

SAFE-CHILD ADVOCACY

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF KUMASI

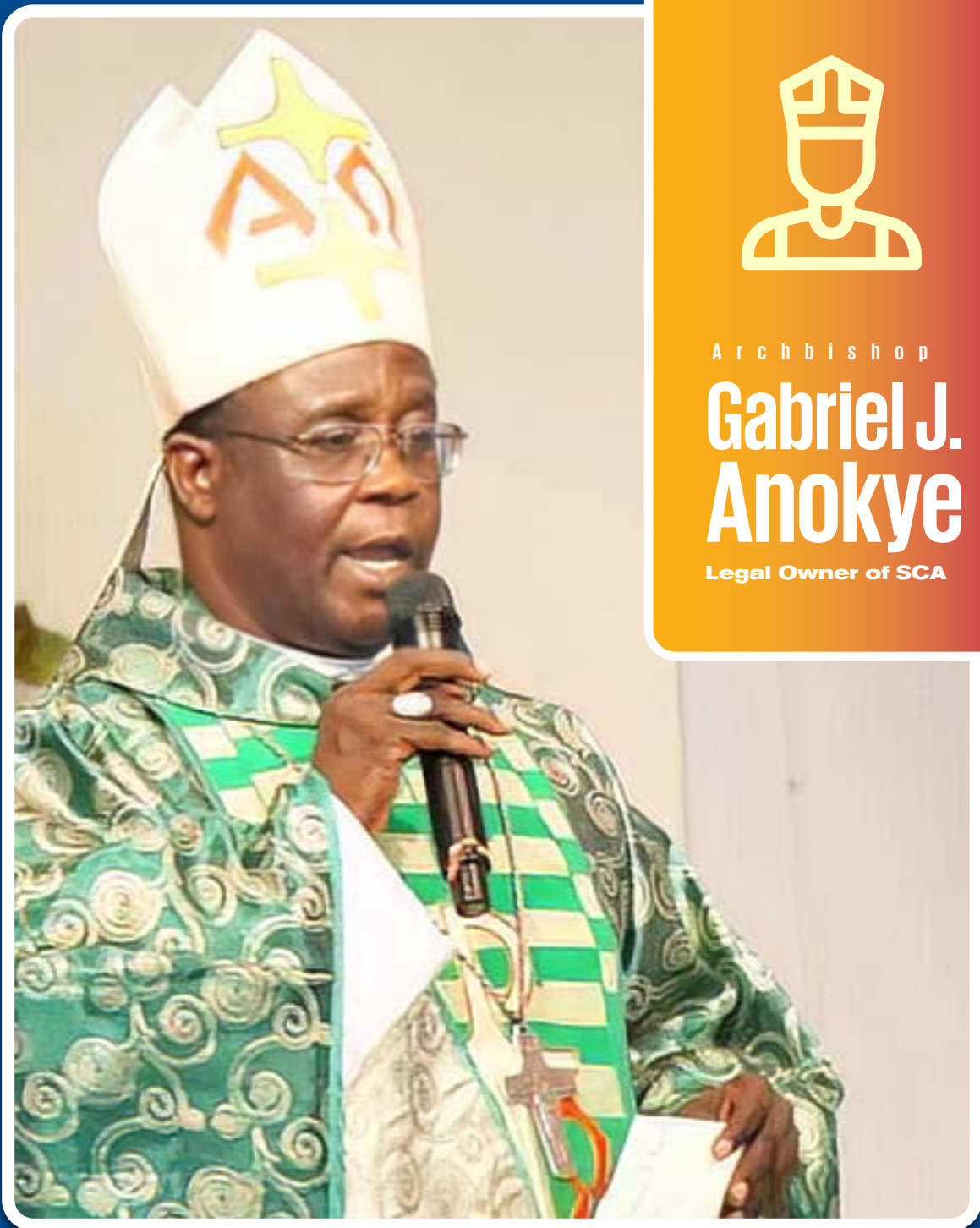


ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Safe-Child Advocacy

**ANNUAL
REPORT**





Archbishop

**Gabriel J.
Anokye**

Legal Owner of SCA



Sr. Ifeoma Arinze, the Provincial Superior of the Daughters of Charity, Province of Nigeria, during her visitation to DC Kumasi. The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul are the managers of Safe-Child Advocacy.



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Message from the Executive Director



Olivia Umoh,
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Executive Director
Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi
Safe Child Advocacy.

Looking back on the year 2024 just ended, I am filled with gratitude to God who has journeyed with us in our day-to-day plans, activities and interventions. We started the year with our usual staff retreat, commending our work year, our funders, collaborators, partners, supporters, friends and networks (all whom I will henceforth refer to as associates) to the goodness of God.

It was another year full of life-changing activities. We continued

the regular interventions of supporting children and other persons in street and other demeaning conditions with provision of opportunities/ access to formal education and employable skill training.

In 2024, we continued to work towards the realization of the theme: “Promoting Child Rights and Equal Opportunities for Children in Street and other Vulnerable Situations” by addressing the root causes of

child streetism and other forms of child exploitation. We did this by educating 3 communities on Child Safeguarding/Protection, an intervention which is gradually resulting in behavioral change in these communities. 2024, was also notable for the regular public education carried out by SCA staff through quarterly webinars, community education, social media campaign, school awareness creation and street corner education as well as massive education on Safeguarding

provided for other organizations in Ghana and beyond.

Our interventions, namely, sponsorship in formal education and skill training took an appreciable turn as the number of participants kept soaring in response to the heightened harsh economic landscape affecting our nation Ghana. SCA rose to challenge of human trafficking which seem to have gotten out of control particularly between Nigeria and Ghana. A pitiable situation where hundreds of Nigerian youth from the age of 11 are sadly trafficked by their fellow Nigerian people into Ghana and forced into prostitution (mainly the girls), Online fraud known as Qnet and Yahoo businesses (for the boys). Remarkable in our anti-human trafficking response was the coordination/strengthening of the network of Consecrated Persons Against Human Trafficking (ConPAHT- Talitha Kum Ghana) which SCA undertook to beef the response against human trafficking, particularly, by educating the public to prevent people falling prey to the trap.

The details of these issues and our interventions are discussed elaborately in the following pages of this report. I pray you have the interest to read through the report.

We owe debts of gratitude to our partner organizations, KZE/ Misereor, Adamfo Ghana, Wilde Ganzen, Conrad Hilton Foundation,

Sisters Rising World (SRW), Vincentian Lay Missionaries (VLM) and others who continued to fund our project activities for our target population amid the harsh global economic landscape. We are equally indebted to our numerous friends, locally and internationally. It is difficult not to mention some names like, Madam Theresa Amissah, Madam Beatrice Monfiston, Mr. Samuel Barden, and Uncle George.

To all the religious congregations who collaborated in providing services to our beneficiaries, the Missionary Sisters of Charity, the Missionaries of Africa, the Marist Brother's volunteers as well as the Ghana Talitha Kum network we could not have achieved all we did without you.

Our immense gratitude goes to the network of street-connected organizations and the anti-trafficking networks we shared ideas, expertise and best practices with. We achieved more because we journeyed together, combined efforts, multiplied momentum.

