

Annual Report 2023



chance for children
daily life | school | vocational training

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Credits

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AT A GLANCE

3,350 children

reached on the streets

873 children

supported and provided with education in DIC, Homes and families

101 children

reunited with their families

39 young adults

supported in vocational training through our TVET Agency or in university

10 communities

impacted to establish more sustainable structures, including family savings plans and reduced migration of children



FOREWORD BY THE FOUNDATION BOARD

The year 2023 has been successful for Chance for Children in many ways. This is not at all self-evident given the ongoing, major challenges. The economic and political situation in Ghana appears to be relatively stable compared to other African countries, but has continued to deteriorate in 2023. This makes it even more important that the weakest members of our society receive support. The Chance for Children Ghana team works to achieve this every day.

For management in Ghana, finding suitable employees is one of the main obstacles towards achieving the set goals. Fortunately, the two new locations, Takoradi in the southwest, and Dambai in the northeast, were opened as planned at the beginning of 2023. In the reporting year, Chance for Children reached over 20% more children across all locations compared to the previous year.

This is only possible thanks to our loyal donors. Even though it did not always look positive, we were able to achieve our budgetary forecasts in 2023. Because the current environment in fundraising is very challenging, the Foundation Board is also elaborating new ways in which it can secure the necessary financial resources it needs to continue building a sustainable future for Chance for Children.

Unfortunately, there is also something sad to report from 2023. Within a few months, both of Daniela and Roger's parents, Köbi and Margrith Rüdüsüli, passed away. With them, Chance for Children is losing two people who, since its founding, had been passionate about giving street-connected children and their families in Ghana a chance for a better life. They have supported Daniela and her team with tireless commitment over the years. To a considerable extent it was because of their dedication that Chance for Children has been able to achieve so much to date. We are very grateful to them and honor their memory.

The Foundation Board is grateful to all donors, Daniela Rüdüsüli Sodjah and her motivated and committed team of employees in Ghana, the Swiss office and everyone who volunteers towards the valuable work that benefits the street-connected children in Ghana.

On behalf of the Chance for Children Foundation Board,

Martin Jud

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Donors, Partners, Board, Colleagues and Friends,

Amid economic challenges and soaring inflation, our strategy, "one inch wide, one mile deep," empowered over 4,000 children and families across six locations in Ghana.

We are delighted to share the successful establishment of new branches in Dambai and Takoradi in January 2023. Through our concerted efforts, we have reunified over 100 children with their families, supported 350 children in schools and their families, and impacted numerous children through street outreach, the Drop-In Center, and Residential Homes. Our dedication to stabilizing and optimizing current departments and services has resulted in increased speed, efficiency, and quality.

A noteworthy achievement is the acceptance of our TVET Agency and dual-apprenticeship model in various businesses. With recent expansion to Northern Ghana, we successfully started our TVET Program in Tamale for 12 girls in May.

Yet, some challenges persist as urbanization evolves, demanding flexible and sustainable solutions for street-connected children. The harsh reality of the increased need for children to work on the street to support their families and the emergence of migrant slums continue to stare us in the face. Recognizing this, we are harnessing the potential of digitization to optimize processes, allowing our staff to focus on more workable models to address evolving street situations and providing lasting solutions for our children.

Our accomplishments amid these challenges reflect the unwavering support of our generous donors, the dedication of our passionate team, the invaluable guidance from the Foundation Board and the Head office in Switzerland, and the collaborative efforts of our partners.

As we look ahead to our Vision 2025, which envisions expanding our reach to eight locations, we invite you to join us on this journey of creating impactful and sustainable change for street-connected children.



TWO NEW BRANCHES



Based on our findings in 2022, we opened branches in Dambai and Takoradi. These are mainly fishing and farming communities and hotspots for street activities involving children.

The new branches have been running since January 2023.

Takoradi employs a team of three, and Dambai a team of two social workers. The primary focus of both locations is to prevent children in the communities from running to the street and to reunify children on the street with their families.

We do this in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and various local partners.

