former student of E.P. primary Chereponi. I am 22 years of age and also a native of Chereponi district. I am a past beneficiary of ActionAid child sponsorship scheme. I am currently working with an NGO (JICA) Chereponi as the Zonal coordinator for Chereponi.

Individual Benefits from ActionAid

1. I was given pencils and books.
2. Always I get pictures from my sponsors.
3. I always received toys from them.

Community Benefits

1. The community was given loans.

2. The community was given a well.
3. They also monitored the community to plant trees.

Challenges

1. Sometimes we received letters from the sponsors that they have put an amount of money in a letter for us to use to buy uniforms and other things but when we open the letter nothing was found.

Suggestions

Since we have been remembered, we would be more proud if we can get the anniversary T-Shirts as past sponsored children to also celebrate the 20th anniversary. Thank you very much for your good works in our communities.

SEIDU ALHASSAN ALAJOR



Seidu Alhassan Alajor is my name, born on 15th May 1979, in Kornu-Nansoni a village near Chereponi. I had my basic education in Chereponi E.P. Primary and Chereponi Central J.S.S. I am a beneficiary of ActionAid child sponsorship programme in the Chereponi area.

After my basic education, I went to Yendi Secondary School. I came out successfully and went to Tamale Teacher Training College and completed in 2005. Currently I am a student at the University of Education, Winneba

level 200 in the Social Science Department, studying Economics as major and Political Science as minor.

Benefits of ActionAid in Kornu Nansoni

1. Construction of three (3) classroom blocks.
2. Construction of rooms for teacher quarters.
3. Drilling of bore hole in Kornu-Nansoni.
4. Appointment of three REV Teachers in Kornu-Nansoni.
5. Provision of solar lamps

and bicycles to the REV teachers.

6. Construction of irrigation dam for Kornu-Nansoni and the surrounding communities.
7. Financial support (loans) to women to start small scale business.

Challenges of ActionAid in the community.

ActionAid had a big dream for the community; however they could not complete all their dreams. These challenges includes:

1. Lack of commitment on the part of the people; especially the people who took the loan from them sometimes default payment.
2. The teachers (REV's) they appointed sometimes failed to go school to teach with the reasons that the allowance given to them was not enough.
3. The culture/tradition of

the people also affected some activities of ActionAid, for example female/girl child education.

Suggestions:

I wish to make a humble appeal to ActionAid Ghana to extend their programme in the area for at least five (5) years to continue the good work because the Chereponi area still need more development, especially in education, health, sanitation and provision of good drinking water.

I will also like to appeal to ActionAid to support me with my education because University education is still very costly.

To add, I wish to suggest that as part of the AAG 20th anniversary celebration ActionAid Ghana should print T-shirts for all the pioneers of the child sponsorship programme.

AMA TIMOTHY



My name is Ama Timothy. I am 20 years old. I come from Chereponi in the northern region

The community I am from is Kablani. I completed Sangbana R/C Primary School from there I went and learnt dress-making and completed.

I am a teacher in a vocational school. ActionAid Ghana has helped my community by putting up a well and a grain bank. Back at school I was

drawing for child sponsorship but I never received any mail from my sponsor.

I will also be happy if ActionAid Ghana will support girls to further their education.

ActionAid has done a lot.

Thank you

JAMES ABANE



My name is James Abane . I am 25 years of age. My occupation is teaching and I am not married yet. I started schooling in the Googo primary school and that was where we always met our friends.

ActionAid is an organization that came to Upper East Region twenty years back now. The organization helped a lot in improving the quality of people's lives in the region precisely Googo.

During that time, we were quite young and they used tell us that

our friends abroad wanted to take our pictures. Sometimes they write to us and also give us books, toys and others. We were also encouraged to draw. Apart from what we benefited as children at that time, they contributed to the development of the community, that is, building of the clinic, and the grain bank where the cereals that were given to the people of the community were stored. The organization also did well by granting loans to our parents especially the women.

When we got to the S.S.S level some of us wrote and the results were not all that good and

ActionAid registered us to write the private exams and also engage us in teaching as REVs. Now, I have completed training college and I wish to further my education if I get money. I am appealing for AAG's assistance to go through my university education. At the moment, I have Diploma certificate in basic education (DBE) in 2009 from Tamale College of Education.

Eventually, ActionAid helped a lot but it has not totally alleviated poverty. So its presence again will be important in order to improve the living standard of the community especially the education sector.

AKOR AGISI-BA



My name is Akor Agisi-Ba. I am twenty years old. I was a student at the Sangbana R/C primary and a beneficiary of Child Sponsorship Program of ActionAid. I am currently a member of CAMFED in the district and also beneficiary on the NGO (CAMFED) and a business tycoon. I am from Naturi community.

Community benefits from ActionAid are as follows:

1. Animal tracking
2. Tree planting.
3. Fonio machine
4. Bicycle was also given to some people in the community.

Challenges

1. I received a letter stating that an amount of money had been enclosed to get things like uniform, books, pens, pencils, sandals to make learning effective but nothing was ever found in the letters.

2. My friend (sponsor) came to me at the village and saw how I was suffering and went and said they would come but never heard anything from them again why? Can some one tell me what was going on?

