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2021



ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN
INITIATIVE (AFAWI)

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SUMMARY

Dear Sir or Madam,
Dear Friends of AFAWI,

The last four months were characterized for our team by major changes. Not only did we successfully start the work with our newly elected **Members of Board**, Prof. Dr. Angelika Poferi and Florence Avery, but we were also finally able to move into our **new office building**. We are now located in the Adenta Municipality in Accra, Ghana. Please find the complete address details below.

Additionally, AFAWI was engaged in the evaluation of the implementation of the **Ghana School Feeding Programme together with SEND Ghana**. The programme itself is funded and conducted by the government of Ghana and is providing hot meals for children in need since 2005.

Our team members further joined the '**elevate programme**' by Ecobank, which focuses on women-focused businesses by providing support with smarter cash management, discounted financing and value added services. Furthermore, we had a meeting with members from the **Enactus organization** at the Cairo University in Egypt, to discuss about a possible partnership with the focus on malnutrition of children in Ghana.

In the middle of the year, we were excited to announce that we were able to start with the implementation phase of the **AFAWI/HOPE SEWS – THE VOLTA PROJECT**, which focuses on sustainably empowering female seamstresses in the Volta Region in the fields of financial literacy, health and gender responsiveness. We successfully trained 30 seamstresses in the Volta Region. The same training sessions were also conducted by our team in Abokobi, Greater Accra, for another 10 female entrepreneurs.



AFAWI was also taking part in the **COLLECTIVE STORIES PROJECT**, an initiative designed by the journalist Gretel Cuevas to spark a global conversation about how women around the globe experience collective trauma and build collective identities. Together with the **University of Georgia and the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)**, we implemented a project in the Western Region focusing on improving the livelihood of female mobile money vendors.

The **AFAWI Livelihood Project** creates since 2014 an opportunity for women in Ghana to be financially independent through the distribution of micro-loans with low-interest rate, allowing the women and their families to rise above the poverty line. The new subproject phase started in September 2021 and supports 30 women in Abokobi in the Greater Accra Region to help them rise above the poverty line.

In collaboration with **H.O.P.E. Inc. For Tomorrow**, we have started an agriculture project that promotes conscious nutrition among school children.

Furthermore, we were also particularly pleased to be able to resume our Volunteer Internship Programme after a long break.

In the following you will find detailed information on the individual projects and events that took place in 2021.

Yours Sincerely,

The Team of AFAWI



GHANA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME: AN EVALUATION BY SEND GHANA IN COOPERATION WITH AFAWI

The team of AFAWI joined in February 2021 the 'Analysis of Contracting of Caterers in the Ghana School Feeding Programme' by SEND Ghana to evaluate the implementation of the so-called Ghana School Feeding Programme. The Ghana School Feeding Programme began in 2015 with the aim of providing children in public schools and kindergartens in the poorest areas in Ghana with one hot and nutritious meal per day. One of the key implementing actors in this programme are therefore the caterers, who are responsible for providing the food. The 'Analysis of Contracting of Caterers in the Ghana School Feeding Programme' now broadly aims at ascertaining communication and action delivery of audit recommendations, specifically those contained in performance audit reports. It seeks to enhance engagement between key overnight actors from within and outside the government to promote action on selected audit findings that are currently ignored by the government.

The AFAWI team joined several committee meetings and conducted field visits in respective institutions in the Greater Accra Region.



NEW OFFICE:

We kindly want to inform you herewith, that the Alliance for African Women Initiative is from now on located in the Adenta Municipality in Accra, Ghana. The new address is **Alliance for African Women Initiative (AFAWI), 6 Adjetey Street, Adenta Municipality Accra, Ghana**



NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

In the following we kindly want to introduce you to our new board members of AFAWI, Prof. Dr. Angelika Poferl and Florence Avery.

