



2010 Annual Report

OrphanAid
AFRICA

www.oafrica.org



OrphanAid **AFRICA Annual Report 2010**

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Yaya, an OA beneficiary and Lisa Lovatt-Smith

Letter from Founder and President

Lisa Lovatt-Smith

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The year 2010 at OrphanAid Africa in Ghana was a wonderful experience for me, as our services reached many more vulnerable children.

Following our Strategic Planning session in 2009 OA focused on building up our core program: Family Support Services. Essentially we progressed from being merely child-centered to being family centered, recognizing that the child does not evolve in this world alone but needs the love and support of a caring family to thrive.

Our Family Support Services department was given greater priority: we improved its resources and gave more staff support. We recruited a new Director, Celia Wechenk who prior to working with OA had held positions managing development projects with Initiative Développement in Haiti, Action Contre la faim, and Handicap International.

NGOs do a very difficult job but it is so fulfilling to know that when you go to work you change lives: providing solutions and answers to over 100 families, giving them access to services such as national health insurance, educational and vocational facilities, the banking structure, and more.

It has been immensely satisfying to focus on our core priorities thanks to our experience in rescuing children from abusive situations, especially badly run orphanages. The meticulous work to trace their families and subsequently reunify and reintegrate them has proven to be a successful approach in helping these children to thrive.

We also benefited greatly from the fruit of the past eight years of advocacy: making Ghanaians aware of the dangers to children posed by institutionalization. In 2010, institutionalized child neglect and abuse perpetuated in orphanages hit the front pages of newspapers and was featured on radio and television programs across the country. Our organization had direct communication with the President of Ghana and researched the issue for the inquiry commission set up by Parliament.

The October 2010 launch of the National Plan of Action for orphans and vulnerable children (of which OA is currently the only NGO implementing partner) marked a turning point in Ghanaian policy of care for vulnerable children. Awareness must now be developed into knowledge and applied in action.

This milestone marks the fulfillment of many of our hopes and efforts and together we look forward to an even better future for vulnerable children in Ghana.

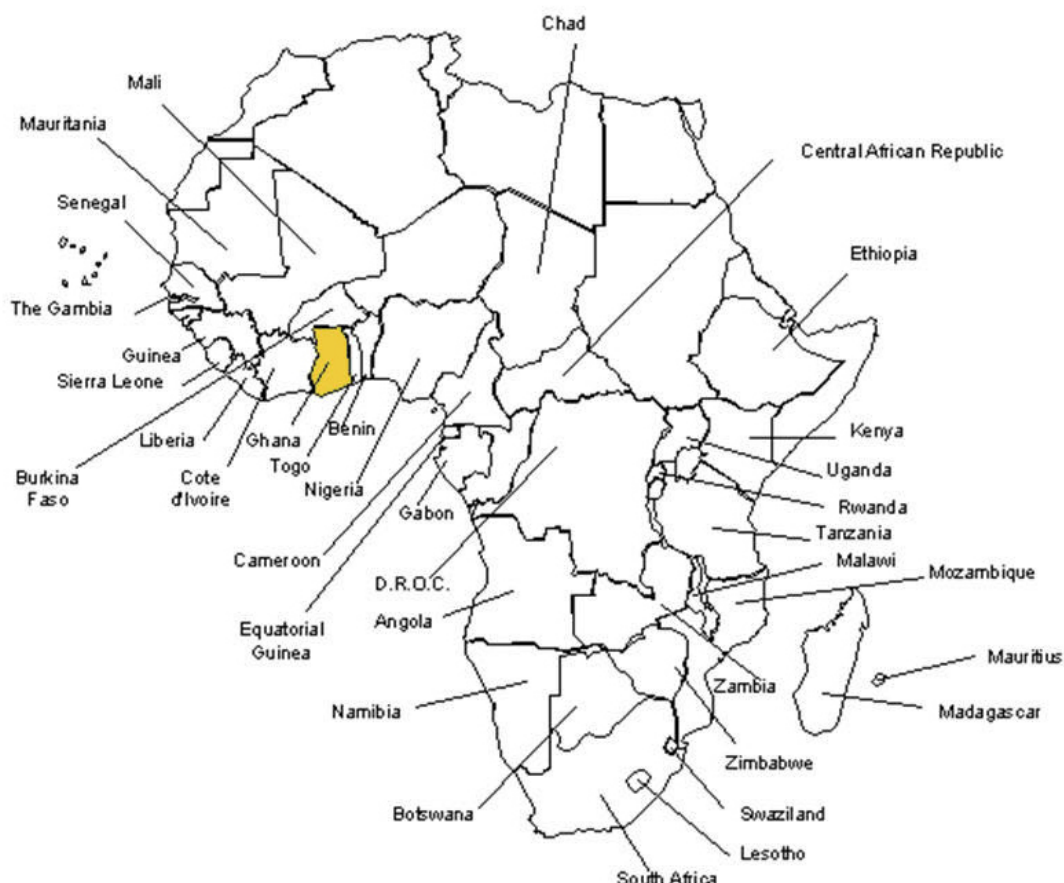
The OrphanAid Africa team is thankful to all our friends, volunteers and especially to our donors for their continued support. On behalf of the children and their families we thank you, our donors, who have made it possible for all this to happen. We have made a good start. A lot remains to be done. Together, we will succeed.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us better and for your interest in our work.

Lisa Lovatt-Smith
OrphanAid Africa Founder



Atika, OA social worker (right), OA Founder Lisa Lovatt-Smith (second from right) with spokeswoman Victoria Abril (left) and a family receiving support through the OA Family Support Services Program.



Where we Work

OrphanAid Africa implements its projects in Ghana, West Africa

OrphanAid Africa works in Ghana, West Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. Ghana, with a population of just over 24 million, is well endowed with natural resources. Ghana has roughly twice the per capita output of the poorest countries in West Africa. Even so, Ghana remains heavily dependent on international financial and technical assistance.*

Despite Ghana's relative prosperity, poverty remains pervasive in the country, with half of Ghana's population living under the poverty line. Extended families are often the first protective safety net for children who lose their parents. OrphanAid Africa is implementing programs to improve care for orphans and vulnerable children through their extended family by providing support services and alternative care solutions.

One of the other problems is that despite the existence of a well established extended family network Ghana has responded to the twin stress of the HIV/AIDs epidemic and rural-to-urban migration with a sudden mushrooming of an unprecedented number of orphanages, estimated to be 148 in number nationwide.

According to the research done by the Department of Social Welfare and OA, 80-90% of the almost 4,000 children living in un-registered and unregulated orphanages in Ghana are not actual orphans, and the main factor leading to their institutionalization is poverty, not death of the parents. International research has proven that children should only be institutionalized as a last resort, and that living in an orphanage infringes on children's elementary rights to a family, identity and development. It is therefore one of OrphanAid Africa's principal aims to support the Government of Ghana in the implementation of a reform of the Care system, as it affects children.

* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gh.html>

In 2010 OrphanAid Africa's work affected more than 4,500 children and women.

Changing the trend: Approximately **4,000 children** were affected by the Care Reform Initiative.

