

ASEMPA

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 01



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Compassion
International
Ghana



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE



A School
of Hope



Dreams
Take Flight



Deborah's
path to
renewal



A life Saved:
John gets a
hearty laugh



Breaking
barriers with
Compassion



Contents



**Who
We Are** 01



**Welcome
Message from
the National
Director** 05



**A School
of Hope** 06



**Dreams
Take Flight** 08



**Deborah's
path to renewal** 10



**A life Saved:
John gets a
hearty laugh**

12



**Breaking
barriers with
compassion**

14



**Thriving Child
Seminar Series**

16



**Activity
Corner**

20



1



Who We Are



Profile of Compassion International Ghana



CIGH is a Christian non-profit organization.



CIGH has been operating in Ghana since 2005.

Compassion International Ghana (CIGH) is a Christian non-profit organization and a member of Compassion International Incorporated, headquartered in Colorado Springs, USA. Compassion International Ghana is Christ-centered, Church-driven, and Child-focused; with a mission of releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. Compassion International Ghana has been operating in Ghana since 2005.



CIGH partners with evangelical churches that serve as Frontline Church Partners (FCPs), acting as the main implementing partners of CIGH's programs within its communities of operation. Currently, CIGH has four hundred and eighteen (418) FCPs in ninety-two (92) Metropolitan, Municipal

and District Assemblies (MMDAs) of Ghana. CIGH operates in twelve (12) out of sixteen (16) regions of Ghana. Together with its church partners, CIGH is ministering holistically to over ninety-eight thousand (98,000) registered children and youth in Ghana. As part of our national office strategy, we aim to reach and transform the lives of one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) children and youth in poverty-stricken communities by 2030.

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16 regions
of Ghana.**98,000**Registered
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Metropolitan, Municipal
and District Assemblies
(MMDAs) of Ghana.

Our Corporate Mission

Releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Our Corporate Vision

Our vision is to raise fulfilled Christian youth and adults who can influence their world.



Brand Positioning Statement

We aspire to be a model national office that is a thought leader in holistic child and youth development, and to partner with the church and other stakeholders to achieve our vision.

Foundational Choices



Church Driven

Compassion International Ghana partners with indigenous local churches for effective child development. CIGH believes the strategic placement of local churches makes them best suited to holistically address the needs of children in their communities. At CIGH, we believe that only the church can effectively drive and deliver the Jesus-based teaching and whole-life care children in poverty need.



Christ Centered

Jesus Christ is the core of Compassion International Ghana's ministry; and His life and teachings shape our programs. It reflects the spiritual commitment of our staff and guides how we love people and respect communities.



Child Focused

Child development, as per our program, is all about the individual child. It is our belief that it is only through a careful blend of physical, social, economic and spiritual care that a child can fully mature in every facet of life and transcend a life of poverty. Thus, each child receives the holistic care they deserve to realize their full, God-given potential in life.

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Contributors

**Akosua Addai
Amoo, ESQ**

Editor



2

**Deborah
Aba Narkoah**





2



Welcome Message from the National Director



**Kobina
Yeboah
Okyere**

National
Director

Dear Cherished Readers,

This newsletter is a testament to our commitment to the very mandate of this ministry - releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. Asempa, which translates as good news, seeks to share with our neighbors stories of transformation taking place in the lives of the children and youth in particular and the communities we work in. We recognize the importance of keeping our stakeholders updated on the initiatives, achievements and successes that shape the transformation of lives in the communities we serve. Through these pages we aim to provide you with an insightful glimpse into the various projects and programs undertaken by our dedicated team and partners.

As we embark on this exciting journey, I encourage you to actively engage with the content, share your thoughts and join us in celebrating the collective achievements that shape the narrative of this ministry.

I believe that with the stories in this maiden edition and the many more to be told in subsequent ones, we can count our successes and give God all the glory for truly delivering our participants from the ills of poverty in Jesus' name. Amen!

Warm regards.