Prof. Dr. Angelika Poferl's work and research interests include gender cultures, theories of modernity and globalization, sociology of knowledge and culture, microsociology, qualitative methods and methodologies of social research, and analysis of contemporary societies. After her diploma in sociology in 1989 at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, she worked as a researcher at the Munich Social Research Center e. V. (Münchner Projektgruppe für Sozialforschung e. V.) until 1996. She was an assistant of Prof. Dr. Ulrich Beck from 1996 to 2004, reached her PhD at the University of Augsburg in 2002, and was an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Qualitative Research at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich from 2005 to 2010 (evaluation 2009). She moved to the Fulda University of Applied Sciences as Professor of Sociology and Globalisation in 2010. In 2016 she accepted a call to the TU Dortmund University in 2016 as a holder of the Chair in General Sociology.



Florence Avery is an educator working in a primary school in Bristol, UK. She is a qualified teacher and supports children with their mental health and wellbeing in her current role of Learning Mentor. She is currently undertaking further study to become a psychologist. Florence volunteered with AFAWI in 2014, contributing to research into attitudes to HIV/AIDS and sexual health education in Ga East, Accra. Since returning to the UK she has regularly fundraised for AFAWI. In 2017 she helped to create a link between BVDA (a volunteering group based at the University of Bristol), and AFAWI, helping to secure a new cohort of volunteers for summer 2018.



AFAWI/HOPE SEWS – THE VOLTA PROJECT

The team of AFAWI collaborated with the sustainable fashion brand Hope Sews for a project, which focuses on sustainably empowering female seamstresses in the Volta Region in the fields of financial literacy, micro loans, female health and gender responsiveness. The Volta Project includes interactive training and workshops in the respective areas, as well as an establishment of lasting community structures to ensure a long-term impact in the livelihood of the participants. In addition, our focus is placed on a comprehensive data collection of our targeted beneficiaries, to get a detailed insight in the actual needs of the women. The results are used to develop a suitable continuation of this first phase of the project.





COLLECTIVE STORIES PROJECT

The Collective Stories Project is an initiative founded by Mexican writer and journalist Gretel Cuevas Verdin. It is designed as a multidisciplinary non-fiction project about women's negotiation of their historical circumstances through their textile traditions, objects of memory and personal stories in an inventive at to make the past tangible. She is telling the stories behind the textile traditions and women of Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Bosnia, Rumania, Vietnam, Cambodia, Peru and Mexico.

The AFAWI Team is excited to be part of this great initiative and supported Gretel with the implementation during her stay in Ghana, which included the visit of women in the Ashanti Region, the Volta Region and the Greater Accra Region. Through a journalistic approach, the project is thereby trying to give voice to underrepresented women communities across the globe.



THE LIVELIHOOD PROJECT (SUBPROJECT 2021 – ABOKOBI)

The AFAWI Livelihood Project creates since 2014 an opportunity for women in Ghana to be financially independent through the distribution of micro-loans with low-interest rate, allowing the women and their families to rise above the poverty line. It further provides workshops and training sessions in business skills, bookkeeping, commercial consultancy, management, gender responsiveness, and health in order to further women's education and improve their livelihood for the future. AFAWI also provides a chance to create daily savings accounts for the women, that receive a small amount of interest and encourages further saving for the future.

The new subproject phase started in September 2021 and supports 30 women in Abokobi in the Greater Accra Region to help them rise above the poverty line. This subproject is solely financed by a fundraiser organized by our volunteer interns, which helps us conduct our work independent from any religious, political, or other interests. We successfully conducted the training phase for 10 women and distributed the micro loans to them.





H.O.P.E. FOR TOMORROW INC. FARM PROJECT

For the Farming Project AFAWI works together with H.O.P.E For Tomorrow Inc. to support a primary school in Abokobi by providing a nutritious lunch to aid in food security and combat malnutrition. Furthermore, AFAWI is building a school garden, to provide direct access to some food items as vegetables for school lunch. The further plan is to generate income from the garden work to assist the school with the garden and school needs including supplies and assistance for students impacted by HIV/AIDS. Finally we aim to develop a nutrition program in conjunction with the lunch initiative and school garden to provide education to students to reduce malnutrition among youth.