Keeping children with their families: The families of **161 resettled children** at risk of abandonment received financial and material support within their families through our Family Support Program, which keeps children out of orphanages.

Education: **138 children** attended the Ayenyah community primary school built by OA, **21 junior high students** from the community were sponsored to continue their education and the **161 students** in the Family Support Program received educational support.

Community development: **419 residents** of the remote village of Ayenyah had access to a health center, sports programs and adult education classes.

Shelter and care for sick or disabled children, or those with no family: **29 children** were given temporary or permanent care in our Foster Family Community. 8 of those children have special needs and were cared for by specialists.

Vocational training and education for young adults: **49 young adults** were given financial support for their living expenses, and higher education or vocational training. They also received individual career counseling, attended peer and group counseling sessions and with our help, were registered for National Health Insurance.

**Over 4,500
beneficiaries
affected by OA
programs**

*left: children at the
Ayenyah primary
school
right: women receive
vocational training at
the Ayenyah
Community Center*



The History of OrphanAid Africa

Our Beginning

OrphanAid Africa was founded by Lisa Lovatt-Smith in October 2002. Lisa is an established author whose published work includes 13 books on design and photography. She was an editor at Vogue magazine for many years while living in both Spain and France. In 2002 Lisa decided to volunteer with her daughter at an orphanage in Ghana. There were more than 100 destitute and abandoned children living at the home, some brought to the home by police or social welfare workers because the children's parents had died of endemic sicknesses such as malaria, AIDS, or tuberculosis. Very often, however, the children were abandoned because the parents simply couldn't afford to take care of them. This experience proved to be so life changing for Lisa that she left behind her glamorous lifestyle in Europe and moved to Ghana full-time. Her desire to help vulnerable children was a long-lasting and substantial one, driving her to launch OrphanAid Africa with the aim of helping make sure no child should need to grow up in an institution, unloved and with few prospects for the future.

Our Evolution

OA initially developed programs under the name "Orphanage Africa" with the purpose of making orphanages happier healthier places for children to grow up in with the end goal of making them self-sufficient. We implemented projects that focused on improving education, healthcare, basic infrastructure and farming.

Over time however, we drastically extended our approach programs that build stronger families and communities. We felt that by helping families we ensured that they could care and provide for their children resulting in less abandoned or orphaned children that would end up in institutions.

In parallel we developed an ecologically built, solar-powered center integrated into a rural community, specializing in temporary care for babies and children with acute health problems, HIV/AIDS, or young adults. Our center has received an award for its ecological design and use of solar power.

In 2006 OA adopted a new policy, inline with the guidelines of UNICEF, the UN and the Government of Ghana, to avoid institutional care for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) whenever possible.

Over time we drastically extended our approach programs that build stronger families and communities.



Under the motto "Every child deserves a family" we decided to place our emphasis and resources on community and family care, such as kinship care, and on the reinforcement of civil society organizations encourage the preservation of family ties.

As a reflection of our policy change, which is all about encouraging family-based care, in 2007 Orphanage Africa's name changed to OrphanAid Africa.

Since 2006 when we initiated the creation of the "Care Reform Initiative" with the Government of Ghana, we have been contributing to changing the way OVC are cared for across Ghana, collaborating with the Department of Social Welfare, the lead agency, and UNICEF as partners. We also form part of the Government of Ghana Multisectorial Committee on Orphans and Vulnerable Children, hosted by the Department of Social Welfare and have actively participated in the following processes in 2010:

- Press conference on abuses in Children's Homes
- Research work for the Deputy Minister of Employment and Social welfare Investigative committee on the reported abuses in Children's Homes
- Draft Guidelines for the Operation of Residential Care Institutions (2010)
- Draft Guidelines for Foster Care (2010)
- Ghana National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2010)

OA Branches

In addition to our headquarters in Ghana, OA had staffed fundraising offices in Spain, France and Italy. We also have registered branches with boards in Germany, Switzerland, and the United States; all sharing the similar goal of building awareness and developing fundraising programs that will help fund our OVC care initiatives in Ghana.

OrphanAid Africa's Objectives

OA's Vision

To create an environment where orphans and vulnerable children grow up in safe, permanent and loving family settings with appropriate care and protection and with equal rights and opportunities.

OA's Mission

OrphanAid Africa is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. Its aim is to support orphans and vulnerable children in Ghana through programs in Care Reform, family support, education and development. Our goal is to ensure that children grow up in safe and permanent family settings with appropriate care and protection.

Our policy regarding institutional care

Our policy, inline with UNICEF guidelines, is to avoid institutional care whenever possible. We believe that the family is the structure most suitable for providing care for children. International research has proven that consigning children to orphanages for long term care can be detrimental to their development and does not respect a child's basic rights.

Children may be placed in orphanages after losing a parent, despite having family members who want to care for them but lack the means to do so. Orphanages often represent access to food, clothing, and education, when what really should be done, is make these necessities accessible in the local villages and communities. When an orphanage is treated as the principal solution, it can hinder the incentive for the local population to address the orphan problem and at the same time channel resources into making better orphanages, which encourages parents and families to abandon their children for lack of a better alternative. For all these reasons we channel our resources into supporting families and encouraging family and foster care as opposed to orphanage care for vulnerable children.



Reunified family, thanks to the OA Family Support Services Program

Our Work in 2010

The Care Reform Initiative

creating an enabling environment for de-institutionalization

The Care Reform Initiative (CRI) is a joint venture between the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), OrphanAid Africa and other partners. It involves the provision of various forms of support by OrphanAid Africa and other partners to enhance the capacity of DSW to encourage family based care.

The CRI 2006-2010 seeks to de-emphasize over reliance on care systems for vulnerable children based on institutions and move towards a range of integrated family and community based childcare services. The goal of the CRI is the establishment of a more consistent and stable approach to caring for vulnerable children in Ghana so that each child will be assured of a permanent home in a supportive and loving family.