3. I was doing too much drawing which some times make me dodge.

Suggestions

T-Shirt should be provided for the 20th anniversary celebration for the past sponsored children.

ANDREW MBABUGRE



ActionAid has made a lot of improvements to my community and me as an individual. My name is Mbabugre Andrew, 21 years of age, a former student of Sapeliga Shepherd School. I completed Zebilla Senior High School in 2009.

I am currently not employed in any institution. I am a farmer and not yet married. Your services in my community Sapeliga have been very useful to us, and I thank you very much for your contribution.

Some of the improvements you made to my community include education, health, water, loans and agricultural development to mention just a few.

On the part of agriculture, ActionAid provided farmers with farming equipments like pick axes, rakes, shovels, spades, and head pans. They also provided farmers with seeds stores, provision of loans for farmers and trainings on how to plan for the season and how to apply fertilizer on their farms.

ActionAid has made a wonderful effort to provide quality education for the people by setting up schools in communities, providing furniture to the various schools and renovating schools among others.

They also set up health centers

close to the door steps of the people and also trained people on healthy living and keeping the environment clean.

Further more, upon all the improvement on agriculture, education, health and the rest,

ActionAid was still not satisfied and went into the development of infrastructure like roads, wells, staff quarters and so many things that will ensure sustainable development in our communities.

Thank you, ActionAid.

SEIDU YENDULI



My name is Seidu Yenduli. I attended Googu Primary School. I am 24 years old. I am not married yet.

The achievements of ActionAid in my community include the following;

1. Provision of farming inputs head pan, pick axes, shovels, wellington boots, cutlasses among others.
2. Provision of farm seeds and seedlings such as groundnuts and maize.
3. Building of schools and provision of text books and furniture.
4. Creation of employment e.g. REV (Rural Education Volunteer) teachers.

ANATU IMORO



My name is Anatu Imoro, I come from Mayamam. I am a girl of eighteen year old. I was a sponsored child when I was in primary school, and they were snapping me pictures up to Junior High School.

My community benefitted from ActionAid. Some of the benefits are building of school block, Grain bank, borehole, bicycle for some school children.

I have completed the senior high school in 2007. I am now doing voluntary teaching at my community. Now I am planning to

go to school but I have no money for me to pay for admission to enter the school. I had all my passes but there is a financial problem.

So, I am pleading with ActionAid to support me to further my education. Please ActionAid try and support me to further my education.

I am happy to say that ActionAid has done a lot for me and my community.

Thank you.

ISAAC AMUDU APIIGA



My name is Isaac Amudu Apiiga. I am 23 years and completed Senior Secondary School in 2008. I am married. I used to do my drawings and writings to my sponsor when I was in Googo Primary School. My first child is a boy called Anaambe Amudu. I have applied for admission into Tumu College of Education this year 2010, and still waiting to be called for the interview and admission. Many people speak about organisations in Ghana, but there is not any of them as compared to ActionAid Ghana. ActionAid is an organisation which came to Ghana almost 20 years now. It started its work in the Upper East Region specifically Zebilla,

Sapeliga Googo communities in the Bawku West District.

ActionAid selected sponsored children of all the communities. I, Amadu Isaac personally benefited from the sponsorship programme. I am here therefore to state the benefits ActionAid brought to our community.

First and foremost, ActionAid is the organisation that built the primary school from block four to block six. They also brought furniture for the school. From there, they built the Googo Clinic and the seed store. The clinic is the health centre for the communities whilst the seed store

was for the storage of seeds at the end of harvest. Apart from buildings, ActionAid also constructed a well and large dam for the community. It is the source of water for both domestic and industrial uses. Animals drink while community members also use it for dry season farming and building of houses.

To add to the above benefits, ActionAid gave farming facilities such as head pan, hand fork, shovel, pick axes, rake among others, to the community members for farming. Some members also received wheel barrows. These materials were for farming activities in the communities.

More to that ActionAid has been an organisation who was always willing to help. They gave loans to various groups of people in the community for farming and business ventures. The loans given made community farming easier and more convenient because people could easily access fertilizer and other agricultural inputs. I will not say that ActionAid has not done a lot of good to our community.

But on the other way round, ActionAid moved from our community and district too early. On my part, if ActionAid were still here in Googo community we would have seen developments such as building of banks for easy loans, and among others. Because ActionAid does not exist in our district any more, to get loan is a difficult task for the farmers, especially if you don't belong to any political party. I have completed SSS but I could not continue because of financial problems. It could have been easier if AAG were still here. I cannot stand here to express myself on what ActionAid has done, but believe me or not, ActionAid has done much. ActionAid, the leading organisation in development projects in Ghana.

Please I need your help ActionAid. Help me to get the admission to Tumu College of Education because last year I applied to Gbewaah and did not get admission. So now I am in the house doing farming.

ZERIATU NASSAM



I am Zeriatu Nassam, an old student of Mayamam E.P Primary. I am a young girl of 20 years old and I was a beneficiary of ActionAid child sponsorship programme.

I am now a CAMFED teacher teaching at Kudani R/C Primary. The child sponsorship programme has helped me and my community a lot.

ActionAid provided the following:

1. Construction of well
2. Construction of school block
3. REV teachers

4. Grain bank
5. Savings and credit scheme to women
6. Bicycles to students. I was also part of those students who benefitted.

