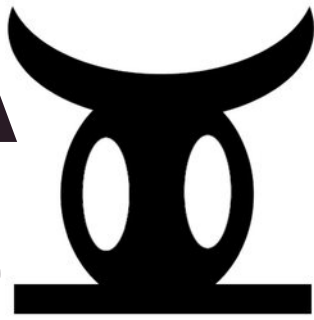


GHANA SCHOOL AID



2026 40th Anniversary Issue

40 years of Ghana School Aid

- Celebrating our work with children, teachers and schools in Ghana.
- Looking forward and reflecting on four decades of GSA.

A student at Aseseeso JHS, Eastern Region (photo: Kate Regan)



On behalf of the good people of Ghana and on my own behalf, I wish to commend and congratulate Ghana School Aid for 40 years of continued financial support for children's education in rural areas in Ghana and the North in particular."

Kofi Ohene, GSA Representative in Ghana

Over **£500,000** raised since 1986 and nearly 300 different schools supported



Waiting for a new roof in Tafi Atome JHS, Volta Region'



New desks for students at Zugu Dabogni TI, Northern Region

Akwaaba



Mutaru Ruhima Chalpeng, Student at Lungbung D/A JHS

Dear friends,

Welcome to the 2026 special anniversary issue of our newsletter.

This year marks our 40th anniversary - a remarkable milestone for any organisation, and especially so for one run entirely by volunteers. Founded in the early 1980s and formally established as a charity in 1986 by a group of former expatriates united by their love for Ghana, Ghana School Aid has continually evolved. From early annual gatherings, to developing school partnerships in the 2000s, to collaborating with like-minded organisations, we have adapted to changing times. What has remained constant throughout is our shared commitment - a deep belief that Ghanaian children and young people deserve the very best start in life.

Over the years, Ghana School Aid has made a tangible difference through projects such as building and improving classrooms, providing school furniture, supporting teacher accommodation and constructing vital sanitation facilities - including to support girls' continued attendance at school. These efforts continue to have a meaningful impact on both pupils and teachers.

At a time when overseas development funding is under pressure and the world can feel increasingly divided, Ghana School Aid represents something both simple and powerful - friendship, partnership and a shared responsibility for our shared world. In the words of His Majesty the King on Commonwealth Day this year, we are 'united in friendship and in the service of people' - a sentiment that resonates deeply with our work. While Ghana has made significant strides in education over the past 40 years, the need for support remains considerable. The following pages show the impact of our work. This could not have happened without the generosity of our supporters, the dedication of our representatives in Ghana, and the many hours given freely by our committee.

To all of you, we extend our thanks.

William Spooner, GSA Chair

Medasi



Alhassan Salifu Baako, GSA's Representative in the Northern Region

I joined GSA while working as a headteacher and became their representative in the north in 2009. Since the start of my voluntary work and into my retirement, many school communities in the north have benefited greatly from GSA. I oversee accountability, advise and support progress, and commission projects.

With limited resources GSA targets schools that are most in need and where modest grants can make a great difference. Imagine a school without a toilet facility or urinal. Schools that lack these facilities have many setbacks with respect to the welfare of both teachers and learners, especially for females. Where a school lacks furniture and pupils are not comfortably seated, it leads to them truanting or dropping out of the school completely.

An important feature of GSA work is their support in building accommodation for teachers. In isolated rural communities, many teachers posted to a school are coming from far away without having a place to lay their heads after the day's hard work. This leads to low morale and much-reduced teaching time.

One of the motivating factors for me working with GSA is the impact of our work. We always receive stories of the joy seen in the schools as they can now improve their teaching and learning.

“The legacy of GSA is not just in what we build, it is in the hearts we touch and the lives we uplift. The people we laugh, work and walk with today will not always be here, so we must share our time, effort and experience to benefit posterity”

Alhassan Salifu Baako

On the following pages, you can read some of the many impact statements given to Baako this year. These are the voices of the school communities with whom the GSA team is honoured to work.