3



A School of Hope



...students and participants now benefit from a conducive environment for teaching and learning...

“When it rained, we couldn’t sit in the old block because the roofing was damaged. We also couldn’t sit on the chairs properly for fear of tearing our uniforms,” recounted Angela, a student at Sawer Community School. Since 1996, the school had been the cornerstone of education in the community. However, its condition had steadily deteriorated over the years. The roof was ripped off, windows were broken, few chairs remained in good condition, and cracks riddled the walls. The building had essentially become a death trap for students.

As a result, many students traveled miles to other communities to access education. Those who remained were at the mercy of the weather as well as experiencing other challenges which severely hampered the quality of education they received. This situation also affected the participants of Compassion International Ghana who attended the school. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Compassion International Ghana, in

**44%**

increase in school enrollment from 90 to 130 students in a single term

15

students enrolled in JHS 1 and 7 in JHS 2

consultation with the Apostolic Church Sawer approved a proposal to build a new classroom block for the community. Construction began in 2019, and by 2021, the new building was completed. The impact on the community has been profound. The quality of education has improved significantly, evidenced by a 44% increase in school enrollment. This has generational effect and many more children can now attend junior high school without much challenge. With a current enrollment of 32 students in the early stage, at least 300 students will graduate in five years' time.

Students who previously walked long distances to attend school now benefit from the new community school facilities. The head teacher has testified to improved academic performance and better exam scores among the children. In July 2024, the school reached a significant milestone when eight students from the basic school took the Basic Examination Certificate Exam for the first time in its history.

Additionally, students and participants now benefit from a conducive environment for teaching and learning, marking a substantial advancement for education in the Sawer community.





4



Dreams Take Flight



...His journey was profoundly influenced by the Afransi Pentecost Child and Youth Development Center... The center was a haven of hope and possibility, shaping his values and aspirations.

In April 2024, Newton received a life-changing job offer as an Aircraft Technician at Kotoka International Airport, Ghana's premier airport. The company even committed to sponsoring his licensure as a certified aircraft engineer. This moment was the culmination of over 20 years of struggle, hope, and relentless hard work.

Newton's story began in the small town of Gomoa Afransi. Born into a financially challenged family, he knew that education was his only way out. Despite facing severe financial hardships, he refused to let his circumstances dictate his future. Enrolling in the Afransi Pentecost Child and Youth Development Center, a church partner, brought new hope to his dreams and set him on the rewarding path of education.



In November 2023, he graduated with a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

From the dusty classrooms of his town school, Newton worked tirelessly to excel academically. He spent countless nights studying under the dim light of a kerosene lamp, driven by the belief that knowledge was the key to unlocking his dreams.

Newton's ambitions grew with his progress. Fascinated by science and technology, he aimed to become an Aerospace Engineer—a monumental goal for someone from his background. But Newton was undeterred. Every hurdle made him stronger and more determined.

His journey was profoundly influenced by the Afransi Pentecost Child and Youth Development Center, where he learned about Jesus, enjoyed nutritious meals, and had his basic health needs met. The center was a haven of hope and possibility, shaping his values and aspirations.

Newton's resilience and dedication paid off. He excelled in his studies and earned a place at Accra Academy Senior High School to study general science. Despite the distance from his hometown, his bond with Afransi Pentecost CYDC remained strong. Recognizing his potential, the center worked tirelessly to support his education.

He navigated the challenges

of his academic pursuits with renewed determination, and his perseverance paid off when he was admitted to the prestigious Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. However, the financial burden of tuition fees once again threatened his dreams. Then, Newton received a lifeline through the Tertiary Fees Support System from Compassion's program.

With this support, Newton successfully navigated his university years. His hard work was recognized, and in November 2023, he graduated with a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

Eager to gain practical experience, Newton enrolled in a two-year sandwich program at the Ghana Air Force Aviation College in Accra. This program honed his skills and deepened his understanding of aerospace engineering, laying the foundation for his future career.