Challenges

I still want child sponsorship to stay in Chereponi; and further my education

Suggestions

It would be very good if we can get T-shirts for the 20th anniversary.

Thank you.

NAABA DAWUDA MOHAMMED



Naaba Dawuda Mohammed is my name, a former student of Sangbana R/C Primary, but a native of Famisah. I am 27 years old.

My community has benefited partially from the work of ActionAid that is ActionAid built a grain bank over there and also supported some individuals with wellington boots for farming activities. However, I personally have also benefited greatly from the work of ActionAid.

A programme came known as Rural Education Volunteers (REV) which I was one of the

beneficiaries, we were given bicycles and solar lamps.

Additionally they also registered us to write private examinations which some of us happened to pass and were able to make it to the teacher training college and now a professional teacher. More so due to that I still wish if Action Aid would live in my community to continue their good work done.

I will not also forget about the numerous pictures I had from my friend from the outside country. Also I wish I was still in school to get more photos. I think through child sponsorship I was very

punctual to school. I overheard ActionAid Ghana is 20 years old and will be celebrating it.

I personally suggest they should print some T-shirts' which we the

past sponsored children will also get some to boost our morale that we were also part of the child sponsorship programme.

Thank you.

ESTHER AWU ASAMOAH



I am Esther Awu Asamoah, from Mayamam. I am a girl of fourteen (14) years old. I have now completed E.P Junior High School. I am an old sponsored child of E.P Primary School. When I was in primary school ActionAid gave me plain sheet to draw anything I want for them to send to my sponsor and they snapped my pictures too.

I benefited a lot from ActionAid.

ActionAid helped my community by providing them with school block, polytank and well. ActionAid has done a lot. I need ActionAid to help me to finish my education. Please help me to further my education because education is the key. If you do not get education, then you can make it in Ghana.

Thank you

MARIAMA ABUBAKARI



My name is Mariama Abubakari. I come from Banjani in the Northern Region. I am 24 years old.

I completed Sangbana R/C Primary School. ActionAid Ghana has helped my community to buy cutlasses and wellington boots.

They have always encouraged the farmers and helped them to better their yields. This is one good thing that ActionAid did for my village. My problem

is that I have been drawing child sponsorship messages but I never received any mail from my sponsor.

I will also be happy if ActionAid Ghana will sponsor girls to go to school.

Thank you.

SALIFU A. MBAWIN



My name is Mbowin A. Salifu. I have completed Sandema Secondary School in the year 2004. I am a boy of 27 and not married yet. I am now a farmer and at the same time a volunteer teacher at Sapeliga Primary School.

I am very glad for the services of ActionAid in my community. There has been a lot of development in my community when ActionAid came to my community. Some of the development includes improvement of education, drawing of pictures and letter writing to friends, loans to farmers. The shepherd school established by ActionAid is now upgraded and registered as

Sapeliga Primary School. ActionAid also built a teachers' quarters, a seeds store and wells in some communities.

They also provided furniture like benches, tables and chairs to schools. ActionAid also provided equipments like cutlasses, animals, hoe to farmer. They also built latrines for the community.

Through ActionAid, some children were able to complete their secondary school with the loans that ActionAid Ghana granted to community members.

Thank you.

NANGOTY DAMATA AWUFFOR



My name is Nangoty Damata Awuffor. I am a girl of 20 years old and I started my education in Mayamam E.P. Primary which was built by ActionAid Ghana. ActionAid gave us polytank for water in the school which was good for the community as well as the pupils in the school.

The second thing ActionAid gave us was a well for the community. Me and all my friends were very happy about what ActionAid did for our community. When I started

my education from 2003 to 2005, I got a bicycle from ActionAid in 2004 which I was very happy for that day.

There is one thing I want ActionAid to do for us, that is dig a well for the community and I want ActionAid to come to our aid and support me in my education.

Thank you

AMADU ARAMA



My name is Amadu Arama. I come from Chereponi in the Northern Region. I am eighteen years old and a student at the Chereponi Senior High Technical School.

The benefits me and my community have through ActionAid are as follows:

ActionAid has helped children to continue their education especially me up to senior school level. Those who were not in school during that time got

attracted to our drawing were also enrolled to school.

Some of the things our village lacked at the time were corn mill, and loans. Some children who were part of the sponsorship scheme were given text book and bicycle.

ActionAid has done a lot.

Thank you

SIRIKATU LATIFU



My name is Sirikatu Latifu I am 20 years of age. I completed Central L/A Primary School Chereponi and I was a beneficiary of child sponsorship scheme.

Community benefit

A classroom block was built by AAG. AAG built a laboratory for the community clinic. Employment was given to the youth through Rural Education Volunteer Scheme. There was tree planting. Bicycles were given to enhance attendance and learning in school.

Challenges

I drew so many times to my friend and wrote him letters to help me in

my education to buy uniforms and sandals, pens, pencils, books and other school materials but yet still. I also received letters from my friend indicating that a parcel had been sent to me but I never saw those things and so anytime they brought the cards (message forms) we always don't feel like doing it because we felt there was nothing in it for us.

