



EMPOWER PLAYGROUNDS INC

EMPOWERING GHANA
ONE CHILD AT A TIME

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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EPI Mission Statement

We empower children in deprived areas of West Africa by providing innovative, sustainable educational resources, enabling them to understand their full potential.

At the heart of everything we do is the belief that every child deserves the chance to learn, dream, and succeed—regardless of circumstance.

Note from Director

If I could pick one word to describe 2025, it would be joy! By definition, joy is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.

At Empower Playgrounds, one of our greatest joys is witnessing the students' dedication to learning. Seeing their desire to expand their knowledge and grow every day gives us hope for today and the future.

We saw joy in many ways this year. We saw it trying to spark kids' curiosity in the world around them. We saw it as we strengthened our connection to one of our island school communities. We saw it in every survey, demonstration and interaction we had this year.

I hope that as you read through this year's annual report, you will see that joy too.

We're excited to share the progress we've made in 2025 and celebrate what your support has made possible. As we look ahead to 2026, we're filled with hope and anticipation for all we can accomplish together. Your continued support empowers us to continue to witness and widen that joy, lighting the way for a brighter future.

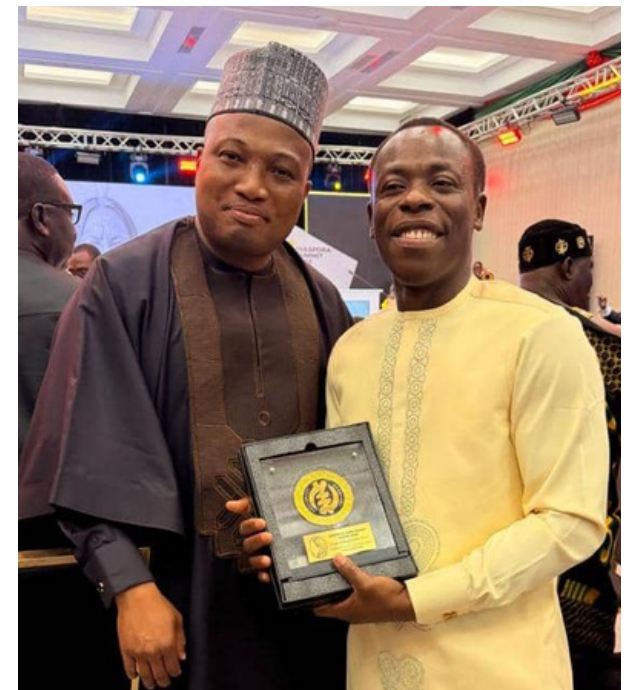
-Amy Williams, Executive Director



Excellence in Social Impact Award

On December 20, 2025, Empower Playgrounds was honored to receive an award from the Government of Ghana at the inaugural Diaspora Awards. We were presented with the Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah Diaspora Award for Excellence in Philanthropy and Social Impact. Empower Playgrounds is the first ever organization to receive this award.

We are deeply grateful to be recognized for our work as an organization doing good in the beautiful country of Ghana. We dedicate this award to the 42,000 students who have been touched by the power of our programs and the generosity of our donors.



Map of West Africa



Expanding Our Reach

The problems facing rural education are not exclusive to Ghana. Many other neighboring countries in West Africa have similar struggles. Several years ago, Empower Playgrounds expanded into Mali and Burkina Faso. This year, we continued our expansion by entering both Liberia and Sierra Leone.

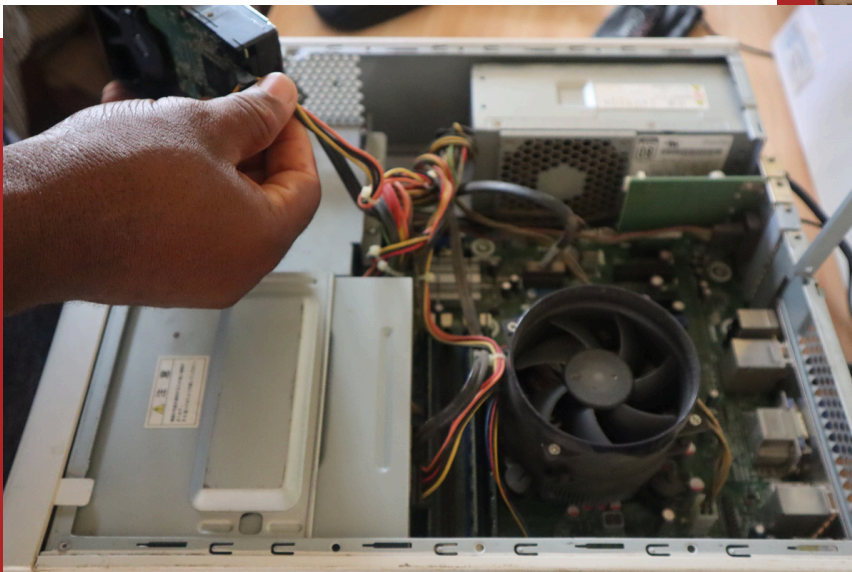
Our amazing team traveled & worked diligently to bring over 400 reusable menstrual kits to students within these two countries.





