



Engage Globally
2020 Annual
Report

**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**





••••• LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR •••••

Dear Friends,

2020 was a year of change and challenge for many of us. At Engage Globally we were especially grateful for our community-led model. Our community partners, with their knowledge of local needs and resources, were able to respond and adapt to COVID in impressive ways.

In Costa Rica, our work with the Monteverde Conservation League (MCL) and the Children's Eternal Rainforest concluded with the creation of virtual education materials for students, schools, and faith communities, supported by the JustPax Fund. We were grateful that MCL was able to creatively adapt to the long COVID shutdowns by developing new partnerships to continue their conservation work.

This year, Engage focused on supporting the resilience of our partners in Northern Ghana, Capacity Rural International (CRI). Our partners responded to the situation very quickly with emergency food for mothers of children under 5 and a public-health education program reaching over 2,000 people in six rural villages. The team trained participants in our youth scholarship program to speak about hand-washing and COVID in community meetings. They also provided hand-washing stations throughout the villages and at each of our schools. To increase hand-washing capacity, a new rainwater catchment system was installed.

Our early childhood education centers were able to open up relatively quickly with outdoor activities (pictured above) and the daily school lunch program. With support from The Pollination Project two large school gardens were planted to provide diverse nutrition for both school lunch programs. So many cucumbers and tomatoes were grown that many of the children who volunteered at the garden were able to take some home. We also continued our fruit tree planting project, expanding it to include youth in our scholarship program who were unexpectedly home for several months this year.

Next year, we look forward to expanding our work in solar energy, water, and women's agriculture, while continuing our educational, vocational and food security projects. We are very grateful for your continued support!

Heather Heckel
Engage Globally, Executive Director
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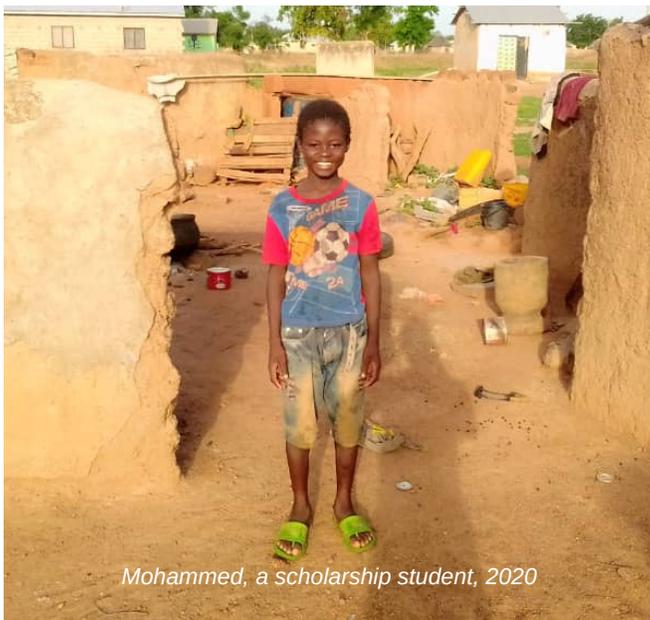
GHANA PROGRAMS

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 reduced and unpredictable rainfall; soil degradation; few economic opportunities; limited access to electricity; and low literacy. Many youth migrate to crowded cities in the South where they often face challenging 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.



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

Engage Globally supports the CRI team with program design, planning, and monitoring and evaluation. Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to fund the projects described below in 2020.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

