ANNUAL REPORT

2020

ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN INITIATIVE (AFAWI)

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SUMMARY

Dear Sir or Madam,
Dear Friends of AFAWI,

The year 2020 started with a global crisis whose final consequences were hard to predict. The COVID-19 pandemic led to exceptional circumstances in our professional and personal life and required solidarity and collaboration between the people. In these difficult times, society faced a variety of new challenges in the health sector and other areas. We wanted to highlight the important role of women in this situation of crisis, as most of the professions being qualified as relevant for the system (nurses, teachers, cashiers et.) are mainly occupied by female personnel.

This year AFAWI started new projects but also continued working on existing projects. We organized and hosted the International Women's Day Conference in Accra, we started our new Empowering Girls Wash Project and the AFAWI'S COVID-19 fact check project. We also did a financial literacy training week in cooperation with the Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperations.

In the following you will find detailed information on the individual projects and events that took place in 2020.

Sincerely,

The Team of AFAWI

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CONFERENCE

AFAWI'S International Women's Day Conference was an overall success. Women and men from all over the world came together on the 9th March 2020 in Accra to celebrate this special day. AFAWI was able to listen to interesting speeches and participate in an amazing workshop, held by our international guests from Ghana, Germany and the UK. The conference started with an introduction by Philip Kwesi Agyei (AFAWI Manager). It was followed by presentation about the success stories of market queens by Dr. Felicia S. Odame. She explained the role and responsibilities of market queens. As part of her presentation market women were asked to talk about their personal success stories, challenges and ideas for the future. Some market women and another guest shared their experiences and thoughts.

The next presentation about human rights, gender equality and female empowerment was given by Prof. Dr. Angelika Poferl. She gave a short explanation about when and where human rights were originated. She also referred to the recent focus that exists regarding female legal issues ("no means no" campaign). As part of the section of vulnerability and empowerment of women, economic freedom in Germany and the gender pay gap were addressed. The presentation ended with mentioning that women should be encouraged.

Angela Trenton-Mbonde, the country manager of UNAids was holding a presentation about the mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The situation of HIV in Ghana, and the goal that UN has for Ghana regarding HIV and AIDS elimination by the end of 2020 were addressed. She also mentioned the responsibility of men.

The message was conveyed that the market queens have a major role in further decreasing HIV transmission, for example through encouraging women to know their HIV status. The last presentation about personal development and career success was given by Joy Ogeh-Huttfield. The audience was asked to stand up for an exercise in which they had to define themselves and their neighbor. The participants were encouraged to tell others that they are awesome. Tips were given on how to put this into practice. The session finished with the audience standing up again, parroting what was said by the presenter, in order to convince the audience about their 'right' to follow the path they envisioned for themselves in life.