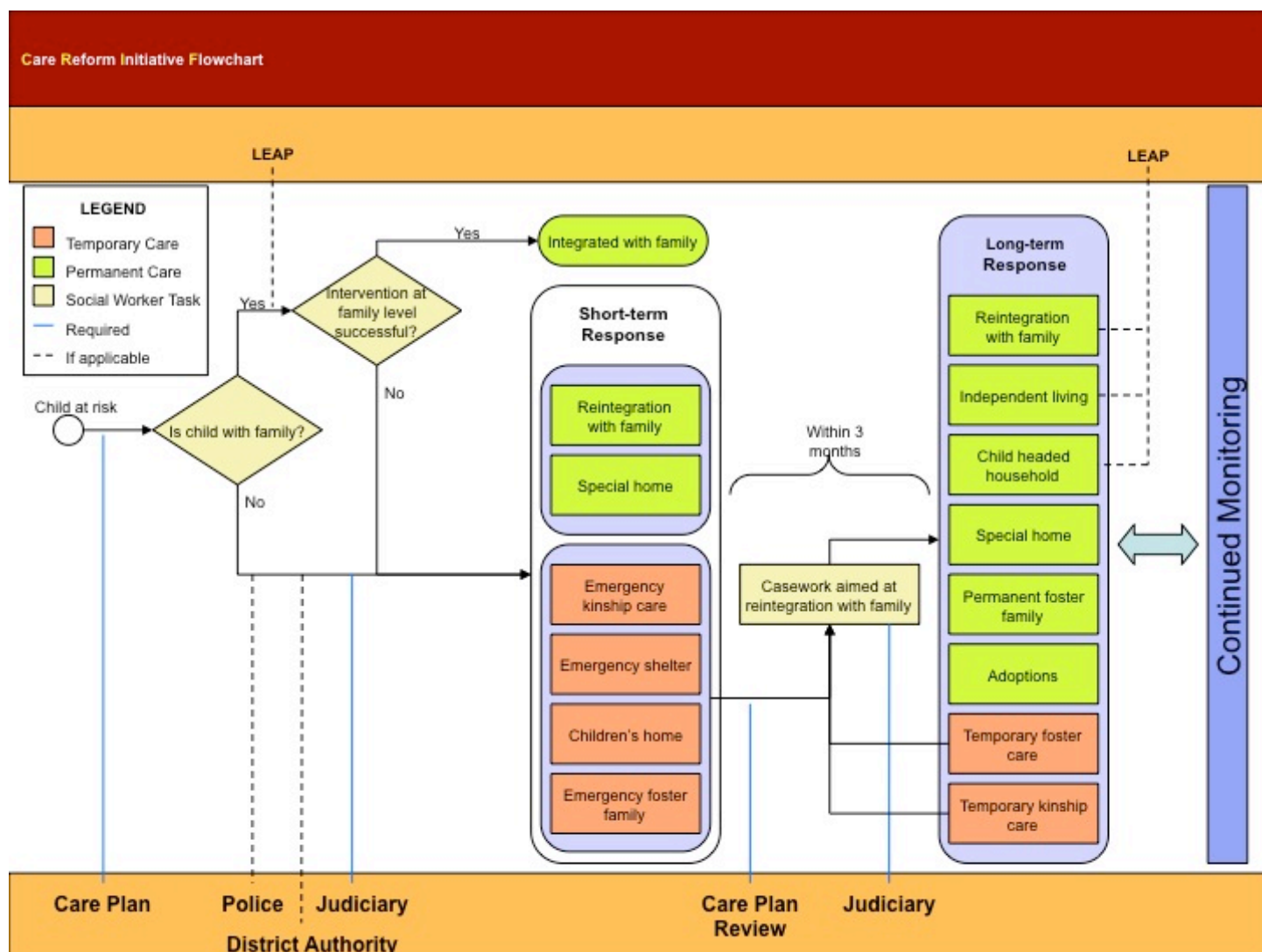
The 4 main aims of the CRI approach:

Prevention: To prevent the disintegration of families through linkages with strategies that strengthen families such as the social grant program Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), scholarships, food packages, access to National Health Insurance and other support programs.

Reintegration with extended family (Kinship Care): In cases where children are separated from their parents, to find loving relatives who are able to create a caring and stable environment for the child.

Fostering: When kinship care cannot be provided, temporary or permanent care with foster families can still provide a good home for children.

Adoption: When the possibility of a family reunion is exhausted, to find the child a loving adoptive home, preferably with a Ghanaian family.



The aim of the program is to ensure that institutional care is used as a last resort, and that when it is used, these establishments comply with the requirements of the Children's Acts 560 (1998) and the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child, 1990 (UNCRC) and the UN Guidelines for the Protection and Alternative Care of Children without Parental Care.

Our hope is that Ghana will replace this institutional system with one where the children are as much as possible kept within families – either their own or foster families - as OA believes that the best place for a child is the family, as worldwide research has proved that orphanages can in fact be very harmful.

The problems that have been identified for children living in residential care settings in general are numerous. Orphanages often limit contact with family and community life and children living in homes may be stigmatized by the larger society. Children living in orphanages often do not develop social networks in their community and many institutions are unable to respond to the psychological needs of children who require an adult of reference and consistency of care, to become emotionally stable adults in later years. Furthermore, institutional care is expensive; the per capita cost of raising a child is often 5 to 10 times more than in foster care, due to infrastructure costs and additional personnel needed to run the orphanage.

In 2010 some major achievements in the area of Care Reform were the following:

- After several years of lobbying efforts to sensitize public opinion and encourage policy change The National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable children was adopted by the Government, where OA is an implementing partner
- Events organized to raise awareness on CRI: OA Month - a month of fundraising at the Accra Mall culminating in a concert, and press conferences
- Thanks to the awareness built around the CRI, the DSW closed 10 orphanages with a total of 459 children resettled
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) committee meetings regularly attended



OA Project Manager Richard Klu at the launch of the NPA in 2010

The Care Reform Initiative



2006 - 2010

Our aim is that Ghana will replace the institutional system with one where the children are as much as possible kept within families – either their own or foster families. OA believes that the best place for a child is the family, as worldwide research has proved that orphanages can in fact be very harmful. We are happy to announce that the principles of the CRI were incorporated into the new national plan of action on orphans and vulnerable children 2010 -2012 launched in October 2010.

Our Work in 2010

Family Support Services

supporting families to care for de-institutionalized children or those at risk of institutionalization or otherwise vulnerable

The situation in Ghana:

Worldwide, the main reason cited for child abandonment is poverty. An orphanage can be wrongly perceived as more capable of providing care for a child, rather than his or her extended family. It has been proved, however, that children need the long term and permanent attachment to one caregiver, in order to thrive and develop emotionally, and this is better provided within the traditional African extended family system than within orphanages.

There are many abandoned children in Ghana who end up in orphanages, which often unintentionally do great harm by separating children from their roots, religion, family and their source of lifelong emotional security, condemning them to continue in a cycle of vulnerability. OA aims to greatly reduce the need for orphanages by implementing programs that assist families to ensure that they are capable of caring and providing for their children.

The program has garnered extremely positive reviews from funders, government, partners and beneficiaries. "What I have learned the most from our visits with the families is it is not necessarily that the relatives don't want to cater for these children, but that the difficulty in maintaining the children in terms of finance and resources is what leads to the children being left in institutions," says OA Family Support Services Director Awo Boatema. By providing financial subsidies to these families and covering education and health costs, their capacity to care for the needs of their children is increased. As planned, expansion of this program was achieved in 2010. In 2009 OA provided assistance to 108 children, and during 2010 that number rose to 161 children.

Assistance through cash transfers:

Inline with our initiative to favor family care, at the end of 2008 OA resettled and transferred all children under our care to their families or foster families, under the



Phylis, an OA foster mother, with baby Florence

direction of the Department of Social Welfare of Ghana. We ran a cash transfer program for foster and kinship caregivers, as well as gave extensive counseling services to provide living assistance to extended families of orphaned children, who are otherwise unable to care for their children. OA aims to provide this support so that these children may continue to live in their communities as opposed to ending up in an orphanage. In 2010 we expanded this program to 161 beneficiaries in Central, Eastern and Greater Accra regions of the country.