We are ever grateful to Sr. Ifeoma Arinze, the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity Province of Nigeria for your concern over our services which led you to make an official visitation to us, listen to our struggles and respond to our need for various resources.

To our dear father, the archbishop of Kumasi, Most Rev. Gabriel Justice Anokye for his trust in

us and unflinching support and encouragement, we can never thank you enough.

A million thanks to our beneficiaries whom we now fondly refer to as "participants" for responding to our programmes and profitably utilizing the resources invested in you.

To my dear team, words are inadequate to express my depth of gratitude to you for commitment to delivering multidimensional services to our broad and very diverse target groups.

Our services are undoubtably demanding; thus, we will continue to be at it. However, we need a wide network of collaborators to sustain our efforts to change inhuman conditions and create opportunities for our target group to thrive. We passionately call on individuals, communities, cooperations, the private sector and our government and its agencies for support. Alone we can make impacts, but together we can bring about desired change.





ABOUT

| Safe-Child Advocacy

Who We Are

Safe-Child Advocacy (SCA) is a non-profit organisation focused on assisting children, youths, and women in vulnerable situations, such as those living on the streets, in abusive situations, victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, child marriage, and children in situations characterized by extreme poverty.



Established in 2005 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi, SCA was instituted to address the problems of vulnerable children who live or work on the streets of Kumasi. SCA is managed by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, an international Congregation of Catholic Sisters

founded in France, in 1633 by St. Vincent De Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. With a mission to serve the poor, the Daughters of Charity actively works in various parts of the world, including Europe, America, Australia, Asia, and Africa, offering support to marginalised communities.



Background

According to a headcount by Ghana's Department of Social Welfare in 2013, about 60,000 children are living on the streets of Ghana. Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana, has been identified as a major transit place for the trafficking of child labour (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014) with about 20,000 children living on the streets (US Peace Corps, 2013).

A recent headcount of street-connected children in the Central Business District (CBD) of Kumasi revealed that a total of 6,693 street-connected children aged 0-18 years were found on the streets of Kumasi as of 2021 with 2,468 being males and 4,180 females (SCA, CFC and MFCS, 2021).

The generally perceived employment and lifestyle

opportunities in Kumasi mostly entice rural folks and people from Northern Ghana to pursue better economic opportunities in Kumasi (Adarkwa, 2012). Most of these children because of poverty, travel from Northern Ghana to the South to seek enhanced livelihood opportunities. The reality these children experience on the streets of Kumasi is very different.

Forced to work long hours, doing heavy manual labour for little financial benefit, always at risk of exploitation, they become deeply disillusioned at the nature of the jobs they are forced to do and end up sleeping on the streets, in the slums, and in uninhabitable spaces. Furthermore, many young girls, in effort to escape forced marriages and a lifetime of exploitation, migrate to Kumasi to work for survival – believing it will offer a

more secure, stable future. These children are exposed to dangers and abuses of various types, such as human trafficking, drugs, alcohol, commercial sex work, pilfering, and sudden death, and are frequently forced to perform tasks beyond their capacities. The long-term consequences of this harsh lifestyle are visible in the faces and bodies of those who have lived and worked on the street over many years, ageing well beyond their years and frequently characterised by poor health outcomes.

Recently, there have been second and even third-generation street-connected children (children of mothers in street situations), born and raised on the street who have never experienced life growing up in a regular family or home setting (SCP Annual Report, 2017).

Our Vision

A society where children enjoy safe childhood and develop their potential to the fullest.



Our Mission

We uphold safe childhood for all children and the realisation of the rights of the child. We commit to address the root causes of child streetism through collaboration and advocacy

to empower children in street and other vulnerable situations by providing opportunities for reintegration, formal education, and enterprise development.

Core Values Centres of Operation

As an institution, the following core values of the Daughters of Charity are our road map: they are Respect, Commitment, Compassion, Integrity, Collaboration, Justice, and Creativity.

Safe-Child Advocacy operates from three centres namely, the Drop-In Centre, the Day-Care Centre, and the Vocational Training Centre.



DROP-IN CENTRE

The Drop-in Centre is SCA's administrative seat and regulates all the activities it carries out in the various Centres. It also serves as the first point of contact with children in street situations. Children in street situations visit the Drop-In Centre, often on a daily basis, as a safe haven where they can rest, play, and talk to a safe adult. Rehabilitation activities are regulated and facilitated at the Drop-In Centre.

DROP-IN CENTRE PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS IN 2024

Safe-Child Advocacy has implemented several programmes, interventions, and activities at the Drop-In Centre in 2024. These are rehabilitation and empowerment programmes.

Rehabilitation activities are geared towards restoring children in street situations to normalcy, whereas empowerment initiatives are designed to equip children with the skills and knowledge needed to become change agents in their communities and

society at large.

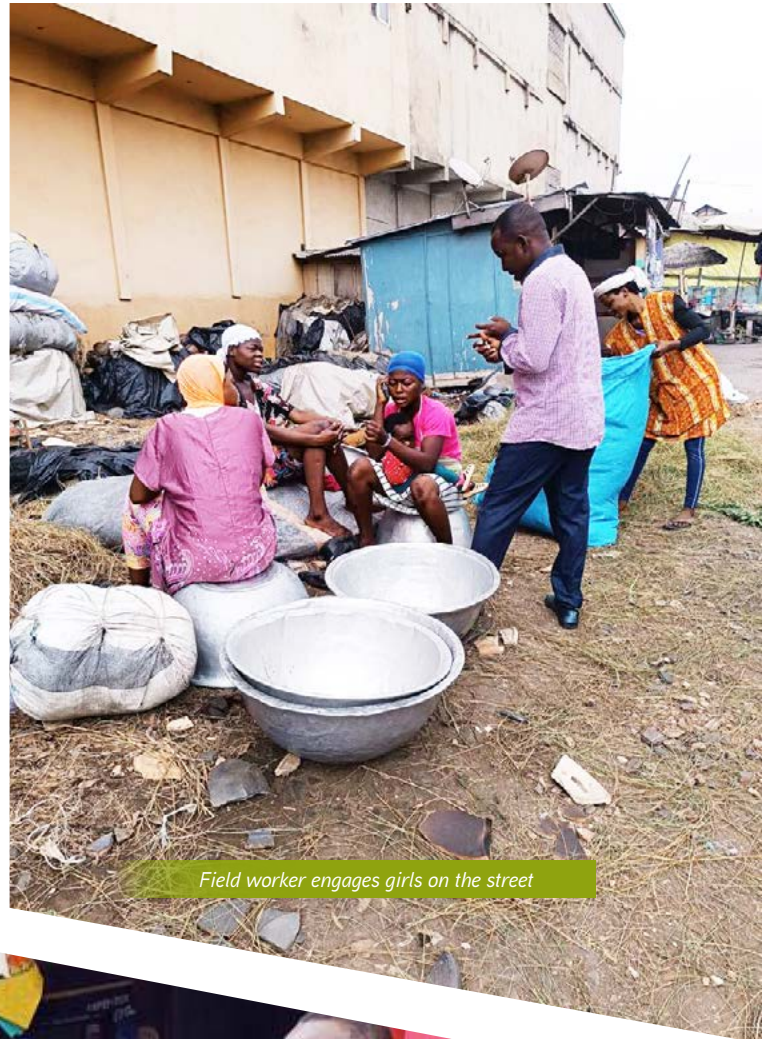
Through these comprehensive programmes SCA's skilled, dedicated staff provide street corner education, value talks, interactions, interviews and counselling, games, literacy lessons, creative arts, family reintegration, follow-ups, the rescue of victims of human trafficking, workshops, and sponsorship in formal education, among others.