Buildings,

furniture and facilities have been the focus for GSA funding. These pages celebrate what has been accomplished.

Lungbung D/A JHS, in a remote community in the Northern Region, received a grant in 2023 to renovate its classroom blocks (above) and connect to the national grid. Headteacher Fuseini Mohammed Nabla says “This support has not only enhanced our infrastructure but has also led to a significant improvement in our academic results and an increase in enrolment. Mutaru Ruhima Chalpang, a student attests to GSA impact: *“Before your help, our classroom walls were badly damaged, had no doors and windows, and no electricity. Everything changed when GSA came to our aid.”*

Students relax outside
Kanvilli Tawfikiya JHS



“Previously, we struggled because the old classrooms were not safe when it rained. Children’s exercise books were destroyed and they lost interest due to the environment. We no longer close classes when it rains. The new spacious and airy classrooms have changed everything- pupils are focused, motivated and learning better.”

**KG Class teacher,
Saani Samitu**



**GSA has supported
both the Primary and
JHS schools at
Kanvilli Tawfikya,
Northern Region**

“This support has not only enhanced our infrastructure but has also led to a significant improvement in our academic results and an increase in enrolment. We say thank you to GSA for investing in the future of our children.”

Fuseini Mohammed Nabla, Headteacher, Lungbung JHS, Northern Region



“Teachers can now feel the sigh of relief, focus and teach efficiently without any interruptions from rain. The renovation of our only toilet facility for both teachers and pupils has also been a great relief and improved the school’s sanitation situation. Before the renovation, the school had 301 students. After the renovation, we can now boast of 400 students enrolled!”

Ali Isahaku, Head teacher, Zamzamiya Primary with Madam Abubakri Binta, Asst Headteacher





“My name is Abdul Latif Faith. GSA has done a lot for us. Our uniforms are now clean throughout the week as we don’t sit on the floor anymore. Everybody has a table and chair to sit on and write. God bless you Ghana School Aid.”



“Ghana School Aid made my work much easier. I can now comfortably sit and take my class attendance register and marking of class exercises is an easy task for me. Class control is easier too as the sitting arrangement in the classroom is properly done.”

Alhassan Rafia
KG teacher.



**A happy place for teaching and learning
at Kasuliyili Primary School,
Northern Region**

Sorugu M/A-JHS Northern Region



SORUGU M/A JHS
FUNDED BY
GHANA SCHOOL AID

Thank you on behalf of the
whole student body

Akayure Magdalen, Senior Prefect

“GSA's contribution has been a game-changer. The days of struggling with nature's calls are over – no more marathon walks to the bush, no more fear of snakes, and no more open defecation. Ghana School Aid has also addressed a critical issue female students faced during their monthly cycles. They no longer must leave school for privacy and cleanliness. It's a huge relief for them. We consider this facility vital to both learners and teachers. We say “Tipagya”.

John Abanda, Head Teacher



Michael revisits his former school

Hia Community Library, Ashanti Region

“The establishment of the library has been a transformative and sustainable intervention for our school and community. It has significantly improved pupils’ reading, strengthened their research skills, and contributed to measurable academic progress. A strong reading culture has emerged. Beyond the classroom, the library continues to promote literacy and educational development within the wider community. We are grateful to our sponsoring partners, particularly the UK Ghanaian Nurses Association for their generous support and continued commitment. We also deeply appreciate Ghana School Aid, whose initial donation laid the foundation for the construction and later support provided shelving. This foundational contribution has created a legacy that continues to shape and empower young lives.”

Michael Mensah

Former Teacher/Librarian, BEd,
Hia Community Library

***“A strong
reading culture
has emerged”***

GSA support continues...

A learning hub for Adaklu Kodzobi Basic Schools, Volta Region -

This exciting legacy project has moved from laying foundations last year to roof level this year and is expected to be finished by October. It consists of a large reading and resource room and two new washrooms. With enormous help from family friend Dr Hilary Gbedemah plus advice and guidance from GSA's Kofi Ohene, what was envisaged at first as a modest facility for the school community, will now, thanks to engagement with those involved in education in the district, be an ambitious hub for wider community learning.