A Resettlement Story

Emmanuel's Story

Emmanuel, a beneficiary of OrphanAid Africa, is a 12 year old boy living in Akropong, Ghana. He is originally from the village of Mamfe-Koforidua. He was found in an orphanage by OrphanAid Africa and was later resettled with his grandmother. He has a twin brother, Kofi, and spent years separated from him, not even knowing if his twin was alive. After having been a beneficiary of OrphanAid Africa for a few years, and extensive tracing efforts, Emmanuel and Kofi were happily reunited...

Emmanuel's Story

Emmanuel's mother became pregnant with twins by a man that she was not married to. During her pregnancy, Emmanuel's father abandoned his mother. She gave birth to the boys two months later. When the twins were seven months old, their father returned for a short time. He told their mother that he was going to raise funds for their naming ceremony, and that he would be back soon. He was never seen or heard from again. Not long after, their mother began to succumb to a chronic mental illness.

Emmanuel and his brother Kofi had a difficult childhood and had to work hard to meet their basic needs. Their village of Mamfe-Korforidua had no school, so they couldn't receive an education. They spent their childhood running errands for their new stepfather (who worked as an herbalist) and other people in the town so they could earn enough money to feed themselves. One day, a couple came to seek the help of their stepfather. During their stay at the village, Kofi ran errands for them. When they left to return to their village of Teshie, Kofi followed them to work for them. When he arrived, he shared one room with their family of six. Life there was difficult for Kofi and he struggled to get along with the family. It was during this time that Emmanuel and Kofi became separated and lost contact with each other.

Life without his twin proved to be very difficult for Emmanuel and he struggled to get by. After a visit from his grandmother who lived in a nearby town, he decided to secretly follow her back home to her village to ask if he could live with her. When discovered by his grandmother, he asked if she would allow him to move into her home. Due to limited money and resources, she was unable to take him in, and moved him to an orphanage shortly after.

Emmanuel was found in the orphanage by OrphanAid Africa and quickly became a beneficiary. He received the funds to enable him to go to school, and was under the supervision of a key social worker who visited him several times a month to offer him support and to be sure that his needs were being met. He regarded this social worker as his mother and developed a close relationship with her. Emmanuel wanted to tell her about his twin brother that he had lost contact with years before, but didn't know how to bring the subject up with her.

When the OrphanAid Africa's resettlement program began, Emmanuel was resettled with his grandmother, who received a stipend from OA that allowed her to properly care for her grandson. All this time, the twins were still out of contact. One day, while discussing his future with his social worker, she asked Emmanuel what his plans were. He shared that he wanted to become a famous football player. When asked about the most important person in his life, he saw this as an opportunity to tell his key worker about his lost twin. The social worker promised Emmanuel that they would help him locate his twin.

Kofi was later located in the suburb of Teshie and the boys were reunited. Shortly after, Kofi was resettled to Akropong, with his grandmother and twin brother. The boys are doing well and are infinitely thankful to OrphanAid Africa. They are both motivated to make the most out of their futures and have strong hopes for what they will accomplish.



Emmanuel and his brother

Family Support Service: counseling, start-up kits, and parenting classes

On admission into the program and after an initial assessment, a start up kit is given to each family, including a mattress, buckets, and mosquito nets. This corresponds to the minimum the family needs in order to provide a safe environment for the child.

At least once a month, and oftentimes more frequently depending on the vulnerability level, the OA social workers pay a visit to each of the OA beneficiaries and their extended family. After review of their current situation, they are given counseling services if needed, as well as a monthly living stipend paid through their bank. The program also covers national health insurance and any medical bills that fall outside the scope of the State-sponsored health insurance.

OA works to build parenting and life skills to better enable parents to cope with a range of issues they face while raising their children. In 2010 OA held 11 training seminars for parents on the following topics: managing the family income, budgeting, swine flu, nutrition, home management, discipline techniques, community involvement and participation in raising a child, positive parenting techniques, avoiding verbal abuse, basic child care, and hygiene.

Birth certificates, access to National Health insurance and the banking system

In parallel, OA's support to families includes applying for birth certificates for children who don't have them. It is an important objective of the program that the beneficiary children and their families get access to full citizenship, and consequently to their full legal rights and responsibilities.

Most of the vulnerable families are illiterate, and are as such sometimes left out of the national social protection system that they consider difficult to understand and access. They usually don't have birth certificates or IDs and are not informed about the existing possibilities. For this reason, one of the first activities OA undertakes with the families is to help them get access to health and social support systems.

The support is not limited to the payment of administrative costs, as these processes are sometimes long and complicated. The social worker accompanies them in the process so that they lose their fear of interacting with the administration. Introduction to the banking system is essential to receive financial support, access to credit, and have the option of safely keeping potential savings.



Stella, an OA social worker, and family during a follow-up visit

National Health Insurance

The registration and payment of National Health Insurance helps families to get access to medical services subsidized by the state, which reduces the health costs that otherwise represent a high percentage of the family spending, at the detriment of investing in their children's education, food, or basic hygiene needs. **In 2010 OA helped 227 children access the National Health Insurance.**

Distribution of the NHIS cards to Ayenyah school children:



Sponsored Education

OA assists families in our Family Support Services program by financing school related costs, such as fees, uniforms, books, and transport in order to relieve economic burdens on impoverished families.

By sponsoring children's education needs, we help support core poor families to educate their children, and above all to provide a valuable incentive to keep children in full time education and thus work towards meeting the second Millennium Goal which seeks to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. In 2010 all 161 children, except infants, who benefited from our Family Support Services, as well as the 49 Young Adults in our YASS program, received support for their educational needs.

In Ghana many children do not attend school even though it is free up to the Junior High level, because of the high costs of supplies, uniforms and transportation, and in the worse cases some children are simply abandoned to live in an orphanage because the parents believe that there, the child will at least be educated.

By sponsoring educational needs we take the economic burden off of families who might otherwise abandon their children.



"I am a thirteen-year-old girl living in a small village in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana with my aunt and two older sisters. I am currently a student in class six in a public school. I will go on to my first year in Junior High School at the beginning of the next academic year.

I lost my father when I was young. My mother was a primary school teacher and took good care of us until she passed away earlier this year, and I became a double orphan. Life had

suddenly become unbearable. I wondered how I would ever accomplish my goal of becoming a doctor until OrphanAid Africa came to our aid.

Ever since the OrphanAid Africa Aid team came to visit my family, my siblings and I knew our dreams would come true. I have always been the best student in my class and worked hard to get good grades. Recently, I took part in a district science quiz and was first! I strongly believe that with my knowledge and the support from OrphanAid Africa, I will be able to pursue my goals. I thank OrphanAid Africa for their wonderful support."

Young Adult Support Services

The OA Young Adult Support Services Program aims to resettle young adults in their communities, particularly those who have spent time in an orphanage or in another type of institution. OA assists them to finish their schooling, whether it is university or technical training for their particular vocation. We provide them with cash transfers and by linking them up to the banking system, with the end goal of being employed and financially and emotionally independent.

In 2010 OA resettled 5 young adults and continued to support 49 others in their transition to independent living through cash grants, peer support groups, career guidance, counseling, and funding for access to national health insurance.