Street Corner Education

Street corner education is our first point of encounter with children in challenging situations. During street corner education, the field team interact with children in street situations and educates them on essential matters that concern their wellbeing in topics such as

- **child rights,**
 - **dangers of street life,**
 - **sexual and gender-based violence,**
 - **human trafficking,**
 - **personal hygiene,**
- etc.

Children are also informed about our work and the support services available to them. Three thousand four hundred and ninety-four (3,494) children in street situations accessed our street corner education service in 2024.



Field worker engages girls on the street



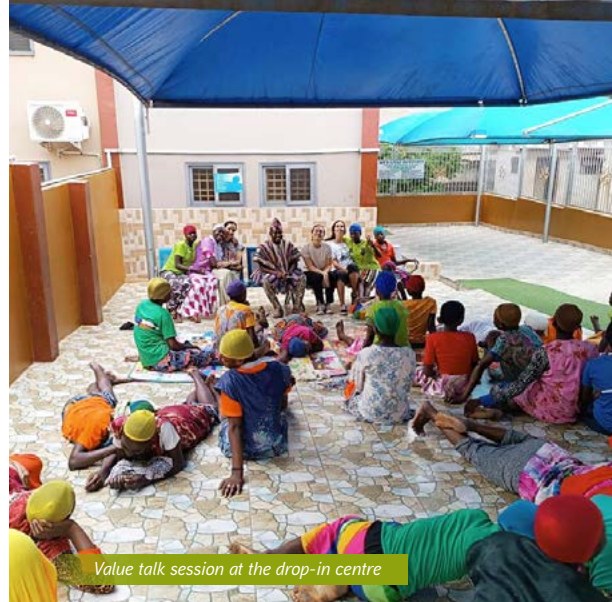
Street corner education

Value Talk

The Drop-In Centre hosts daily safe-space conversations called Value Talk Sessions, where in-depth discussions on street corner education topics take place with vulnerable children in a street situation, fostering a supportive environment for exploration and learning.

During value talk sessions, the children are educated on various topics that help to empower them to make decisions conducive to a dignified, secure and stable future. In this, children are encouraged and supported to express their thoughts, opinions,

and experiences on the topics for discussion. Our skilled facilitators ensure the effective delivery of information and full participation through presentations, focused group discussions, and peer education. In 2024, 1,564 children benefited from these sessions.



Value talk session at the drop-in centre



Field team educates street-connected children during value talk



Street-connected girl demonstrates the use of sanitary pad during value talk

Interviews and Counselling

To gain further insights into the lives of children in street situations, interviews were held by SCA staff with children in street situations, providing key opportunities to enable children to: express and describe the circumstances that led each child to the street; and their perceptions about life on the street. Subsequently, counselling sessions were conducted by highly trained SCA staff to empower children to make informed decisions that could pave the way for a dignified and sustainable future.

In the year 2024, two hundred and twenty-two (222) children benefited from our interviews and counselling sessions.



Rehabilitation officer interviews parents of clients



Interaction

During the interaction sessions, the staff of SCA purposefully adopted an informal communication style, tailored to cultivate a feeling of value and compassion in our interactions with children living on the streets and to ensure the children felt secure in the knowledge they could speak freely to the SCA team about their concerns and experiences. This approach not only evoked highly positive reactions but

also nurtured a sense of self-worth and compassion within the children – children who often feel that they are rejected or despised by society.

SCA's interactions took place both on the street and at the Drop-In Centre. In 2024, 848 children had the chance to engage with field workers at the Drop-In Centre.

Literacy Class

Street-connected children are frequently deprived of their fundamental rights, as they often lack access to basic education and have no or limited awareness of the rights to which they are entitled. Many of these children have never attended school, while others are forced to drop out early due to poverty. In response, field workers at SCA conducted literacy classes as part of the provision of essential education and learning. These classes covered the

English alphabet, phonics/pronunciation, writing skills, and name formation. Additionally, children learned basic numeracy skills, such as counting, writing numbers, and performing basic calculations. These lessons are crucially important for children working as head porters (kayaye) in the market, helping them protect themselves from exploitation. In total, 113 children benefited from these literacy/numeracy classes.

Creative Arts/Games



Creative art session at the drop-in centre

Children in street situations were supported to engage in creative arts and playful activities with their peers, after long hours of hard labour in the markets at the Drop-In Centre. These activities helped them unwind, de-stress and physically recover, while fostering a sense of connection with the staff and with each other. With the help of SCA's field workers, volunteers and student interns, the children participated in various creative art activities and games, such as sculpture, painting, drawing, crocheting, bead making,

playing ludo, oware, skipping, and football. Through these activities, they became more comfortable about sharing their concerns and challenges and opening up about the issues impacting their well-being. Six hundred and sixteen (616) children enjoyed their right to play and participate in creative arts activities.



Displayed art works by street-connected children



street-connected girls engage in sculpture works



Girls display their painting

Follow Up

Follow-up plays a crucial role in the rehabilitation program, enabling staff to monitor beneficiaries' progress in education and skill training. It also serves as a motivational tool, providing counselling and support to address the challenges faced by participants once training ends. During these follow-up visits/calls, necessary fees and resources for schooling and training were

provided by SCA. Staff were able to assess performance in various activities and ensure that teachers and trainers were aware of the beneficiaries' personal and economic backgrounds/challenges. This has helped ensure the support SCA provides is tailored to meet the specific needs of beneficiaries, further ensuring value for money is achieved in the investment of

resources and staff time in the programmes we deliver.

In collaboration with the African Development Organization for Migration (AFDOM), regular follow-up activity was conducted by SCA in Kumasi and the North. This activity also helped SCA to identify children at risk of being on the streets and mitigate this risk through enrolment on our sponsorship programme.



Joshua receives books during follow-up



SCA follow-up team with beneficiaries during follow-up in the North



SCA staff visits Blessing at school



Paulina receives books during follow-up



Rep. of partner organisation visits skill training beneficiaries



Boatemaa with SCA staff during follow-up



Family Reintegration

Family reintegration is at the heart of SCA's mission (?) because we aim to ensure every child grows up with their families. Consequently, when children indicate an interest in leaving the street, we visit their families, evaluate their family situations, carry out mediation/reconciliation where necessary and involve family members in rehabilitation plans. We

undertook the necessary meetings, correspondence and assessment to ensure the family would provide a safe home for the children before reintegration with their families took place. In 2024, 23 street-connected children were successfully reintegrated into their families and communities by SCA.