The presence in multiple locations has given us additional insights into the movements and needs of street-connected children across Ghana, which are changing and diverse, depending on season and setting.

The Takoradi Team developed the “Community Model” which addresses school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, and children in deep-sea fishing.





PREPARING OUR GROWTH STEP FOR 2025

We work hard towards this vision and have taken one first growth steps this year.

Our vision for 2025 is that we are present at eight locations in Ghana.

- We studied the in and out migration in Ghana which helped us to react faster, more proactively, and adequately to situations of street-connected children.
- We focused on Management development that will be essential in the growth of CFC towards approx. 100 employees across eight locations by 2025.
- The social workers are upskilled and the expertise in Social Work is widened so that they can react to the demanding and changing situations of street-connected children and families.
- We advanced in our goal that social workers have more time to spend directly with the children instead of working long hours on papers by optimizing processes. We moved away from manual paper-based to more automated processes.

OUR PROGRAMS



Education

In collaboration with a team from the “Teachers Training College in Zürich, PHZH” we explored the essential skills that children need to develop their potential in the next decades.

The outcome was to focus our activities around the 4Cs - Communication - Critical Thinking - Creativity and Collaboration - and establish strong partnerships. The valuable insights from the PHZH team will be useful for our work with the children and we are thankful that with their support we have crafted a roadmap for the future.

Social Work

Our social workers exchanged closely across the branches and continuously adjusted interventions to emerging trends in the world and evolving situations in Ghana. They further developed different interventions in child safeguarding, family strengthening and community engagement.

In July, our social workers gathered and discussed vital topics including the emergence of street communities, adolescent care, shared family responsibility, confidentiality, and digital-age social work. This professional exchange produced diverse interventions tailored to meet the evolving needs of children in the 21st-century.



STREET WORK

Our street team engages with street-connected children daily across five major locations in Ghana.

Notably, the cities of Accra, Kumasi, and Takoradi are experiencing a rapid rise in illegal street communities. In these communities, 90% of children we interacted with live with their families on the street, according to our internal data.

This prompted us to develop workable models and collaborate with appropriate partners to support families to assume more responsibility for their children. For instance, in Takoradi, we closely collaborate with the fishers' group leaders to protect children from the hazards of street activities at the seashore.

In Tamale and Dambai, children are found on the streets on their own, often migrating from nearby villages to earn a living in marketplaces. It is crucial to identify and assist them promptly to return to their families and back to school or apprenticeships, before getting deeply involved in street work or moving further to the urban south.



DROP-IN CENTER

At our Drop-in Centre (DIC) in Abossey Okai, Accra, children from the streets can play or rest and join classes or workshops. Furthermore, they can wash themselves and receive a hot meal. Our experts also offer medical and psychological care to those in need.

This year, an average of **33 children attended the DIC daily**. The numbers at the DIC are declining as Abossey Okai and surroundings have transformed into permanent settlements, where children live with their families.

A positive outcome is the faster reunification of children with their families, due to our presence across Ghana.

We adopted approaches to get insights into new street hotspots, enrolled **over 50 children back to school**, and placed many in stable family situations. Our tailored interventions in street communities, like school enrolment and accelerated learning, impacted many children this year, reuniting them with family and bringing them back to school.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

In our residential home, we warmly welcomed street-connected children, and provided tailored physical, social, and psychological support.

Beyond necessities like food, clothing, and shelter, the children experience a safe, secure environment with access to education, health, and social services. Improved child safeguarding and environmental health significantly contributed to enhanced well-being. Family tracing, the children's vacation stays with families, and follow-up visits by social workers were pivotal.

Our interventions led to improved reunification rates into stable families and boosted academic performance of children.

In 2024, our focus is to optimize processes, allowing social workers to dedicate more quality time to the children while imparting essential 21st-century skills.

Youth Flats

In our supervised youth flats, young adults transition from Residential Home care to independent living. With minimal supervision while living together, they learn vital life skills like time and money management, interpersonal skills, and emotional intelligence.

