

Engage Globally
2019 Annual Report



**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**





••••• LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR •••••

Dear Friends,

In 2019, Engage Globally collaborated with our local partners in Ghana and Costa Rica to continue to enhance and expand our education and sustainability work. In Ghana, we are educating 294 youth in our early childhood, scholarship, and vocational programs. We were especially excited to have 11 students graduate from our early childhood centers and pass entrance exams to continue their education in local private schools. We have also doubled participation in our vocational training program, which is expanding economic opportunities and creating small businesses in our partner communities.

In Costa Rica, we continue to support the environmental education work of our partners, the Monteverde Conservation League, who provide environmental education and resources to 17 local schools and over 7,000 annual visitors to the Children’s Eternal Rainforest (pictured above). In 2019, with the support of the JustPax Fund, we helped design and launch a girls’ environmental education club, which engaged girls, and their families, in community clean-ups, reforestation, environmental advocacy, and learning about environmental career opportunities.

This year, partner communities in both Ghana and Costa Rica engaged in tree planting and came together to share concerns and raise awareness about environmental challenges. We are also preparing environmentally themed curriculum activities for students in our programs, as well as sharing sustainability resources online. We are grateful to our supporters, our partners, and to all the communities and students participating in our programs. As you read this report, I hope that you will see what a significant impact your contributions have made. We look forward to continuing to engage with each of you in 2020.

Heather Heckel
Engage Globally
Founder and Executive Director
engage@engageglobally.org

GHANA PROGRAMS

In Ghana, Engage Globally collaborates with six villages in the Northern Region. Most people in our partner communities are subsistence farmers, who grow food primarily for personal consumption. The region faces a number of sustainable development challenges including lack of clean water and sanitation; changing climate with drought and flooding; soil degradation and erosion; few economic opportunities; limited access to electricity; and low literacy. Many youth migrate to overcrowded cities in the South where they often face challenging work and living conditions. Though our partner villages are near the rapidly growing regional capital of Tamale, educational opportunities remain limited, with only two elementary schools for the six villages. These schools lack teachers, funding, and supplies and are often open only a few hours per week.



Walisu leading a 2019/20 school year planning discussion with parents and students in the scholarship program

In Ghana, Engage Globally collaborates with Capacity Rural International (CRI), a local community-based organization, founded by Walisu Alhassan (pictured to the left). CRI works closely with local chiefs, a parent-teacher association, and a women's group to select, design and implement projects.

Engage Globally helps the CRI team with program design, planning, and monitoring and evaluation. This year, we were also excited to launch CRI's first website, www.capacityruralinternational.org/. Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to fund the projects described below in 2019.



Walisu giving a bicycle to one of the new scholarship students



Parent Teacher Association 2019

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Our two early childhood learning centers currently enroll 226 children ages 3 to 9 from pre-K to third grade. Students are taught using a bilingual place-based curriculum. Teachers help to build skills through study of local culture, the environment, and daily living in their communities.

To accommodate the large number of students interested in this program, classes meet in the morning or afternoon and come together at lunch and for sports and other activities.

Each student in this program receives:

- A uniform sewn by vocational program graduates
- A pair of shoes
- A daily school lunch to help reduce malnutrition
- Learning materials including paper, crayons, and books

Our early childhood centers are also utilized for a variety of community activities including soccer, tutoring, English language learning, and PTA meetings. Each term, the school holds a community-wide celebration, in which students share what they have studied and awards are presented. On the cover of this report is a photo from July's community celebration with teacher Zeinab presenting an award to Abdul for successfully graduating and passing entrance exams to enter private school in the fall.



An early childhood student posing for her beginning of school photo, August 2019

"I want to stand on behalf of all parents to thank all who support you to get our children a good and quality education. We are so grateful."

Excerpt from a parent's speech to CRI staff at a PTA meeting, 2019

HAND WASHING

A rainwater catchment system was built by the community this year to collect rain from the roof of one of our early childhood education centers. The teachers then installed a hand washing station to teach children the importance of washing their hands and how to use soap. In our partner communities, most families get their water from a standing pond, which is also used by livestock and wild animals. Hand washing is a key strategy for reducing water-borne illnesses when communities lack access to clean water. In 2020, we hope to raise funds to replicate this successful pilot project and to construct several other rainwater catchment systems with hand washing stations.



