

 **AFRICA**
15 YEARS

ANNUAL
IMPACT
REPORT
2016

A Photo Essay By
**Senanu
Asante**



02	Who Do We Serve
03	Dedication
04	Year in Review
05	Mission, Vision, Values
06	Our De-institutionalization Journey
08	Looking Ahead
10	Young Adult Support Services
11	Family Support Services
12	Foster Care
13	Care Reform Initiative
14	Resilience Advocacy
15	Special Needs
16	Major Contributors
17	Leadership
18	Financial Statements (unaudited)
20	Contact Us

Who Do We Serve?

OAfrica exists to support vulnerable children and their families in Ghana. Our programmes empower children and young adults in need of care and protection due to institutionalization, abandonment, neglect, disability or abuse. We accomplish this by strengthening families and reintegrating separated children whose rights have been compromised due to poverty, violence, trafficking, disease and discrimination into safe, stable and loving households.

All the children and young adults supported today entered the programme because they met at least 3 of the following criteria for inclusion:

- Affected by HIV/AIDS
- With Special Needs
- Single or Double Orphans
- Living on the streets
- Ex-orphanage residents
- Victims of Child Labour
- Abandoned
- Abused
- Neglected
- At risk of abandonment
- In Conflict with the Law
- Victims of Trafficking



Dedication to Franca Sozzani

Franca Sozzani was the formidable Editor-in-Chief of Vogue Italia and Editorial Director of Condé Nast Italia. I collaborated with her at Vogue from 1985: she was a boss, a mentor and a friend. Despite ever increasing editorial responsibilities, she was widely known and highly valued internationally for her humanitarian activities as the creative director of Convivio AIDS initiative, global ambassador against hunger for the World Food Programme and as UN goodwill ambassador for Fashion 4 Development. When I made the shift to living full time in Ghana and focusing on my charity, Franca fully supported that transition which many others in the fashion world could not entirely appreciate.

Her generous support of OAfrica, contributing a total of €345,000 over 12 years, through her charity Child Priority, and her visit to Ghana with her son Francesco Carrozzini in 2011 made her an absolute change maker. If it were not for Franca, I doubt OAfrica would still exist today.

It was with much sadness that we said goodbye to this wonderful woman who passed away in December of 2016. We would like to dedicate this report to her and all the lives she changed here, and extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all her work, time, financial support, passion and dedication.

OAFRICA

Keeping Children in Families

2016 was a challenging year for fundraising at OAfrica, and, possibly, the most challenging in our 15 years of existence, working to provide much-needed support for the most vulnerable children in Ghana. The uncertainty around elections in both Ghana and the USA, a worldwide decrease in aid to Africa following the refugee and economic crisis in Europe and the fact that Ghana has attained middle-income status, all contributed to decreased donation income at OAfrica.

Donation income was down to 2007 levels (€413,000) and covered only 63% of our ideal 2016 budget (which was €653,000). A third fire on our property in February 2016, on top of this income shortfall, further compounded an already dire situation, resulting in 15 staff having their contracts terminated.

However, even though we found ourselves struggling to keep our heads above water, swimming in frustration, disappointment and demoralization, we somehow managed to keep afloat. These obstacles were not going to deter us from our work and we knew that no matter what, we had to keep going and continue providing all-important services to children. We had to think fast, electing to put our assets (land, buildings and two older vehicles) up for sale. We focused on keeping our doors open, and serving those who were already in our programmes. We consolidated our activities, moving to one location from the previous two. We signed a MOU with a partner NGO to take over our support for the Government of Ghana school and clinic in the village of Ayenyah so we could focus on our core services of de-institutionalization, tracing, reunification and foster care.

New admissions to our programmes had already been frozen for some time and so, despite financial difficulties, we were able to keep paying education and contracted support costs for the 255 beneficiaries in our Education, Family Support and Young Adult Support Services.