Social workers provide periodic guidance, and young adults assume higher responsibility for themselves, initiating bank savings, enrolling in health insurance, becoming registered voters, and pursuing education or careers.

Some successfully completed vocational training, now earning income, and living independently. In 2024, we will impact more young adults with higher focus on skill development and independence.



19 children

came to Hebron Home

11 children

were reunified with their families or into youth flats



REUNIFICATION

Our teams successfully brought **101 children back to their families**, either through daily street work or from our Residential Home for children. We actively supported families in creating stable and nurturing environments, ensuring that once reunified, children stay with their families, attend school/training, and do not return to the streets. Our social workers engaged families to provide social and emotional support, fostering a sense of safety for children in their families. Our focus is growing towards strengthening families to fully take responsibility for their children.

Expanding to new locations brings us closer to families, and collaboration among branches accelerates reunification. In 2024, we aim to enhance the transition of children from the street to their families further by reviewing, standardizing, and fully implementing our transition guidelines, to make the process even smoother and reunify more children with their families.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING



We focus on strengthening not just individual children but whole families, promoting family independence so that family members can provide the necessary care for their children. Our team focused on Child Protection, Education, and enhanced Livelihoods.

We assisted families to improve how they support the well-being of their children and educated them on different topics relating to the growth and development of children. Through our well-established partnerships, families could get connected to various resources, including financial services and vocational training. Some received interest-free loans, promoting entrepreneurship alongside financial literacy.

To broaden our impact, we evaluated families' economic vulnerabilities, identified gaps, and developed a new Family Strengthening Program. This initiative, to be partly implemented in 2024, aims to empower families to assume full responsibility for their children.

COMMUNITY WORK

Our team actively prevented children from leaving home in 10 communities across Ghana, including six villages near Tamale and Dambai, and four slum settlements in the urban areas of Takoradi and Kumasi. We collaborated with community committees made up of respected persons and strengthened the existing local structures.

We impacted different target groups through educational workshops that addressed issues affecting the communities. The impact is clear: fewer children are running from the communities to the streets, and families are taking increased responsibility. Some families are now connected to banks and saving for their children's education. We have strengthened partnerships and continue to prevent children from migrating to the streets of Tamale or further down south.

Stakeholders in these communities are more vigilant about school attendance. They are creating safer environments for children by standing against child abuse and exploitation – ensuring that children feel more secure in their communities.

10 communities
impacted

4800 people
reached through workshops



TVET PROGRAM



In the southern region, our TVET Program has gained firm acceptance across diverse businesses. We employed a dual track vocational training and education model that emphasizes 80% work-based practice and 20% knowledge with ethical standards.

Dedicated youth from Accra and Kumasi actively engaged in monthly TVET training weeks, focusing on ethical coaching and individual reflection. Our Business Club fostered partnerships with six international companies and the Swiss Embassy. The Club enhanced skill development through internships and knowledge exchange among partners. Notably, young adults completing training as caterers, beauticians, builders, and electricians seamlessly transitioned into financially independent professional roles.

We have extended our TVET Agency to Northern Ghana, introducing a tailored model that additionally addresses low literacy levels for young women in vocational training. Our team is geared up to implement the model in 2024.

34 young professionals

were impacted by the TVET Agency

6 young adults

completed their training with the support of the TVET Agency

GRADUATES

This year marked a remarkable achievement as children and young adults graduated from our support programs, equipped with vital vocational training and life skills. These accomplished individuals are now prepared to excel in their chosen education or career paths and make positive contributions to their families and communities.

Our recent survey of graduates from the past five years highlights the impactful outcomes of our initiatives. Our young professionals are mostly employed, showcasing the effectiveness of new programs like the TVET Agency in facilitating successful transitions. Furthermore, most of these graduates are supporting their siblings in education. This emphasizes the far-reaching ripple effects of our efforts within families and communities.

