

2018 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

A Photo Essay by
Francis Kokoroko



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WHO DO WE SERVE?

OAfrica exists to support vulnerable children and their families in Ghana. Our programmes empower children and young adults in need of care and protection due to institutionalization, abandonment, neglect, disability or abuse. We accomplish this by strengthening families and reintegrating separated children whose rights have been compromised due to poverty, violence, trafficking, disease and discrimination into safe, stable and loving households.

We provide the following core services to beneficiaries on our support:

- Tracing and Reunification of Separated Children
- Support to Foster Families
- Specialised Foster Care
- Social Worker Visits
- Income Generating Activities
- Counselling Services to Families
- Positive Parenting Training
- Educational Support
- Medical Support
- Support for Families Living with HIV
- Cash Transfers
- Accommodation Support
- Utilities

All the children and young adults supported today entered the programme because they met at least 3 of the following criteria for inclusion:

- Abandoned/risk of being abandoned
- Abused
- Affected or Infected with HIV/AIDS
- At Risk of Being Institutionalized
- Caregiver or Parent Mentally Ill
- Child in Need of Alternative Family Care
- Single or Double Orphan
- Ex-foster Care Resident
- Ex-orphanage Resident or Residents of Other Institutions
- Institutionalized
- Learning Difficulties
- Living on the Streets
- Neglected
- Out of School
- Placement Failed
- Unable to Pay School Fees
- With Special Needs
- Victims of Child Labour
- In Conflict With the Law
- Victims of Trafficking



Message From The CEO

With our past successes in strategy implementation and well-documented service delivery to vulnerable children, it was almost a natural progression for OAfrica to scale up our reach in order to impact the vulnerable children in our society.

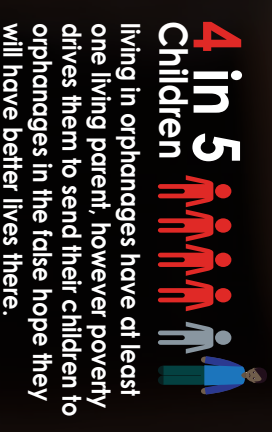
While maintaining our core programs in Family Support Services, Special Needs, Foster Care in the Community and Young Adult Services, we intensified our ties with partners such as governmental agencies in charge of caring for children and non-profits promoting children's rights. We also diversified our fundraising efforts towards advocacy with a view to achieving an even greater number of beneficiaries.

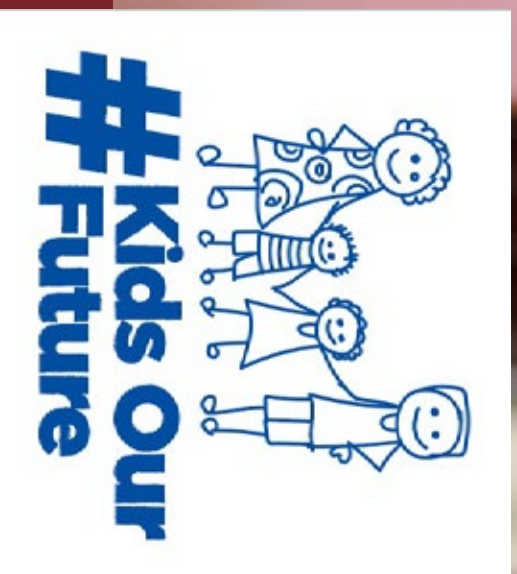
With funding from The European Union, we successfully rolled out our very first major advocacy campaign dubbed **#KidsOurFuture**. This campaign seeks to protect the rights of children in Ghana. We are already seeing the massive shift in public perception towards the child beggars on our streets especially in Greater Accra.

We believe that scaling up our reach through advocacy is the way to change hearts and minds, influence behaviour and witness the transformation we are all working towards in order to create an enabling environment in which children grow and thrive. We encourage you all to join in and support our cause!