There was some good news too: in a magnificent gesture, Ghana staff accepted delays in salary payments and we were thus able to ensure that time-sensitive fees at universities were paid for a record-breaking 7 OAfrica SHS graduates. Our Alumni network was set up with over 700 individuals counted. Preventive measures in health and education led to sound general health and good school results for the vast majority of our beneficiaries. There were fewer emergencies. Decreased caseloads and the roll out of our specially designed database case management system meant staff had more time and were thus more efficient. Coaching was also regularly available to staff from a new, experienced child protection consultant. Our new Advocacy Resilience department started training social workers and other stakeholders in OAfrica's tried-and-tested resettlement methods, and perhaps most importantly, de-institutionalization, the process of reforming child care systems and closing down orphanages, became much more mainstream globally.

We can only but learn from our failures in fundraising, strengthened by the success of our interventions and, more importantly, the shift in perceptions. We look forward to conquering new ground and helping more children in 2017, our 15th anniversary year.

- Lisa Lovatt-Smith, Founder



Our Mission

OAfrica empowers vulnerable children and young people whose rights have been compromised due to institutionalization, poverty, violence, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, abuse and discrimination. We help them become productive members of their communities by strengthening families and reintegrating them into safe, stable and loving environments.

Our Values

- Child-centered
- Family-oriented
- Child Participation
- Pro Poor
- Gender Equality
- Promotion Of Autonomy
- Non-Discrimination

Our Vision

OAfrica is committed to Care Reform and to ensuring that children grow up in safe, permanent family settings with appropriate care and protection and with equal rights and opportunities

15 years: Our De-institutionalization Journey

2002: Our founder, journalist and writer, Lisa Lovatt Smith, was so shocked by the corruption and abuse she saw in the Bawjiase orphanage that she radically changed her life by moving to Ghana and founding OAfrica. Having grown up partly in foster care and having adopted a child from care, she understood the importance of appropriate care and the significance of family for children.

2003: Support was extended to other orphanages in the hope of realizing better outcomes for children, but it soon became clear that the orphanage model did not work. Children were being trafficked, abused, sold and separated from their families due to poverty and corruption. We began collaborating with the Department of Social Welfare, as it became obvious that the problem was bigger than just one institution.

2004 - 2005: Research on de-institutionalization worldwide was starting to make an impact and we decided to channel our support to abandoned children only through collaboration with government, bringing our support of orphanages to a close. The focus, from then on, was on supporting social workers, and young adults exiting care, while running a small facility of our own that would allow us to research best practices in care.

2006 - 2007: OAfrica intensified their collaboration with Social Welfare and UNICEF, publishing the landmark Census of Children's Homes in Ghana. The Care Reform Initiative of the Government of Ghana was launched (OAfrica

was the only private funding partner) epitomizing the shift to family care for children, the closure of orphanages and our commitment to Care Reform. The Care Reform Initiative of the Government of Ghana (CRI) was set up as a unique public-private partnership between the DSW, UNICEF and OAfrica, with each entity funding one third of the set-up costs and later attracting other non-government partners.

2008 - 2009: The Government of Ghana National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children was written, and we were the only implementing NGO to be mentioned in the actions matrix. We also sponsored capacity building for all the district social workers in the country. We created a database with information on all the institutionalized children in Ghana. OAfrica became the first NGO in Ghana to focus on the tracing and reunification for institutionalized children and to voluntarily close their own orphanage. Those children with no family care options were moved into family-based foster care. OAfrica commenced a period of restructure and consolidation with the creation of a long term Strategic Plan to support Care Reform.

2010: An explosive undercover documentary on the Osu Children's home by journalist and social activist, Anas Amereyaw Anas, brought child abuse in orphanages to the attention of the general public, and soon thereafter, a commission of inquiry was formed. OAfrica was asked to submit research on deinstitutionalization to the Minister, as one of the only private NGOs to support the inquiry. At OAfrica, the focus was on specialization in services to families and children, such as tracing and reunification as well as cash transfers to families.

2011: Within OAfrica, the departments of Care Reform, Family Support Services and the youth-led Young Adult Support Services were strengthened and audited. The Standards for Residential Care in Ghana, to which we had contributed, were published and OAfrica went on to present at the Better Care Network in NYC and funded the national review meeting on the NPA for Social Welfare in Ghana. Marcel Desailly was confirmed as our worldwide Ambassador.