Individual benefit

Letters and nothing else. But I want to make an appeal to the organization if they can help those of us who have completed Senior High School or Junior High School to continue our education.

Thank you

EMMANUEL A. ALATEGA



I am Emmanuel A. Alatega, I was born on 14th April 1986 in the Googo community and had my education at Sunyani Polytechnic where I pursued motor vehicle technician part 2. I am single.

Life in my community improved very much when ActionAid entered my community in the early 1990s. The few things that can be remembered in the development of the community are as follows:-

First of all, they provided educational materials such as classroom, furniture, teachers' quarters, uniforms and books

which helped in teaching and learning to go on as expected. To add to that the number of girls in school before ActionAid Ghana came was not something to talk about but now, about 70% of girls are in school due to AAG's help.

Secondly, AAG also provided farm equipments to our parents which help them to increase the yield of their farms. They gave some training on how to prepare compost manure to increase the soil fertility in order to earn good harvests. They also put up seed stores for storing of seeds and a dam for dry season farming which has helped us and made our

young men and women not to travel down south to engage in kayaye and other activities.

Thirdly, they also helped in putting up nurses' quarters and a clinic which helped our mothers, pregnant women to deliver and sick people to go for medical attention when sick.

Last but not least, the educational background of the community had improved due to the educational facilities that we had and I am one of those who have made it up to the tertiary level of education. However, due to one or two things

beyond my control I could not continue.

In all I will put a suggestion that if ActionAid will be able to come back to our aid they should help in the expansion of schools.

They should train of our parents in good farming methods because this will help them to produce food crops for feeding and also generate income to improve our living condition, so the youth who have completed school can continue their education.

MEMUNA AWINKURUGU AZURE



My name is Memuna Awinkurugu Azure from Sapeliga Kaare. I am a girl of 22 years of age and not married yet. I completed Zebilla Secondary/Technical School in 2006 and now serving as a community volunteer in the health facility.

When ActionAid came into Ghana, Sapeliga was one of the communities which benefited a lot. They developed so many things but the most important ones are as follows:

Firstly, agriculture was one of the important things that ActionAid Ghana came to develop in

Sapeliga. They provided farm materials like tools such as hoes, cutlasses, rake, shovels, digging machines, head pans and fertilizers for good harvest of the crops. Seeds distribution and planting of different types of trees in the community. Animal rearing was also an important part of the agriculture scheme of AAG. Animals such as goats, sheep, bullocks for farming and donkeys with their tracks were provided in the various communities.

Secondly, ActionAid Ghana also brought education to the community to help improve quality performance in the communities.

AAG provided furniture like tables, chairs and books and even money for some particular school children like the needy and poor.

Thirdly, ActionAid Ghana also brought sanitation to the community, making them clean and safe from getting certain diseases. Digging of bore holes and wells were also constructed for good drinking water. This method helped the inhabitants of Sapeliga.

More so, ActionAid Ghana built more health facilities for the communities. They also helped by bringing doctors and nurses to the health facilities to render services to the people. These helped to save people's lives in the communities.

Grain banks were also built with the support of ActionAid. Furthermore, seeds stores were also built to buy food stuff for future use. They could buy the food and stored and sold it at a low price for the communities when they ran short of foodstuff.

Lastly, group loans were also shared to the community members by supporting them in so

many ways. They used this money for business transaction and were able to get profit for their families' needs. ActionAid Ghana has helped a lot in Sapeliga from 1990 to 2000.

However, since ActionAid Ghana was out of my community they do not try to set an eye back to our educational standard. In addition to that when they established the seed store, they did not educate the farmers how to use it and when they left, it was left vacant.

Again, as they left the sponsorship, it made some of the poor children to drop out of school. More to that, most of the foodstuffs were always left in the grain bank for a long time and because of that, most of the foodstuffs always got rotten at the time they are brought to sell.

Furthermore, they always brought to us open letters from our friends which I think should not have been the cause.

We thank ActionAid so much and hope that ActionAid would return to the community to support again in the near future.

Thank you.

HABIBATU OSMAN



My name is Habibatu Osman . I am a 22-year old girl from Bulongo. I completed the Zebilla Sec/Tech School in 2007 and am currently teaching in the primary school. I am single.

ActionAid Ghana visited Sapeliga around 1990 and realized the needs of the people in several ways. As a non-governmental organization, they sought permission from the District Assembly to assist the people of Sapeliga in various ways.

On education, ActionAid Ghana realized the poor performance of the pupils of Sapeliga and took the

mantle and supplied teachers to the various schools in the community to help promote good academic performance and good moral development in the community. Apart from that, ActionAid Ghana also supplied furniture for pupils and staff in all the community schools. To give the pupils exposure, ActionAid Ghana introduced pen pals from abroad to some pupils in the community schools which produced benefits in cash and kind. Stationery and teaching materials were not left out. ActionAid Ghana supplied stationery to all schools to facilitate effective teaching and learning.

Besides that, the inhabitants and the community also benefited from ActionAid Ghana. Farmers were provided with hoes, rakes, cutlasses, wellington boots just to mention a few and due to the poor nature of the land, fertilizers were provided to enhance bumper harvests. ActionAid also provided farmers with grain banks to store the crops which they bought during the harvesting period, which was sold back to community members at a subsidized price during the lean season.