My name is Amos. I was 7 years old when my mother left me and my father all alone. Although my father was by my side giving me all the love he could possible give, I still yearned to be in my mother's arms. I waited many years, but she never returned. I became accustomed to the idea that it was just going to be me and my dad and nobody else. Not long ago he decided to get remarried and we all moved from Ghana to Cote d'Ivoire. My stepmother had three children of her own and it took me some time to adjust to life with them. Everything was going well until one day when destiny decided to take my father away. After he died I wondered what would happen to me.

A couple of months later my stepmother realized raising four kids on her own was a huge burden. Her three kids and I were too much for her to handle alone. We came back to Ghana when life became more difficult in Cote d'Ivoire, because of the war. She didn't care when I went out and didn't return home. Since she didn't care what I did and whether or not I had anything to eat, I left. I had no idea where I was going until I found myself in Accra. I was 14 years old. Days and months passed and I was still living in the streets of Accra. It was really hard for me to find food to eat, a place to sleep, and a person to turn to when I became ill. I became familiar with most of the streets here in Accra. One day I was walking down the road of Labone and I met a stranger, a woman, who saw I was in bad shape.

She began to ask me questions and I told her my story. She watched, fascinated, as I began to narrate my story to her. She didn't say anything after I was done, but she took me to the Ministries. She had a discussion with a couple of different people and then she turned to me and said that somebody was going to take care of me. I was very happy. It was the first good thing I had heard since I came to Accra. I was taken to a Remand Home and introduced to the Head Mistress. At the Remand Home, the Head Mistress took care of me until I completed Junior High School. When the laws changed I had to be taken out from the Remand Home and I had nowhere to go. A social worker came in to speak and she introduced me to OrphanAid Africa. I came into the program in 2006 when I was 17 years old. They enrolled me into a school in Accra named Saint Thomas Aquinas Senior High. I was there for three years and graduated in 2009. While waiting for my results, they registered me with Towers I.T. Training School, where I could learn computer skills. I am now attending the University of Development Studies in Navrongo.

OrphanAid Africa is supporting hundreds of vulnerable children in Ghana. I give many thanks to OrphanAid Africa. I have achieved so much in my life in just the short time period that I have been with the program. Through OA, I have a National Health Insurance Card that allows me to seek care when I am ill. The Young Adult Wards Meetings have really made me aware of so many things in the world and how to take responsibility in my everyday life. I am now 21 years old.



My name is Faustina. I am 26 years old. I come from Sogakope, a town in the Volta Region of Ghana. My mother is alive but my father passed away. Through a Social Worker I became a beneficiary. OrphanAid Africa came to my assistance in 2007. They enrolled me in Christ the Savior School in Madina, which I completed successfully. They then continued my education by enrolling me into a Vocational School called Liberty Specialist Institute. There I learned catering, which was a course I enjoyed very much. While in school I was given all of the things that I needed for my course of study. I was also given an allowance for small expenses and food. I am now benefiting from the National Health Insurance Scheme, which means my health is secured. OA Young Adult Wards Meetings are a source of encouragement and understanding for all of the realities of life. I get to share ideas and listen to other points of view, which sometimes result in finding answers to other questions. It's a great program, and I'm really thankful for this program to run. I thank all of the workers, sponsors, and everybody that is helping OA to assist less fortunate people, like me. Thank you once again and I appreciate all of the support.

Our Work in 2010

The Foster Family Community

OA maintains several foster families, in a community project in or near a rural village called Ayenyah. These foster families care for children that cannot be reunited with their extended families but are in desperate need of care and protection or, sometimes in need of a place of safety while awaiting reunion with their families. This type of care setting recreates the permanent long-term love, protection and care that a child would normally receive from his or her family.

This means that rather than sleeping in dorms divided into age groups or need categories, the children are grouped into self-contained family compounds, where a specially trained foster mother will take care of a maximum of 6 children.

This type of sheltered living environment has a proven effect on the growth and development of a child who would be otherwise forced to live in an institution.

There is also an Intensive Care Center that serves children with special needs such as autism, disabilities or cerebral palsy. (More details on the Special Children's center below) OA created a farm that produces mostly fruit, especially banana and plantain with the goal of depending less on external funding for nutritional needs.

Beneficiaries:

The principal beneficiaries of the project are up to 30 children between 0 and 17 years of age currently under the care of OrphanAid Africa. The population fluctuates constantly as we also offer temporary care. We are very careful with our gate keeping: children are only admitted here once every other possibility of family or kinship care has been exhausted.

The employees include local women, many of which are the head of the household with the responsibility of maintaining their family. In addition to the job opportunity, their position at the Foster Family Community allows them and their families to benefit from training seminars, health care and food. This group includes seven foster mothers plus the manager of the Foster Family Community.

Special children:

In a country where 50% of the population is living below the poverty line, the care and education of children with special needs is extremely rare. Abandonment of children with mental or physical handicaps is common.

OA provides holistic care, protection and development for seven severely disabled children comprising: physical evaluations; physiotherapy; play therapy; special education; expert staff; specialized nutrition; and healthcare.

The program supports children who suffer from the following range of illnesses/handicaps: cerebral palsy; hyperactivity; psychotic issues; speech difficulties; blindness; and autism.

A boy with cerebral palsy practices walking at the Foster Family Community

Wheelchairs donated for the special children at the OA center





Francis with foster mother Layla

Francis' story

In March 2009 a lovely little boy was brought to the OrphanAid Africa Rehabilitation Center in Ayenyah village because he was suffering from acute malnutrition. He was seven years old and his name was Francis Adjan. He was referred to OA by the Ghanaian Department of Social Welfare when they intervened to close down an abusive orphanage in the Volta region as part of Ghana's Care Reform Initiative. OA is working with the government of Ghana on this initiative, seeking to place abandoned children in families rather than orphanages.

In this particular institution, the children were starving, literally eating the roots in the garden in order to survive. The Department of Social Welfare got involved, rescued every child, and brought ten of those in need of intensive care to OrphanAid Africa.

Of all of the children, Francis was the most touching as he was very sad, withdrawn, and unresponsive. Mama Rose, our Mother for children with special needs, immediately went to work making him some of our delicious nutritious restorative soup. After just a few weeks, he gained weight, his skin improved, and he finally began to take an interest in his surroundings. However, although he improved physically, we realized that he was unwilling to talk and a child with special needs. We later learned that his father is unknown and his mother is mentally challenged. He had been taken to the orphanage by his grandfather who could not afford to care for him.

Mama Rose suspected that something was also wrong with Francis' heart and took the long journey to the Cardio Thoracic centers in Korle-bu in Accra with him. Her suspicions were confirmed when the surgeon told us he had a Ventricular Septal Defect, with cardiac compromise, otherwise known as a "hole in the heart". He needed open heart surgery to save his life, a costly procedure in Ghana.

Amazingly, because of Francis' urgent need for care coupled with his circumstances, the hospital has decided to donate half the cost of the operation, a tremendous gesture and an incredible opportunity for Francis' future! Thanks to several generous OA donors who responded to a special appeal, including all for Humanity/ the Golden Hearts Foundation, who made a donation of 10 700 Cedis to help save this child's life, OA was able to provide surgery, post-surgical care and a special mother who cared for Francis in the hospital during his recovery.