2012 - 2013: The main departments of OAfrica were audited and restructured: rising prices, inflation and currency devaluation were putting immense pressure on our programmes. Internal data on children were refined and a database was designed. Lisa received the Face Africa Award and the Clarins Award for her humanitarian work. The Auditor General in Ghana published a report with further damning evidence of the harm unregulated and unlicensed orphanages were doing in Ghana.

2014: Lisa's memoir "Who Knows Tomorrow" was published worldwide in three languages and brought more attention to our cause. The focus for OAfrica in Ghana included creating income-generating streams for parents and caregivers as well as a career and entrepreneurship fund for our young adults. The government announced the closure of 64 orphanages, and a moratorium on international adoption was put in place due to links with child trafficking.

2015: "Care-less", a shocking documentary by Anas Amereyaw Anas documenting abuse at the Bawjiase orphanage was released and, in its aftermath, government announced that all remaining unlicensed orphanages would be closed down. The "Country Care Profile-Ghana" was published by UNICEF, and OAfrica/OrphanAid Africa was mentioned positively over 20 times. We supported delegates to the 69th Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child where Ghana presented in its third, fourth and fifth consolidated periodic report. The Committee requested that Ghana strengthen the implementation of the Care Reform Initiative (2007), prioritizing the adoption of measures to support and facilitate family-based care for children wherever possible. Ghana's Cabinet approved the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children in respect of Inter-Country Adoption and a central agency was formed to minimize abuse in adoption and foster care.

2016: We closed all our remaining community services and focused on family support and Care Reform. Since 2006, the Care Reform Initiative that we helped design has been central to protecting the country's most deprived, and through the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, USAID provided \$3 million to Government to support it. The funding will support the Ministry to improve the quality of social work in Ghana. Formal gatekeeping structures will be developed to prevent the unnecessary admission and re-admission of children into orphanages and will strengthen the quality of child protection services at the community level. Joselyn Dumas appointed as Worldwide Goodwill Ambassador.

2017: Marks OAfrica's 15th Anniversary and we are proud witnesses to the fact that Ghana has successfully transitioned from a country where orphanages were the only form of care available for abandoned children, to one in which the focus is on strengthening families to prevent abandonment. We will continue to fight for vulnerable children: for better social work and justice, for full rights, for ART access, freedom from child labor and street life, higher care standards, better education and total de-institutionalization for children in Ghana.

Looking Ahead – More To Be Done

Despite achieving middle-income status, Ghana's children still face many challenges. The latest data indicates that scores are in fact going down, (as compared to 2006) on the Child's Right's Index.

Concerning their most recent report on Ghana, The Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC) spoke to our mission directly when it recommended that Ghana:

“Take the necessary measures to support and strengthen the capacity of parents, in particular those in difficult circumstances, to perform their responsibilities in the upbringing of their children through family support programmes and facilitate the work of civil society organizations in this regard.”

The CRC also highlighted Care Reform as a key area:

“...the Committee emphasizes that financial and material poverty — or conditions directly and uniquely attributable to such poverty — should never be the sole justification for removing a child from parental care, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing a child's social reintegration. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- a. **Strengthen the implementation of the Care Reform Initiative (2007), prioritizing the adoption of measures to support and facilitate family-based care for children wherever possible, for children in single-parent families and for orphan children with AIDS, and establish a system of foster care for children who cannot stay with their families, with a view to reducing the institutionalization of children;**
- b. **Ensure the registration, certification and licensing of existing alternative care centers for children, in accordance with the Children's Act;**
- c. **Strengthen and ensure the periodic review of the placement of children in foster care and institutions, and monitor the quality of care therein through the Department of Social Welfare, including by providing accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying maltreatment of children;**
- d. **Ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated to alternative care centres and relevant child protection services, in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children resident therein to the greatest extent possible.”**

It went on to underline the de facto discrimination against all groups of children in vulnerable and marginalized situations and the lack of a tracking system for these children. The Committee remains seriously concerned that **children with disabilities are still often exposed to inhumane and degrading treatment**, particularly in some “prayer camps”, compromising their development.

The high incidence of domestic violence, gender-based violence and child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and incest, mainly in the family, schools and care institutions, mostly affecting girls.

