



The Gateway

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Project Abroad community soap factory begins production



Supported by the Projects Abroad Microfinance Project, a small community soap factory in Ghana produced and sold their first batch of locally made soaps last week.

The Obuotumpan Soap Factory in Koforidua was established by the community through the support and direction of the Microfinance Project's volunteers and staff. Some members of the community were also trained by a local soap expert.

The soap, which is branded 'Rock Soap', is made from eco-friendly ingredients which can be sourced locally. The name 'Rock' is the English translation of the first part of the village's name – 'obuo'.

The community collectively owns the factory and they contribute their time and energy into producing and marketing the soap both internally and in surrounding villages and markets.

"The energy and commitment demonstrated by the community is encouraging," remarked Peter Hoekstra, a volunteer from The Netherlands. Along with Peter, other Microfinance volunteers worked to ensure that the factory is established and run in a profitable manner. They have developed a relevant accounting system for the community to record their spending and income; and also have provided training in book-keeping and business management.

Projects Abroad encourages volunteers working in Ghana to buy the locally produced soap for their families and friends back home to support the growth and development of the factory.

The Projects Abroad Microfinance Project believes that initiatives such as this will empower the people and help support a sustainable future for communities. Find out more about the [Microfinance Project in Ghana](#).



The Projects Abroad microfinance team and a partner at a briefing and training meeting with the community members of Obuotumpan village near Koforidua

In a related development, Kyle Gibson and Matt Fahlman, both from the same university in Canada are two of our Micro finance volunteers in Koforidua that are using their time, knowledge and experience to help the community of Salom, a village near Koforidua, to start a community poultry farm project under a micro loan scheme. They have done feasibility studies in the community and have partnered with KroboDan, an organization that trains local communities and provides agriculture-related skills and resources. The volunteers have sourced chickens, food and vaccines from the same organization.

The community people used local materials to build a pen house for the chickens. The chicks are expected to arrive in March.



The two volunteers Matt and Kyle interacting with young men in the village of Salom inside the uncompleted pen house for the chicks.

Volunteer joins a Ghana Health Service outreach

Jessica Riley Green from the United Kingdom (pictured below), one of the medical volunteers participated on Wednesday at the outreach programme run by the Ghana Health Service and helped record information about new born and a few month old babies. Mothers from the village came to the gathering with their children to be weighed, vaccinated for polio, hepatitis, measles, etc, and to receive important vitamins to help their growth.



Volunteers treat boys and girls in Don Bosco School

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Our medical team of volunteers and staff had another visit to Don Bosco Catholic Boys and Girls school in Winneba. They continued taking care of the children who are affected by ringworms and other skin infections. They dressed the wound of the children and offered them vitamin C supplements to boost their immune systems.

The medical outreach is intended to provide basic medical assistance to communities and schools that are in need of it and does not have access to medical care often, unless in emergency cases. Many of the children's parents do not care or offer any first aid to the wounds of the children. This allows for other infections and it complicates the open wounds.

A Projects Abroad volunteer from Germany, Fiona Wertz, has worked on the medical project for several weeks now. "Parents in Germany treat wounds and other cuts when their children get hurt but in Ghana, many of the children are ignored," she remarked.

She also worked in the Winneba municipal hospital and she looks forward to studying medicine. She has learnt a lot from the hospital, as well as on the medical outreaches. "I have learnt what fungal infections are and how to treat ringworm," Fiona evaluated.

Volunteer with us!

Ghana is an exciting and popular place to spend some time on a volunteer project or work experience placement. Projects Abroad has many projects available to volunteer in Ghana, based in Accra, Cape Coast, Koforidua, Kumasi, Akuapem Hills and Winneba.

Volunteers in Ghana work on a wide range of projects including Teaching, Care, Community – including Building and IT Projects, Medical & Healthcare Projects – including Medicine, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Midwifery and Dentistry, plus Journalism, Veterinary Medicine, Sports, and Human Rights.

Visit [our website](#) for more information.

Human Rights volunteers profile Ghana's biggest slum

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Volunteers at the Human Rights project working in Ghana's biggest slum, gathered useful data from residents of the slum. The volunteers collected information from mothers living in the Old Fadama slum community.