Furthermore, ActionAid Ghana provided animals to farmers to rear and as the number of animals increased, some were also given to other farmers to also benefit from the programme. Because ActionAid Ghana didn't want farmers to rely on chemical fertilizer alone they also trained farmers on how to prepare compost to enrich the infertile land.

Apart from the above, the community also benefited a lot

from ActionAid Ghana in the areas of health and sanitation. Clinics and staff accommodation were built at vantage points to relieve the inhabitants from travelling long distances to seek health care. Access to potable water was a problem in the community however, ActionAid Ghana supported and provided bore holes and mechanized wells to provide good water for the community.

Loans were also given to community members to assist them expand their business enterprises. Community members repaid the loans with little interest on monthly installment.

With the above mentioned, I must say that ActionAid Ghana helped the community a lot.

Long Live Ghana,
Long live ActionAid Ghana.

ISSIFU TAHIRU AZEGABILLA



I am Issifu Tahiru Azegabilla, a 24-year old young man from Bulungo. I attended the Bawku Technical Institute from 2004 to 2007. In 1990 to 2000 ActionAid Ghana came to Sapeliga in Bawku East. ActionAid helped Sapeliga by giving them quality education. ActionAid Ghana assisted the schools by giving them chairs and tables for the school children for effective teaching and learning to go on.

In health, ActionAid Ghana helped Sapeliga community by building health centers for example, the Googo Health Center. ActionAid also educated people to drink good water.

In agriculture too, ActionAid Ghana helped people to do commercial farming, grow various crops and rear animals like sheep, goats, pigs, guinea fowl and cattle. ActionAid put in place a Micro Finance Scheme Loans received were repaid in two years to enable them extend to many more families. They helped many groups of farmers to acquire and train bullocks for farming. This helped farmers to increase production with ease.

In the compost project, ActionAid gave farmers pick axes for them to dig pits and prepare compost manure to fertilize their farms.

In seeds distribution ActionAid Ghana gave people seeds for planting. Examples are maize seeds, trees seeds and seedlings of various varieties like mango seeds were distributed to farmers.

On seed storage, ActionAid Ghana built big block rooms for storing of the seed after harvest and at the time for farming, ActionAid gave out the seed for farmers to sow

On grain banks, after the people have harvested their crops, ActionAid Ghana will buy the foodstuff and keep after some time. Then during the lean season,

ActionAid Ghana usually reduced prices for the people to be able to buy.

In the area of water and sanitation, ActionAid Ghana provided the people with good drinking water by digging wells for the people and also educated the people to live in good health.

Our community leaders mobilized women to form groups and ActionAid Ghana gave loans to the groups and they paid back in one or two years with little interest.

With the above mentioned things, I would like to thank ActionAid for helping Sapeliga community.

FRANK ALAKUDUGO AGOGO



Frank Alakudugo Agogo is my name. I am 20 years old and come from Sapeliga Natinga. I completed the Senior Secondary School in 2009 and am now engaged in farming. I am most grateful for the singular honour conferred on me to express my warmest and unqualified appreciation to ActionAid for the development of Sapeliga.

ActionAid as we know, came to Sapeliga in 1990, that is twenty years ago. ActionAid has helped a lot in the development of Sapeliga, in the aspects of education, agriculture, health, sanitation among others.

Firstly, on the aspect of education, ActionAid helped in the building of shepherd schools and teachers bungalows. These schools helped us to attend schools regularly especially we those who were shepherds. The drawing of objects and letters to our sponsors made some of us to be happy and stay at school.

Also, the development of agriculture was not also left out by ActionAid Ghana, they helped farmers with farm tools like cutlasses, wheel barrows, rakes, garden forks, spades, shovels, pick axes and other tools to help them in their farming activities.

ActionAid also provided the farmers with animals for farming. As if that is not enough, ActionAid Ghana provided the farmers with seed like soya beans, groundnuts, and maize. This made ActionAid to build a seed store for Sapeliga. These interventions helped the farmers to sell some of the crops to pay their children's school fees.

Moreover, in order to save the lives of the people of Sapeliga, ActionAid built a clinic for Sapeliga. In fact this hospital helps a lot of people from dying, they also educated the people on the need to keep the body clean.

That's not all, ActionAid also helped the community with wells,

this helped to reduce the water borne diseases that we were having. They also went round to educate the people on how to keep the community clean.

Once again, I wish to express our warmest appreciation to ActionAid for their limitless generosity. I also wish to take this opportunity to assure ActionAid that the doors of Sapeliga are wide open to welcome them. By this I am appealing to ActionAid to come back to Sapeliga and continue their good work.

May the good Lord bless ActionAid.

Thank you.

REBECCA SUGURU



I am Rebecca Suguru and I have completed Zebilla Senior High School in 2006. I am a native of Sapeliga Natinga. I was born on 3rd May, 1985, I am not yet married. I teach at Sapeliga Primary School.

I am very grateful for the 20 years intervention of ActionAid in my community, there has been a lot of changes that took place since ActionAid came into my community. Some of these changes include improvement in standard of education since drawing of pictures was introduced and later writing of friendly letters to sponsors. ActionAid also played an

important role in the educational system through the provision of furniture, text books to school children in my community which I am not an exception.