Webinar Conferences

SCA hosted a series of webinars in 2024 to mark International Days of specific relevance to our role and mission and to create awareness on issues that create vulnerability among children, young persons, and women. During the International Day for Street Children, SCA organized a well-received webinar on the theme "Belonging: Integrating Street-Connected Children into the Society" which included a panel discussion where enriching ideas and submissions were shared on how to make street-connected children feel they belong and are loved. Building on this, subsequent webinars on topics such as "Breaking barriers: Promoting inclusion and integration for refugees" and "Unite! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls, No excuse!" were organised. These sessions provided a helpful, productive forum for comprehensive discussions, identifying and

SAFE - CHILD ADVOCACY
Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi
Appreciate your participation
WORLD REFUGEES DAY

Theme:
Breaking Barriers: Promoting
Inclusion and Integration for Refugees

**20th June, 2024/
10:00AM (GMT)**

MODERATOR
MR. AKWASI PREMPEH
(HRM, SCA)

PANELLISTS
SR. CYRILLA NWANNE, ALA
(BOTSWANA)
SR. GABRIELLA ANIKWEM, JSSP
(NIGERIA)
SR. MARY CONSUELATA
SERNAH NTEYI, SONG
(GHANA)
SR. CAROLINE FOR, SST
(CAMEROON)

THANKS FOR JOINING US Meeting ID: 833 1150 3188
Passcode: 187586

MISEREOR

encouraging practical approaches that individuals, organizations, and networks can use to tackle safety issues for children in street situations.

Awareness Creation in Schools



Child Rights education at St Peter's Primary



School awareness creation at Amakom JHS



A student asks question during a school awareness activity



A student answers a question during school awareness



SCA's Director educates students on their rights



Awareness campaign at Kwadaso SDA JHS

SCA believes that many children can find themselves in vulnerable situations likely to cause them to end up on the street. As such, we use school awareness raising as a preventive measure to help tackle difficult issues children might face at the early stages and minimise the occurrences of child streetism. Our school awareness campaign which was designed to mitigate the risks of child streetism was carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Development and Policy Advocacy (CEDEPA) at: Kwadaso SDA JHS 'B', New Amakom M/A JHS, St. Peter's R/C Primary

and JHS, as well as schools in Kotingli, Gbrumani, and Zangbalun communities.

During these campaigns, the students were educated on children's rights and responsibilities, child abuse, types and symptoms of abuse, child protection and the importance of education. The impact of this awareness creation was very profound as several children who were silently suffering from abusive situations came out boldly and reported such cases for the necessary interventions to be taken.

Medical Screening and Examination

Safe-Child Advocacy, in partnership with Hopexchange Medical Centre, organised a series of free medical screenings and examinations for street-connected children at the Drop-In Centre. In severe situations where the children's health was seriously compromised, they were referred to HopeXchange Hospital by SCA for free treatment.

With these healthcare services for our target group, we were able to offer a more holistic approach to addressing their needs. This collaborative effort did not only enhance the quality of care we provide but also demonstrated our commitment to comprehensive support for those we serve. Through this SCA is fulfilling a crucially important aspect of well-being for street-connected children, ensuring that their

health needs are met alongside their other requirements for growth and recovery. Some of the specific health interventions that were provided in a hospital, through SCA's support included: successful treatment for a young expectant mother whose child's life was at serious risk, support to deliver babies safely in the hospital and ensuring close monitoring of the mother/baby's health, treatment for malaria, Hepatitis B, typhoid, and treatment to alleviate the serious impact on the body of carrying heavy loads that had caused bone, joint and muscle problems. A total number of 213 benefited from this service.



A medical officer examines a street-connected child



Children in street situations receives drugs during a health screening



Free health screening for street-connected children



Asana receives medical care



Health examination exercise at the drop-in centre



Health screening exercise for children in street situations

Workshops



Workshops on different topics were organised for children in street situations as well as our Child Rights Champions. We educated these children on their rights and how to claim them. This year, we organised a multi-organisational workshop in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service, Talithakum Ghana Network, and Chance for Children International as the climax to the celebration of International Day for Street Children 2024. The workshop brought together many survivors of situations of vulnerability enabling them to share their experiences with participants. This helped participants to build their awareness and self-confidence while equipping them with hands-on ideas they could use to navigate and escape high-risk situations where abuse is perpetrated including trafficking, exploitation, sexual abuse, etc whilst still in street situations. Other workshops were organised by SCA staff on important issues such as child/forced marriage, and child migration.



A workshop on child marriage for street-connected children



A cross section of staff and Child rights champions



Street-connected girl shares experiences during a workshop on Child marriage



Street-connected children enjoy their meals after a workshop



Focus group discussion during a workshop for beneficiaries



Training of Child Rights Champions on rights and abuse



Street-connected child shares ideas during a survivor led workshop



Child Rights Champions receives training in public speaking



A girl in street situation makes submissions during a workshop

Sponsorship in Formal Education

Children deserve to enjoy their right to education. Given this, SCA's educational sponsorship is directed at giving children living in the streets and in other vulnerable situations access to quality education at the basic, senior high, and tertiary levels.

The beneficiaries of SCA's programme include children who were formerly living on the streets, those who dropped out of school due to poverty, children escaping abusive environments, and others neglected by their parents or guardians. Through our sponsorship we provided support for the significant costs associated with formal education including tuition fees, levies, stationery, uniforms, school bags, and shoes, along with additional assistance to meet

the basic needs of children from extremely deprived families, enabling them to stay in education, enhancing their learning experience.

In 2024, SCA extended support to 80 students at the basic education level, 50 at the senior high level, and 15 at the tertiary level. Remarkably, nine (9) tertiary beneficiaries graduated—seven from university, one from a college of education, and one from the Ghana School of Law. Additionally, 19 students completed senior high school, with six (6) securing admission to the university after applying. For vulnerable children the support SCA provides to enable them to access and remain in education, is a lifeline, changing and improving the course of their lives permanently.



A cross section of student beneficiaries and SCA staff



Blessing receives her books for school



Matthew in a picture with his learning material



Cornelius in a picture with SCA staff



SCA staff presents boarding items to a student



SCA staff presents books to Joshua



Edem, a beneficiary at KNUST receives items for clinical



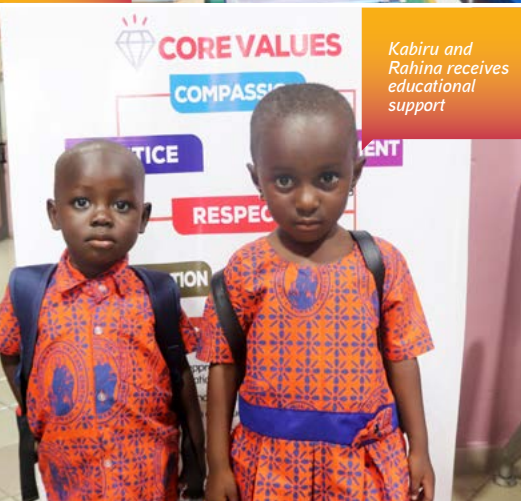
Seidu in the North receives books



Gabriel receives books for school



Philomina hapily receives learning materials



Kabiru and Rahina receives educational support



Princess receives her learning materials

Sponsorship in Skill Training

Our skill training sponsorship program is part of an empowerment initiative to provide vulnerable young individuals with the necessary skills to achieve economic independence and a secure, safe, and dignified future livelihood. Participants received

training in dressmaking, hairdressing, kente weaving, catering, electronic engineering, and millinery skills. These sessions were held either at local training centres within their communities or at the St. Louise Vocational Training Centre in Kumasi.