Robert Dakwa
CEO OAfrica

Facts & Figures





Our emphasis on advocacy reached new heights during 2018. In line with our long-term strategy of extending our reach and maximizing impact, the objective of the #KidsOurFuture initiative is to increase the awareness of child rights and the need for child protection in Ghana. Funded by the European Union, #KidsOurFuture aims to strengthen child protection mechanisms and address the gap between legislation and practice.

In 2018, the project focused on the issue of urban child begging, which is considered one of the worst forms of child labour, as it keeps children out of school, separates them from their families, and exposes them to hazardous living conditions.

In recent years, there has been a surge in the number of child beggars - not only children from Ghana, but also from within the sub-region, particularly



Niger. Most importantly, we were able to prove strong links to child trafficking through research by AnasAremeyaw Anas, the famous Ghanaian investigative journalist. This culminated in a short film, with an exclusive soundtrack by Stonebwoy, which was shown extensively on TV in Ghana.

A second pillar to this campaign is the Positive Parenting initiative, comprising locally produced videos that disseminate educational messages on topics related to better parenting practices.

We also offered nation-wide trainings of 1050 social workers and other stakeholders such as police, detectives and NGOs.

We are very proud to be spearheading the movement for change; working alongside the government of Ghana through the Department of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. 2018 was truly the year of advocacy for us and we aim to continue with this focus into 2019 and beyond!



OUR MISSION

OAfrica empowers vulnerable children and young people whose rights have been compromised due to institutionalization, poverty, violence, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, abuse and discrimination. We help them become productive members of their communities by strengthening families and reintegrating them into safe, stable and loving environments.

OUR VALUES

- Child-centered
- Family-oriented
- Child Participation
- Pro Poor
- Gender Equality
- Promotion Of Autonomy
- Non-Discrimination

OUR VISION

OAfrica is committed to Care Reform and to ensuring that children grow up in safe, permanent family settings with appropriate care and protection and with equal rights and opportunities



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Poverty remains the number one reason for child abandonment worldwide. Children are often placed in orphanages by their own families due to a lack of resources in the hope they will receive adequate nutrition, education and other essentials in order to live a better life. In reality, these institutions are detrimental to the physical, emotional and intellectual development of children and can never provide the love and care a child needs in order to thrive. Children in Ghana are often too quickly deemed orphans and placed in institutions without exploring alternative options such as kinship care, an arrangement whereby extended family members such as grandparents or aunts/uncles raise children.

Family Support Services (FSS) have the sole aim of keeping children out of orphanages and within their own families. We believe families are the best environments for children to grow up in and that the family unit should be preserved wherever possible. With the right kind of support, families can stay together!

We locate families and assess whether the child can be resettled with them. An individualized care plan is developed to ensure that these families are assisted financially to care for their children, along with medical, educational and emotional support. This year, 56 children have benefitted from the program.



FAMILY FOSTER CARE

For children who cannot live with their biological family (due to death or illness of parents, or inappropriate and negligent parenting), foster care is the next best alternative, as it provides children with a relationship of love and affection with a caring adult in a stable family environment.

Many of the children in our foster care program were abandoned due to the fact that they had special needs and their families were either unable or unwilling to provide them with the extensive long-term care they required. For these children, our dedicated foster home is a place of refuge - providing care, love and support.

All our children in foster care are looked after by specially trained foster mothers, who not only provide for their daily needs but also, more importantly, give them the love and affection they deserve.

Eighteen children are benefitting from the love of a foster family thanks to this program.



SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with special needs are most at risk of abandonment, either to orphanages or the streets. These children require specialized care, something most families are simply not capable of providing – either financially or physically. OAfrica provides this care through our dedicated special needs unit, involving a foster home staffed around the clock by six trained foster mothers, who not only serve as caregivers but also provide the eight children in their care with love and affection.