This activity is part of a comprehensive programme to profile the slum based on important variables and topics that researchers often overlook. They inquired about the number of children the mothers had, how they access health care, what they believe might cause the health challenges they faced and so on.

On one occasion the volunteers met with the mothers near a house of a babysitter. The babysitter runs a non-professional day care for babies, toddlers and children whose mothers are often head porters at Accra's big markets.



Volunteers interviewing mothers living in the slum with the support of Mr. Frederick Opoku, Exec. Director of a partner NGO in the slum.

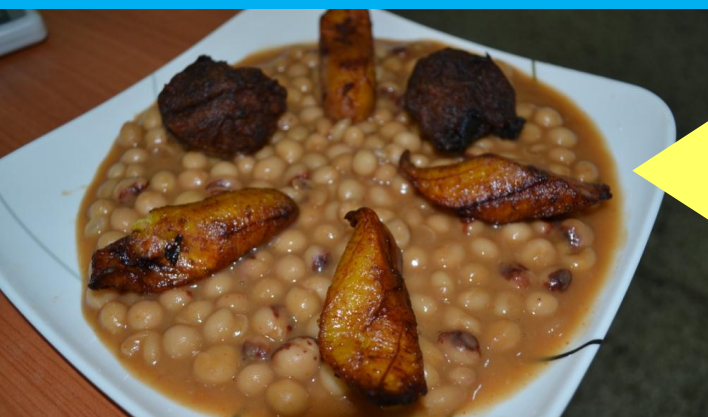
Volunteers research Child Prostitution

Elsewhere in Accra, another team of Human Rights volunteers worked on a child prostitution project in Teshie, a town in Accra. They inquired information about young girls offering sex for money from several individuals and groups.

The Projects Abroad Human Rights office organized a forum to share the findings with teachers who are focal persons for girl child education in their various schools. The forum brainstormed on how best young girls in the district can be protected from sexual exploitation.



Food of the Month



Bambara beans with fried plantain and "kaklo"

Bambara beans stew called "aborboi" in the local dialect is a nutritious Ghana meal. While some prefer to add some sugar to taste, others relish the raw beans stew with fried ripe plantain. The stew can be taken with another accompaniment made from mashed plantain mixed with flour called "kaklo" and deep fried to give it that blackish brown colour and rough texture.



Work has commenced on a new building site in The Hills. The project is a two unit classroom block with an attached office and store room and the beneficiary school is the Yensiso Methodist Basic School of the Accra-Koforidua road. The project will broaden access and enrollment in the school for children of age to attend school.

Projects Abroad believes that through the support of volunteers, the community and school; projects like this will benefit children and increase literacy in these areas.



Last year in summer, Projects Abroad Ghana embarked on an anti malaria campaign through our Medical and Pre-Med projects across the regions we worked in.

In all, a total of 949 children were tested for malaria. Out of this number, 381 children came out positive and all of them were given drugs to use free of charge.

However, the campaign could not cover pregnant women due to the complicated nature of pregnancy and the fact that during pregnancy, only qualified doctors are allowed to prescribe drugs.

The beneficiary communities a lot of gratitude for the efforts of our volunteers and the medical support they gave. Projects Abroad hope to step up the campaign hopefully in 2014 to cover more communities.



Dirty Day

The Hills

Nana Ankobea Basic School



Social Media

Our social media platforms remains a powerful tool that connects volunteers, friends and family of Projects Abroad though status updates, tweets, pictures, blogs and videos. Our Facebook groups were as active as always in providing information on volunteer experiences and that informs the expectations of volunteers who are coming to Ghana and prospective volunteers as well. Our different Facebook groups – [The Hills](#), [Koforidua](#), [Accra](#), [Cape Coast](#), [Kumasi](#) and the [Projects Abroad Human Rights Office](#) were active throughout the month of February.



An opportunity to relive

For many of our volunteers, our social media platforms provide the opportunity to continuously relive the valuable moments they once had in Ghana and it becomes their space for expressing the heartwarming satisfaction they gained from volunteering to affect the lives of people in need.

Visit us:

