

Eschenbach, June 2023

## **Children in Street Communities need our support!**

Dear Donor,

The economic hardships in Ghana continue to increase, putting pressure on children and families, causing them to migrate across the country in an attempt to survive. Children and families are looking for possibilities to make money so that they can provide for their basic needs. These movements and the desperation to survive are resulting in the emergence of **Street Communities** in several cities in Ghana.

Street Communities are growing **settlements on the street where children and adults pursue their economic activities and end up living in the same location. In this setting children are part of the economic activity chain.** Children and families work and live in simple wooden structures with high records of parental neglect, teenage pregnancies, irregular school attendance, high rates of school dropouts, and to the complete lack of engagement in the education system.

We can look at the city of Takoradi as one example. It is the third largest city in Ghana and the capital of the Western Region. It has many fishing communities where street communities are growing. The needs of the children in these street communities are immense, diverse and complex. Boys as young as 11 years and below are selling fish while girls are involved in the sex trade. The children need our support so that they exit these negative activities and reengage in school.

**These circumstances have to change. Children need to be protected from abuse, have time to play and go to school.**



Kwame, who is 10 years old, is a case in point. He was not in school and was living with his family in a small wooden structure on the street. He hawked and scaled fish for as little as 10 GHC a day and would give the money to his mother to feed the rest of the family. His only life perspective was to remain in this setting and community, because that is the only thing he knew. He needed to learn how to write and read, how to think on his own so that he could become an independent young man with the potential to change what is not good for children in these communities. CFC has enabled him to go to school with the opportunity to learn a profession and to earn a decent living

for this family in the future. He and his family are so happy and grateful for this chance that will enable a big change in his life and theirs! **We gave him the chance and he and his family will now hopefully benefit for the long term.**

Through the passionate and hard work of our 3 team members in Takoradi during the past five months,

- There is a growing awareness of the need for children to return to school.
- Street-connected children are not living on the streets any longer and instead are reunified with their families and are going to school along with their siblings.
- Children who were at high risk to move to the street, have remained in their families.
- Non Profit Organisations and the Department of Social Welfare have come together and are planning joint interventions to make a bigger impact on the children in the different street communities.



Thanks again for your amazing support. Together we can give many more children like Kwame the chance to be change makers for themselves, their families and their communities.

Warmly,

**Daniela Rüdisüli Sodjah**