Upon completing his training, Newton embarked on his national service program at the Air Force Base in Accra. For five months, he served his country with dedication, earning the respect of his superiors and colleagues.

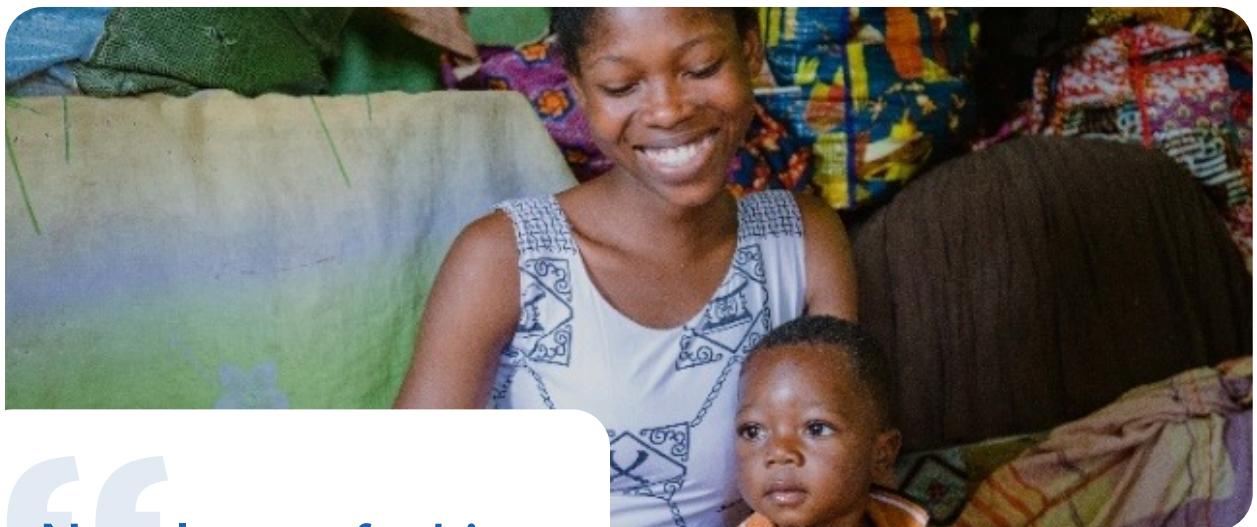
As Newton stood in the bustling airport terminal, now an employee, he gazed at the endless expanse of the sky and marveled at how far he had come. From a poor village boy with a dream to becoming a successful aerospace engineer with the world at his feet. Newton's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, hope, and the belief that anything is possible with hard work and determination.



5



Deborah's path to renewal



Now I am a fashion designer on an apprenticeship. When my son reaches the age to be out of Compassion, with my tailoring or designing, we will be able to survive...

When tragedy struck with the loss of her husband, leaving her and her infant son alone and vulnerable, Deborah found solace and support through Compassion International Ghana and Goi Divine Healer's Child and Youth Development Center. Joined by her three-month-old son, Deborah enrolled in the Survival program—a maternal and neo-natal health care program aimed at supporting vulnerable pregnant mothers to have safe and healthy delivery and empowering them economically. Compassion International Ghana, in collaboration with the church partner, provided essential aid, ensuring that Deborah and her son did not face the harsh realities of poverty alone. Before joining the program, Deborah had no source of income and struggled to cater for herself and her son.

Through the Survival program, Deborah gained



access to crucial services such as immunization and post-natal care services that would have otherwise been out of reach due to her financial constraints. This intervention, a cornerstone of Compassion's holistic approach to child and youth development, not only addresses immediate needs but also aims to break the cycle of maternal and child mortality in the communities it serves.

Deborah's journey with Compassion International Ghana did not end with survival; it blossomed into a story of empowerment and newfound purpose. Seizing the opportunity presented by Compassion International Ghana and its church partner, Deborah nurtured her skills in fashion design through the support she received. She embarked on an apprenticeship with optimism and determination, envisioning a future where her newfound talent would pave the way for the sustenance of herself and her son.

