

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (EDS) ANNUAL REPORT 2021

B L U E H O R I Z O N A I D (B H A)

BACKGROUND-PROGRESS OF BASIC EDUCATION IN GHANA

Ghana has made a lot of progress in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG) of ensuring that “by 2030 all boys and girls complete free equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective outcomes”.

According to the vice president of the republic of Ghana in January 2020 ‘Free Senior High School policy’ implemented by the government of Ghana in 2017 has increased enrollment by 69%.

However, despite these progress made in improving basic education in Ghana there are many challenges

in the education sector that inhibits many from having access to quality education.

This includes poor infrastructure in many rural and urban public basic schools, malnutrition. Child labour, amongst others.

Though the government covers most of the cost required for children to be in school, some children from low income families may still be unable to go to school because their parents cannot afford the very basic school materials like

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ BACKGROUND-PROGRESS OF BASIC EDUCATION IN GHANA
- ◆ OVERVIEW OF SCHOOLS ON EDS SUPPORT
- ◆ EDS BENEFICIARIES AND COVID



Mr. Benjamin Turkson CEO of BHA donating stationery and projector to Lashibi Basic School.

CONTINUE...BACKGROUND-PROGRESS OF BASIC EDUCATION IN GHANA

Stationary, exercise and note books, or make provision for their daily lunch in school.

Some children are required to work with their parents, or as house helps in other homes, or trade in order to be able to cover their basic necessities like food, shelter, clothing etc.

In some cases, parents may not allow their children to go to school in order not to lose the indirect benefit of having their children work to support the family to earn a living.

It is on this premise that Blue Horizon Aid (BHA) in partnership with Ghana Freundeskreis uses its project 'Education Development Support (EDS)' to support children from improvised families with some support that can remove some of these barriers to their education.

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOLS ON EDS SUPPORT

In 2021 EDS sponsored 19 students in 3 basic schools in Ghana. The sponsorship covered daily lunch subsidies of three(3) Ghana cedis a day and annual sponsorship of stationary ranging from exercise books, note books, pens, pencils, mathematical sets among others. Some of the schools with pupils that benefited from EDS support are as follows:

BAKATSIRE METHODIST BASIC SCHOOL

Bakatsir Methodist School was established in 1957. It currently has a population of about 170 pupils from primary to JHS level and 16 teachers. It is located within the Ola community along the coast of Cape Coast. The general occupation of the parents are mostly fishing and fish mongering and petty trading. Majority of the population in the school comes from the fishing communities in



SOME EDS BENEFICIARIES WITH THEIR GRADUATING CLASS AND TEACHERS FROM BAKATSIR BASIC

Cape Coast. Only a few parents are government workers or earn a good income. There are Eight (8) EDS beneficiaries in Bakatsire Junior High School among whom Six (6) have completed and Two(2) are currently in the school.

ST. NICHOLAS BASIC SCHOOL

St. Nicholas Basic School was established in the year 2000. It currently has a population of about 500 pupils in the JHS level. It is located within Adisadel community in Cape Coast. The general occupation of the parents of the pupils are mostly masonry, mechanics, fish mongering and petty trading. There are currently three (3) EDS beneficiaries in the school; two females and one male.



EDS team presenting stationery to some EDS beneficiaries in St. Nicholas Basic School with their Head teacher (second left) present



Students of Lashibi Basic looking on during a visit by the EDS team



**Mr. Benjamin Turkson (CEO of BHA)
with teachers of Lashibi Basic School.**



**Mr. Benjamin Turkson (CEO of BHA) present-
ing stationery to an EDS beneficiary Abigail
Akpalu**

OLD LASHIBI BASIC SCHOOL

Lashibi is a town in the Greater Accra Region of south eastern Ghana near the capital Accra. Lashibi is the twentieth-largest settlement in Ghana. The general occupation of people in the community ranges from: traders, carpenters, masons, drivers, welders, tailors etc.

Old Lashibi Basic School was established in the year 1988 by the government to serve the people in Lashibi community. Currently the school has an enrolment of 560 pupils with 237 boys and 323 girls being taught by 25 teachers. There are 5 girls and 3 boys currently on EDS in Old Lashibi Junior High School.

This year, Old Lashibi JHS have received various prizes for taking part in an essay 'Power of My Dream and Aspirations' organized by Rotary Club Accra and Spintex. An EDS Beneficiary immersed the overall winner, named Abigail Akpalu. In 2021, BHA made various donations in the form of

books, stationeries and a projector to Lashibi JHS.



**CEO of BHA with EDS beneficiaries in
Lashibi Basic during a visit**

EDS BENEFICIARIES AND COVID

With the onset of Covid 19 in 2020, Schools were closed for 10months form March 2020 in order to curb the spread of the virus. However by presidential order schools were reopened in January 2021 with the requirements that the wearing of nose masks, washing of hands and checking of temperatures be used to monitor and reduce the spread of the covid 19 virus in schools.

The fatality rates of the virus and the rate of spread in the Ghana has been thankfully low. Hence, the effect of Covid 19 on teaching and learning in schools currently is generally low. Basic schools and high schools largely use face to face interactions for teaching and learning.

However the closure of schools for 10 months in 2020 has greatly altered the academic calendar of schools in Ghana. The dates for reopening and vacation of schools were altered to make up for the lost instructional time. The Ministry of Education is working to gradually normalize the academic calendar of schools in the Country.



EDS team presenting stationery to some EDS beneficiaries in Bakatsir Basic School with their teachers present