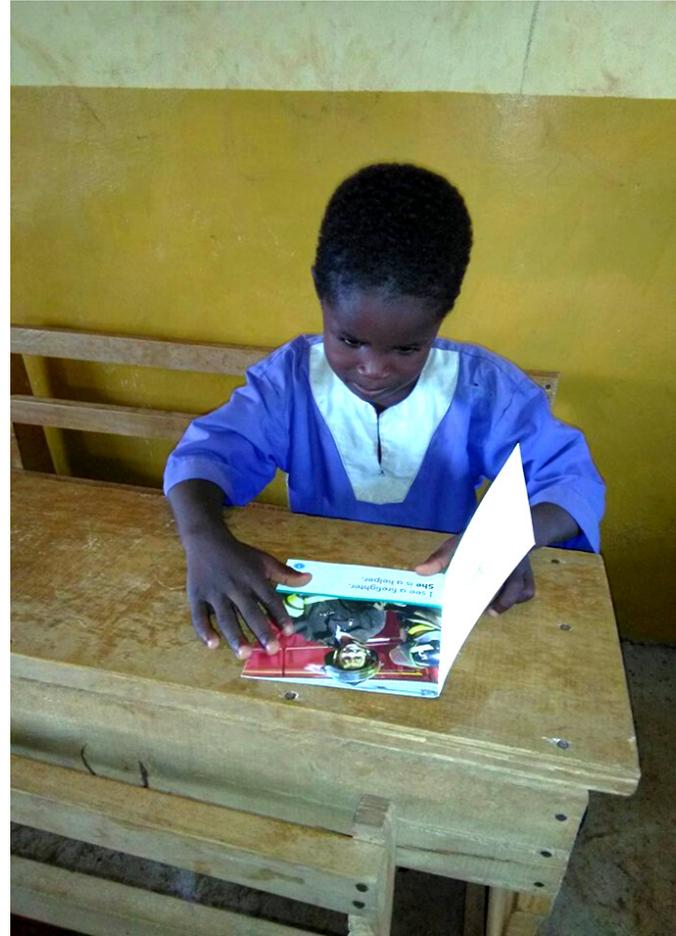
Our two early childhood learning centers currently enroll 325 children ages 3 to 9 from pre-K to third grade. Students are taught using a bilingual place-based curriculum. Teachers help to build skills through study of local culture, the environment, and daily living in their communities.

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. This year, both schools planted large food gardens and used them as outdoor learning opportunities. Students helped to plant and harvest. Community members also planted fruit trees around the schools.



An early childhood student learning how to read.

Many families would like to enroll their children in these schools and our priority goal in 2021/2022 is to build, and staff, a new school.

HAND WASHING AT SCHOOL

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.

Hand washing is a key strategy for reducing water-borne illnesses when communities lack access to clean water. Hand washing is also key to reducing the spread of viruses like COVID (described below).



SCHOOL LUNCHES

In our two early childhood centers, our 325 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. CRI employs three mothers to prepare lunches for the two schools. Because of the rising number of students in our early childhood program and COVID impacts on food prices, this is a relatively expensive program.

In 2020, we planted two large school gardens, described below, to provide foods like peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, peanuts, and beans for our school lunch program.

.....YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP.....

PROGRAM



A scholarship student with a family member

In 2020, our scholarship program grew from 38 to 52 students. 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 nine and public senior high schools. These students make up the majority of youth from our partner villages who are able to attend school past primary school. 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 expenses 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 achieve gender equity.

Each scholarship student receives the following support:

- School and required testing and PTA fees paid each term
- Provision of school books and other learning materials
- Three school uniforms and a pair of shoes
- A bicycle for students in grades three to eight as schools are located several kilometers away
- Bicycle maintenance and repair provided by a vocational program graduate
- 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 learning progress evaluations



VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



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. In 2020, our vocational program involved 17 trainees who were matched with a small business where they receive training for between three months to two years. Trainees are studying sewing, weaving, hair design, cloth dyeing, welding, construction, motorcycle repair, and furniture making.

When they graduate, participants 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 and small-business development. We hope increased 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 trainees and supervisors and collection of progress reports, to ensure the program is effective and a positive experience
- Bicycles or partial funding for transportation
- Vocational training fees paid to the supervising business
- Purchase of all supplies – such as a sewing machine or repair tools

Whenever possible, we support graduate's businesses by contracting with them for other program needs. For example, seamstress graduates opened their own business in 2018. Since then, they have sewn all of the uniforms for our early childhood schools. In 2020, they trained three new trainees and sewed masks as part of CRI's COVID response.

GHANA TREE PLANTING

With the support of a grant from The Pollination Project, our partners planted 50 fruit trees near our early childhood education centers and in the communities. This year, students in our scholarship program each were able to help plant a tree. The trees were purchased from a woman-owned nursery.

Each tree is fenced using leftover wood pieces to help protect them from goats and other damage. To increase the chances of survival in very challenging climate and soil conditions, our partners constructed a rainwater catchment system. They also hired a tree caretaker, from our youth scholarship program, who waters the trees.



COVID-19 RESPONSE



Our partners began responding to the COVID situation in March 2020 before any cases were identified in the region. An early priority was the distribution of food (rice, beans, and peanut oil) to mothers of children under age 5 who were facing food shortages. Food was also provided to families who unexpectedly had young adults return from the urban centers due to national government policies.



In order to help slow the spread of the virus, we provided our 325 students with family sized soap bars. CRI also held three public health training meetings teaching strategies for reducing virus transmission and hand washing. Students in our scholarship program assisted with these presentations as peer health educators. Over 900 bars of soap were distributed to attending families.

CRI staff, teachers, and scholarship students were also trained about the virus.

