

PANKO YOUTH CENTER

Tamale, Northern region, Ghana



Newsletter

PANKO Youth Center



December, 2022

To our cherished supporters and funders, our team in Ghana and Germany is pleased to present to you our December, 2022 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 marginalized 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.



Mission and Purpose

We provide a safe place and opportunities for less privileged children to learn foundational skills required to develop their full potential.

<https://www.projectpanko.com>

CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENT

IN THIS ISSUE

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO EVALUATE PANKO?

With evidence, we can make better decisions that help each learner and beneficiary succeed. As a youth center that wants to be well-informed about what our programs are accomplishing, evaluating our programs on a regular basis is the best way to get feedback on what is working and what isn't so we can make continuous improvements. Also, the evaluation process can provide us with evidence that PANKO's programs have value. In this light, PANKO adopted an evaluation instrument of Northwest Regional Laboratory, U.S. that provided us with stakeholder surveys and focus group questions. These surveys were administered to our beneficiary kids, parents and community members, teachers, and PANKO staff in November, 2022. Some of the findings will be highlighted in this newsletter and the complete report will be made available afterwards.

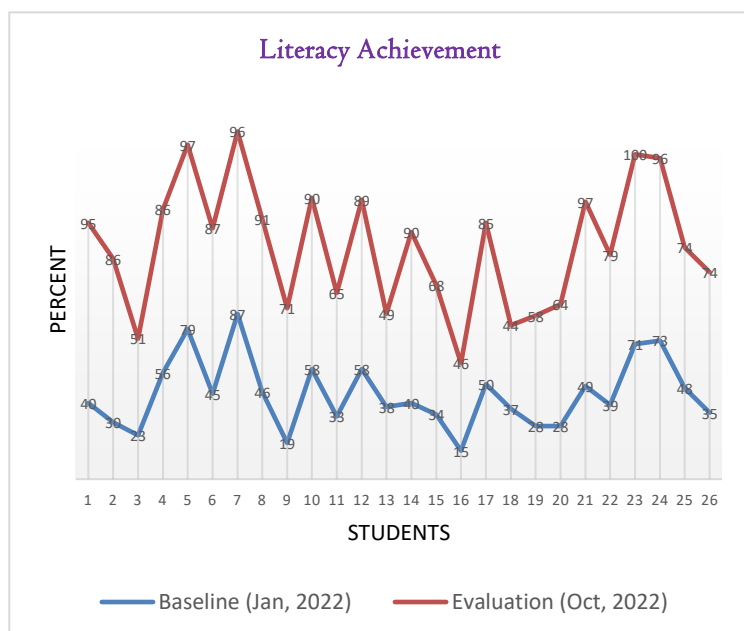
- ✚ Evaluation of PANKO's programs
- ✚ Mubarak's Meeting with Sponsors
- ✚ Chris visit to PANKO as a Volunteer
- ✚ ICT Center for Education & Job Creation
- ✚ Marta, Alex and Sebastian Visits

HOW WAS DATA COLLECTED?

Before the start of PANKO's project in June 2020, and before enrolment of any beneficiary, a pre-survey was administered to every beneficiary of the project. After two and half years of implementation, comprehensive follow-up surveys were conducted in November, 2022 to measure project progress and impact. The participants for that follow-up surveys included, sixty-four (64) beneficiary kids, twenty-eight (28) parents and community members, twenty-five (25) teachers and five (5) PANKO Staff.

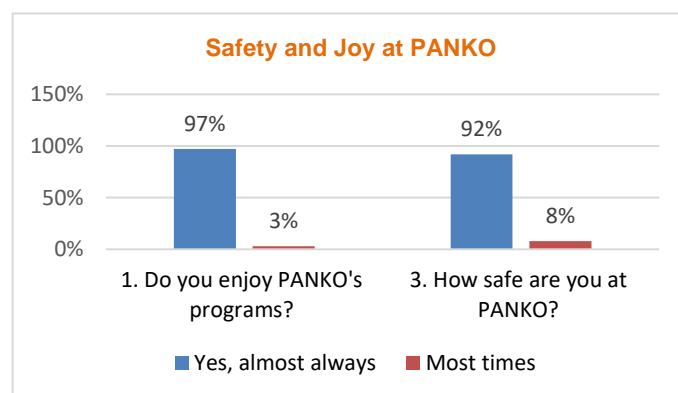
HOW ARE THE KIDS PERFORMANCE IN LITERACY?