In fact ActionAid alleviated the inadequate supply of teachers by Ghana Education Service (GES) to improve teaching and learning in my community. It is through that today over ten percent of the sponsored children are teachers, nurses, extension officers in my community.

ActionAid Ghana also undertook development projects in my community. Some of these are rehabilitation of schools, building of

shepherd schools, building of grain banks, teachers' quarters and even a guest house for the community.

Furthermore, agriculture was not left out as farmers were provided with improved seeds, animals and bullock ploughs and loans to improve their production.

Beside these, water and other health facilities were also provided in my community. ActionAid has drilled a number of wells, bore-

holes to improve water shortage in some communities. They also provided furniture such as benches, tables, chairs and beds to health centers.

Through the support of ActionAid Ghana, I Suguru Rebecca, have been able to attend school up to secondary level today with the help of the loans that they gave my parents. I am now working as a teacher under the youth employment programme.

ABRAHAM AKOLOGO



I am Abraham Akologo, a boy of 22 years of age who completed Bawku Secondary School in the year 2009, and currently working as a volunteer teacher and Galaka Primary School. I am not married yet.

ActionAid Ghana has helped me and my community a lot since they started work in Ghana 20 years ago. First of all, they started with child sponsorship where many of my community children including myself were asked to draw to friends abroad and this has made most of us learn how to draw. Because of that, we did not face problems with our technical subjects during our Junior High

Schools. ActionAid also helped us to learn how to read and write. Not only that, they also provided tables and chairs for schools in my community. ActionAid also put up teachers quarters which facilitated teaching and learning in my community.

ActionAid Ghana did a lot in the area of agriculture in my community. Based on this, seedlings and farm instruments were given to farmers which enabled them to invest in agricultural activities. This made it possible for most parents to cater for their children from primary through secondary to the tertiary

institutions. AA also provided a store for my community where seeds were kept and distributed to farmers during the farming season. In addition to that, a grain bank was also provided to store foodstuff during the period of harvesting and sold at affordable prices to our community members during the period of hunger. This helped a lot of people in my community especially the poor.

ActionAid Ghana also provided animals to farmers to be reared and when they increased the exact number given to the beneficiaries, were taken and transferred to different members of the community. This way of distribution helped a lot of farmers in my community and up to date, most people still benefit from it. ActionAid Ghana also trained farmers on how to prepare compost.

With this, people were given pick axes, head pans, and shovels which were used in farming and gardening. Both women and men were also put in groups and given loans.

The list is by no means exhaustible; ActionAid Ghana also improved sanitation in my community. They did this by constructing wells and bore holes.

Finally, ActionAid Ghana also improved upon health sectors in my community. They did this by renovating the Sapeliga clinic.

Looking at the good works ActionAid Ghana did for my community, they need to be praised as a vital instrument for life and as such, we wish to have them in our community again.

Thank you.

ASAM HARUNA MUSAH



I Asam Haruna Musah have completed Bawku Secondary School in the year 2007. I am a boy of 24 years of age who is not married. I am now a volunteer teacher at Sapelliga Primary School.

ActionAid Ghana is a non governmental organization which came to my community in the year 1990. During their stay in my community, they assisted us in many ways. The sectors which they tackled were education, agriculture, health, sanitation, group loans etc.

On the part of education, they built a three- unit class room block and teachers' quarters for Sapelliga Primary School. Considering education as a vital thing in the human society, ActionAid provided furniture and learning materials for the pupil to use.

In the agricultural sector, they built a seed store. This seed store was to enable famers keep their seeds safely and use them in the rainy season. They also gave group loans to famers to assist them in their farming and pay back in a period of time. They again built a grain bank where foodstuffs were bought and stocked in the harvest seasons and sold back to the

farmers in the hunger season.

ActionAid again provided each household with a head pan, pick axe, shovel and a rake. These things were to help the farmers dig large pits where refuse were kept to prepare compost manure for enriching their farm lands.

On the side of health, they renovated the old clinic and assisted the community to build

rooms for the health workers to stay in and work.

In the child sponsorship, they introduced us (the children) to sponsors outside the country. These friends sent us greetings and parcels. Through the good work of ActionAid Ghana, I have successfully completed my senior high school and intending to move further very soon.

MOHAMMED A. MBABUGRI



My name is Mohammed A. Mbabugri . I am a man of 27 years of age and completed Bawku Secondary School in the year 2002. I am married with one child. I am currently a volunteer worker at Sapeliiga Health Center.

When ActionAid Ghana came, Sapeliga was one of the communities which benefited a lot. They developed many things but the most important ones were as follows:

Agriculture was one of the important areas. Farmers were educated and provided with farm equipments such as rakes, hoes, cutlasses, head pan, wellington boots, wheel barrows and farm grains including groundnuts

seeds, soybeans and millet. AAG also provided animals such as sheep, goats for rearing and bullocks for farmers to improve farming.

AAG also provided seeds stores for farmers to store their seeds and put foodstuffs into the grain banks to make food available for us and also sell at low prices when there was food shortage. Again, AAG also taught farmers to know how to make compost manure to cut down on the use of chemical fertilizers. This is because farmers used money on chemical fertilizers.