Francis Adjan's operation took place on August 9th 2010 in Korlebu teaching hospital. Francis stayed 2 weeks at the hospital with his foster mother after his surgery and then finished his recovery at the OA FFC. He is now starting to speak, has gained weight and is an affectionate, communicative child who attends our special needs classroom every day.

Courage walks

For those of you who have been following OA since our beginnings, you may remember Courage, one of the first children we took under our care back in 2002.

I found him lying on the floor covered in flies in an orphanage; I had to rescue him...I knew no one else would believe in this tiny, sick, stunted baby.

He was named, because of his bravery, by Lena, our volunteer nurse, who was in and out of hospital for months with him.

It was believed he had a spinal injury as he was paralyzed as a baby but we later got a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, autism and epilepsy, a heavy burden for such a small boy. That is why, eight years later, this photo is such a miracle. Following many years of physical therapy, thanks to our program for disabled children, Courage can walk!

Walking is something no doctor thought he would be able to achieve. The day he took his first steps the atmosphere at the rehabilitation center was electric. Everyone, staff children, friends could only repeat in wonder "Courage can walk!"

It's a testimony to the quality of care that he is getting that he has managed to beat all the odds to get to this point. Stand tall Courage, we are all proud of you!

We are so thankful for all your donations, big and small, without which we cannot continue to make these miracles happen.



Victoria Abril,
Ambassador to
OrphanAid Africa with
Courage in Ghana

Our Work in 2010

Supporting our immediate environment Community Development Projects

OrphanAid is developing community projects in Ayenyah village, located about 50 kilometers North East of Accra and near the predominantly rural community of Dodowa, the capital town of the Dangme West District of Ghana. Ayenyah is about 20 kilometers from Agormenya, the epicenter of the Aids epidemic in Ghana. A component of the activities carried out by OA seeks to address some of the socio-economic problems of the Ayenyah community.

Thanks to OA, the local residents of the Ayenyah village benefit from various services, including a school with the capacity to educate all the children from the surrounding area, a health center, and a community center.

The Community School at Ayenyah

The first community school in the village of Ayenyah began operating under a tree in July of 2006. A building was built and equipped by OA over the next year. At the end of 2008 the school was incorporated by the Ghana Educational Service, which assumed the majority of the school's costs, while OA continued to support the school on a financial and managerial level. In order to receive the support from the Ghana Education Service, OA needed to comply with the conditions they had established, which were to renovate and prepare the school with the necessary infrastructure to receive more children.

In 2009 OA increased the capacity of the school by renovating and adapting already existing buildings, just a few yards from the current school, formerly used as an orphanage. The renovated complex consists of eleven rooms, which were converted into

classrooms, a kitchen, a storeroom and offices, as well as an adult education classroom, a library and a laboratory. There are three bathrooms, showers and a large gazebo for open-air activities.

The new construction and the improvement of the school's facilities has allowed more than 120 children that previously did not attend school to have immediate access to free, high quality, primary education. The school was also able to offer a new space for literacy and career training classes for adults, with the purpose of giving them the skills to find jobs or create work for themselves and improve the economic situation of their families.

OA continued to support the school in 2010 by building an additional classroom, installing solar power, repairing storm damage, and financing the salary of 3 of the teachers.



WorldReader and OrphanAid

OA was proud to host WorldReader, an NGO promoting reading in the developing world through the use of kindles (electronic books), that spent a week in Ayenyah doing a trial in the 6th class of the Ayenyah DA school. The trial was highly successful and will be implemented in the near future on a larger scale.

The Community Health and Planning Services Center (CHPS)

In March 2006 OA constructed a clinic to offer basic healthcare to the Ayenyah community as well as the residents of our Foster Family Community. In 2009, OA was able to enlarge and improve the facility using the former school building complex.

OA developed partnerships with the Government of Ghana, the Ministry of Health, the Ghana Health Service and the Dangme West District to oversee the Community Health Planning Services (CHPS) that will offer better services, improved hygienic conditions, more adequate installations, a fully qualified resident midwife, and higher quality medical attention with the capacity to cater to childbirth and emergencies 24 hours a day, as well as offer door-to-door community outreach.

The principal objectives of the health center is the prevention of contagious diseases, sex education and HIV prevention, reduction of illness and mortality in the community and support for family planning and basic gynecology, in order to avoid undesired pregnancies and increase the probabilities of healthy pregnancies and babies.

The facility will be fully integrated into the national network of CHPS facilities that receive financing from the Government's medically orientated development partners such as the WHO and the Global Fund. In 2010 OA worked to get the CHPS center fully absorbed in the national health system, which allows for the continued support of the Ghanaian government and the overall maintenance of the health center, free mosquito nets and drugs, as well as access to services for free by pregnant and lactating mothers. The Government of Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme also allows everyone to access basic health care through payment of a yearly adhesion fee.

This facility was officially inaugurated in January 2010. OA took charge of restocking the medication, and a nurse from the Ghanaian Health Services affected door to door visits in order to inform the community regarding the services provided.

Special event: JICA (Japan International Cooperation agency) and SONY in collaboration with PPAG (Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana) organized an HIV/AIDS education campaign, together with the broadcasting of a world cup game on a giant screen on June 18th, in the presence of local authorities and with an attendance of around 500 people.

Free counseling and testing were set up in the clinic. 170 people took an HIV test. This granted the opportunity to a lot of people especially teenagers to get free counseling and screening for HIV/AIDS. A theater show was performed by a group from PPAG to sensitize the participants on issues of stigma.

The Ayenyah clinic was officially handed over to the Ghana Health Services on January 29th 2010 in presence of the French Ambassador, village authorities and Ghana health services. 307 adults and 167 children were given soap, a drink and a voucher. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the clinic.

Left:
*inauguration
of the facility
in Jan 2010*

Right: *health
center interior*



Sports Programs

In line with our mission to provide vulnerable children with a positive environment to grow up in we ran an extensive sports and skills program serving underprivileged children thanks to the Laureus Sports for Good Foundation. We believe that all children have a right to sports and recreation and that provision of sports will also help to solve many related problems around self-esteem, health, bonding between children and lack of integration in the community.

In 2010 OA maintained the program by continuing to employ a life skills consultant, two coaches and three community assistant coaches for regular sporting and life skills teaching, and arranged multiple excursions for sports competition. Previously we had built a basketball/volleyball court, created a football pitch with a water connection, created a room for sports storage and teaching, and purchased sports equipment.

In 2010 OA had a positive external assessment by GoodCorporation. We were proud to announce that our Ayenyah girls volley-ball team won the regional championship!

OA maintained the sports facilities and a drainage system was installed for the football field. Opportunities to access sport professions were monitored and contact was established with a new football academy. New sports were introduced: table tennis and physical education for children from the nursery. The special children also had sport classes and massage from one of our coaches.

OA collaborated with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency through the organization of events during the World Cup, donation of sports equipment, the presence of a volunteer coach/physiotherapist and other initiatives. Two community coaches attended a Ghana Football Association basic coaching and the head coach attended a JICA training in Ethiopia.



