

Report to Fondation Eagle
Wulugu Project - Reg Charity no 1060691
Vocational School Equipment
Ref F.F. 0449-09
Completion Report for Fondation Eagle

We were delighted to receive news from Fondation Eagle that we had been granted **£13,464 on 24th April 2018** for provision of much needed practical equipment for three of our seven Vocational Schools for Girls in Northern Ghana. These schools are in Savelugu, Sawla and Karaga.

The success of these schools means that, despite all efforts by the schools themselves, there is a constant need for more materials and replacement for worn out equipment. Numbers of students increase year on year. The heads do their best by selling batique and tie and dye, selling catering products, finding printing jobs for eg local churches, inviting local women to have their hair styled. However, materials including inks, white cloth, threads for weaving, cooking ingredients, paper are in constant demand, and equipment such as sewing machines, computers, freezers, looms are sometimes broken as well as being in insufficient supply to cope with the needs. The equipment that Fondation Eagle has provided will ensure that students in the most popular courses have improved in relevant practical experience.

There are, at present, 645 young women and girls benefitting from the new equipment. This will increase steadily, but the real benefits will impact on very large numbers in the wider community.

While the government of Ghana has promised that Ghana Education service will absorb these schools as soon as possible, we cannot sit back and wait, doing nothing, until this might happen. In fact we have been disappointed to see that those schools that have been absorbed have had little or nothing extra to spend on practical work. Whatever the politics, the girls are at the heart of what we do and we are determined to support those heads who are doing such a great job on so little.

Problems Encountered

The ordering and purchasing of the equipment took place during **May 2018** and ran smoothly. Some of the equipment, including the large catering ovens, had to be made to order but suppliers know what we need to enable large groups of students to be trained. Since schools closed for the long holiday, we arranged the hand-over

for the start of the new term in late **September 2018**. The whole process took four months.

Savelugu begged us to allow them to reduce the numbers of small tables and chairs to 70 for now and substitute 2 large tables for the catering class. Karim, one of our carpenters, made these.

Following receipt of the grant we made some slight adjustments to purchases due to changed requirements of the schools. Apart from this there were no unusual difficulties. Building looms is a specialised skill but we have craftsmen who can do this and provide the quality and durability we need for heavy use.

Progress and Achievements

Savelugu

Has 170 students now and is making very good progress. We are very pleased with the management. The head copes with many difficulties with initiative and determination, 65 students graduated this summer. 35 of these were from the Dress-making course which is one of the strongest in the region. Most of them are working for themselves in their own villages –they are from very deprived rural communities. 10 more graduated in weaving. 5 ICT graduates are working in internet café centres in Tamale. 6 catering graduates are working across Tamale in hospitality (Tamale is the nearby city with many hotels etc) 6 electricians graduates are at Dabokpa technical School working for higher qualifications, 3 students are working in sign painting.

Without our school, all of these would be either married with children or working in virtual slavery.

Sawla

Sawla has 380 students. This school has always been successful. To date it has not had the problems that have affected most of the others. The head is strong and sure of what she wants for her students.

70 students graduated in July 2018. 25 were from the Tailoring dept, and have set up their own tailoring shops in their villages. 12 graduated in catering. 5 have places at Tamale Polytechnic to pursue HND in Hospitality management. 7 are working in hospitality locally. 15 graduated from ICT. 8 are engaged in further ICT education. 3 have entered teacher training college pursuing a Diploma in Education in ICT. 2 have set up their own ICT centres providing internet and secretarial services. 18 Fashion and Design graduates are tailoring in their own villages.

Karaga

As we have learned from our considerable experience now, developing vocational schools is not straightforward, but it is well worthwhile. Karaga has dealt with its problems (caused by the 'new district' status). There are 95 students, all engaged in catering, dress-making or weaving. The 23 graduates this year were mainly tailoring students and all are involved in local small enterprises. This school is now well on

course for absorption by Ghana Education Service and, if the pattern in other schools is followed, will develop into an important player in the prosperity of the district. This will lead to improved health, smaller families and the likelihood of every child being able to attend school regularly.



Headmistress and students receiving catering equipment at Savelugu Vocational School.

One of the new catering ovens, these are to enable the students to have the skills they need for employment in eg. Hotel Industry.



Students at Savelugu receiving their new equipment.



Freezer being presented at Sawla Vocational School.



Some of the Sewing Machines for the dress-making students at Sawla, Karaga and Savelugu.



Freezers and Fridges for Sawla.



Tailoring Students at Karaga.

Cynthia Rahinatu Haruna, Principal of Savulugu Vocational School wrote:

It has come to light in the 21st century that the private sector is the major driver of most economies particularly Ghana. It is therefore worth noting that the last three years, the sector that scored the highest GDP was the manufacturing sector and services sector. The highest employment was people with Technical and Vocational skills.