Eric and Auriol Earle were founder members of GSA. Their legacy has jointly funded this project together with GSA and the local community. Celebrations in Ghana for GSA's 40th Anniversary will happily include Earle family siblings as they visit the new facility for its official opening (see below).



Teachers' quarters for Gundu-Kaa-Munya Primary School, Northern Region

The most recent recipients of a GSA grant, this school community can now finish much-needed teachers' quarters for their school. They have suffered from teachers having a difficult, time-consuming commute to work. The parents, community members and local craftsmen are doing the work, with the indispensable support and guidance of GSA's representative, Baako Alhassan. They hope to finish the building project before the rainy season fully starts.



Sankofa, on the left, is a symbol of a bird reaching its head back toward an egg between its wings. It symbolizes the value of going back to gain wisdom from past experiences. The rather grainy photo on the right is of Wendy, Jennifer and Roderic Earle in Ghana looking out from the back of their parents little car in 1960. In October 2026 they will travel back to Ghana to visit the Adaklu Kodzobi project, and revisit scenes from their childhood in Accra, Cape Coast, Takoradi and Ho. The Sankofa symbol is associated with the proverb 'Se wo were fi na wosan kofa a yenkyiri' – 'It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten'. They will rekindle and refresh precious memories and find new reasons to support GSA.





Ghana: an educational retrospective

Kofi Ohene

GSA's principal representative

Ghana in the 1980s was experiencing an economic crisis with a combination of high inflation, high international debts, low energy supplies, poor climatic conditions, as well as shortages of food and essential household commodities. Political instability from the mid-1960s, combined with these declining economic conditions in the 1980s, impacted negatively on all sectors, including education.

The introduction of free and compulsory education in 1961 had led to a sudden increase in enrolments, a shortage of teachers, as well as inadequate infrastructure and resources. Consequently, school enrolment had dropped below 70% by 1985. After a period of relative political stability in 1987, funds resumed from abroad that supported improved schooling. Education was made compulsory from ages 6 to 14.

It was against this backdrop that a group of friends in the UK, who had served in Ghana as British colonial public and education officers and who had sympathy for the challenging economic conditions that affected education, founded the Ghana School Aid Trust (GSA) in 1986. The trust's aim was to raise funds to help the education of children in Ghana, particularly those in rural areas.

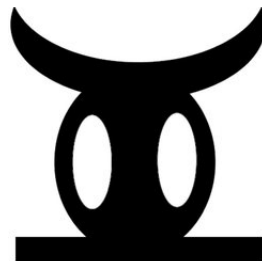
My association with GSA dates to its foundation in 1986, when I was an international graduate student at the then University of London Institute of Education, (now UCL's Institute of Education), and met Mr Eric Earle, the Institute's Secretary and a founder member of GSA. I was invited to attend GSA Committee meetings, soon providing insights into the state of education in Ghana which have helped to inform decisions since then. I have served as GSA's Representative in Ghana since 1998.

Ghana's education system today benefits from successive improvements, for example education administration has been transferred to district assemblies, benefiting schools and teachers. The creation of the Council for Technical and Vocational Education in 2006 was followed by a board for regulation and supervision of tertiary education in 2007. Then two years in kindergarten were added to free education.