A closer look at the Laureus Sports for Good Foundation - OrphanAid Sports Program

Beauty Adzamli is a 15 year-old girl attending primary 6 in the Ayenyah District Assembly School.

Before the Laureus program came here, I did not know how to play volleyball and of the rules of the game. Moreover, I did not have time to play sports, because I was fulfilling my duty as a girl to help at home every day after school. My community and my life have totally changed since the Laureus Sports Program started. Now I always participate in sports activities with my peers, and we engage in sports competitions.

I am thankful that my parents understood my love of sports, which gave me more motivation to excel. In 2010 I represented the regional volleyball players alongside my Ayenyah peers who were selected. The Laureus program has also allowed me to travel to regions in Ghana where previously I didn't have the opportunity to go. After the regional competition, I knew that if I continued to play sports and represent my region I could get a sports scholarship and continue my education.



Community center

The new community center at Ayenyah was inaugurated in April 2010 and is a cultural resource and adult education centre which offers a library, access to internet and computing classes, as well as professional training for community adults. A manager was recruited to run the center and OA provided equipment such as laptops, printer, furniture, TV, sound system, and 10 sewing machines. A film program runs on Fridays and Saturdays.

Workplans 2011



Family Support Services team meeting in Ayenyah

In 2011 we hope to achieve our major strategic objectives, including the measurable improvement of our Family Support Services Program. Our service delivery will be documented and show measurable improvement through impact indicators. Care Reform principles will be more widely advocated by OA to general public and stakeholders and applied by the Government of Ghana and Department of Social Welfare. We will maintain all our current projects and seek to improve and share our knowledge base, by partnering with other organizations. We will also continue to support the development of our immediate environment in the village of Ayenyah.



OA spokeswoman Victoria Abril during her visit in Ghana (Jan 2011)

2010 Financial Statements

In 2010, 80% of OA's resources were from private sources, essentially due to generous individuals and private individual companies. 19% of the income was thanks to foundation support and only 0,22% was from government grants. (see page 23 for details and amounts in euros).

The total funds sent to run OA's programs in Ghana showed a slight increase of 21 807 € (468 848€ in 2010 from 447 041€ in 2009) which can be attributed to the increase of OA's profile and experience of the European fundraising offices.

Of the funds received in Ghana 24% was spent on administration bringing the total percentage of funds contributed towards projects and project staff costs to 76%.

In 2010 OA further specialized its programs in Ghana to gain optimal results through the implemented programs involving our new policy to avoid institutional care.

In addition to the increase in funds sent directly to Ghana for OA projects, the ratio of money spent in Europe on professional services has remained stable in order to support fundraising initiatives, awareness to African issues among the public and, consequently, to sustain the need for future programs and OA long-term strategy.

Over the next year we aim to maintain the amount of funds sent for our programs in Ghana in 2011 thus enabling us to maintain all current programs and projects, maintenance of the OA foster family and community project, as well as advance with our collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and, consequently, to sustain the future programs and OA's long-term strategy.

The full audited financial statements are available upon request by emailing to africa@oafrika.org

OA Ghana is audited by PriceWaterhouse Coopers



2010 OA Ghana Consolidated Accounts*

Income	963 525 GH¢
International donations (OA offices abroad, and other donors)	874 948 GH¢
Local donations	88 577 GH¢
Project Expenses	680 818 GH¢
Theatre and dance	1 932 GH¢
School fees	96 586 GH¢
Textbooks and school provisions	40 723 GH¢
Family support services and cash transfers	64 988 GH¢
Young adult support service cash transfers	22 309 GH¢
Child protection - birth certificates	5 386 GH¢
Farm input	398 GH¢
Rent, lease and housing for beneficiaries	25 540 GH¢
Startup package resettlement for families	10 201 GH¢
Awareness building (Care Reform Initiative)	59 724 GH¢
Beneficiaries software/database installation	10 582 GH¢
Support to Government Social Services	975 GH¢
Laundry and cleaning	1 642 GH¢
Media and advocacy	4 060 GH¢
Non-depreciable equipment	3 216 GH¢
Training and development	30 493 GH¢
Medical expenses	21 641 GH¢
Staff costs (salaries and wages)	280 422 GH¢
Administrative expenses	229 518 GH¢
Total expenditure	910 336 GH¢
Surplus	53 189 GH¢
Balance at 1 January	679 516 GH¢
Balance at 31 December	732 705 GH¢

*OA consolidated accounts for the operational branch in Ghana.

2010 Consolidated Account Summary

Consolidated accounts for OA fundraising branches in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

OrphanAid Africa European and US offices - Consolidated Summary*

Income	Consolidated
Monthly Donors	113 071 €
Private Donations	291 649 €
Foundation/NGO donations	125 981 €
Government Grants	1 400 €
Events	109 664 €
Products	509 €
Other	5 861 €
Total Income	648 135 €
Project Support, Programs Ghana	Consolidated
Project Support - transferred to Ghana	380 431 €
Project Support - spent on behalf of Ghana	61 595 €
Project Support - received directly in Ghana ¹	5 000 €
Total Project Support	447 026 €
Other Project Expenses ²	Consolidated
Total Project Support	21 823 €
Other External Expenses	Consolidated
Fundraising / Awareness Building	21 282 €
Administration & General Expenses	39 956 €
Total External Expenses	61 238 €
Salaries	Consolidated
Salaries & Professional Services	143 162 €
Total Salaries and staff	143 162 €

1. These funds (Project Support - received directly in Ghana) were sent directly to Ghana's bank account by the Italian donor Fondazione "aiutareibambini" therefore they are not included in the global income because they didn't transit through OrphanAid Africa European/US bank accounts but they are recorded as contribution received directly in Ghana.

2. These funds (Other Project Expenses) represent a donation received by OA Italy on behalf of OA USA due to a fashion charity project realized by Margherita Maccapani Missoni, the President of the Italian branch, through the Italian company Valexta Srl, to support OA USA's development. The funds were therefore transferred to OA Italy and then to OA USA which subsequently transferred to OA Ghana during the year. They are therefore accounted as Ghana project contributions under the US branch.

2010 Account Summary - by country

OrphanAid Africa European and US offices - Detailed Account Summary by Country: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

USA and Swiss currencies were converted to euros taking the historical rate of the 15th of each month and then dividing by 12.