Lack of **quality of services for victims**: prevention, protection, access to justice, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, including health services and psychosocial support, free helplines and adequate shelters.

The cultural practice of **accusing some girls of being witches**, thereby subjecting them to violence and confining them to ‘witch camps.’

Further concerns remain that over **40% of births are still not registered**.

In addition, the Committee is concerned about the high levels of **neo-natal, infant and under-five mortality, malnutrition, child abuse, child poverty and disparities**, all of which compromise the inherent right of the child to life.

Corporal punishment is still being widely practised in Ghanaian society, its acceptance as a form of discipline, and the Children's Act still allowing for a degree of “reasonable” and “justifiable” punishment.

The increase of forced and early marriage of children, especially of girls.

The prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM).

The fact that **neonatal mortality** accounts for 60 percent of infants' deaths in Ghana.

The **decline of breastfeeding rates** between 2008 and 2011.

The **high numbers of malnourished and severely stunted children**, particularly in rural areas.

The continued high prevalence rate of HIV. The limited number of HIV-infected children and mothers with access to antiretroviral medication in addition to concerns about inadequate access to HIV/AIDS testing. The high rate of child mortality due to AIDS. The high number of orphan children infected and affected with AIDS.

The Committee reiterates their concern about the **high incidence of adolescent pregnancies, the inadequate reproductive health and mental health services for adolescents**, as well as the high numbers of **illegal and unsafe abortions by adolescents**. The Committee further reiterates its concern about children and adolescents affected by **alcohol and drug abuse**.

It is further concerned about the limited access of children to **safe drinking water** and adequate sanitation, particularly in rural areas.

The fact that **primary education is not genuinely free**, due to the monetary contributions parents and/or guardians still have to make by paying levies, mainly affecting children in difficult socio-economic situations

The persisting gender and geographical disparities regarding **access to quality of education**, as well as the lack of teachers and the issue of teacher absenteeism. Girls still facing difficulties in accessing secondary education.

A significant proportion of children living in rural areas, children with disabilities, children from poor households, working children, orphaned children, and children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS are being deprived of their **right to education, and remaining out of school**.

Children **remain exposed to hazardous labour**, affecting their education and health, especially in fisheries, mining, quarrying and in the so-called "prayer camps", ritual servitude (Trokosi), commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, portering of heavy loads, agriculture and street begging.

The Committee remains concerned about the fact that **sexual exploitation of children**, particularly commercial sexual exploitation, is growing.

The limited number of investigations and prosecution of trafficking offenses, the lack of protective mechanisms and services to **safeguard children at risk of being subject to trafficking**.

There are also a number of serious concerns around **children living and working in the street and juvenile justice**.



PETER



Young Adult Support Services

We can proudly say that our YASS initiative (Young Adult Support Services) has become one of Ghana's most successful life-skills and scholarship programmes for vulnerable young people. This year, 88 young adults were supported in this care-leaver programme in school, tertiary, vocational or apprenticeship scenarios. The programme offers financial support to cover school fees and school needs, health and psychological support, transport and housing support, career counseling and placement, as well as life-skills training. During this period, 27 young adults graduated from the YASS programme ready to face the world as confident young men and women, with employable or entrepreneurial skills, bringing the alumni to over 690. We also celebrated 16 tertiary education graduates during the period.

Family Support Services

The leading cause of child abandonment is poverty - poor families often feel that placing their children in an orphanage is the only way to ensure they receive proper education, food and other essentials. We do not agree. We believe that the family unit is the most suitable structure for providing care for children and that institutional care should be avoided at all costs. With the right kind of financial support, families can stay together. This support includes monthly cash transfers, medical care, payment of school fees, housing and skills training.

Social workers locate families to assess if the child can be reunited within them; thereafter an individualized care plan is developed to ensure the child receives the necessary care and support to be healthy and happy within his or her own home. This year, 71 vulnerable children benefited from this programme.



A woman with short dark hair and a black top has her arm around a young boy in a red shirt. They are both smiling and looking towards the right. The background is a grey wall with a diamond-shaped pattern.