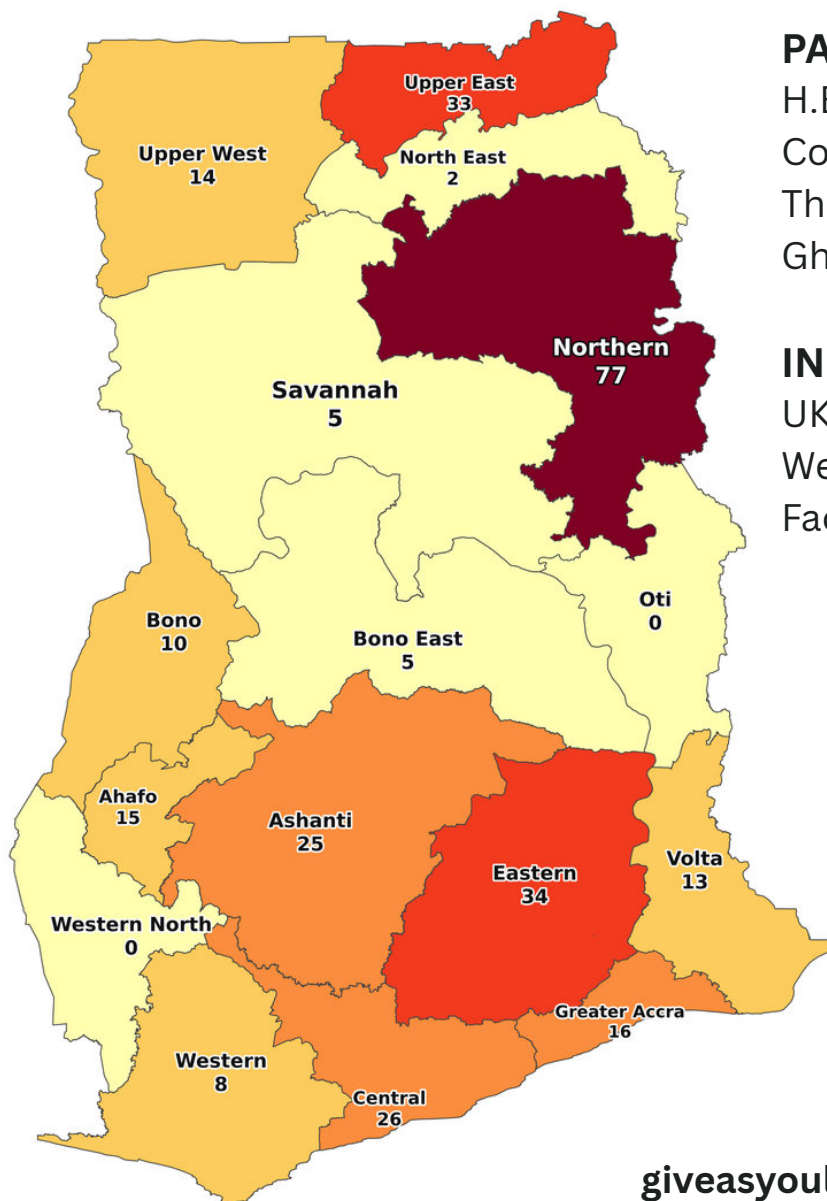
Over the years, an increase in demand for education has resulted in more private sector participation in the provision of education alongside the public sector, at all levels. School feeding programmes in primary schools have improved attendance and child health, while the introduction of free high schooling in 2016 has led to gender parity, increased enrolment and completion rates. New, purpose-built high schools offer programmes in Science/Technical/Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and the use of ICT in schools has increased.

Ghana today is experiencing greater political stability and improvements in the economy. Education has benefited from support offered in development aid and by international organisations and NGOs. However continued support is still needed and impactful.

GSA projects over 40 years



Ghana School Aid - Projects by Region (2018+ Regions)



PATRONS

H.E. Sabah Zita Benson, High
Commissioner for Ghana
The Rt. Hon. Lord Boateng of Akyem
Ghana and Wembley, London, DL

INFORMATION

UK email: info@ghanaschoolaid.org
Website: www.ghanaschoolaid.org
Facebook: search: ghanaschoolaid uk

DONATIONS - thank you

Post: cheques payable to Ghana
School Aid: The Treasurer, 230
Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames,
Oxon, RG9 1QY

Bank transfer details:

Ghana School Aid Trust,
Sort code 60 80 07,
Acc no. 36306274

Or scan the QR code below

giveasyoulive.com/charity/ghanaschoolaid

The map shows the distribution of projects supported by GSA since it was established. The relative concentration of projects in the north reflects both greater need and GSA's on-the-ground support for school communities there.

