



ENGAGE GLOBALLY
2022
IMPACT REPORT

FROM THE DIRECTOR



2022 brought significant growth for Engage Globally and our community partner in Northern Ghana, Capacity Rural International (CRI). We are thrilled to have completed construction of the Tahama Learning Center. This building, with its rainwater catchment, kitchen, and solar power, is a significant achievement and will provide many children with the opportunity to attend school. The first class of kindergarteners (pictured above) was enrolled in November, and they were very excited to begin school! Meanwhile, 26 students graduated from our other two community learning centers and all of them passed entrance exams to enter regional private schools in grade three. These students will join our Youth Education Program in 2023.

This year, we collaborated with our partners to enhance economic opportunities for young adults after they have finished their schooling and for community members who were never able to attend school. It is very important to us that we create pathways to economic self-sufficiency and that we help all community members pursue their goals. Towards this end, we added students to both our vocational training and women's agricultural programs. We were especially excited that five of our vocational trainees earned national certifications in their fields. One of those students, Rukia, is pictured on the front cover in a dress she designed and sewed for her graduation ceremony.

Our work this year encountered some challenges with significant food shortages resulting from the war in Ukraine, severe inflation in Ghana, lingering COVID impacts, and a poor rain season. To help, we expanded the school lunch program, provided food stipends, and raised teacher salaries to continue to provide a living wage.

We are very grateful to our interns, volunteers, Board of Directors and Advisory Board members for their help. And, we especially would like to thank our community of supporters for making this work possible.

Thank you!

Heather

Heather Heckel, PhD, Executive Director, engage@engageglobally.org

THE TAHAMA (HOPE) COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

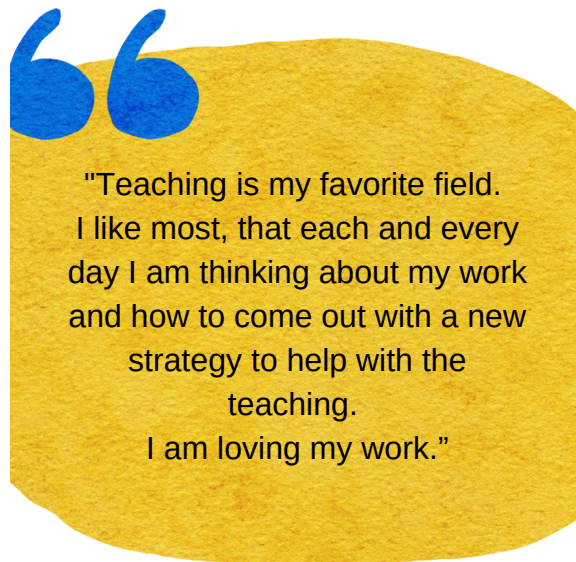


In 2022, we were very excited to construct and open our third early childhood learning center, Tahama, meaning hope in the regional language of Dagbani. Tahama will provide an opportunity for 200 children to attend school for the first time. Students like Adamu, pictured below right, can attend Tahama through second grade, when they will join our youth learning program.

Madam Salma, the new Director of Tahama pictured below left, teaches with an environmental educational curriculum, which is the first of its kind in the region. Tahama was constructed with solar power, rainwater catchment, and a kitchen with food storage capacity for sustainability and resilience. During the next rain season, the students will work with community members to plant a large school garden which will provide an outdoor classroom and nutrition for our school lunch program.



Madam Salma,
Tahama Director



Adamu, aged 4,
wants to be a teacher.

CONSTRUCTION



Construction for the Tahama Learning Center began in early 2022. All workers were hired locally, and many community members volunteered to help.

SUSTAINABILITY



We are very grateful to AXIS Capital and Chancen.Nachhaltig.Gestalten e.V. for their support of sustainability at Tahama Learning Center. Solar power, rainwater catchment, and food storage help this frontline rural community minimize impacts of rising temperatures, weather changes, and food shortages.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS



With three learning centers, our community partners are now able to educate nearly 400 children ages four to eleven. These centers have many positive impacts including:

- Providing the only early childhood program in the area.
- Enabling students to feel comfortable learning inside and beyond the classroom through a bilingual and place-based curriculum that values culture and the local environment.
- A school lunch program providing much needed nutrition. Unfortunately, our partner communities faced severe food shortages this year.
- Each student is provided with a school uniform and shoes. Shoes are particularly important to protect students from insects, snakes, and cuts when walking to school.
- Centers employ teachers and staff, pictured right, from the local region, most of whom are graduates of our Youth Education Program.
- School activities, like the graduation ceremony pictured left, PTAs, school gardens, and other activities create an opportunity for strengthening community bonds.



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM



When students graduate from our Community Learning Centers, they have the opportunity to join our Youth Education Program (YEP). Participants must pass entrance exams to regional private schools where they continue their educations in grades three to nine. Then, they take national exams to enter public high schools, most of which are boarding schools. Students who do not qualify are invited to join our vocational training program.

Each student in this program receives all required learning supplies, testing fees, school fees, and a bicycle to help them get to regional schools. When needed, students also receive tutoring for exams and food stipends. After COVID closures enrollment in this program remained stable. In December, we were especially excited that twenty-six students from our learning centers qualified to continue their educations in regional primary schools. Thus, we expect significant growth in this program in 2023.

2022 Enrollment

Total participants	51
Primary students in private schools	34
JHS students in private schools	10
SHS students in public schools	4
Waiting for national exam results	3

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Our vocational training program expanded significantly in 2022. This project has broad impacts including:

- creating economic opportunities in communities of primarily subsistence farmers,
- providing professional opportunities for youth who were not able to attend school,
- furthering gender equality by creating pathways to employment for women, and
- reducing migration to urban centers, which can be very risky for youth.

