



GHANA MEDICAL HELP DONOR REPORT

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Report Date: October 18, 2020

REPORT PREPARED BY: Dr Kelly Hadfield

FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear GMH Friends & Family,

In September 2020, Ghana Medical Help celebrated its **10-year anniversary**. This decade of experience has enabled GMH to be an effective part of the unprecedented global response to Covid-19 in 2020. Supporting community health has required individuals, organizations, and governments to think more creatively about how to adapt health programming to meet changing needs, how to incorporate physical distancing into operations, and how to communicate effectively across large geographies. While this has been an obstructing task for many charities, GMH's grassroots framework and team-based local partnerships gave us the advantage of easily adapting our programming quickly to meet evolving needs while mitigating the risks of Covid-19.

For example, GMH and Ghana Health Service had collaboratively planned to run a 3-day biomedical engineering training conference in April for all northern-based hospital engineers. In March, we recognized that it would be unsafe and inappropriate to proceed with plans that would physically bring engineers from across Ghana and Canada together for multiple days. We cancelled the conference and adapted by starting an online series of monthly educational webinars for all hospital engineers (and interested health workers) in Ghana that would increase their training and knowledge in relation to Covid-19, among other topics that were to be covered in the original conference curriculum. These webinars have included instruction about the coronavirus, setting up a Covid hospital ward, safely maintaining and cleaning hospital equipment potentially exposed to Covid-19, creating a hospital inventory, preventative maintenance, equipment repair, and more.

This became the first GMH project to open its doors to the entire country, which was an exciting landmark for us! Whereas GMH had previously only supported hospital engineers from the Upper East and Upper West Regions with tools and training, these webinars are typically attended by 30-50 engineers from up to 7 Regions, extending from the southern coastline of Ghana to the northern border. We publish each webinar on our website [here] and YouTube Channel [here], such that anyone can freely access the training content after the live event. In conjunction with this online training series, GMH is now expanding its toolkit donations across Ghana to rural hospitals in other regions with exhibited need.

"This demonstration of love and care for mankind will support in no small way to prevent the spread of this disease that is crippling the economy and the livelihoods of especially the poor and vulnerable in society." - Dr. Samuel Aborah, Medical Director Bolgatanga Regional Hospital, Ghana

The above is an excerpt from a personal thank you letter to GMH Donors from the Medical Director of the Upper East Regional Hospital after receiving a large PPE donation from GMH in September. At the onset of the pandemic, there was sufficient PPE available in Ghana through government and non-profit sources. However, as the pandemic persisted, PPE supplies dwindled dangerously low, creating a massive deficit and vulnerability for frontline healthcare workers. Without adequate PPE present, hospital workers themselves were contracting Covid-19, spreading the virus to vulnerable patients and



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other healthcare staff, and becoming seriously ill and dying. When over 2,000 health workers had been infected by Covid-19, Ghana Health Service reached out asking urgently for help with acquiring PPE. This ask was adamantly supported by GMH Director of Ghana Operations, Dr Dominic Akaateba. Without it, Dr Akaateba said, the situation would continue to exponentially escalate. While GMH rarely supports the provision of consumables, in this circumstance, we were certain that this was an extremely appropriate and necessary direction of our resources and support.

By the generosity of a few incredible donors, GMH quickly raised \$28,000 and was able to expedite the acquisition and shipping process of PPE through our pre-existing networks. Since its delivery in early September, this PPE has been supporting every Hospital Covid Ward and Regional Covid Treatment Center in the Upper East and Upper West Regions. This has directly made a profound impact in a time of urgent need and helped mitigate a disaster as Covid-19 made its way through infecting healthcare workers.

Other Project Updates:

- The Sheep, Health, and Economic Empowerment Project (S.H.E.E.P.)
 - The farming component of this project continues as per usual. Farming families who have received a donated female sheep are being checked in with on a biannual basis, when it is time for their sheep to receive seasonal vaccinations to protect against dry/rainy season disease. Families who have had 3 reproductive cycles from their first donated sheep are giving one female offspring back to GMH for allocation to another impoverished farming family in the remote community of Kadema, Upper East Region, Ghana.
 - The public health education workshops that were previously scheduled approximately every other month have been cancelled since April. Our last workshop in April focused on giving information about Covid-19, hand washing, and the importance of physical distancing. This community does not have access to technology for the workshops to be delivered virtually, and so workshops will not resume until it is safe to do so.
 - In 2021, GMH plans to work with the University of Development Studies, Tamale, to conduct an in-depth qualitative study to assess the impact of this project.
- The GMH Ambassador Project
 - This project adopts a 'training the trainers' model to delivering clinical training programs for nursing staff at rural district hospitals across the two northernmost regions of Ghana. However, due to Covid-19 concerns, we have cancelled the training workshops scheduled for 2020 and hope to resume them virtually in 2021.
 - In 2019, GMH worked with Dr Millicent Akaateba at the University of Development Studies, Tamale, to conduct an in-depth qualitative assessment of this project. You can read the final report by clicking [here](#) (we highly encourage taking a look).



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Audited 2019 Financial Summary

Total Fundraised	\$95,611
Total Expenditures	\$86,427
Projects	\$79,930 (92%)
Administration	\$1,751 (2%)
Exchange Loss (<i>wiring funds to GH for projects</i>)	\$3,050 (3%)
Professional fees (<i>annual audit</i>)	\$2,599 (3%)

I want to emphatically **thank you** for your past support of the rural and vulnerable people we help in Ghana. We have seen enormous change in the quality and availability of basic healthcare in northern Ghana since our 2010 beginnings, and we are tremendously proud of our contribution to that change.

Through training, health resources and infrastructure development, GMH projects in 2020 and 2021 will continue to empower and strengthen a healthcare system trying to control and bounce back from Covid-19. We need your help to make this happen.

Help us today by making an online donation [here](#) or by mailing a donation to the GMH office. Please feel free to contact me at khadfield@ghanamedicalhelp.com if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and well.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Kelly Hadfield".

Dr Kelly Hadfield, MD MSc BSc

Founder/Executive Director

Ghana Medical Help

www.ghanamedicalhelp.com