With her training, Deborah recognizes the potential it holds for a brighter tomorrow. "The church and Compassion have helped me enroll in an apprenticeship in fashion designing," she beams. "Now I am a fashion designer on an apprenticeship. When my son reaches the age to be out of Compassion, with my tailoring or designing, we will be able to survive."

Through Compassion International Ghana's intervention, Deborah's story has been transformed from one of despair to hope and resilience. She now stands as a testament to the profound impact of timely and compassionate support; her future illuminated by the skills and opportunities she has embraced.

Child Survival programming marks the initial phase in Compassion's Holistic Child and Youth Development Model. These survival interventions significantly reduce mortality rates among mothers, newborns, and infants by providing essential support to ensure children reach their first birthday.



**The church and
Compassion
have helped
me enroll in an
apprenticeship
in fashion
designing...**



6



A life Saved: John gets a hearty laugh



The church partner, along with Compassion, covered all costs—from the ambulance to Korle Bu to the surgery and medication...

John's journey with Compassion International Ghana began at just two months old, but it was during a moment of crisis that the true impact of the program became evident. As John fell ill, his mother, Monica, wasted no time in seeking medical help, taking him to the community hospital.

Upon examination, it became clear that John was facing complications with his intestine. However, the community hospital lacked the expertise needed to correct the problem. Without delay, John was referred to Korle Bu, Ghana's premier hospital, for specialized treatment. In partnership with Compassion International Ghana, Goi Divine Healer's Child and Youth Development Center,



and health specialists, a thorough assessment of John's condition was conducted. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Compassion International Ghana and Goi Divine Healer's Child and Youth Development Center intervened to cover all costs associated with John's surgery.

"The church partner, along with Compassion, covered all costs—from the ambulance to Korle Bu to the surgery and medication," she shared, relieved by the burden lifted from her shoulders.

Thanks to timely intervention and dedicated care, John's surgery was successful, leading to a swift recovery. Today, John is back to his joyful self, laughing and playing with his friends, embracing the promise of a regular life once more.

Compassion International Ghana's health interventions are designed to promote healthy behaviors and prevent illness.

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more...**



7



Breaking barriers with compassion



I want to be a lawyer. I also want to be a legal academic...

3.7



Cumulative Grade Point Average out of 4.0 from the University of Cape Coast.

In the financially constrained community of Fadama in Accra, where opportunities seem elusive and aspirations are often stifled, Salamatu Haruna's story ignites hope. Today, Salamatu is a student at the Ghana School of Law, the nation's sole institution for training aspiring lawyers.

Graduating with a stellar Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.7 out of 4.0 from the University of Cape Coast, Salamatu reflects on her childhood dreams. "I want to be a lawyer. I also want to be a legal academic," she declared with conviction. But as a child growing up in a financially challenging home, these ambitions seemed far-fetched.

Her fortunes began to shift when her parents enrolled her in Compassion International Ghana's program, in partnership with the Pentecost Fadama Child and Youth Development Center in



their community. “The most important reason my parents enrolled me in Compassion was because they needed help to take care of me financially,” Salamatu recounted.

However, this decision was not without challenges. As a Muslim child in a Christian-based program, Salamatu’s family faced sharp criticism from some members of the community. “People thought I had become Christianized or that my parents had given me to Christianity for money,” she shared. Despite the backlash, her family stood firm, believing in the opportunities the program could offer their daughter.

Compassion International Ghana provided more than financial support; it opened doors to a world Salamatu had never imagined. “We were given chicken, eggs, and other meals that were luxuries for me growing up. I enjoyed excursions that exposed me to the outside world, as well as discussions and learning new things at the project,” she fondly recalled.

Her active participation in camp meetings and other activities showed her commitment to growth. Compassion International Ghana’s

consistent support extended to her education; providing uniforms, books, and other essentials every year until she completed junior high school. This foundation allowed Salamatu to attend T. I. Ahmadiyya Senior High School in Kumasi, one of Ghana’s top Muslim schools.