Foster Care

For children who cannot be placed within their own families, OAfrica has established the Foster Family Care (FFC) program. In these cases, a child may not have living family members who can care for them or the child has been abused or mistreated in the home. For these children, a safe, stable and loving environment is essential to their well-being as steps are taken to find more permanent care. Children are placed in foster care with a specially trained foster mother who provides for their daily physical needs and, most importantly, offers love and encouragement that is essential for children who have often experienced instability, neglect or even abuse.

In 2016, 25 beneficiaries were supported through our foster care programme. We also successfully reunited 4 children, previously living in foster care, with their biological families.

Care Reform Initiative



The Care Reform Initiative (CRI) is a joint venture between the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), OAfrica, UNICEF and other child protection agencies in Ghana. The initiative seeks to reduce over-reliance on care systems for the estimated 4,500 vulnerable children who are currently living in institutions and move towards a range of integrated family and community-based childcare services. The goal is a more consistent and stable approach to caring for vulnerable children in Ghana so that each child will be assured of a permanent home in a supportive and loving family.

In line with this initiative, our mission advocates for the reintegration of children with their own families, with either their biological parents or extended family (kinship care), or to place children in foster care when they truly do not have family members who can appropriately care for them.

In 2015, OAfrica became a proud partner of Hope and Homes for Children, an international NGO whose aim is to eradicate orphanage care of children worldwide.



Resilience Advocacy

Over the past 20 years, the media in Ghana has become a great tool for communicating and raising awareness, reaching out to millions of Ghanaians across socio-economic boundaries. With the expansion of mobile communication networks in recent years, people are more and more active on mobile platforms. Our Resilience Advocacy program aims to build resilience by affecting large numbers of vulnerable young people through:

- a. Mass outreach programs: Youth rallies, talks, TV and radio programs, in addition to social media and mobile communication services.
- b. Training: Certificate courses for social workers, NGOs, parents and young adults.

Both these approaches enable the transmission of educational messages on a large scale.



Special Needs

We currently support 17 children and young adults with complex special needs including Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Psychosis and other disabilities. These children attend a special school where they receive specialized education and regular physiotherapy as part of their rehabilitation.

We also have a dedicated foster home for 8 children with severe special needs, who are unable to live with their families. This long-term foster care home is staffed 24/7 by qualified caregivers who cater to the physical and emotional needs of the children in their care.

Major Contributors 2016

GHANA

Gokals Laborex Ltd
Polytanks Ghana Ltd
Accra Accueil
Pierre Maurice Stephen
A Child Unheard
Foundation
Hellen Mensah
Sanders Hense
Bouyges Construction
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IN KIND

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SWITZERLAND

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IN KIND

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Le Petit Palais - Musée des
beaux arts de la ville de Paris

Upper East Side & Sophie Bigo –
SBGD et leur réseau de
professionnels
Champagne Laurent Perrier
Vins Chartreux
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Nathalie Carot

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Grafiche dell'Artiere S.r.l
Proofreading:
Gerald Fannon

Goodwill Ambassadors

OAfrica would like to thank our Goodwill Ambassadors from around the world who have dedicated incredible talent, time and finances to the children and families of our organization



Victoria Abril
France



Inés de la Fressange
France



Rossy de Palma
Spain



Margherita Missoni
Italy



Bianca Li
France



Marcel Desailly
International



Eric Don-Arthur
Ghana



Wanlov The Kubolor
Ghana



Joselyn Dumas
Ghana

Leadership

International Advisory Board

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Lisa Lovatt-Smith
Ed Asante
Fernando Masia Marti
Jonathan Hooker
Luca Magni

2002

OAfrica Ghana
NGO No: 1951

President

Lisa Lovatt-Smith

Executive Committee

Jamil Maraby
Edward Boateng

Secretary

Naa Okailey Adamao

Certificates and Associations

Better Care for Children Committee (previously Orphans and Vulnerable Children Committee) of the Government of Ghana

Ghana Association of Social Workers

Coalition of NGOs on the Rights of the Child

Management Team Ghana

Chief Executive Officer

Lisa Lovatt-Smith

Chief International Finance Officer

Robert Mensah Dakwa

Chief Development Officer

Miracle Abena Damanka (until November)