82% of graduates

are working and earning income to support themselves

52% of graduates

who work are supporting their siblings' education



SUCCESS STORIES

Abena (Accra)

Significant milestones unfolded for many of our support beneficiaries. Among them is our lovely young adult, Abena, who completed a two-year catering training program. This accomplishment signifies more than completion or certification; it marks the beginning of a new chapter where she can actively earn a livelihood and become self-sufficient. Congratulations to her for mastering employable skills. She now earns a decent living and has an independent life.

This achievement is an indication of the effectiveness of our support programs in yielding tangible, life-changing results. It embodies the essence of our commitment to fostering self-reliance through skill development and promises a brighter future for those we support.



Kweku (Takoradi)

Our commitment to reunifying children with their families and enrolling them back in school remained resolute. Despite his efforts to survive on the street at the seashore and to finance his education, Kweku could not earn enough to return to school.

Our team's intervention was timely – he was reunited with his family and returned to school. The impact of our interventions extended beyond his individual transformation, as his family received social and economic support to provide for him. Today, in a more secure environment, Kweku and his four siblings thrive in a stable family that has a sustainable business running. This outcome underscores the effectiveness of interventions like family strengthening in fostering education, family stability, and a hopeful future for street-connected children.



PARTNERS & DONORS

Collaborations

We pride ourselves in our growing network of various partners and collaborations. Below are three examples:



Three of our youths completed a three-month internship with **Trashy Bags**, a social enterprise based in Accra that manufactures a range of products via upcycling waste. They were given hands on training in sewing, finishing and quality control, and completed their internship with the ability to produce bags. Trashy Bags also facilitated one meeting of the Business Club of the TVET Agency, and we also collaborated on the School Bag Initiative.



Dagomba Association supports women's groups in two communities in Northern Ghana, building up a small-scale business. All women were trained by a female trainer. Some of those women met mothers of children we are supporting in our communities in the north: They shared their experiences to inspire them and to generate income by developing small local businesses and taking care of their children.



Our collaboration peaked with a joint, comprehensive child protection training program for our social workers across branches. This initiative enhanced our professional's expertise in addressing issues related to children. The collaboration exemplified the impactful synergy between our organizations, advancing our shared mission of safeguarding the well-being of children at risk

Our Gratitude

Once again, this year, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who endorsed our cause in 2023. Thank you so much in the name of each child, family and community! We would like to mention a selection of Foundations, Churches and Associations who have been supporting us:



Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche
des Kantons St.Gallen
Weltweite Kirche



Josef Wiederkehr Stiftung

OUTLOOK 2024

We are committed to sustaining our outreach to 4,000 street-connected children across six locations and enhancing our sustainable approach. We are increasing child reunification with families by 30%. This implies maximizing results from our street outreach to bring more children into stable situations.

The overarching vision is to provide more children and families with a renewed perspective of life and address the growing street situation nationwide. By 2025, we aspire to expand our presence to eight locations where children are in street situations.

We will navigate this challenging opportunity by assessing Ghana's migration landscape, leveraging our existing team strengths, and further develop our integrated model for community work.

In collaboration with PHZH, we envision a digital learning platform for our children and partners, providing 21st-century skills content accessible in both urban and remote areas.

As we approach our 25th anniversary in 2024, we eagerly look forward to celebrating this significant milestone, marking 25 years of action for street-connected children.

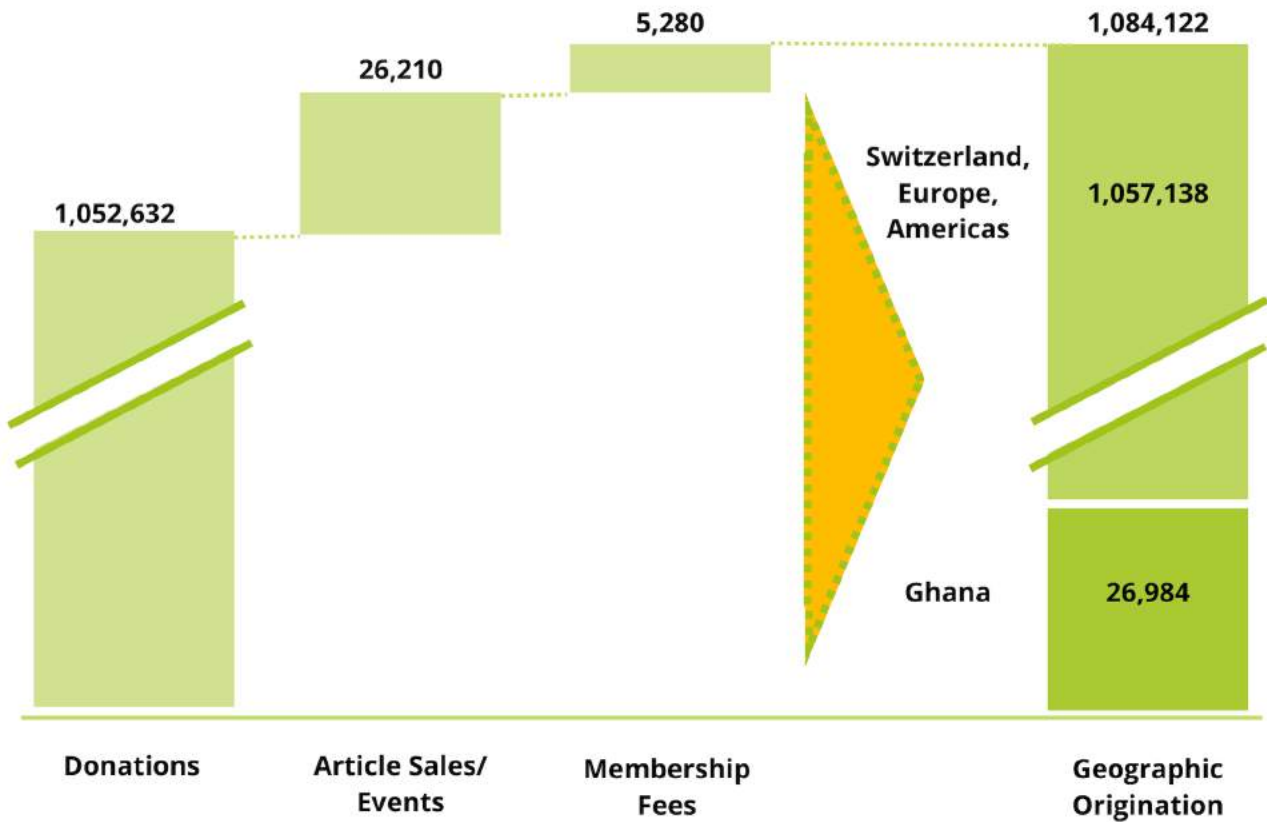


**25 YEARS
OF ACTION**
FOR STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN
1999 - 2024



INCOME

- During 2023, Chance for Children received income totalling CHF 1,084,122, with CHF 26,984 coming from Ghana.
- Article sales and events/workshops generated income of CHF 26,210



Swiss Francs, January 1 until December 31 2023

EXPENSES

- CHF 890,054 for more than 4,000 Children and Families
- 3,350 Children reached on the Street in 5 cities
- 873 Children supported with education
- 10 communities impacted through various workshops

Accra Streetwork
1,587 children with
CHF 18 avg.
cost per child

Handicrafts / Volunteers

11 students & other
employees supporting CfC

TVET

34 young adults & 28 trainers

Dambai

45 children with
CHF 597 avg.
cost per child in families &
410 children on the street

Homes in Hebron

75 children with
CHF 3,545 avg.
cost per child

Takoradi

50 children with
CHF 747 avg.
cost per child in families
& 601 children
on the street

