#### PROJECT: PANKO YOUTH CENTER

Tamale, Northern region, Ghana







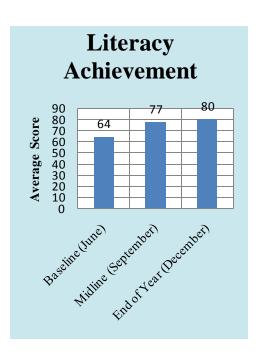
### **INTRODUCTION**

To our cherished readers, our team in Ghana and Germany is pleased to present to you our January, 2021 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 OVER 6 MONTHS OF OPERATION

# Data Shows Improvement in Our Literacy Program

Baseline, Midline and End-of-Year Assessments on literacy (including, alphabets recognition and writing, letter sound recognition, decodable and most used words identification, reading and comprehension) were conducted for 40 kids in June, September and December, 2020 respectively. From data analysis, the average scores for the baseline, midline and end-of-year stood at 64, 77 and 80 percent respectively, showing improvement in our literacy program.



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## Feeding Program Promotes Gender Equality

Our Feeding Program not only provides a healthy meal for the kids, but also contributes to achieving the SDG 5, Achieving Gender Equality. The culture in Ghana is deeply entrenched with patriarchal norms where boys are usually not given task in cooking and other household chores. Cooking is mostly assigned to women and girls, creating much burden on girls, contributing to their poor performance in school. Panko is bridging that gap by distributing the workload equally for both girls and boys in our feeding program. The kids are put into groups and assigned days to cook their own meal. Amazingly, the boys, unlike in their homes, are given the chance and they even lead their groups in the cooking. This is a way Panko can help inculcate the sense of equality in the kids and contribute to achieving the global goals.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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#### **Recruitment of New Learners**

Panko enrolled new learners as part of our plans to progressively reach out to more vulnerable and needy kids. We have recruited additional twenty-four (24) kids consisting of twelve (12) girls and twelve (12) boys. In total, we now have sixty-four (64) kids, constituting 25 girls and 39 boys. All new learners have been assessed and began their sessions.

## Panko Introduces Homework Support Program

To serve the kids better, we have introduced a Homework Support Program. Majority of parents and other members in the rural communities are illiterate and could not help with children's homework and since schools have just reopened; there is the need to introduce a support program to help the kids do their homework. As part the program, we create a space for kids in the same level in their various schools to connect with their classmates from different schools to share ideas on what was learnt in class at their schools.



#### Covid-19: Ghana's Situation

Government of Ghana has reopened schools after 9-month of closure. As at 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, Ghana recorded a total of 62,751 COVID-19 confirmed cases with 58,561 recoveries and 377 deaths, 3,813 active cases. In the case of Northern Ghana, 635 total cases have been recorded, 550 recoveries and 73 active cases.