Sustainability

At Empower Playgrounds, sustainability is an essential part of our mission. Our team in Ghana doesn't just install new projects—they are constantly upkeeping and sustaining our existing projects. Whether it's fixing a computer, exchanging a battery, readjusting a merry-go-round, replacing a lantern/menstrual kit, training teachers, or dusting off solar panels, our team works tirelessly to ensure each program runs smoothly. Today, we support 78 schools, all of which are consistently monitored and supported.



2025 Overview

MENSTRUAL KITS



1,118

kits
distributed

55,900

days of school
given back

BOREHOLES



238

repaired (232)
& new (6)

238,000

people given clean
water access

COMPUTER LABS



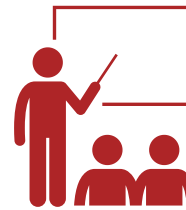
5

new
labs

1,250

new students
with access

CLASSROOM BLOCKS



3

blocks built (2
new, 1 repaired)

550

new students in
a classroom

LANTERNS



214

lanterns
distributed

312,440

additional
hours of light

MERRY-GO-ROUNDS



3

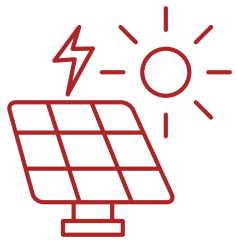
generating (2),
non-generating(1)

587

students
with access

2025 Overview

SOLAR POWER



2

solar systems

1,500

people with solar access

SCIENCE KITS



152

new kits given

11,400

new students with access to materials

LIBRARIES



3

libraries installed

~3,000

books donated for students' use

RACHEL DEVICES



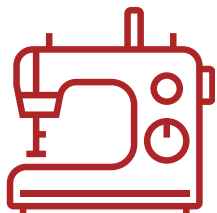
9

5 new, 4 replaced

2,250

students with offline hotspot access

SEWING MACHINES



25

machines given

25

new career possibilities given

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE EVENT



12

schools gathered

~400

girls, mothers, teachers, & officials educated





World Menstrual Hygiene Day—May 28th

We hosted our second annual World Menstrual Hygiene Day Educational Event. Over 400 people gathered to celebrate the importance of menstrual hygiene, including girls, their mothers, teachers, and officials from the Government Education Office. Everyone was educated on the importance of understanding and taking care of their menstrual hygiene. Each student received a reusable menstrual kit.



Rocket Launching: Inspiring Curiosity & Innovation

This year, our board member Larry traveled to Ghana with the goal of inspiring young students to embrace curiosity and innovation. Through hands-on activities—such as air rocket and balloon experiments—he helped students at several schools experience learning in an interactive and engaging way. Students were encouraged to ask “why” and “how” as they explored different experimental scenarios. By teaching students to dig deeper, we help open their minds—and their futures—to new possibilities.





Breaking Down Barriers

Tuanikope, one of our most remote island villages, has faced significant challenges as a community. This year, we were able to replace their merry-go-round—an effort that required careful transportation by small boat and wheeling across sandy terrain. Today, the merry-go-round once again brings light and opportunity to hundreds of students. At Empower Playgrounds, we ensure that even the most remote schools can receive access to our projects, helping them to overcome the unique barriers facing rural education.

Partnerships

Empower Playgrounds constantly strives to form new partnerships with organizations and individuals who share our commitment to education. In February, we partnered with the University of Education, Winneba in Ghana to create a STEM learning center where students can learn and explore future careers in STEM. Several other organizations and individuals sponsored projects throughout the year, expanding opportunities and resources for EPI students.



Financial Statement

2025 Revenue:
\$615,244.89

Donations Breakdown:

49.89% Private
47.68% Foundations
2.44% Corporate



Program Expenses:

57.12% Ghana Operations
37.95% Administrative*
4.94% Fundraising



***All administrative expenses are covered by our founder.** 100% of your donations go directly to our projects in West Africa.

EPI Staff



Amy Williams

*Executive
Director*



Isaac Darko-Mensah

*Ghana Country
Director*



Anna Little

*Program
Director*



Peace Yeri

*Girls Education
Specialist*



Richard Koomson

*Program
Associate*



Senam Aku Biddah

*Communications
Associate*



Alex Martey

*Program
Associate*



Morgan O'Loughlin

*Data
Specialist*



Dominique Rivera

*Marketing
Intern*



George Thompson

*Special
Projects*

Board of Directors



Ben Markham

*Board President/
Founder*



Betsy Eckton

*EdD in Educational
Leadership*



Jeff Markham

*MD, Senior
Teleradiologist*



Wes Marriott

*Entrepreneur/
Consultant*



Angela Trego

*PhD Mech. Eng., Trego
Engineering President*



Jaron Dunford

*Solutions Consultant
Workday*



Larry Allred

*Retired Entrepreneur
and Consultant*

Get Involved in 2026



Donate

Every donation supports our projects, changing the lives of students



Share

Follow us on social media! Share our posts and campaigns with others to spread awareness.



Get Involved

Watch for opportunities to get involved this year on social media! You can also sponsor your own EPI project or take a humanitarian trip with us!



THANK



**FOR YOUR
CONTINUED
SUPPORT**