SUNLODGE HOTEL

EMPOWERING GIRLS WASH PROJECT

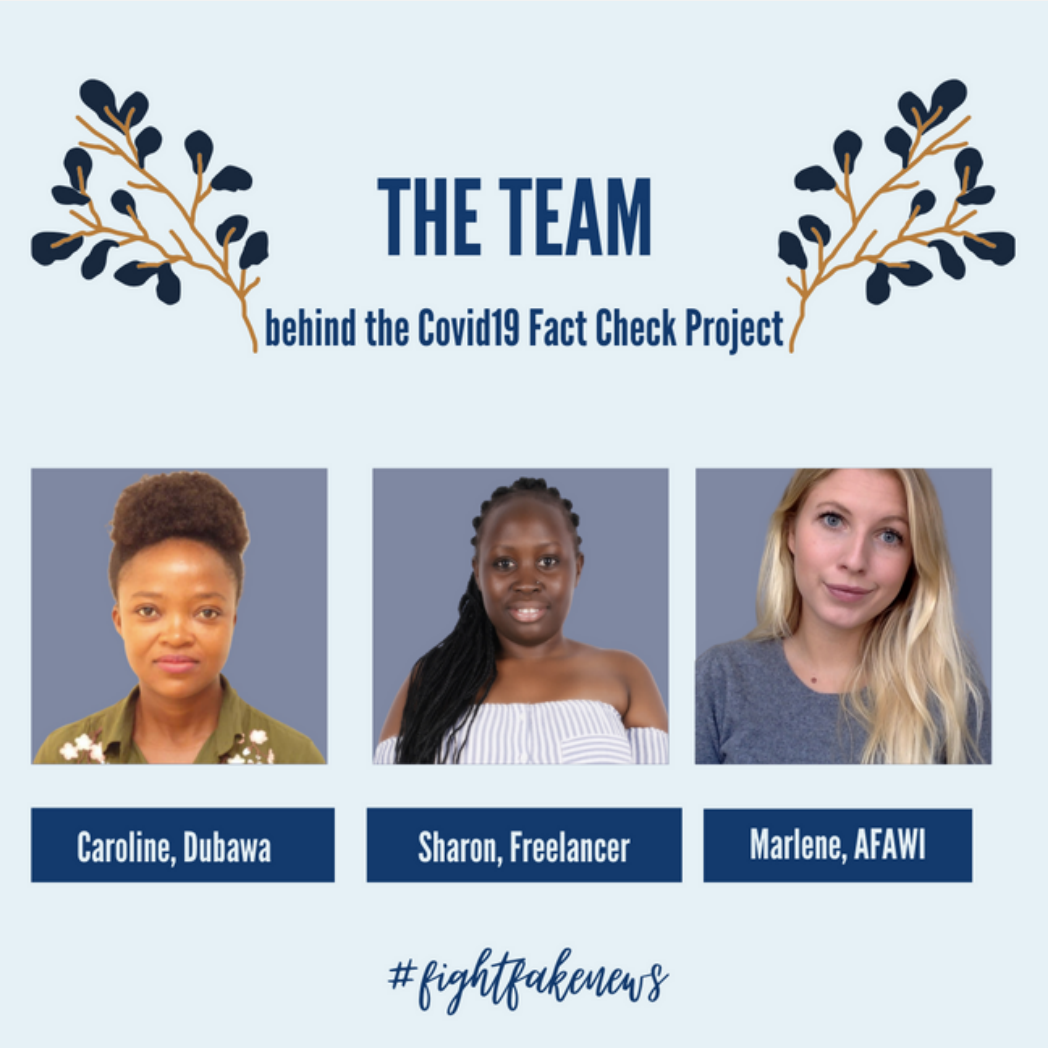
As a part of the Empowering Girls Project AFAWI started the Empowering Girls Wash Project at the beginning of March 2020. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic we had to keep the project on hold until November where we were luckily able to partly resume our work. The project was designed to encourage and improve personal hygiene for students at the Medie Presbyterian School in Accra, Ghana, through providing water buckets, access to water, soap, and hand sanitizer. Furthermore, we wanted to implement an after-school Teen Club, to sustainably work on the education about the importance of hand washing and hygiene in general, with special focus on topics such as for example menstruation and HIV, to eliminate existing stigmas and support and empower girls in Ghana.

AFAWI TEAM NEWS

Our team has grown, and we are verry happy about that. Marlene Keller and Joanna Oteng permanently joined our team. Marlene Keller started working as a Programme Assistant for AFAWI. Meanwhile she is also doing her LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law by distance learning. Joanna Oteng supports the organization as a monitoring and evaluation officer and helps especially with the personal support of the volunteers and master students.

AFAWI'S COVID-19 FACT CHECK PROJECT:

We created this project to work against the dangerous spreading of so-called Fake News or False Information during the Covid-19 pandemic. The AFAWI team started with producing and publishing of educational videos on the AFAWI social media accounts. In June we were working on a concept for expanding the education to the communities of Ghana. Our goal was to educate people about the existence of fake news and where to find true information or news about the pandemic.



FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING WEEK:

The Financial literacy training week was hosted by AFAWI in cooperation with the Sparkasstenstiftung. From 26.-30. October 2020 we hosted a number of financial literacy trainings for fifty industrious Market Women from Greater Accra Region at the Sunlodge Hotel in Tesano. The participants went through a 3-day Micro-business Simulation Training and a 2-days Saving Simulation Training with the objective of assisting them gain basic business skills, understand the factors that influence business and to understand the purpose and benefits of managing personal and family budgets as well as savings. The overall goal thereby was to empower women economically in the long run.

OTHER EVENTS:

- Annual Health Screening Project 02.-21.08.2020
- Empowering Girls Project - Distribution Week 25.-29.02.2020
- Eccachild-End of the year party 02.01.2020