Determined to achieve her childhood dream, Salamatu pursued a law degree at the University of Cape Coast—a program that would have been prohibitively expensive without Compassion International Ghana and the church’s sponsorship.

Today, Salamatu’s aspirations go beyond personal success. “I want to give as much kindness to the world as the world has given me. I’m grateful to Compassion International Ghana and the church for sponsoring me and giving me a chance to chase my dreams,” she said with gratitude.

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8



Thriving Child Seminar Series



Summary of the Series

Compassion International Ghana has launched the Thriving Child Seminar Series, a quarterly webinar dedicated to empowering its staff with insights and practical knowledge on child and youth development.

In an initiative aimed at shaping the future of child and youth development, Compassion International Ghana has launched the Thriving Child Seminar Series, a quarterly webinar dedicated to promoting learning and sharing among stakeholders in the child development space. This endeavor, spearheaded by the National Leadership Team, aims to position the Ghana office as a trailblazer in child and youth advocacy.

The Thriving Child Seminar Series serves as a platform for generating awareness and forging strategic partnerships with organizations having a commitment to child and youth welfare. Through these engaging discussions, Compassion International Ghana is not only poised to refine its programming efforts to better address the multifaceted needs of children and the youth, but also to hold accountable those responsible for safeguarding the well-being of every child.



Building an Inclusive Future: Insights from the Fifth Thriving Child Seminar



Child Developmental Disorders: Early Detection, Intervention Strategies, and Creating an Inclusive Environment.

The fifth edition of the Thriving Child Seminar Series tackled a critical yet often overlooked topic: "Child Developmental Disorders: Early Detection, Intervention Strategies, and Creating an Inclusive Environment." This edition assessed the complexities of Childhood Developmental Disorders (CDD), exploring conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Cerebral Palsy (CP), Intellectual Disability (ID), Dyslexia, and Learning Disabilities (LDs), as well as hearing and visual impairments. The seminar featured a line-up of experts, including Dr. Marilyn Marbell-Wilson, a renowned pediatrician and Medical Director of Mission Pediatrics, and Daniel Asante, Compassion International Ghana's (CIGH) Health Specialist with over fifteen years of experience. Together, they offered a blend of clinical expertise and practical interventions tailored to address the challenges faced by children with developmental disorders.

A Comprehensive Health Focus

365
participants



According to Asante, CIGH supports 365 participants with various physical and mental disabilities.

Daniel Asante presented an overview of CIGH's health interventions, rooted in the organization's commitment to fostering holistic child development. Anchored in the Global Outcome Framework, WHO Standards, and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these interventions prioritize the promotion of healthy behaviors and prevention of illness.

According to Asante, CIGH supports three hundred and sixty-five (365) participants with various physical and mental disabilities, including impaired vision, learning difficulties, physical impairments, autism, ADHD, Down's syndrome, and developmental delays. Annual health screenings, organized in collaboration with church partners, are central to the program's efforts. These screenings help detect



early signs of developmental disorders, such as delayed motor skills, speech challenges, social difficulties, and cognitive impairments.

Moreover, these screenings serve as educational platforms for caregivers and community members, fostering awareness about common health issues and empowering communities to take charge of their well-being. Asante emphasized the importance of partnerships with health specialists, consultants, and local church partners to provide comprehensive evaluations and mental health support to participants in Compassion's health programs. Looking ahead, CIGH aims to expand its disability-focused programs and to advocate for broader family education and community inclusion in its catchment area.

Addressing Causes and Early Detection

Prenatal exposure to alcohol, smoking, or extreme stress, for instance, significantly increase the risk of conditions such as ADHD and intellectual disabilities.