We are proud to mention how most of the kids who got enrolled at PANKO could not recognize letter sounds and can now read to some appreciable level in less than a year with average score of 45% for the pre-survey and 78% for the follow-up survey.



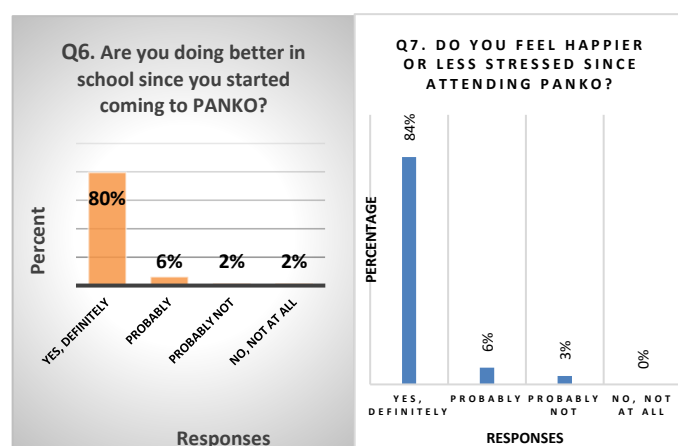
DO THE KIDS ENJOY PANKO AND HOW SAFE ARE THEY?

With lots of smiles, 97% of the kids almost always enjoy PANKO's programs while 92% of them feel almost always safe at PANKO.



IMPROVED WELBEING AND PERFORMANCE

The graph below reports what the kids are saying about their school performance and their happiness since attending PANKO, where 80% reported doing better in school and 84% feel happier after joining PANKO.

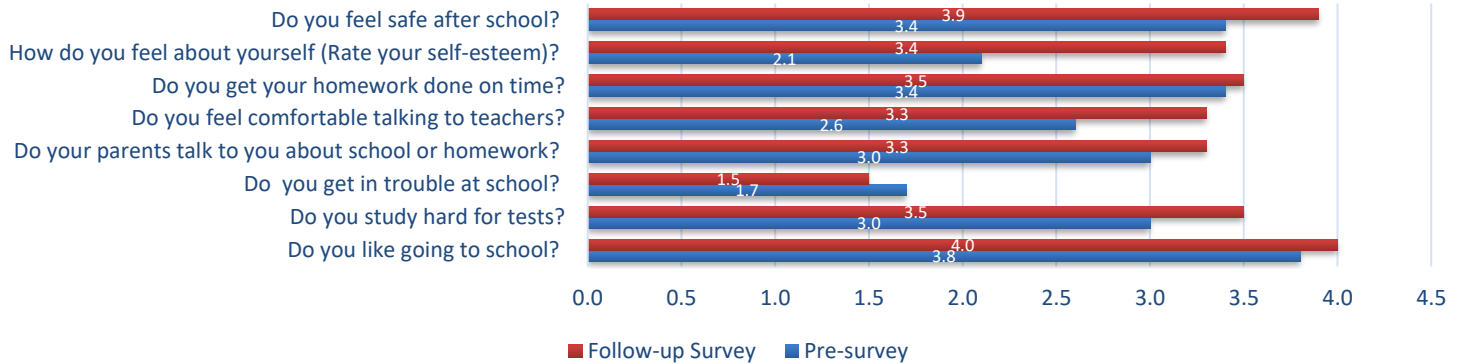


COMPARING PRE-SURVEY AND FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

From the diagram, it is amazing seeing PANKO beneficiary kids improve on their self-esteem from an average of 2.1 in pre-survey to 3.4 in the follow-up survey. There is also improvement in how comfortable they feel talking to teachers from an average of 2.6 (pre-survey) to 3.3 (follow-up survey), which can be as a result of improved performance and self-esteem. The diagram also revealed improvement in other areas such as after-school safety, studying hard for test, getting homework done on time, liking going to school and parents talking about school. etc

Comparing before (pre-survey) and after PANKO (follow-up Survey)

Average responses of students where (1=No, hardly ever), (2=Sometimes), (3=Most times) & (4=Yes, almost always).



WHAT ARE PARENTS SAYING ABOUT PANKO?

1. My child has improved in speaking English and writing.
2. They instill discipline and also doing well in academics.
3. Good environment for our kids to learn so many things.
4. PANKO is a best place for grooming our kids.
5. It is a place where children exhibit their potentials.
6. PANKO is a place where children can learn so many things.
7. They are good in taking care of kids in terms of education.
8. It is a place where children behavior does change positively.
9. I believe, PANKO is a place where serious learning takes place
10. The center helped to increase my child's confident level and academic performance.