In light of this, the transformational educational agenda of the government is to promote vocational and technical education to enhance the development of skills needed to move the development agenda of the country. Technical and Vocational Education for a long time has been the preserved of low performing students in the academics in the past. However, in recent years through the promotion of Technical and Vocational Education this has not been the case thus, Polytechnics which were to turn out skills for industry at the lower level, have all been upgraded and equipped as Technical Universities where skills can be acquired to feed industries and services at the highest levels.

This turnaround has seen a gradual shift of graduates from the traditional university system into acquiring Technical and Vocational skills in order to have employable skills. Typical example is where you find graduates from the traditional courses of social sciences now going into the business of Vocational services such as catering and fashion design. Example: popular Adinkra pastries and numerous fashion and design outlets across the country.

Hence, the vision of Wulugu Project to have seen this coming from a distance and investing into technical and Vocational education is worth praising. Over the years, we have seen a gradual growth in the lives of our graduates who have made it through our vocational training. 60% of them are self employed who in turn employ others in apprenticeship (learning on the job). 15% go on to further their education through the Technical Universities and gain employment in the private sector through the hotel and tourism services while 5% return to their various villages and setup fashion design businesses. The remaining 20% who particularly study electrical, ICT also setup internet cafés where they run their own businesses.

Comparatively, their colleagues who went through the main stream schooling through the universities are still waiting to be employed by the public sector which is saddled by redundancies as government can no longer employ.

In the Savelugu Metropolis, the impact of our vocational school is now being felt and seen as a stepping stone to liberating girls who would have otherwise been mothers through early child marriages but are now acquiring skills that enable them to be employable and generate income to sustain themselves and their families. So, the relevance of this vocational school cannot be undermined. Though we are bereaved with so many challenges, we are hopeful that the commitment of Wulugu Project and its continuous support in the continuous provision of equipment is going a long way to attract more girls in acquiring skill training that will make them employable. We want to take this opportunity to thank Wulugu project with its determination to see as many girls as possible are trained to be able to contribute to the economy in the northern region, thereby lifting them from poverty in most cases from abuse. We want to say thank you and wish you well

Macelina Adah

Principal of Sawla Vocational School wrote:

Sawla is one of the districts in the northern region which borders BrongAhafo region and Upper West region. Since the insertion of the vocational school, there has been a great transformation in the lives of the girls who but for the school would have ended up in prostitution as the case was because of Sawla's location as transit town through Upper West to Brong Ahafo.

The vocation school has over the years turned out a lot of girls with skills in dress making, textiles (tie & dye and weaving), catering and ICT. These courses have provided skills to these girls who comes from very poor backgrounds but for the school, they wouldn't have had the skills they have now.

The vision of the Wulugu Project to setup this vocational school caught the eye of the Ghana Education Trust fund administrator who has added on staff accommodation and assembly hall to the Wulugu Project structures for the school. The district assistant has also added a fifty-bed capacity hostel for accommodation for the ever-going population.

The school currently has itself three hundred and eighty students in the various courses done by the school with a very dynamic teaching staff who are motivated to see the school succeed and to realize the Wulugu Project dream.

We continue to be grateful for the continuous support by the Wulugu Project and the supply of equipment for the catering department, the ICT department and the fashion and design department. In the midst of a global resection where funds are hard to come by, we are grateful to Wulugu Project and its donor partners in supporting the girls and for their vision in supporting the vocational school to provide skills for these girls to be able to equip them with the necessary training for employment thus, improving their lives and that of their families.

Budget

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS EQUIPMENT - REPORT

Item	Savelugu	Sawla	Karaga	Quantity	Est Cost Per Unit	Est Total Cost Cedis	Actual Cost Per Unit	Actual Total Cost Cedis	Total Cost £ @ 5.9 Exchange Rate
Baking Ovens	1	1	0	2	2500	5000	2800	5600	949
Gas Stoves	3	3	3	9	350	3150	350	3150	534
Fridges	1	2	1	4	4000	16000	4000	16000	2712
Freezers	2	2	0	4	5500	22000	5500	22000	3729
Sewing Machines	5	5	10	20	420	8400	420	8400	1424
Tables & Chairs Estimate	80	0	0	80	180	14400			
Tables & Chairs Actual	70	0	0	70			180	12600	2135
Catering tables Estimate	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Catering tables Actual	2	0	0	2			600	1200	203
Looms	2	0	6	8	580	4640	580	4640	786
Transportation	650	1300	850	0	0	0	0	2800	475
TOTAL						73590		76390	12947

Estimates were based on exchange rate of 5.5 but 5.9 was achieved.

Transportation costs were not allowed for in estimate.

Cost of ovens increased but compensated for by change of order for tables.

Amount received **£13,464.**

Amount spent on listed items **£12947.**

Underspend = £517. This was used toward further support practical courses as below:

Sawla	Tie & Dye	£255
Savelugu	Catering	£170
Karaga	Weaving	£128
Total		£553