JUNE 2019

GRID UPDATE

NEWS FROM NORTHERN GHANA

Holistic - Sustainable - Integrated

by Dr. David Mensah, GRID & NEA Executive Director

The centre circle of the hub-and-spoke drawing was designed to depict the unusual GRID-NEA model for transformed lives and communities. We like to use Jesus' sense of 'holistic' when he sent John the Baptist an answer to his question, "Are you the Messiah, or should we expect someone else?" This is GRID-NEA's understanding perfectly. "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the good news is proclaimed to the poor." (Luke 7:22) Jesus was constantly aware of the spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs of the crowds, of women and men, of boys and girls. This is the vital lens through which we look at all aspects of our ministry in northern Ghana.

The term 'sustainable' in reference to the outer circle of initiatives in so many fields of endeavour refers to people as well as projects standing on their own while improving or at least causing no damage to the environment. This newsletter gives a clearer picture of what that looks like in a variety of sectors.

'Integrated' was one of the first lessons we learned when we began work in Janga in 1987. Poor health was starkly visible: children with distended tummies and sparse hair growth, adults crippled by guinea worm and unable to farm, women dying in childbirth as they could not get to a health facility due to flooded roads. We knew we needed to bring healthcare within their reach but first the community needed clean water to address guinea worm and other water-borne diseases and farmers needed assistance to produce better crops to address malnutrition.

GRID and NEA's Development Model

Our centre page is an update on the Leyaata Hospital currently under construction in Carpenter. We're so excited that this long-held prayer and dream is becoming a reality. While this project is obviously holistic and integrated, plans are in place for income-generating ideas that will support the hospital as the work progresses, making it entirely sustainable.

We are ever grateful for your support and for God's hand upon our attempt to follow Christ's command to "love our neighbours as ourselves" in our little corner in Ghana.

Crossing The Finish Line Together . . .

Leyaata Hospital was a dream in 1972 of two impoverished boys who grew up in rural Northern Ghana and wanted to save their sick friend, Nicholas. Forty-seven years later, on May 23, 2019, one of those boys, Dr. David Mensah, stood in front of over three hundred supporters, partners and friends who had gathered under one roof to celebrate the milestone of the Leyaata Hospital Project. Many of them helped make the dream a reality. Because of committed supporters and partners like you, we have raised CAD $11.7M and construction of the Leyaata Hospital started earlier this year.

It was a wonderful evening of celebration as we united with the goal of crossing the finish line together. Thank you for helping us raise over $60K during the Leyaata Hospital Celebration and Fundraising Dinner. We continue to receive pledges and contributions almost every day. Total contributions will be announced after June 30, 2019.

A hospital is just another building until it is properly equipped and staffed. To open the doors of the Leyaata Hospital, we need to raise CAD $1.7M. Let's join hands together in raising the final funds!

" It's great to be here for this very special occasion and to celebrate with you all, what is really a tremendous story of vision and passion for helping to make a difference in the lives of people in Northern Ghana both now and in the future."

- Cindy Lambier -
The Jim Pattison Foundation

"Whatever has been accomplished, it is due to the linking of hearts towards a shared vision that life matters, humanity matters, and the world matters. This driving principle that all lives matter has been worked out in many specific projects."

- Dr. Jennifer Wilson -
Ghana Health Teams Lead

Leyaata Hospital rendering. Once completed, within the following two or three years, this fully equipped 50-bed general hospital will become the area's essential health care hub.

Dr. David Mensah thanked the 300+ friends, supporters and partners for pushing him to make the hospital dream a reality at the Leyaata Hospital Celebration & Fundraising Dinner.

" Because of your willingness to act in service of others, another miracle is underway, the miracle of the Leyaata Hospital.

What an impossible dream to have had! What an extraordinary goal to ascend! And now, what an astonishing achievement!

A hospital is a city on a hill. A working symbol of what can be accomplished with and for other people by those that have faith, inspiration, commitment and the love that has always guided the Mensahs, NEA & GRID.

Anyone thinking of a good investment in the future, in humanity, and all that's really important in life must know that with what we have seen in the past, this will certainly come to fruition. It will certainly become a sustainable project and deserves every support that it can get."

- Dr. John Schram -
Former High Commissioner to Ghana

Sustainability at Work

GROWING A FUTURE

As part of a pilot project to help teenagers earn their way through higher education, 60 girls and 60 boys from four different communities were trained in sustainable gardening of marketable crops. They were supplied with inputs (tools, seeds, boots, gloves) to be able to garden in both rainy and dry seasons beside community fish ponds.

BABANAYAA PROJECT

Global Affairs Canada has approved CAD $1.3M funding in support of improving the well-being of women and girls in 30 rural communities in Ghana's northern and Brong Ahafo regions.

FOOD SECURITY

NEA has been producing more food for consumption and also training others in sustainable agriculture and aquaculture methods. On a tour, you are likely to see fish, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bee hives, chickens, ostriches, emus, quail and rabbits being raised successfully alongside mushrooms, peanuts, corn, beans and a variety of vegetables.

WATER & SANITATION

It's not enough to provide a well. People need to know what to do when something goes wrong with the pump. Women and girls gather most of the water so it's particularly important that they are the ones who are trained in pump repair for the well to be sustainable. Before there is an official handover of a well, NEA makes sure that they can take the pump apart, know all the parts, where to procure replacements and finally be able to put it back together.

CHURCH GROWTH

In most of the rural communities, congregants aren't able to support their pastors from funds they contribute to their churches. Often pastors have to work part-time and maintain their own farms on the side to be able to feed their families. Recently, they came up with a plan to change this. The church members have provided labour to establish cashew farms in each community. In a few years, the income from these farms will help them to look after their local church needs.

GRID & NEA

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GRID (Ghana Rural Integrated Development) and **NEA** (Northern Empowerment Association) are partner organizations working to alleviate poverty in Northern Ghana. Motivated by Christ's love, our mission is to assist poor communties to meet their basic needs in a sustainable manner.