Media Engagement



OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES



Registration of 100 street-connected children on the National Health Insurance Scheme.



A visit from the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul from Nigeria.



Remarkable send-off ceremony for Mrs. Jessica Deh, a long-serving staff of SCA as the programme manager.



Psycho-social therapy for the Staff of SCA to ensure they are supported to provide effective service delivery.







Highlights

-  Registration of 100 street-connected children on the National Health Insurance Scheme.
-  Medical screening, examinations and medical intervention for street-connected children to provide access to medical care and attention.
-  Nine (9) tertiary student beneficiaries graduated in 2024
-  Nineteen (19) students completed Senior High School, with six (6) securing admission to tertiary after applying
-  Successful facilitation with key multi-disciplinary organisations on safeguarding and protection, domestic violence, and human trafficking at all levels of engagement by SCA.
-  School awareness campaigns to educate and sensitise pupils in selected public and private schools on child rights, abuse, safeguarding and protection.
-  Successful office asset valuation and insurance.
-  Enhancement of our Information Technology suite through the procurement of more computers
-  Procurement of metal benches for the target group to facilitate engagement, build relationships, and provide a comfortable environment for effective service delivery.
-  Follow-up activity in the northern regions of Ghana to monitor the progress of past beneficiaries and those still under sponsorship
-  Psychosocial accompaniment and support for staff to cater for their psychological and emotional wellbeing for effective service delivery.
-  Construction of a security post and installation of additional CCTV cameras to enhance security at the Centre.
-  Clinton Yeboah, a student beneficiary, was awarded the Young Student Journalist of the Year during the 2024 awards ceremony of the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA).
-  Ayisha Aminu, a student beneficiary and a golfer, won the 'Discovery of the Year' award at the 2024 Sports Writers Association of Ghana (SWAG) awards and the Junior Level Tarkwa Open Golf Championship Competition.
-  An official visit from the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul.

Challenges



The influx of young children in street situations.



The effects of climate change contributed to hardships.



High inflation resulting in significantly increased costs of goods and services.



Inadequate local support

Future Plans



Construction of a Borehole at the Drop-in Centre.



Facelift of the work premises (painting of the office space).



Creating and furnishing a canteen for staff.



Flooring of the backyard of the office space.



Procuring a database system for record-keeping.



Build a relief centre for victims of human trafficking.



Setting up an independent office for TalithaKum Ghana Network

SUCCESS STORIES



Humu Muhammed
Make-up Artist

My name is Humu, and I am proud to share my journey from being a formal education and skill training beneficiary to becoming a registered business owner. When I first got enrolled in the skill training sponsorship programme of Safe-Child Advocacy, I was filled with hope but also uncertainty about my future. However, through hard work, dedication, and the invaluable skills I gained, I found the confidence to pursue my dream of owning a business.

Graduating from skill training as a make-up artist was a milestone, but I knew my journey was just beginning. With the knowledge and support I received from Safe-Child Advocacy, I took the bold step of registering my business, transforming my passion into a legitimate enterprise. Seeing my business officially recognised is a dream come true—it represents my growth, determination, and the opportunities that skill training can create.

Today, I stand as proof that investing in vulnerable children can transform lives. I am excited about the future, ready to make an impact, and grateful for the journey that has brought me here. To all children in street and other vulnerable situations, I say—take advantage of opportunities available, believe in yourself, take that step, and make it happen!

Ajara Osman

Nalerigu Nurses Training College

Words cannot fully capture the depth of my gratitude, but I want to take this moment to thank Safe-Child Advocacy. I am sincerely grateful for your incredible support that made my Senior High School education possible. Gaining admission to Nalerigu Nurses Training College this year is a dream come true, and it wouldn't have been possible without your generosity and dedication. Thank you for investing in my future and giving me this life-changing opportunity



Ayisha Aminu

Kumasi Senior High Technical School

I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from Safe-Child Advocacy. As a young golfer, winning the 'Discovery of the Year Award' at the 2024 Sports Writers Association of Ghana (SWAG) award ceremony is a testament to the opportunities and training you have provided me, and I couldn't have done it without your guidance and belief in my potential. Thank you for investing in my growth and for inspiring me to reach greater heights. I will continue to strive for excellence and make you proud!



STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 2024



ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
Formal Education	145
Skill Training	70
Number of Skill Training Graduates	21
Set-up	23
Street Corner Education	3,494
Follow-ups	82
Interview & Counselling	222
Value Talk	1,567
Family reintegration	23
Games	469
Creative art	147
Basic literacy lessons	113
Workshops for street-connected children	199
Workshop for Child Rights Champions	102
School Awareness Creation	841
National Health Insurance Scheme	100
Health Screening for Street-Connected Children	213
Webinar	327
Safeguarding Training for partners/collaborators	20

Signed:

Akwasi Prempeh

Administrator

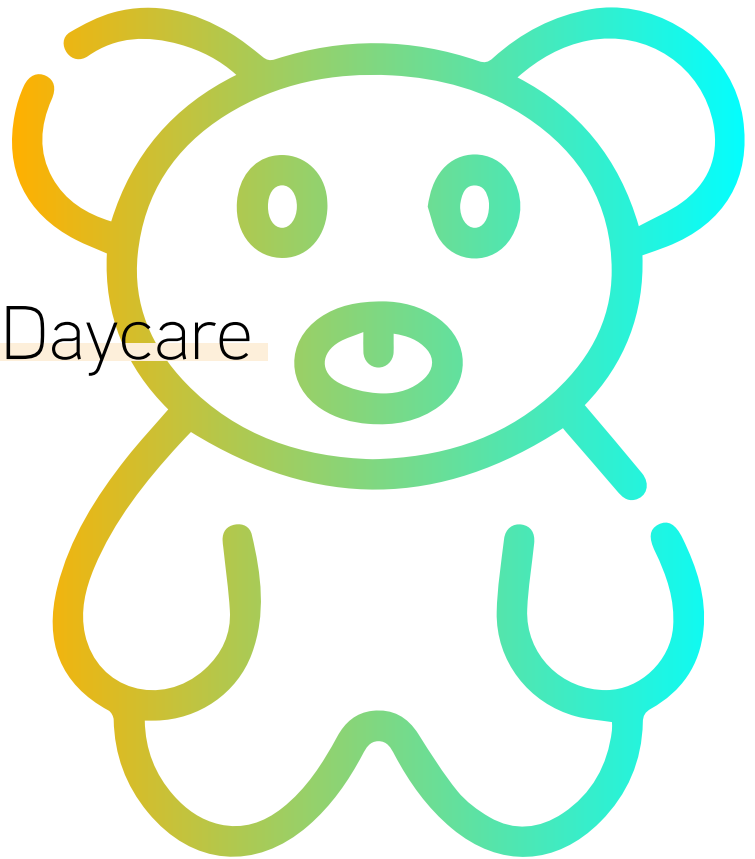


DAY-CARE CENTRE

St. Vincent De Paul Daycare

The daycare centre provides a safe and serene environment for babies of mothers in street situations and poor market women during the day.