In 2022, twelve new trainees joined the program to learn skills like hair dressing, sewing, midwifery, weaving, and wood working. We also celebrated the graduations and national certifications of four students, including Rukia, pictured on the front cover in the dress she designed and sewed for her graduation ceremony.

To build community among the trainees and offer additional educational opportunities, we began a guest speaker program with small business owners coming to share advice with the students. Additionally, our partners supported the opening of a small business in smock making and began preparations to open several more shops in 2023. Each business creates economic opportunities in the villages as well as placements for new trainees.

2022 Enrollment:

Women	27
Men	17
Total	44



Madam Conelius speaking about being a small business owner to vocational program participants.



New student, Ayisha, is training to be a seamstress.

WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE

In 2022, we expanded our pilot women's farming project from five to ten participants. The women farmers were chosen by the community women's group, which represents all seven of our partner villages. Participants are interviewed, as pictured below, to determine their goals and what they want to farm. Prior to plowing, women received training from an agricultural educator about fertilizer, pesticide, soil health, and seed placement. Then, after the rains, we provide a rented tractor and other farming inputs to increase the women's harvest. Because of the success of this pilot, we were very excited to receive a grant at the end of the year to significantly expand this program in 2023.



Planting seeds



Agricultural education



Watering crops



We realized the home economy is being managed by women and there is a lot of burden on the part of rural women in the household. When they are given the power to own and manage their own farm, they continue to support their children through food security, good health, and basic needs for the entire family.

Walisu Alhassan, CRI Director

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Engage Globally was founded to support communities in their pursuit of sustainable development. We believe that communities, across the world, can engage in helping each other. And, through this collaboration and mutual learning, communities strengthen their bonds and broaden opportunities for their members. Throughout 2022, we celebrated how this process of local and global engagement creates hope for the future. Below are some examples of our efforts to engage and empower communities in 2022.



In Ghana, traditional leaders came to a blessing to the Tahama Learning Center before it was opened. Participation by chiefs and elders is critically important to the success of our work.



In our environmental education project, in Costa Rica, we were thrilled that our partners held a reunion of the girls' environmental club. This club was designed to inspire girls to pursue environmental careers.



Walisu, Director of CRI, meeting with the Women's Group, representing seven villages, to seek their advice on the women's farming and education projects.

Howdy earth dwellers,
Tune in tomorrow (Friday) at 7pm MT for some new Seth Trout tunes and a fundraiser for [Engage Globally](#). Hope to see you there!



FRI, APR 22, 2022
Earth Day Jams Livestream
38 people interested

Interested

Board member, Seth Armentrout, hosts an annual Earth Day Jams to raise funds for our garden and tree planting programs.

FINANCE REPORT 2022



FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022

Total Contributions	\$104,109
Programming Expenses	\$85,395
Operational Expenses	\$11,341
Donations carried from 2022 to 2023	\$7373

IN APPRECIATION:

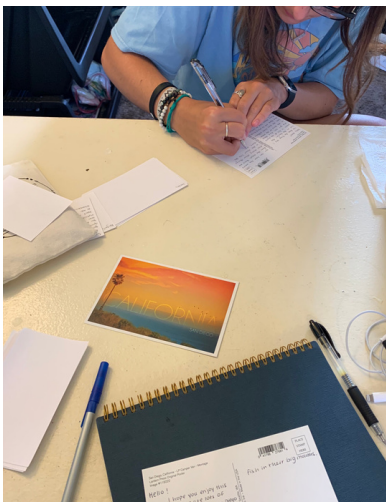
Engage Globally is grateful to our many supporters. We would especially like to thank the following for their generous contributions in 2022:

- The JustPax Fund
- AXIS Capital
- Chancen.Nachhaltig.Gestalten e.V.
- Action Africa Giving Fund
- Everence Foundation
- Anonymous Family Foundation
- Anonymous Foundation
- Monthly donors who contribute to our Youth Education Program
- The 2022 Engage Globally Board of Directors: Seth Armentrout, Joe Coyle, Emily Kouterick, Lauren Kruglinski, Adrienne Marvin, Aleah Myers, Gilbert Ruiz, Kara VanderKamp, and Sam Walsh
- Our wonderful interns!

ENGAGE WITH US

We welcome your help in growing our community!

- Volunteer with us. Engage welcomes short-term virtual volunteers who help with a variety of professional and research projects. We also seek applicants for our internship program and to serve on our Advisory Board or Board of Directors.
- Share Engage Globally's work with others who are interested in global sustainable development, education, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation.
- Are you involved with a **business or community group** that might be interested in collaborating with us or supporting our work? Email anytime!
- Invite an Engage Globally team member to be a **guest speaker** for your community about our work, environmental conservation, or community-led sustainable development.
- Follow us and like and share our **social media** posts with others.
- 'Donate your birthday' to Engage Globally.
- Share your suggestions about how we can better engage with our supporters!



Volunteer writing nature postcards to students in Ghana.



Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." He's right except we need more tools and less weapons. Education is a transformative tool: for individuals, for communities, for societies. That is why I am invested in the work of Engage Globally. I believe in their approach. Education without agency could still be disempowering or even colonial. But with Engage Globally, **they center community leadership and community wishes.** They are true partners in development and are attentive to gender equality.



Shaya at the Univ. of Legon, Ghana

Shaya Gregory Poku

Advisory Board Member, Shaya Gregory Poku

your support helps to shape a
sustainable future



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