More so, ActionAid also provided good health by building health

facilities and dug out wells, bore holes and dams for irrigation purposes for the communities.

Again, on the educational side, ActionAid helped a lot in establishing shepherd schools for the communities. They took us through basic education. We were drawing, and writing letters to friends and these improved our educational background and enabled us to go up to senior secondary school, University, polytechnic. Now some of us are nurses and teachers among others.

Loan facilities were introduced to help community members to work to improve their standard of living.

On the other hand, ActionAid Ghana did not properly educate the farmers to know much about the grains banks.

Having said all these, I wish to thank ActionAid for their great support to my community.

AKUKA AYINGA



My name is Akuka Ayinga . I completed Sapelliiga J.H.S 2002 and have not continued schooling due to lack of funds. But my occupation now is farming. I am 23 and not yet married.

ActionAid provided the following projects:

1. Dam for irrigation.
2. Seed stores.
3. Grain banks
4. Compost tools
5. Loans for women
6. Bullocks for farmers
7. School blocks, Teachers' quarters

The above helped to improve the standard of living of the people in my community.

Suggestions

ActionAid has to come back to help us to improve more on:-

1. Education of the girl child
2. Sanitation for better living
3. Girls attaining higher levels of education

ROCKSON AYARIGA



My name is Ayariga Rockson I am twenty nine years (29) and a health extension worker at Googo clinic. I am not married.

ActionAid, a non-governmental organization, operating in the Bawku West District of the Upper East Region of Ghana started its action plan in the district in the early 1990s.

Since then, ActionAid Ghana has contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of the people of this part of the country. Some of the contributions of ActionAid in these communities

and the Bawku West District as a whole include:

Firstly, ActionAid Ghana has built so many classroom blocks in most deprived communities in the Bawku West District including Agatuse, which benefited from a primary school block.

Other communities include Teshie, Yikurugu, Kobore just to mention a few. ActionAid also constructed classroom blocks in these communities and this helped to solve the problem of inadequate classroom in most schools in the district thereby enhancing effective teaching and learning.

Secondly, AAG built seed stores in most communities in the district to help farmers preserve their food stuffs for future use. Farmers were also provided with viable seeds for cultivation and these promoted activities of farmers in most of the communities.

Additionally, ActionAid has also sponsored so many needy children in Googo and Agatuse as well as other communities to have quality education from the basic level to the tertiary level. Some of the beneficiaries are now working in so many offices and others are still in school.

ActionAid has also organized in-service training for teachers in basic schools in the district to equip them with skills in their profession. AA has also provided beneficiary schools with Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) and this has promoted quality teaching and learning.

Besides, the organization has built so many stores in most rural community markets including Agatuse and this has promoted business transactions (buying and selling).

We the people of Agatuse and Googo are lacking words in expressing our appreciation for the numerous achievements made by ActionAid. It is our heartfelt hope that ActionAid will continue to support us in diverse ways to uplift our standard of living. We are very grateful and we say more grease to ActionAid and may God richly bless our 'SAVIOUR' ActionAid.

LONG LIVE ACTIONAID,
LONG LIVE OUR
COMMUNITIES,
LONG LIVE BAWKU WEST,
LONG LIVE GHANA.

NICHOLAS AVOKA MBAWINI



My name is Mbowini Nicholas Avoka. I was born on 10th August, 1985 in Googo Sakpari. I am single. I completed SHS in 2007 and served as volunteer teacher for the past two years. ActionAid is one of the renowned NGOs in the country which is committed to providing deprived communities with infrastructure and other basic needs. ActionAid came to the country specifically in the early 1990's.

ActionAid came to Googo community in 1992. ActionAid came to assist this deprived community with certain basic necessities and infrastructure.

They carried out development projects in the fields of education agriculture, health, construction of dams and so on and so forth.

ActionAid Ghana has contributed tremendously to the development of education in Googo community. This is vividly seen through the construction of a two class room block, teachers' office, teachers' bungalow with a water tank to accommodate teachers from far places to serve as a motivation to enable them provide quality teaching and learning.

Prior to AA's entry into our communities, many of the

inhabitants were lacking farm implements and seed capital to set up their own business. The NGO constructed a seed store, grain banks, AAG gave loans to enable poor people set up their own business and constructed a dam to enable farmers do farming in the dry season. ActionAid Ghana has played a crucial role in Googo community as far as health is concerned. Before AAG came, people in Googo community used to suffer from ill-health and sometimes they were compelled to walk from Googo to Zebilla a distance of 12 miles, many lost their lives. ActionAid built a clinic and bungalows for the nurses to enable them provide quality health care delivery.

Moreover, the community is very grateful to ActionAid for providing us with the above mentioned infrastructure. And that is not to say we don't have more needs. The community lacks electricity. We need light to enable teachers, students and pupils to stay in the night to study read and prepare

lesson notes. We, the first sponsored children, and almost all the youth in the community have completed senior high schools but could not further our education due to financial difficulties. And this is due to poor parental care and some of us are orphans as at now. So with this, it is very difficult for us (youth) in Googo community to continue with our education. Therefore, we the youth in this community, are appealing to our great and memorable ActionAid that if she should come back to our community, we would be grateful.

Last but not the least, when ActionAid left our community it had created a great and mighty vacancy like a mighty tree has fallen in a forest.