St. Vincent De Paul Daycare provides a caring, nurturing environment, exceptional facilities, and quality early childhood education for second-generation children and children of market women. The dedicated staff worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure pupils from diverse backgrounds received comprehensive care and moral guidance, upholding high standards of behaviours.



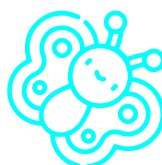
DAY-CARE ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2024



Career Day

In February 2024, the school hosted a Career Day at the premises to instill within children an awareness, from the earliest years, of the opportunities available to them – opportunities which they can and should aspire to. Pupils dressed in professional attire representing their future aspirations, including

teachers, nurses, doctors, pilots, soldiers, pastors, police officers, farmers, immigration officers, bankers, and lawyers. The event featured discussion, debates and dance competitions, inspiring students to work diligently towards achieving their goals.

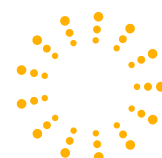


Sports Competition



In March, the school organised an exciting sports competition with Emmanuel School held at the Daycare Centre. The event showcased a variety of engaging activities, such as bottle-filling, egg races, and colour games, providing many opportunities for the children to display and develop their skills and abilities. Triumphantlly, we secured victory in three out of four games and were honoured as the overall champions. This accomplishment greatly enhanced our pupils' morale, fostering confidence and reinforcing their belief in their capabilities while also developing their team-working, collaboration and communication skills.

Cultural Day



St. Vincent De Paul Daycare hosted a vibrant cultural day celebration to honour Ghana's rich heritage. The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Mr. Offei, a board member of SCA and the coordinator of the Catholic Education Unit; Nana Janet Boaman, the Queen Mother of Abinkyi; and Sr. Gertrude Gima, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul. The day featured a rich array of activities, such as exploring the history of Ghana's sixteen regions, showcasing traditional cuisine and landmarks, performing cultural dances, identifying objects and animals in Twi, and translating Ghanaian proverbs from English to Twi. The celebration was a joyful and memorable occasion for the children, staff and guests supporting a deeper understanding of our shared history and cultural heritage





A Visit from the Department of Social Welfare

In May, representatives from the Social Welfare Department visited the school for a supervisory review. They assessed the classes from Crèche to Nursery Two, carefully examining the quality of the educational/care service we provide which included an examination of our learning materials and classroom settings. Following close observation the team from the Department of Social Welfare expressed their satisfaction with the high standards delivered and maintained.



Excursion

The school embarked on an excursion to Manhyia Palace and Christ the King Catholic Church. At the palace, the children participated in an insightful tour that delved into the rich heritage of the Asante Kingdom, developing their understanding of the cultural and historic significance of the Golden Stool and the Asantehene's throne.

Graduation



St. Vincent de Paul Daycare Centre held a graduation ceremony for twelve Kindergarten 2 (KG2) pupils to celebrate their transition to primary school. The ceremony was graced by notable guests, including Monsignor Gabriel Acheampong, Board Chair of SCA; Fr. Anthony Abban; Sr. Gertrude Gima DC; members of SCA's Management team; and volunteers from Spain. Parents, teachers, and media representatives were also in attendance. Adding to the joyous occasion, Indomie Company generously donated packets of indomie and school bags for the pupils, making the day even more special.



Feast Day of St. Vincent De Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Daycare Centre celebrated the feast day of its patron saint with great joy and reverence. The event commenced with two children narrating the inspirational story of St. Vincent de Paul, highlighting his extraordinary life and legacy. Through this we provided opportunities to deepen within the children their awareness of the responsibility

each person has to help those less fortunate than themselves. This was followed by a moving prayer session, led by the children, offering reflections on the saint's profound teachings and impactful contributions. The celebration concluded with a shared meal and refreshments, bringing together staff, pupils, and guests to honour the occasion memorably.



Highlights

-  104 children were supported in all aspects of their development in a caring environment at St. Vincent De Paul Daycare.
-  A positive feedback provided by the Department of Social Welfare on high standards following an examination of our service provision.
-  St. Vincent De Paul Daycare emerged as the winner in the sports competition with Emmanuel School at Amakom.
-  A successful culture day celebration, dedicated to honouring Ghanaian heritage and deepening the children's knowledge of their history/heritage.

-  St. Vincent de Paul Daycare Center proudly hosted the graduation ceremony for twelve kindergarten 2 (KG2) pupils celebrating their transition to primary school - a beautiful ceremony.
-  Smooth and efficient transition and handing over from Sr. Maria Goretti Onwuatiegwu, former Headmistress to Sr. Victoria Kotetane.
-  Facelift renovation through painting of classroom blocks creating an attractive caring/learning environment.
-  A Visit from the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul.



Future Plans

Challenges



Frequent breakdowns of the school bus making children arrive late.



Low attendance at and responsiveness to Parent-Teacher Association meetings.



Delayed provision of essential school toiletries by parents.



Inadequate furniture, chairs and tables for pupils.



Delay in payment of school fees.



Collaborate with Mary Seat of Wisdom Preparatory School at Amakom for KG2 pupils to continue the basic level.



Increasing enrolment from the current figure of 104.



Setting up an ICT laboratory for KG to support development of their ICT skills.



Procuring more CCTV cameras to enhance the security of the centre.



Procuring a new bus to ensure reliable, consistent safe transport to/from the Centre.

Daycare Statistics

CLASS DENOMINATION	NO. OF PUPILS
Crèche	7
Pre Nursery	17
Nursery 1	34
Nursery 2	20
Kindergarten 1	18
Kindergarten 2	8
Total number of pupils	104
Staff number	16

Signed:

Sr. Victoria Kotetane, DC
Headmistress

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE



St Louise De Marillac Vocational Training Centre

The Saint Louise de Marillac Vocational Training Centre (VTC) serves as a shining symbol of hope, opportunity and transformation for young women and girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. Situated in Kumasi, Ghana, the Centre specialises in providing them with valuable skills in dressmaking, hairdressing, and catering, along with essential literacy, numeracy and entrepreneurship skills. In addition to vocational training, the Centre offers a

haven, care, and comprehensive support from skilled professionals for survivors of abuse, trafficking, and those facing other vulnerable circumstances. The Centre is managed by the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. As we look back on this year's activities, accomplishments, challenges, and future aspirations, we celebrate the significant progress made in changing lives, while acknowledging the ongoing need for growth and innovation.