Our support to children with severe special needs, including those with cerebral palsy, autism, psychosis and other disabilities, also extends to education. Children receive a specialized education catering to their unique cognitive and physical conditions. A total of eleven children with complex special needs are supported through our medical and educational sponsorship programs.



YOUNG ADULT SUPPORT SERVICES

Youth who grow up in care are more likely to experience physical, developmental, behavioural and mental health challenges, if not supported adequately until they are ready to live independently.

We address this through the **Young Adult Support Services (YASS)** program, which focuses on reducing the vulnerability status of beneficiaries gradually over time, and supporting them in their transition out of care.

YASS provides financial support to 55 young adults to cover tuition, access to internships and scholarships, health and psychological support, transport and housing benefits, in addition to career counselling and placements. It also provides life skills training sessions to equip young people with the tools they need to become productive members of society. The end goal is to prepare these young people for autonomous adulthood.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of 2018 was witnessing 2 of our young ladies graduate with university degrees!



CARE REFORM INITIATIVE

The Care Reform Initiative (CRI) was launched in 2006 as a joint venture between the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Oatrica, UNICEF and other child protection agencies in Ghana. The initiative seeks to reduce over-reliance on care systems for the approximately 4,500 vulnerable children who are still living in institutional care, thus moving towards a range of integrated family and community-based childcare services.

The end goal is a more consistent approach to caring for vulnerable children so that every child is assured a permanent home in a supportive and loving family. The main components of care reform in Ghana seek to prevent the disintegration of families. In line with this initiative, our mission advocates for the reintegration of children with their own families, either with their biological parents or extended family (kinship care) or placing children in foster care when they truly have no family members who can appropriately care for them.

Oatrica is proud to have been one of the key players behind the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in 2010 and was the only NGO mentioned as an implementer in the actions matrix of the original plan.



RESILIENCE ADVOCACY

We apply a two-pronged approach to advocacy, namely via traditional and new media and additionally, through public forums - to bring awareness to issues impacting everyday Ghanaians with a view to instigating sustainable change - in behaviour, attitudes and even policies. With mobile penetration in Ghana at an impressive 130% (Digital 2019 Ghana), the power of social and mobile media permits the transmission of educational messages on a mass scale, thanks to their viral nature. We have reached an estimated 11,598,552 individuals through our media advocacy.

While TV, radio, print and social media remain effective channels of communication, there is an opportunity to explore alternative platforms at mass gatherings such as music concerts, street theatre and rallies. We aim to reach as many people as possible and to make a positive and tangible difference to the lives of Ghanaians.

Since launching in early 2017, we have promoted our advocacy programs on various leading TV and Radio stations, and through social media, impacting even greater audiences. We aim to continue our work highlighting pertinent subjects regarding child rights and campaigning for social change with programs focusing on empowerment and resilience building at grass-roots level. We believe that, when you uplift communities within society, a ripple effect occurs and the positive impacts thereof are far-reaching.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS 2018

Goodwill Ambassadors

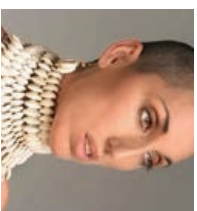
oAfrica would like to thank our Goodwill Ambassadors from around the world who have dedicated incredible talent, time and finances to the children and families of our organization



Victoria Abril
France



Inés de la Fressange
France



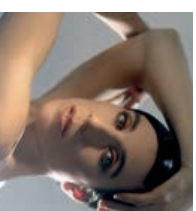
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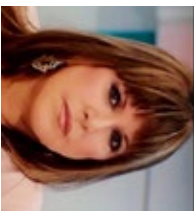
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LEADERSHIP

International
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2002

Oafrica Ghana
NGO No: 1951

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Lisa Lovatt-Smith

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Certificates and
Associations

Better Care for Children
Committee (previously
Orphans and Vulnerable
Children Committee) of the
Government of Ghana