ActionAid we cry for you; we thirst for you; and pray for you to come back to our community to help off load our heavy loads for us.

Thank you and God bless you.

GIFTY NANJA ASAJOA



My name is Gifty Nanja Asajoa. I am 22 years of age. I completed Nabujoku E.P. Primary school. A beneficiary of child sponsorship. Now I am a CAMFED pupil teacher.

Community benefits - Nabujoku

1. ActionAid a built three class-room block for the community.
2. Loans were given to community members to engage in businesses.
3. AAG built wells for the community.

4. Animal traction was also issued to some community members.
5. A A G helped the community to engage in tree planting.
6. AAG also supported some school children from far away communities with bicycles.

Individual benefits

I benefited from ActionAid's bicycle.

Challenges

I was doing too much drawing but pictures of our friends/sponsor and items meant for me were not given to me.

At times too cards and letters of friends would be opened and would not be given to us.

Suggestions

I think it would be good if ActionAid Ghana would give all old sponsorship members anniversary T-Shirts.

ActionAid Ghana's Response to Queries from Sponsored Children.

Dear reader, having read the reflections from some of the pioneer sponsored children as documented, you recall that some of them have raised some reservations regarding letters that were opened, parcels not given them individually, and addresses not disclosed, and lack of response from sponsors or friends to their letters. In line with ActionAid Ghana's editorial policy to encourage people to speak their minds, we have published these comments unedited. It is however incumbent on us to respond to these issues in order to offer of the necessary explanations for our mutual understanding.

- *That some of the sponsored children never received letters (replies) to their letters or pictures from their sponsors*

ActionAid Ghana encourages child supporters or sponsors to correspond with their children, or visit if possible. Children write/draw to their supporters twice a year. ActionAid Ghana would like it if supporters would reciprocate by sending a card or a letter to appreciate the children's messages.

However, this is always not the case. While there are some supporters who write to their children and also visit them, there are others who want to support by giving monies regularly. All they expect is an annual report that tells them what their monies have been used for and the impact of the interventions. In order to make children who do not receive letters from their supporters happy, the funding affiliates now send ActionAid designed greeting cards annually to Country Programmes to be distributed to sponsored children.

- *That sometimes letters from their sponsors were opened and parcels meant for them never got to them.*

ActionAid's sponsorship policy does not support direct benefit to sponsored children. ActionAid works to end poverty in the community; therefore, the emphasis is on the community not the child. Where these gifts are stationery, it is given to the child's school to improve the quality of teaching and learning for all children. In all cases, the beneficiary children are informed and shown the gift item for them to

know they have been thought of so they can inform the supporter about how the gift is being put to use.

It should be noted that for the sake of supporter data security, ActionAid is obliged to always open supporters' letters to ensure that their contacts do not slip into the communities where they may be inundated with inopportune letters. We also open letters from supporters to check for any inappropriate materials that might reach the children. Whenever money is found in a letter, the amount is documented and lodged into the sponsored children's Gift Fund account. Monies in the Gift Fund account are used in a way to benefit the majority of children in the community. This may take the form of parties for the children, or footballs and jerseys for inter schools competitions.

- *Some have requested that ActionAid returns to the community – why we cannot go back*

ActionAid Ghana's work is about building the independence and power of communities; hence our child sponsorship funding policy does not intend that we work in a community forever. Our Human

Rights Based Approach seeks to empower communities to stand on their own after some years of partnership; the partner communities are also aware of this in the phase out policy. Chereponi and Bawku West were ActionAid's premier local rights programmes, and we have phased out of these communities. There are many more communities that need ActionAid's support, so once the premier communities have been shown the way, they should be encouraged to drive their own development agenda.

ActionAid Ghana welcomes contributions from all well meaning people in support of our efforts to end poverty in all the deprived communities we work in. We also want to thank all our supporters and collaborators for standing by us all these years. As we celebrate 20 years of fighting poverty we are more committed to ending poverty now than before.

CONCLUSION

In all over 8,000 children and their families from over 50 communities in Bawku and Chereponi development areas participated and benefited from the child sponsorship scheme. From the stories from these pioneers, it is evident that lives of these sponsored children and members of the communities have improved tremendously and

they recommend the fundraising scheme to stay so a lot more communities can benefit from ActionAid's programme of intervention to end poverty.

We are grateful to all our supporters who continue to support us in our work to make live better for the poor and excluded in the 247 communities we currently work with in the six out of the 10 regions in Ghana.

If you would like to contribute to ActionAid Ghana's effort and want to be a part of working with the poor and excluded to 'End poverty. Together.' you can donate to the ActionAid Ghana Fundraising Account:

Account No. **0100100582104**,
Standard Chartered Bank,
High Street,
Accra, Ghana.

ActionAid Ghana says
"Thank You"
to all our sponsors.



**End poverty.
Together.**

ActionAid Ghana
H/No. 13 La Tebu Street, East Cantonments
P. O. Box AN 19083, Accra North
Tel: +233 0302 764931/2 Fax: +233 0302 764930
Email: aaghana@actionais.org
Web: www.actionaid.org/ghana

actionaid
ghana

Design & Production:
Direct Concept - 020 842 9988 / 026 8429988