Dr. Marilyn Marbell-Wilson provided a deeper dive into the causes and risk factors associated with developmental disorders. She shared the fact that disabilities often arise from a combination of genetic and environmental influences. Prenatal exposure to alcohol, smoking, or extreme stress, for instance, significantly increase the risk of conditions such as ADHD and intellectual disabilities. Similarly, genetic predispositions often underpin disorders like ADHD and ASD, while postnatal factors, including brain injuries or exposure to toxins, can exacerbate developmental risks.

Dr. Marbell stressed the critical role of early detection in mitigating the impact of developmental disorders. She indicated that employing tools such as developmental inventories, behavioral checklists, and advanced imaging techniques enable timely interventions and improved outcomes for affected children.



Advocacy for Inclusion

With the right interventions, children with developmental disorders can achieve their full potential...

A powerful advocate for inclusive education, Dr. Marbell argued that every child has an equal right to learn and grow, irrespective of their abilities. She indicated that developmental disorders are not the fault of the child and urged society to provide tailored support systems that allow these children to thrive. "With the right interventions, children with developmental disorders can achieve their full potential," she stated, urging stakeholders to champion inclusive practices across education and healthcare sectors.

Looking Forward



Systemic support to create environment where every child can flourish



Heightened awareness



Early intervention

The fifth Thriving Child Seminar exemplified the need for collaborative, evidence-based approaches to tackle developmental disorders. It called for heightened awareness, early intervention, and systemic support to create environment where every child—regardless of their abilities—can flourish. By combining the expertise of health professionals and the dedication of organizations like CIGH, the path to inclusion and empowerment becomes clearer.

This seminar reaffirmed a powerful message: no child should be left behind.



Scan for links to the quarterly series.



9



Activity Corner



1. Compassion International Ghana officially launched its 20th anniversary celebrations, unveiling a new logo to commemorate two decades of transformative service in child and youth development. The event was attended by several key stakeholders to mark this significant milestone.



2. In collaboration with church partners, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, and other stakeholders, Compassion International Ghana observed World Children's Day under the theme: "Listen to the Future."

**200**

Alumni



The alumni hosted their maiden National Alumni Conference in October, bringing together over 200 alumni.

3.

As part of Compassion International Ghana's 20th anniversary, the Compassion International Ghana Alumni Network hosted its maiden National Alumni Conference in October, bringing together over 200 alumni. This follows the network's launch on November 4, 2023, and the inauguration of its first executive team, representing a thriving community of over 2,500 members.

>**2,500**

The network's launch on November 4, 2023, and the inauguration of its first executive team, represents a thriving community of over 2,500 members.



**4.**

Compassion International Ghana, in partnership with Agona Amenfi Assemblies of God Child and Youth Development Center, inaugurated 50 two-seater toilet facilities to address sanitation challenges in the Agona Amenfi community. This initiative provides over 700 residents from 100 households with safe, accessible sanitation, effectively reducing risks associated with cholera and typhoid.

> 700

The initiative provided over 700 residents from 100 households with safe, accessible sanitation...

80
Staff

Over 80 staff members participated in the event, focused on promoting proactive healthcare and raising breast cancer awareness.

5.

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Compassion International Ghana hosted an educational and screening event on October 28, 2024. Over 80 staff members participated in the event, focused on promoting proactive healthcare and raising breast cancer awareness.



**146**

Youth



CIGH and church partners equipped 146 youth in Breman with tools and equipment to launch careers in technical and vocational fields.

6.

Compassion International Ghana and church partners equipped 146 youth in Breman with tools and equipment to launch careers in technical and vocational fields. With over GH₵1 million invested in tools and nearly GH₵100,000 in training, the initiative has supported 386 participants across 10 clusters, empowering the youth to become self-reliant contributors to their communities.

>

GHS 1 millioninvested
in tools

<

GHS100Kinvested
in training



7.

The staff of Compassion International Ghana gathered to celebrate the goodness of God over the past year, marking the occasion with a Christmas carol service.



8.

A donation was made to the Senior Correctional Center by staff of Compassion International Ghana to celebrate the Christmas festivities.





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