WHAT ARE TEACHERS ALSO SAYING ABOUT PANKO?

- "PANKO is a good program and need to carry on and also to cover many learners in the school"
- "I think it's a very good programme that should include more students and offer them more assistance in the area of teaching and learning materials"
- "..... I must admit that the program is helping in many ways. I notice learners under the program are ahead of their colleagues and generally the beneficiaries make difference."
- "The program is good and should be encourage to continue"

MUBARAK'S MEETING WITH PANKO SPONSORS IN BAVARIA, GERMANY

Our Managing Director, Mubarak Alhassan was in Bavaria, Germany in October this year and made a presentation to funders and supporters. This was to explain the processes and how far PANKO has come as a youth center providing marginalized rural children an opportunity to dream, aspire and hope for a better future. The presentation introduced the relevant stakeholders in Germany as well as those back home –the team at Panko that ensure its day to day running. It was a humbling moment for donors to learn more of the positive impact of their benevolence act on the lives of these marginalize kids in northern Ghana. Together we will achieve more!!



CHRIS PAALZOW VISIT TO PANKO AS A VOLUNTEER

It was an honor to receive Chris Paalzow, our first international volunteer from Germany. After weeks of planning, picking up at the airport, a drive on the Tamale-Bolga highway to the hotel, Chris was having a serene moment in the northern Ghana already.

With two weeks stay, the itinerary included both educational tours of the north and football sessions at PANKO Youth Center. Some of the visited places included a shea nut processing center, Nuku Studios, Red Clay Studio, Germany Cemetery in Yendi, Center for National Culture among others.



In the evening, Chris will take the beneficiary kids through sports with each day assign to a specific cluster. With Thursday been sport day, all clusters will join in the training. Being a football enthusiast, Chris brought so much energy to the football team within his short stay.



Chris brought so much hope to the center, to the beneficiary kids, it was no surprise he became the household name at Panko and neighboring communities. The sharing of cookies among the kids was probably the most adorable moment in his entire stay.



To truly understand a group of people is to spend some time with them and witness how they go about their daily activities. Chris spent a lot of time in the rural communities, schools, farms, and business centers.



As you were crowned “developmental Chief” of Kulmang, it is our hope that Panko will continue to stay in your heart. We believe you will come around soon and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



On behalf of staff, beneficiary kids and all the four (4) communities under Panko, we say a big thank you for sharing with us your precious time and also helping shape the football team within your short stay.



ICT CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND JOB CREATION

PANKO's new project dubbed, ICT Center for Education and Job Creation (ICT4E&J) intends to bridge the gaps between the urban and rural areas in terms of technology solution and education. This project is aimed at eradicating the difficulties that are associated with learning I.C.T in public schools with the main target being the beneficiary kids of the center. With a newly furnished I.C.T lab comprising of fifteen (15) used laptops, internet router, projector, fully air-conditioned, PANKO is indeed on a mission.

ICT lessons have kickstarted in the first week of November, 2022. Before we started lessons, none of the beneficiary kids owns a personal computer and 90% of them have never used a computer in their lives. So, it was a delight to touch and use the computer for the first time. A special thank you to all funders for making this a reality.



MARTA BRIGNONE VISIT TO PANKO



It was a pleasure to receive Marta Brignone from the E.U delegation to Ghana in September this year. Interacting with the beneficiary kids, what stood out for Marta was the fact that, the kids come every day prepared to learn something new. The beneficiary kids were thrilled to learn how to read the map and identify the various continents. The enrichment nature of PANKO's programs was what made Marta to promise to come back and share more with the kids. Marta, we appreciate the visit and anticipate your next visit.

SEBASTIAN VISIT

On July 15, 2022 we were also glad to receive Sebastian of GIZ Ghana. The visit was to familiarize him with what PANKO does and to have a firsthand look on our facilities. Conversation had themes on technology, computer recycling and genuine concern for the environment. It is our hope that we partner with GIZ Ghana in the future. Thank you for the visit. "PANKO" will always welcome you back.



ALEX VISIT

We also welcomed Alex Yeandle, a PhD student from London School of Economics and Political Science to PANKO. His visit was on research mission and PANKO staff were helpful at that. Another area that was of interest to Alex was digitization and how I.C.T is driving the needed change in Africa. Dear Alex, we look forward to working with you soon. From "all of us" at PANKO, we wish you the very best with your research.



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