Income	France	Italy	Spain	USA ³	Germany	Switzerland
Monthly Donors	60 043 €	11 344 €	37 769 €	-	3 015 €	900 €
Private Donations	42 322 €	77 084 €	114 719 €	28 148 €	29 232 €	145 €
Foundation and NGO Donations	-	61 874 €	20 312 €	32 300 €	11 495 €	-
Government Grants	-	1 400 €	-	-	-	-
Events	53 441 €	26 046 €	4 593 €	14 329 €	5 813 €	5 442 €
Products	-	-	509 €	-	-	-
Other	1 607 €	63 €	4 189 €	-	-	2 €
Total:	157 413 €	177 811 €	182 090 €	74 777 €	49 555 €	6 489 €
Project Support, Programs Ghana	France	Italy	Spain	USA ³	Germany	Switzerland
Project Support - transferred to Ghana	100 000 €	95 874 €	69 983 €	49 247 €	55 350 €	9 977 €
Project Support - spent on behalf of Ghana	2 380 €	4 000 €	54 760 €	-	455 €	-
Project Support - received directly in Ghana ¹	-	5 000 €	-	-	-	-
Total:	102 380 €	104 873 €	124 743 €	49 247 €	55 805 €	9 977 €
Other Project Expenses ²	France	Italy	Spain	USA	Germany	Switzerland
Total:	-	21 823 €	-	-	-	-
Other External Expenses	France	Italy	Spain	USA	Germany	Switzerland
Fundraising / Awareness Building	4 713 €	11 570 €	-	4 999 €	-	-
Administration & General Expenses	14 148 €	2 951 €	15 719 €	4 651 €	2 160 €	327 €
Total:	18 861 €	14 521 €	15 719 €	9 650 €	2 160 €	327 €
Salaries & Human Resources	France	Italy	Spain	USA	Germany	Switzerland
Salaries & Professional Services	36 819 €	40 123 €	56 378 €	9 842 €	-	-

1. These funds (Project Support - received directly in Ghana) were sent directly to Ghana's bank account by the Italian donor Fondazione "aiutareibambini" therefore they are not included in the global income because they didn't transit through OrphanAid Africa European/US bank accounts but they are recorded as contribution received directly in Ghana.

2. These funds (Other Project Expenses) represent a donation received by OA Italy on behalf of OA USA due to a fashion charity project realized by Margherita Maccapani Missoni, the President of the Italian branch, through the Italian company Valestra Srl, to support OA USA's development. The funds were therefore transferred to OA Italy and then to OA USA which subsequently transferred to OA Ghana during the year. They are therefore accounted as Ghana project contributions under the US branch.

3. There are differences between the partners contributions made and received due to different accounting standards, these funds represent pledges made by OrphanAid USA in 2009 but not received by OrphanAid Ghana until 2010.

OA Operating Teams

OrphanAid Africa is registered in Ghana, Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and the United States.

There are executive committees in each country and the organization has set-up a team dedicated to daily operations and fundraising missions. OA employs about 50 Ghanaian staff working directly in Ghana

OrphanAid Africa Ghana

OrphanAid Africa (OA) is a Non-Governmental Organisation (N.G.O.) registered with the department of Social Welfare in the Greater Accra region in Ghana. It was registered in Accordance with the companies code (act 179) on 27 Dec 2002. Registration as an NGO with the Department of Social Welfare No.D.S.W. 1951, issued on 30/10/03.

Board

Lisa Lovatt-Smith, President
Marie Helen Hoba, Secretary
Jamil Marby, Executive Committee
Geena Punjabi, Executive Committee

Management team

Celia Wechenk, Country Director
Awo Boatema, Family Support Services Director
Robert Dakwa, Financial Manager
Richard Klu, Project Director

Support Team in Ghana

We work with a team which consists of: social workers, psychologists, counselors, foster parents, teachers, sports coaches, a community center manager, a farmer, an accountant, cleaners, security personnel, and drivers.

OrphanAid Africa Germany

The OrphanAid Africa Foundation was established and recognized by the tax office Munich under the control number 143/235/63005 with an official certificate starting from July 23rd, 2007 for charitable purposes as well as child welfare service recognition.

Board

Anja Rüttermann, Chairman of the board
Carsten Jeremias, Member of the Executive Committee
Petra-Alexa Heinze, Member of the Advisory Committee
Sandra Klinger, Member of the Advisory Committee
Janina Lückoff, Member of the Advisory Committee
Lukas Rosenkranz, Member of the Advisory Committee

OrphanAid Africa Italy

OrphanAid Africa, known as OrphanAid Africa Onlus, established an office in Milan, Italy in December 2003. OrphanAid Africa Onlus is a non-governmental organization with its registered office in Milan, in Via dell'Annunciata 31, C.F. 97365440151. OrphanAid Africa Onlus is registered at the Direzione Regionale delle Entrate della Lombardia (13.01.2004) and at the Anagrafe Unica delle Onlus under the number 2010/21622.

Board

Margherita Missoni, President
Lisa Lovatt-Smith, Vice-President
Luca Magni, Secretary

Operations & Fundraising

Francesca Pinto, Fundraising & Communications

OrphanAid Africa France

OrphanAid Africa, formerly known as Orphelinats d'Afrique established an office in Paris, France in October 2003. OA is an association declared on the 21st of October 2003 (Insertion in J.O. the 15th of November) where the objective is to help children in Africa grow up in the best possible conditions through helping families, communities, organizations and administrations in charge of their care. Siège social: 2 rue Marengo, 75001 Paris.

Board

Lisa Lovatt-Smith, President
Gerlinde Hobel, Vice-President
Didier Hassan, Treasurer

Operations & Fundraising

Elizabeth Eichhorn Del Bourgo, Fundraising & Communication

OrphanAid Africa Spain

OrphanAid Africa established an office in Barcelona, Spain in October 2002. ORPHANAID AFRICA (OA) is a non-profit association, (non-governmental organization – NGO), with N.I.F. G-62986971, registered in the Association Register of the Generalitat of Catalunya under the number 26.940/B.

Board

Fernando Masià Martí, President
Lisa Lovatt-Smith, Treasurer
Ramón Masià Martí, Secretary

Operations & Fundraising

Angela Milan, Fundraising & Communications
Carmen Perez, Fundraising & Communications

OrphanAid Africa Switzerland

OrphanAid Africa established itself as an association in Switzerland in September 2006 with its headquarters in Geneva. OA Switzerland does not have a registration number. It is a charitable foundation ("une association de duree illimitee a but non lucratif") under the laws of Switzerland. Statutes were adopted at a general assembly on September 4, 2006.

Board

Katie Kennedy, President
Daniel Lynch, Vice-President
Hsien Tan, Treasurer
Teresa Francombe, Secretary

OrphanAid Africa USA

OrphanAid Africa was established and registered in the United States on March 7th, 2007 as a U.S. 501c3 non-profit organization headquartered in San Francisco California with the purpose of helping orphans and vulnerable children in Ghana grow up in healthy, nurturing environments that provide quality care, protection, education, and support.

Board

Ashley Allison, President
Edward Asante, Secretary
Elizabeth Eichhorn, Board Member
Regan Watson, Board Member



Angela with her family

Thank you to all our donors, monthly contributors and collaborators who made our work possible in 2010.

A special thanks to...

OrphanAid Africa official spokespeople for all of their time and energy to help spread the word about our work:
Victoria Abril, Marcel Desailly, and Rossy de Palma

Our main donors and sponsors in 2010 by country:

France:

Alison Davenport
 Advisory Committee
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 Mr. and Mrs. Corbani
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 Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena
 Fondazione Rita Levi Montalcini
 Fondazione San Zeno
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 Electronic Arts (EA) Switzerland
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 Kona Bike
 Nordic Club, Geneva
 Stephanie Noble
 Takamaka, Annecy

Spain:

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