Ghana Association of
Social Workers

Coalition of NGOs on the
Rights of the Child

Management Team
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Chief Development Officer

Niranjana Singaperumal

Chief Communications Officer

Lisa Gibson

Young Adult Support Services Manager

Francis Anipah

Family Support Services Manager

Jacinta Atakora

Advocacy Manager

Platini Ashagbor

Human Resources Manager

Esther I. Fefoame

Finance Manager

Jacob Poula



The Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child



2002

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Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Dr. Rebecca Davis

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2018 OA Ghana Consolidated Accounts (GHC)*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		(GHC)*
Income		2,758,270
International donations (OA offices abroad)		1,380,999
Local Donations & Other Income - Ghana		1,377,271
Project Expenses		2,567,361
EU Advocacy Project		877,597
Fundraising / Sustainability		594,265
Young Adults Services		414,985
Family Support Services		372,547
Special Children's Unit		231,861
Foster Family Services		46,930
General expenses		9,290
Telephone and communication		7,385
Utilities		4,932
Repairs and Maintenance		3,671
Care Reform Initiative		2,000
Workshops and meetings		1,900
Administrative Expenses		78,755
Transport Expenses		2,562
Other professional fees		19,819
Bank and interest charges		3,413
Audit fees		47,352
Licenses and fees		3,565
Software upgrades		2,043
Administrative Staff Expenses		221,918
Salaries and wages		221,918
Depreciation Expenses		26,758
Total Expenditure		2,894,792
Surplus / (Deficit)		(136,522)
Balance at 1 January		268,887
Balance at 31 December		132,365

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consolidated Summary in Euros* 2018

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

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

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	TOTAL	FRANCE	ITALY	SPAIN	GERMANY	USA
1. INCOME						
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	143,906	82,437	20,482	23,649	9,045	10,366
CORPORATIONS	109,728	51,381	16,560	37,075	4,712	-
GRANTS	173,768	21,000	97,186	31,782	-	29,750
OTHER	17,567	-	12	17,425	130	-
TOTAL INCOME	444,969 €	154,818 €	134,240 €	109,931 €	13,887 €	\$40,116
2. PROJECT EXPENSES						
PROJECT EXPENSES - TRANSFERRED TO GHANA	206,583	79,500	61,083	33,000	25,000	10,000
PROJECT EXPENSES - SPENT ON BEHALF OF GHANA	57,460	18,232	10,918	13,206	-	18,880
SUB - TOTAL	264,043 €	97,732 €	72,001 €	46,206 €	25,000 €	\$28,880
3. RUNNING EXPENSES						
ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL EXPENSES	28,214	16,547	2,409	4,255	156	6,059
HUMAN RESOURCES - SALARIES	82,432	11,600	43,615	26,907	310	-
HUMAN RESOURCES - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	35,640	13,988	9,185	10,321	-	2,683
SUB - TOTAL	146,287 €	42,135 €	55,209 €	41,483 €	466 €	\$8,742
4. AWARENESS						
FUNDRAISING/PR	33,992	12,352	5,719	14,251	-	2,088
SENSITIZATION	924	-	924	-	-	-
SUB - TOTAL	34,916 €	12,352 €	6,643 €	14,251 €	- €	\$2,088
TOTAL EXPENSES	445,246 €	152,219 €	133,853 €	101,940 €	25,466 €	\$39,710
SUP/ (DIF)	(277) €	2,599 €	387 €	7,991 €	(11,579) €	\$406

Our Major Donors 2018

The following corporations and foundations contributed €15,000 or more, therefore qualifying as our Major Partners for 2018: Solidarity Accor Hotels, the European Union, Groupe Clarins, Baglioni Hotels Spa, Fondazione Child Priority, Fondazione Nuovo Fiore in Africa, Otto per Mille della Chiesa Valdese - Unione delle Chiese Metodiste e Valdesi, Humdry by Humex SA.



the European Union



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