Vocational program graduates and trainees were hired to sew masks for our staff and leaders in the community.

A key focus in 2021 is to install additional rainwater catchment systems to expand hand washing opportunities. We are also creating a resilience response fund.



SCHOOL GARDEN



Three students collecting cucumbers from the garden

With the help of a grant from The Pollination Project we were able to plant 50 fruit trees, as described above. The grant also funded the creation of two large (1.5 acre) gardens at each of our early childhood centers to help enhance future food security. The gardens are used for a variety of educational activities. Our partners also installed a rainwater catchment system on our second school to water the garden and trees.

Project accomplishments include:

- Planting of 50 fruit and nut trees at and near the schools
- Planting of about 50 trees by youth in their homes and communities
- Construction of garden fences and plowing of two large gardens
- Planting of vegetables, harvesting, and distribution of some produce to families
- Installation of a rainwater catchment system

In 2021, we will continue this project, while also investigating new strategies for increasing tree survival rates in this challenging climate.



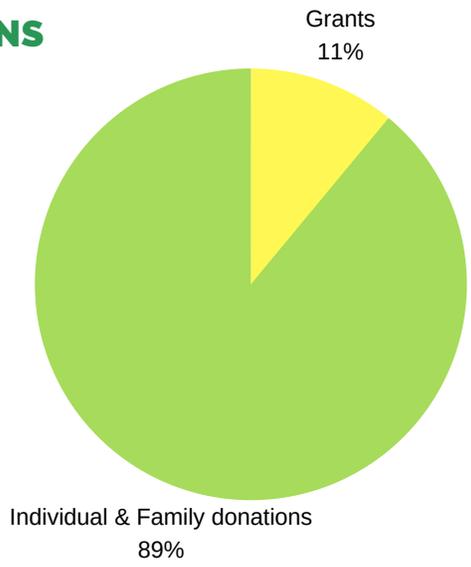
*Installing a garden fence at the school
April 2020*

Finance Report 2020

SUMMARY

Carryover from 2019	\$18,149.25
Total Donations	\$45,443.47
Carryover to 2021	\$19,787.55

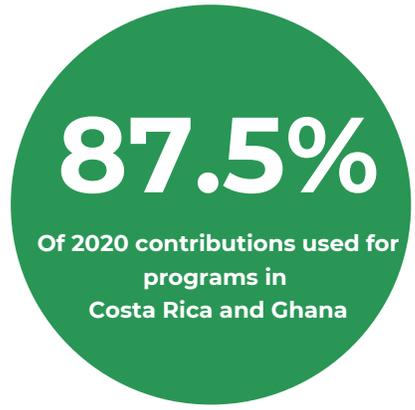
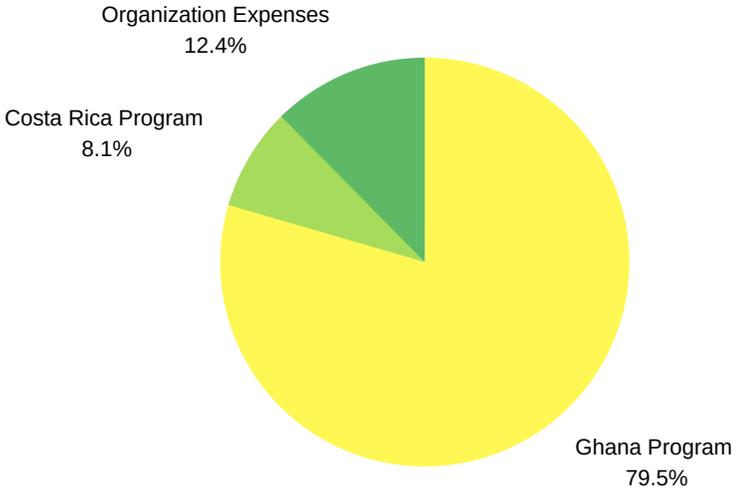
DONATIONS



GRANTS

\$5K – 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.
- Follow us and like and share our social media posts with others.
- Donate your birthday or other gift giving opportunity to Engage Globally.
- Donate to our sustainable development and education programs.
- Volunteer or intern with us. We have 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 2020:

- The Pollination Project
- Anonymous donors who contributed in honor of their families and from family foundations
- The Engage Globally Board of Directors: Kaila Drayton, Emily Kouterick, Lauren Kruglinski, Aleah Myers, Gilbert Ruiz, and Kara VanderKamp
- Our wonderful summer 2020 interns!
- Photographers: Kaila Drayton and A Fatau Ziblim



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

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