VTC Activities For The Year 2024

Sheltering Vulnerable Individuals

Throughout the year, the Centre remained dedicated to offering shelter and care to victims of abuse, trafficked individuals, and girls in street or other vulnerable situations. This core activity is integral to the Centre's mission, providing a safe haven along with counselling, skill training opportunities, and support for these individuals, who are frequently deeply traumatized by their experiences, along with support for reintegration into society. In 2024 we sheltered 24 victims of trafficking.



Skill Training



This
comprehensive
approach not
only equipped
them with
practical skills
but also aimed
at empowering
them

31 vulnerable young girls received training at the VTC in dressmaking, catering, and hairdressing, tailored to their interests. Additionally, they explored supplementary skills such as soap making, bag crafting, detergent production, and beadwork. The training at the centre adopted a holistic approach, encompassing a wide array of developmental activities. Beyond skill acquisition, the girls participated in literacy programs, counselling sessions, home management training, capacity-building, and self-development workshops. The Centre ensured the girls were supported to develop essential life skills including communication/interpersonal

skills, leading by example, teamwork/ collaboration, and independent learning. This comprehensive approach not only equipped them with practical skills but also aimed at empowering them as confident, self-reliant individuals capable of making meaningful contributions to their communities and society.

Graduation Ceremony



The Centre proudly marked the achievements of its trainees through its 8th and 9th graduation ceremonies. A total of twenty-one (21) trainees completed their vocational training, with six (6) specialising in hairdressing and fifteen (15) in dressmaking. These memorable events were honoured by the presence of distinguished guests, including the Traditional Chief of the Appiadu community, the Member of Parliament aspirant for the New Patriotic Party for the Oforikrom Constituency, the Assembly Member of Appiadu, and representatives from the local media. The ceremonies were a moment of great pride, achievement and celebration for both the trainees and the entire Centre.

Leadership Transition

Sr. Bridget's departure as the Centre's administrator signified a focal change during the year. Leadership responsibilities transitioned to Sr. Gertrude, the Sister Servant of the community, who took charge of coordinating the Centre's activities and facilitated a seamless handover.

Highlights

-  A total of 21 trainees successfully completed their vocational training.
-  21 skill training graduates from the VTC have been given start-up kits to kickstart their businesses and earn a living.
-  The Centre continued to shelter and rehabilitate 24 victims of abuse, trafficking, and other vulnerabilities.
-  A visit from the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity enhanced the Centre's visibility and credibility.
-  A visit from the wife of the governor of Ebonyi State, Nigeria.
-  The administrative changeover was managed effectively, ensuring continuity in the Centre's operations.

Challenges

-  The growing number of vulnerable individuals seeking assistance stretched the Centre's capacity and resources.
-  Efforts to make the poultry and piggery projects sustainable income-generating ventures were hampered by operational and financial challenges.

Future Plans

-  Build stronger collaborations with local, national and international stakeholders to learn/share best practices and identify/secure future funding sources.
-  Introduce new courses, reflecting skills needs and gaps within the local/wider economy, to broaden the scope of training programs.
-  Seek funding to expand dormitory facilities, workshops, and other essential infrastructure.
-  Focus on improving the poultry and piggery projects to ensure they contribute to the Centre's financial sustainability.
-  Introduce digital attendance, record-keeping, and e-learning systems to enhance administrative and training efficiency.
-  Continue to prioritize the physical, emotional, and spiritual development of trainees.

VTC Statistics

ACTIVITIES	FIGURES
Girls in Skill Training at the VTC	31
Victims of trafficking sheltered at VTC	24
2024 Skill Training Graduates	21
Leadership Transitions	1

Signed
Sr. Gertrude Gima, DC
Administrator, VTC

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



ensure the rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficking victims. As trafficking victims are often duped into believing false promises of traffickers of better-paid work/employment opportunities in other locations, as part of our anti-trafficking efforts, Safe-Child Advocacy allocated resources to raise awareness through online webinars, school and church outreach activities; educating people on trafficking tactics, emergency contacts, and safety measures.

SCA is committed to promoting the rights and dignity of individuals in vulnerable situations, with a focus on combating human trafficking, or modern-day slavery recognising the deeply damaging impact for both the victims and their families. As human trafficking by its nature crosses local, regional, national and international boundaries, SCA collaborates closely with key organisations including: the Anti-Trafficking Unit of Ghana Police Service, Conpaht Talitha Kum Ghana, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This collaborative approach is necessary to



Anti-Trafficking Activities/ Achievements In 2024

-  We successfully rescued, counselled, rehabilitated and reintegrated 30 victims of human trafficking, ensuring their safety and support for a fresh start in society.
-  We supported victims with the necessary assistance in prosecuting their traffickers.
-  We provided medical care for 15 survivors of human trafficking.
-  We sheltered 24 survivors of human trafficking.
-  We provided psychosocial support for 30 victims of human trafficking through counselling and support services for their mental and emotional well-being.
-  The staff of SCA conducted a prayer session for the World Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking on February 8th.
-  SCA created awareness of human trafficking in 50 schools, churches, and communities across the 16 regions of Ghana.
-  We organised a webinar to mark World Refugees Day on June 20th.
-  We organised two (2) workshops on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking for the Kumasi Archdiocesan Women's Council.
-  We organised a workshop for street-connected children on human trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service.
-  Over 14,000 people benefited from our awareness-creation activities
-  We formed and trained the Talitha Kum Youth Ambassadors for Anti-Trafficking, where young people from different schools and communities educated people about human trafficking and the necessary actions to combat it.
-  We organised a successful Annual General Assembly meeting with members of the Talitha Kum Ghana Network at Pokuase Mayera, to discuss progress, share insights/ best practices, and plan future anti-human trafficking initiatives.

Highlight

Prosecution of a human trafficking perpetrator, contributing to justice and deterrence, sending a strong message to perpetrators of human trafficking that action is being taken to eradicate this blight on humanity



Challenges

-  Lack of sufficient, appropriate space to accommodate victims of human trafficking before reintegration.
-  Increasing exploitation and trafficking of young people from other African countries to Ghana, from Ghana to other countries and also internally.
-  Difficulty in identifying and reaching victims.
-  Some cultural influences that promote exploitation make efforts challenging.
-  Insufficient public awareness and education on human trafficking.
-  Stigma and mistrust from victims towards authorities.
-  Limited community engagement or interest.
-  Psychological and often physical trauma associated with human trafficking.
-  Getting accurate and reliable information from victims.
-  Dealing with emotional burnout and compassion fatigue among caregivers.
-  Delays in court proceedings of trafficking cases were discouraging.

Future Plans

-  Intensify awareness creation and advocacy on all forms of child slavery and human trafficking.
-  Further strengthen collaborations with like-minded organisations locally, nationally and internationally to advocate and fight against human trafficking.
-  Enhance the provision of safe housing, medical care, legal aid and psychological support for survivors.
-  Empower survivors to take leadership roles in Advocacy and support efforts to eradicate human trafficking.
-  Mobilize local communities to create a vigilant and supportive environment against human trafficking.
-  Explore opportunities to secure funding to build a suitably designed relief centre for victims of human trafficking.
-  Strengthen the anti-trafficking network by organizing/facilitating regular in-person meetings.
-  Foster collaboration between countries to help come together and fight human trafficking.



