

# PROJECT: PANKO YOUTH CENTER

## Tamale, Northern region, Ghana



# Newsletter

## PANKO Project



June, 2020

### INTRODUCTION

To our cherished readers, we the Ghanaian Team together with our able and hardworking German Partners (Christiane Wimmer and Dr. Gitta Zimmermann) is pleased to present to you our June, 2020 Edition of PANKO Newsletter. Our goal is to use this medium to communicate, inform and to share with you the exciting work we are doing here in Northern Ghana to improve the lives of vulnerable and destitute children. We are happy to share with you our success stories on our exciting journey to finding better lives for children in Northern Ghana and beyond and we are hopeful you will join us in this life-enriching, joy and fulfilling journey.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, June, 2020

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Enrolment of Kids

Forty two (42) kids have been enrolled from four surrounding villages. Out of the 42 kids, twenty nine 29 are boys and thirteen (13) are girls. Despite reaching our full intake capacity for now, more kids are showing a lot of interest in PANKO, coming over every evening to watch their counterparts learn and play.

Interestingly, parents in most cases force children to go to school and it is the other way round at PANKO; kids rather force their parents to register them at PANKO.

#### PANKO Launching Ceremony

On 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, PANKO Youth Center was duly launched, despite heavy downpour. Many of our guests—community members, family and friends—came through the rain, wet and shivering, just to honor the invitation. We are very grateful for the overwhelming support.

- Enrolment of Kids
- PANKO Launching Ceremony
- Baseline Literacy Assessment
- Playground Helps us to Achieve 100% Attendance.
- Activities Begin at PANKO
- PANKO Sends a School Dropout Back to School
- Covid-19: Ghana's Situation
- Challenges & Possible Solutions for the Future



## Playground Helps us to Achieve 100% Attendance

We are so delighted to have achieved 100% kids attendance in our first week after launching PANKO. This is partly attributed to the presence of the playground and the provision of snacks for the kids. The kids are so enthusiastic about coming to PANKO and spending all the time learning and playing. One child said “Sir, you really know what we want...” pointing to the playground. There is no playground in almost all the communities surrounding PANKO and the kids don't have the privilege of play space and equipments. So the kids recruited are really enjoying themselves at PANKO.



Mubarak (Panko Director) addressing his guest at the launch

## Baseline Literacy Assessment

The kids, after recruitment, went through literacy activities to establish their foundational reading ability that would help us to develop appropriate literacy interventions. The assessment focused on five critical components of reading, including Letter Knowledge, Most used words, Decodable words, Story reading and Reading comprehension. The data would be analyzed and the results would be reported in our next newsletter.



Literacy Assessment taking place

## Activities Begin at PANKO

On 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020 activities started at PANKO, which included Book Club Session, Special Learners' Session and Playground Activities. Readers are engaged in the Book Club session whilst non-readers are in the Special learners' session and both sessions are ran parallel. Activities on the playground included football, volleyball, skipping, swinging, and riding wooden horse among others.



Plenary and Group Sessions of both Readers and Non-readers



Kids Playing Volleyball on the Playground



Kids Swinging and Playing Football on the Playground



## PANKO Sends a School Dropout Back to School

**Asana** is a 12 year old girl, an orphan and a school dropout who is so obsessed with PANKO. She lives with her aunty in a village, about 400 meters away from PANKO. According to her aunty, Asana dropped out of school because she did not like school and prefers to play about in the community. Asana admitted to the reason of her dropped out accounted by her aunty and added that her aunty could not also pay for her examination fees of Gh¢5, equivalent to 1 EUR, which also contributed to her leaving school. After enrolling Asana in PANKO and having a discussion with her and the aunty, they both agreed that Asana will go back to school when school reopens.

## Challenges and Possible Solutions for the Future

- ❖ More kids are showing interest in PANKO: We will consider graduating the kids every 1-2 years and also to expand our capacity in order to give more kids the opportunity to benefit.
- ❖ Low Enrolment of Girls: In the future, we intend to carryout Girl-child Education Campaign in the surrounding villages and also to give a quota for girls.

## Covid-19: Ghana's Situation

As at 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, Ghana recorded a total of 19,388 COVID-19 confirmed cases with 14,330 recoveries and 117 deaths with active cases of 4,941. In the case of Northern Ghana, 137 cases have been recorded.

Government has opens schools for only final year students of all levels to prepare for their exit examinations. Ban on public gathering, workshops, and worshipping centers have all been lifted, subject to observing covid-19 protocols.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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