Accra Family Support

85 children with
CHF 762 avg.
cost per child in families

Kumasi

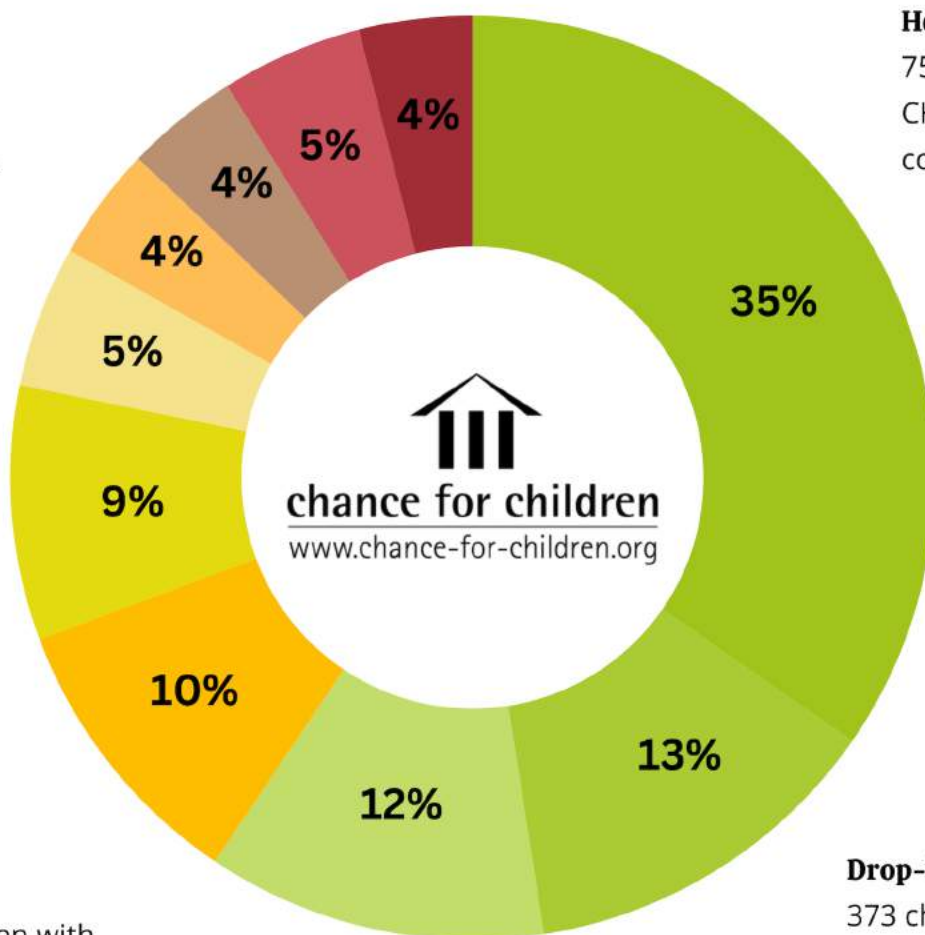
93 children with
CHF 732 avg.
cost per child in families
& 402 children on the street

Tamale

152 children with
CHF 569 avg.
cost per child in families
& 350 children on the street

Drop-in Center

373 children with
CHF 267 avg.
cost per child



Swiss Francs, January 1 until December 31 2023

A SPECIAL THANKS

THANKS to everyone who has supported us this year!

Also because of **YOU**, over **4,000 street-connected children** have a chance for a **better future!**

A Special Thanks:

- To all members and the board of the association Chance for Children
- To the board of the foundation Chance for Children
- To the Head office of Chance for Children
- To the entire team in Ghana
- To all volunteers and interns
- To all stakeholders
- To all donors



DONATIONS

Swiss Franc bank account

Raiffeisenbank Benken

(Clearing: 80808, PC-Konto der Bank: 90-5115-5)

Donation Account Foundation Chance for Children

Obere Delgg 3 – 8733 Eschenbach

IBAN: CH90 8080 8007 5132 3407 3

SWIFT/BIC: RAIFCH22

GHC bank account

Absa Bank Ghana LTD

Absa House, High Street

P.O. Box GP 2949, GH-Accra

Swift-code: BARCGHAC

Account holder: Chance for Children

Account No.: 0120000001057131

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