SCHOOL LUNCHES

In our two early childhood centers, our 227 students eat lunch each school day. This program is designed to help reduce malnutrition. Additionally, school lunches are a key motivational factor for school enrollment and attendance. Students attend school three terms per year, for a total of 207 days. Thus, our partners are serving over 45,000 lunches a year. Each lunch is prepared by two mothers. Because of the rising number of students in our early childhood program and with scarce food supplies during the dry season, this is a relatively expensive program. In 2020, we hope to improve this program by raising funds to ensure lunch can be served all year to all students, to diversify the foods served, to hire mothers as cooks and food program managers, and to build a kitchen on site at our largest learning center. We also hope to fund a food take home program, where students with siblings under age 5 can take rice home during the dry season.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAM



In 2019, our scholarship program grew from 38 students to 52. We were very pleased that 11 students graduated from our early childhood learning centers and passed entrance exams to qualify to continue their education. Three more students from a local primary school also qualified and joined our scholarship program.

Program participants attend private schools in grades three through eight and public senior high schools. These students make up the majority of youth from our partner villages who are able to attend school past third grade. In rural communities, children are often needed to help with farm and household work including daily collection of water and wood. Additionally, distance to public schools and school fees can limit educational access.

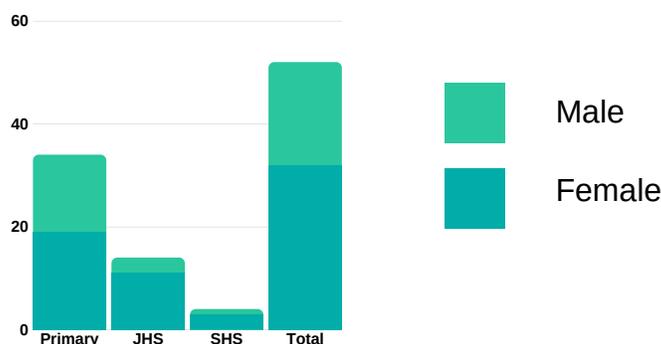
Students are selected for this program based on family commitment to supporting their child in attending school, the student's desire to continue their education, and test scores. The program enrolls both boys and girls, but scholarships for girls are prioritized to help address gender inequalities.

Abida, age 12, is in 5th grade this year. She began school at our first early childhood center when it opened in 2015. Abida will take exams at the end of this year to enter junior high school.

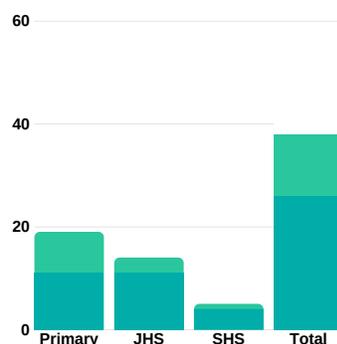
Each scholarship student receives the following support:

- School and required testing fees paid each term
- Provision of school books and other learning materials
- Three school uniforms and shoes
- A bicycle for students in grades three to eight. All of the schools are located several kilometers from the village communities and students need bicycles in order to attend.
- Bicycle maintenance and repair provided by a vocational program graduate who opened a small business
- Senior high school students are provided with residential supplies and transportation funding
- Individual mentoring and meetings with each student and their family
- Annual meetings with teachers or school directors and collection of evaluations

2019/2020 enrollment data



2018/2019 enrollment data



STUDENT PROFILE – SUALE

This year we were very excited to have Suale successfully pass his exams and qualify to enter Senior High School. Suale joined two other students in Senior High School in 2019.

Suale is attending high school about two hours from his home village. He boards at the school and Engage Globally provides funding for his required school and residential supplies, which include everything from school books to a broom.

Suale really enjoys studying and he hopes to be a journalist when he graduates from high school. On his school breaks, Suale helps with program monitoring and evaluation by interviewing students in our programs and asking them about their experiences and for their suggestions. Suale improves his English translation skills through this work and helps us to include student perspectives in program design and implementation.



*Suale interviewing
a student in the Scholarship Program in 2019*

“First I want to thank CRI for their wonderful help over the years in our education and their willingness to continue their great support as I am now going to Senior High School. I will continue to study hard in the SHS and complete with a distinction into the university. I thank all the donors and supporters of CRI.” Suale 2019

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Rukia training to become a weaver of traditional cloth.

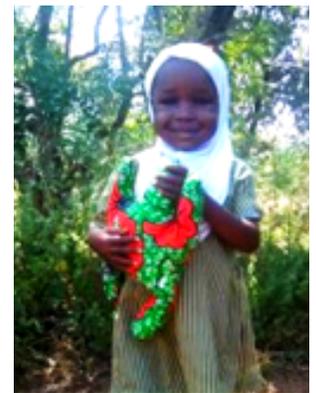
Vocational training can be a great opportunity for older youth who are not able to pursue traditional schooling, as well as for students who have completed school and are seeking employment opportunities. Our vocational program now includes 16 trainees who are each matched with a small business where they receive training for between three months to two years. Trainees are studying sewing, weaving, hair design, welding, construction, motorcycle repair, and furniture making.