Anti-Trafficking Statistics

Rescued				Counselled	Sheltered	Reintegrated
Male	Female	Children	Total			
5	25	-	30	30	24	30
Countries						
Nigeria					23	
Central Africa Republic					6	
Ghana					1	

ACTIVITY	BENEFICIARIES
School Awareness Creation	10,000
Education in churches	3,000
Education in communities	350
Workshop for Street-Connected Children	300
Webinar (World Refugees Day)	100
Radio/Media Awareness Creation	2 radio stations

Signed

Rosina Serwaa Aborkpui
Anti-Trafficking Coordinator



TEAM OF STAFF

Our dedicated and compassionate staff is committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of children facing vulnerable situations. We operate in specialized sub-teams based on specific roles and responsibilities, which include the management team, field team, caregivers, and skill trainers.



Management team

The management team consists of the Director, Programme Manager, Accountant, Human Resource Manager, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. This team oversees the daily operations of the organization and makes decisions to ensure its smooth and secure functioning.

Field Team

The fieldwork team, led by the Rehabilitation Officer, is responsible for the daily implementation of rehabilitation activities under the guidance and supervision of the Programme Manager.

Caregivers

Caregivers at our Day-Care Centre play a crucial role as facilitators, offering a safe and nurturing environment for children of mothers in street situations. They provide high-quality care while introducing the children to early childhood education.

Skill Trainers

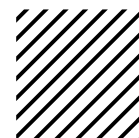
Our skill trainers provide comprehensive development and training for young girls in vulnerable situations who live at and are enrolled in the St. Louise Vocational Training Centre, a subsidiary of Safe-Child Advocacy.



OUR RESOURCES

SCA secures resources through the generous contributions of various organisations and individuals. In the 2024 work year, our activities were made possible thanks to the kind support (financial, material, and human) provided by the following organisations and individuals:

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Katholische Zentralstelle Fur Entwicklungshilfe Ev./Misereor |  Pure 2A & Associates |
|  Adamfo Ghana Netherlands |  Osnabruke Diocese, Germany |
|  Wilde Ganzen Foundation |  West African Civil Society Institute |
|  Conrad Hilton Foundation |  Vebego Foundation |
|  Raskob Foundation |  Vincentian Lay Missionaries, Ireland |
|  Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul, Province of Nigeria |  Solidarity Education and Development (SED), Spain |
|  International Organization for Migration | |



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024

RECEIPTS

The drawn downs on the grants to date are made of:

Grant balance brought forward (Cash & Bank)	65,220.00
Disbursement from KZE/MISEREOR	1,146,638.00
Third Party Contributions	220,321.00
Local Contributions	57,381.00
Adamfo Ghana	13,544.00
Raskob Foundation	212,483.00
Major Superior Conference	20,000.00
Reserve Account	40,000.00
Wilde Ganzen /Adamfo Ghana	380,913.00
Vebego Foundation	74,843.00
Own Source Contribution	66,193.00
Sisters Rising World	78,736.00
Interest Received	4,785.00

2,381,057.00



NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Metal Benches(15)	39,000.00
HP Desktop Computers (4 sets)	27,600.00
Mercury UPS 1550 VA	1,500.00
UPS 850VA (2pcs)	1,800.00
HDMI Cable 30m (Fibre)	400.00
Computer Installations	600.00
Solid UPS 1500VA	1,500.00
Computer and Data Handling Equipment	10,225.00
Furniture and Fittings	1,500.00

84,125.00

STAFF COST

Salaries	474,723.00
Volunteers	14,600.00
Staff Training/Capacity Building	2,380.00
Staff Taxes	34,098.00
Entertainment(Staff/Board)	3,500.00

529,301.00

RECURRENT PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Awareness Creation	202,670.00
School fees and learning materials for Children in formal education	271,881.00
Training needs and learning materials for Children in Vocational training	148,831.00
Medical Expenses for beneficiaries	57,393.00
Starter Kits/Economic Empowerment	58,490.00
Family reintegration/Follow-up	24,753.00
Rent/Accommodation for beneficiaries	2,186.00
Feeding/Clothing for beneficiaries	56,280.00
Tertiary Fees/Vocational Training fees/Educational Materials	160,654.00
Transfer to Spending account to support beneficiaries cost	233,249.00

1,216,387.00

OTHER PROJECT COST

Premises: Rent, Energy, Building Maintenance	128,245.00
Mobility: Vehicle Maintenance and Operating Cost	111,642.00
Consumables for Operation and Logistics	25,316.00
Evaluation	85,500.00
Office Supplies	59,226.00
License/Insurance of Assets	28,430.00
Bank Charges	978.00

439,337.00

AUDIT SERVICES

Audit Fee	35,880.00
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GRAND TOTAL

2,305,030.00



Prepared by:
Francis Osei
Accountant

PARTNERS/ COLLABORATORS

 African Development Organization for Migration (AFDOM), Tamale	 Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service, Ashanti Region	 Charity, Mbrom-Kumasi
 Centre for Initiative Against Human Trafficking (CIAHT), Tamale	 Department of Social Welfare	 Missionaries of Africa (The White Fathers), Ejisu
 Yakoro Youth Development Centre, Tamale	 Ghana Health Services, Kumasi	 Department of Sociology and Social Work, KNUST, Kumasi
 Centre for Development and Policy Advocacy (CEDEPA), Tamale	 West Africa Civil Society Institute	 Sisters of St. Louise, Bahkita Home, Lagos, Nigeria
 Chance for Children, Ghana	 Solidarity Education and Development (SED) Project, Spain	 Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul,
 Moslem Family and Counselling Services (MFCS)	 Society of African Missions	 COSUDOW, Benin City, Nigeria
	 Missionary Sisters of	 Global Freedom Network

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this year has been marked by significant milestones, achievements and meaningful progress. Through the dedication of our skilled and experienced team—staff, volunteers, and interns—the invaluable support from our donors, partners, and collaborators, and the cooperation of our target group and beneficiaries, we have made a tangible impact on the lives of all those we seek to support and moved closer to our vision of creating a society where children enjoy safe childhood and develop their potentials to the fullest.

As we reflect on our achievements, we remain mindful of the challenges ahead and are committed

to embracing new opportunities for growth and innovation.

Moving ahead, we aim to sustain and strengthen collaboration in tackling the root causes of child streetism, human trafficking, and all forms of child exploitation. We remain committed to promoting children's rights, ensuring equal opportunities for children in vulnerable situations, including those on the streets, and achieving even greater impactful results in the coming year. Together, we can build upon this year's significant achievements and create a brighter, more promising future for all children and young people in street and other vulnerable situations.





SAFE-CHILD ADVOCACY

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF
KUMASI



VISION

A society where children enjoy safe childhood
and develop their potentials to the fullest.



MISSION

We uphold safe childhood for all children and the
realization of the Rights of the Child, we commit
to address the root-causes of child streetism
through collaboration and advocacy, to empower
children in street and other vulnerable situations
by providing opportunities for reintegration
for education and enterprise development.

VALUES

MISSION

Report compiled by:

Dwamena Akenten

Programme Manager



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