Young Adult Support Services Manager

Francis Anipah

Family Support Services Manager

Jacinta Atakora

Chief Communications Officer

Lisa Gibson



2002

OAfrica Spain
CIF: G 62986971

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Vocal

OPERATIONS

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Fundraising & Advocacy
Manager

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OAfrica France
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Magali Joubert
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2003

OAfrica Italy
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VOLUNTEERS STAFF

Ernesta Pedone
Public Relations

2007

OAfrica USA
56-2617512

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Nana Brew-Hammond
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Ashley Rhodes-Courter
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2007

OAfrica Germany
143/235/63005

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Carsten Jeremias
Petra-Alexa Heinze
Sandra Klinger
Lukas Rosenkranz

2016 OA Ghana Consolidated Accounts (GHC)*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	(GHC)*
Income	2,073,026
International donations (OA offices abroad)	1,863,820
Donations received & Income Earned locally	209,206
Project Expenses	1,863,264
Family Support Services	516,034
Young Adults Services	577,994
Foster Family Community	96,385
Special Children's Unit	209,204
Care Reform Initiative	5,343
Ayanya DA Primary School	45,022
Ayenyah Clinic	798
Workshops and meetings	2,614
Fundraising / Sustainability	382,528
Telephone and communication	7,990
Utilities	4,698
Repairs and Maintenance	8,545
General expenses	6,109
Administrative Expenses	113,143
Transport Expenses	11,583
Other professional fees	16,229
Bank and interest charges	6,419
Audit fees	26,000
Training & Development	52,912
Administrative Staff Expenses	292,552
Salaries and wages	292,552
Depreciation Expenses	120,756
Amortization - rent prepaid	3,300
Total Expenditure	2,393,016
Surplus	(319,989)
Balance at 1 January	867,085
Balance at 31 December	547,096

Financial Statements

Consolidated Summary in Euros* 2016

Consolidated accounts for OA fundraising branches in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

USA and Swiss currencies were converted to euros taking the historical rate of the 15th of each month and then dividing by 12.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	TOTAL	FRANCE	ITALY	SPAIN	GERMANY	USA	SWITZERLAND
1. INCOME							
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	200,020	95,727	24,282	54,744	11,532	14,461	800
CORPORATIONS	351,334	91,955	182,081	49,874	27,424		-
GRANTS	129,697	52,250	53,820	13,727	-	11,000	-
OTHER	257		257		-		-
TOTAL INCOME	681,308€	239,932€	260,440€	118,345€	38,956€	\$25,461	CHF 800
2. PROJECT EXPENSES							
PROJECT EXPENSES - TRANSFERRED TO GHANA	389,922	125,500	169,278	50,427	37,517	8,000	
PROJECT EXPENSES - SPENT ON BEHALF OF GHANA	85,926	47,879	13,067	15,179	824	9,974	
PROJECT EXPENSES - RECEIVED DIRECTLY IN GHANA ON BEHALF OF THE FUNDRAISING BRANCH *	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	475,847€	173,379€	182,345€	65,606€	38,341€	\$17,974	CHF 0
3. RUNNING EXPENSES							
ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL EXPENSES	21,376	7,132	3,281	5,376	-	6,207	-
HUMAN RESOURCES - SALARIES	119,619	48,146	41,335	28,767	-	1,523	-
HUMAN RESOURCES - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	44,887	13,757	9,185	16,237	-	6,342	-
TOTAL	185,881€	69,035€	53,801€	50,380€	0€	\$14,073	CHF 0
4. AWARENESS EXPENSES							
FUNDRAISING/PR	54,653	32,484	20,640		-	1,699	-
SENSITIZATION	11,269	8,005	911	2,353	-	-	-
TOTAL	65,922€	40,489€	21,551€	2,353€	0€	\$1,699	CHF 0

Our Major Donors 2016

The following corporations and foundations contributed \$30,000 or more, therefore qualifying as our Major Partners for 2016: Baglioni Hotels Spa, Cash & Rocket Events Ltd, Clarins, Fondazione Child Priority, HUMEX, Otto per Mille della Chiesa Valdese - Unione delle Chiese Metodiste e Valdesi



The unforgettable Italian touch.



CASH & ROCKET



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