When they graduate, students are either assisted with job placement (often being hired by the supervisors that trained them) or they are given a start-up grant to open their own business. Thus, this program provides incomes for graduates and creates local employment through business development. We hope growing participation in vocational training will begin to reduce migration to urban centers in the South, where young people can face significant challenges. Women owned businesses are particularly impactful and we have had many requests from women to help them pursue their educational and economic goals.

Vocational students receive the following support:

- Meetings with the student and their family to ensure that parents can support the student with meals and transportation in this long-term program
- Placement with a local business owner who provides training and mentoring
- Interviews with students and supervisors and collection of progress reports, to ensure the program is effective and students are having a positive experience
- Bicycles or partial funding for transportation
- Vocational training fees paid to the supervising business
- Purchase of training supplies – such as a sewing machine or repair tools

Graduates who choose to open their own small businesses are helped by community members who help to construct the business structure. Whenever possible, we support these businesses by contracting with them for program needs. For example, seamstress graduates opened their own business in 2017. Since then, they have sewn all of the uniforms for our early childhood schools. And, they are now training three new seamstress trainees.



The seamstresses also made stuffed animals for our early childhood students. The students were very excited to play with their frogs!

GHANA TREE PLANTING

With the support of a grant from The Pollination Project, our partners planted 40 native trees around one of our early childhood education centers in August 2019. The trees were purchased from RainCorps, a locally owned nursery, which also provided a tree planting consultant. The planting day engaged community leaders, parents, and students who helped with the tree planting and shared a community lunch.

The trees will be used as part of our early childhood education curriculum with students studying colors, numbers, measurement, science, and art. Each tree was fenced using leftover wood pieces to help protect them from goats and other damage. To increase the chances of survival in this arid climate, our partners purchased a water tank and constructed a rainwater catchment system. They also hired a tree caretaker who waters the trees every day.



COSTA RICA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION



Learning about the water cycle at a local Costa Rican public primary school

To support environmental education and conservation, Engage Globally collaborates with the Monteverde Conservation League (MCL) in Costa Rica. MCL protects and conserves the Children’s Eternal Rainforest, an area of more than 50,000 acres of highly biodiverse rainforest. Engage Globally supports MCL’s environmental education programs, including:

- Environmental education programming for 17 local schools
- In 2019 over 250 students learned about the water cycle, macro-invertebrates, and how they can help conserve fresh water, rivers, and forest biodiversity
- 287 students and 105 family members participated in trips to a local river to do water sampling and learn about invertebrates
- Other students participated in field trips to the Children’s Eternal Rainforest, which included educational presentations, hikes in the forest, and an opportunity to help with planting of native plants and trees
- Providing native plants and trees to local farmers, whose land borders or is near the Children’s Eternal Rainforest, for reforestation and biological corridor enhancement
- Education of over 7,000 annual visitors



Testing a local river and looking for macro-invertebrates, Costa Rica 2019



Girls participating in a community march for World Environmental Day on June 5, 2019



A member of CAN planting a tree with her mom

In 2019, with the support of the JustPax Foundation, Engage Globally funded the creation of a new girls' environmental education project, the Club Ambiente para Niñas (CAN). This club was designed to help inspire girls to continue to study environmental subjects after primary school. Under the leadership of environmental educator María Fernanda Rojas Murillo, the club had a very successful inaugural year. Seventeen 4th and 5th grade students from four elementary schools and family members:

- Studied forests and plastic pollution of rivers, forests, and oceans
- Cleaned up trash from a local river
- Wrote a group letter asking community leaders to help the river
- Created a banner and environmental art for a community march for World Environmental Day
- Met with female biologists and conservationists
- Visited a woman owned small business for plastic recycling
- Stayed overnight at the Children's Eternal Rainforest
- Helped plant trees at the Children's Eternal Rainforest
- Created a wide variety of artwork about forest conservation



Painting the rainforest during a visit to the Children's Eternal Rainforest with CAN

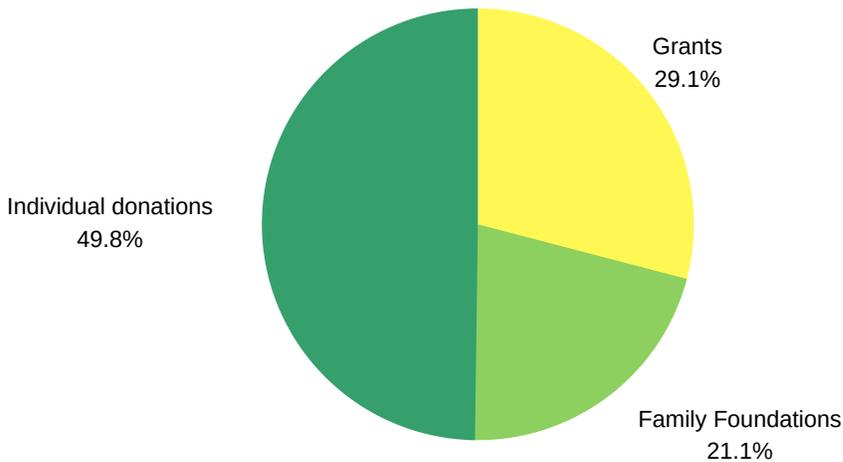
“ *What I liked about CAN was the beautiful experiences. I got to meet unforgettable friends, and had the opportunity to protect the environment and animals.* Paula, age 11 ”

Finance Report 2019

SUMMARY

Carryover from 2018	\$29614
Donations 2019	\$37837
Program expenses 2019	\$45961
Organization expenses 2019	\$ 3341
Carryover to 2020	\$18149

DONATIONS

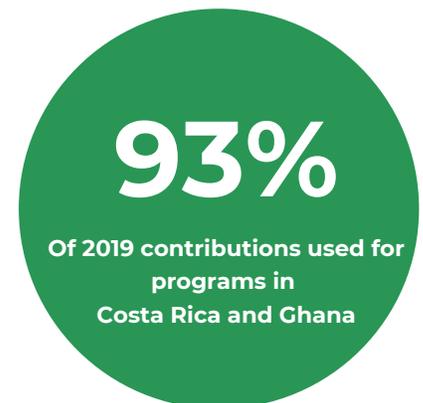
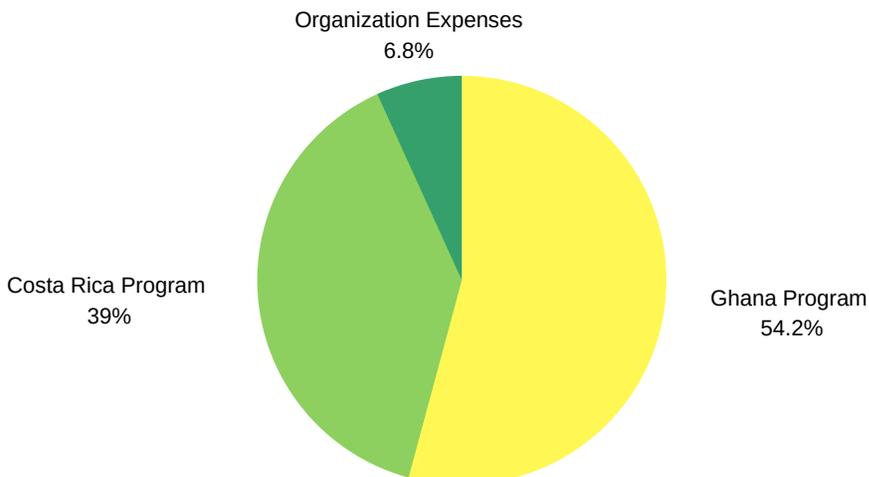


GRANTS

\$10K – JustPax Fund

\$1K – The Pollination Project

EXPENSES



HOW YOU Can Help

- Share Engage Globally's work with others who are interested in global education, conservation, and community-led sustainable development.
- Are you involved with a business or community group that might be interested in learning more about our projects? If so, please email us anytime.
- Invite an Engage Globally team member to speak with your group about our work and sustainable development strategies.
- Like and share our social media posts with others.
- Donate your birthday or other gift giving opportunity to Engage Globally.
- Help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22nd, 2020 - email us for more information.
- Host an event to raise awareness about Engage's work.
- Volunteer or intern with us. We have many short and long-term opportunities.
- Send your suggestions about how we can better engage our supporters!



IN APPRECIATION

Engage Globally is grateful to our many supporters and volunteers. We would especially like to thank the following for their support in 2019:

- JustPax Fund and The Pollination Project
- Anonymous donors who contributed in honor of their families and from family foundations
- The Engage Globally Board of Directors:
Kaila Drayton Ferrufino, Emily Kouterick, Aleah Myers, Gilbert Ruiz, Kara VanderKamp
- Intern and Program Assistant: Ruth Tadesse
- Photographers: Kaila Drayton Ferrufino, A Fatau Ziblim, and María Fernanda Rojas Murillo
- Volunteers: Christian Owens and Urvi Kaira



Contact information

Engage Globally is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Charitable contributions in the United States are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

www.engageglobally.org
engage@engageglobally.org

EIN: 45-5310434



617 Tewkesbury PI NW Washington, DC 20012-2633