



ACHIEVERS GHANA EDUCATION

Concept Note

COVID-19 Home Literacy Project in
Nima and Mamobi Slum Communities.

27th April, 2020

Project Abstract

Achievers Ghana Education is seeking a grant to expand its **COVID-19 Home Literacy Project** with the objective of helping to sensitise the community in local language to ensure residents of Nima and Mamobi communities of Greater Accra region are well informed on COVID-19 preventive measures and with the disruption of all activities including the closure of schools, it is imperative our students and pupils are engaged while at home with innovative ways of bridging their knowledge. Achievers Ghana Education is therefore reaching 2,500 children in these aforementioned communities with home literacy and providing educational materials uniquely tailored towards educating pupils on COVID-19 prevention but also making sure they have ample materials to keep them engaged academically.

Statement of Need

Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. These nationwide closures are impacting over 90% of the world's student population. Several other countries have implemented localized closures impacting millions of additional learners.

Ghana confirmed its first case of coronavirus on March 12 and has since reported a total of 1,550 infections and 11 deaths. In a bid to keep the rapidly spreading virus at bay, the government has announced a series of sweeping measures including banning mass gatherings and shutting down all borders and schools. But the coronavirus pandemic has revealed the stark regional, social and economic inequalities in Ghana's educational system.

Closing schools indefinitely has long been the reality for many high school pupils in slum communities of Nima and Mamobi of Greater Accra region, where educational facilities operate with limited infrastructure compared to those in well planned communities. This has often manifested in basic schools' inability to resume classes on time due to a shortage of teachers, delays in feeding grants and a lack of building facilities which, on occasions, have resulted in children having to stay out of schools.

Almost all pupils and students who are kept out of the classroom by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Nima and Mamobi communities do not have access to a household computer and have no internet at home, at a time when digitally based distance learning is used to ensure educational continuity. Even teachers in these slum communities do not have access to reliable information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and household connectivity thus the rapid transition to online learning has been very challenging.

Program Description

"Children are the hidden victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns and school closures are affecting their education..." Henrietta H. Fore

Recognising that knowledge gap and need to help address the situation, Achievers Ghana on Thursday April, 23rd launched the Home Literacy project in Nima and Mamobi Slum Communities of greater Accra region, the project mainly aimed at providing young learners within the target area with grade appropriate learning materials in order to reduce the impact of the pandemic on their education. Contents of the learning materials is centred on the precautionary measures of the novel virus. Passionate team members of Achievers Ghana and volunteers will be engaged with children using a participatory and (edutainment) approach. The team and volunteers will visit about 100 households and engages with 2,500 children on weekly bases.

Goals & Objectives

The goal of the Home Literacy Project is to mitigate the immediate impact of school closures, particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and to facilitate the continuity of education for all.

According to UNESCO (2020), the closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic will widen learning inequalities and hurt vulnerable children and youth disproportionately.

The main objectives include:

1. To sensitise the community in local language to ensure residents of deprived communities are well informed on COVID-19 preventive measures;
2. To bridge the knowledge gap of vulnerable children in deprived communities while at home and to kindle the spirit of learning in them before the opening of schools.
3. To help create a gap to the interrupted learning due to closure of schools by providing essential learning materials to children who are deprived of opportunities for growth and development.
4. To mitigate confusion and stress that may arise among children and their parents.
5. To bring relief assistance to parents with limited education and resources.
6. To help solve the challenging of creating and maintaining distance learning.
7. To help reduce domestic violence and school drop-outs.

Budget

The budget includes funds for Reading Materials, Pens/Pencils, Transportation for volunteers, snacks for volunteers and some sundry items. To some extent, some pupils will be ask to use their already textbooks and other classroom materials.

ITEMS	QUANTITY	PRICE (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
Reading Materials	2,500	0.26	650.00
Pens/Pencils	1,000	0.25	250.00
Transportation	25	(0.86 x 25 times)	537.50
Snacks/Water	25	(0.86 x 25 times)	537.50
Miscellaneous			25.00
Totals			\$2,000.00

Evaluation

Standardized reading tests will be conducted at the start of the Home Literacy Project and again at the end of the 3 months period to determine increases in reading and comprehension. Additionally, those students with ADD will be tested to determine increased reading attention rates.

Staff and Organizational Information

25 qualified volunteer teachers from the existing schools within the communities of Nima and will be used to conduct the exercise.