

“Building a
brighter
future for
school
children
in Ghana”

Brighter Futures
Programme, Ghana



S·A·B·R·E

CHARITABLE TRUST

UK Charity 1105489

Ghana NGO DSW/4852

Introducing the Sabre Charitable Trust

The Sabre Trust is an education charity working in rural Ghana, to build a brighter future for marginalised and disadvantaged children.

Our partnership with the Ghana Education Service ensures that we are working within and in support of the government education programme – this is vital for the long term sustainability of our projects.

We work primarily with rural communities, identified through joint needs assessments with the local education authorities and district assemblies.

The Sabre Trust is registered in the UK with the Charities Commission and also in Ghana with the Department of Social Welfare. In the United States, the charity is registered with CAF America, for tax deductible giving.

Sabre has a small fundraising team based in the UK, with most of our employees based in Ghana as part of our operations team.

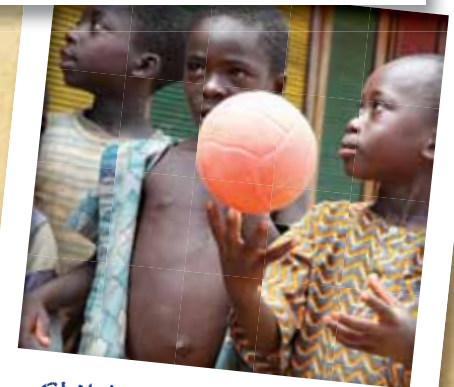
As a small charity we are committed to delivering maximum impact at minimum cost – we work very hard to ensure that 80% of donations are spent in Ghana on project delivery, with the remaining 20% supporting fundraising and governance costs.



Sabre's Construction Project Engineers



Participants at a Sabre teacher training workshop



Children at a Sabre sustainable kindergarten complex

In Ghana
the youngest
children
are those
in greatest
need...



Schools under trees and in makeshift classrooms are common in the kindergarten sector. This classroom at Ayensudo was replaced by Sabre with a sustainable kindergarten complex in 2011.

- **605,000** four and five year old children are not in kindergarten.
- Only **3** out of every **10** kindergarten teachers have received formal training.
- **5,200** kindergarten classrooms are in need of major repairs.
- **51%** of classrooms have no toilets and **19%** have no drinking water.
- Where buildings do exist, conventional kindergarten classrooms are dark, hot, noisy and cramped, and furniture and learning resources are in scarce supply.

Investments at the earliest age have the most impact

Educationalists, economists and donors are increasingly recognising that the greatest rate of return to any investment in education comes from investments at the early years.

Recent research from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)* confirms this:

“Quality pre-primary education significantly improves educational achievement and attainment. In addition, children with effective pre-primary education earn more as adults, show less drop out, attend more college, show less criminality, and show more delayed childbirth. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit proportionately more than their better advantaged peers. This means that quality pre-primary education can deliver valuable individual, as well as social, returns.” (CIFF, 2010)



In this way, programmes like Sabre's have short and long term effects: children's school readiness is improved and they are better equipped to learn; also as adults these children will be better placed to support the country's socio-economic development.

* CIFF is a major international donor, linked to an investment fund, with a reputation for rigorous research and high impact investments. For further information please see www.ciff.org



Brighter Futures Programme



Building Better Schools

In partnership with global engineering and construction firms Arup and Aecom, and in close collaboration with local communities and the Ghana Education Service, Sabre has designed and built a ground breaking new type of kindergarten school.

The school delivers an optimal learning environment for kindergarten education, while also having strong sustainability credentials. The light, bright and airy classrooms are built using local renewable and recycled materials such as bamboo, clay soil, palm kernels and coconut fibre.

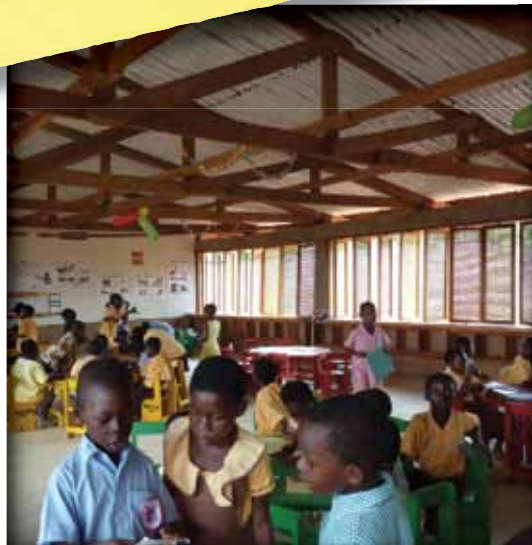
Transformational Teacher Training

In partnership with the Ghana Education Service and Our Lady of the Apostles College of Education, Sabre is testing a new approach to teacher training. Previously, in-service teacher training has relied on occasional workshops being cascaded down by education service officials with little or no follow up.

The new approach is much more supportive, bringing teachers and student teachers together in training, and providing continuous support through small group meetings, classroom coaching and access to a resource centre.

Building Better
Schools:

Sabre's
Sustainable
Kindergarten



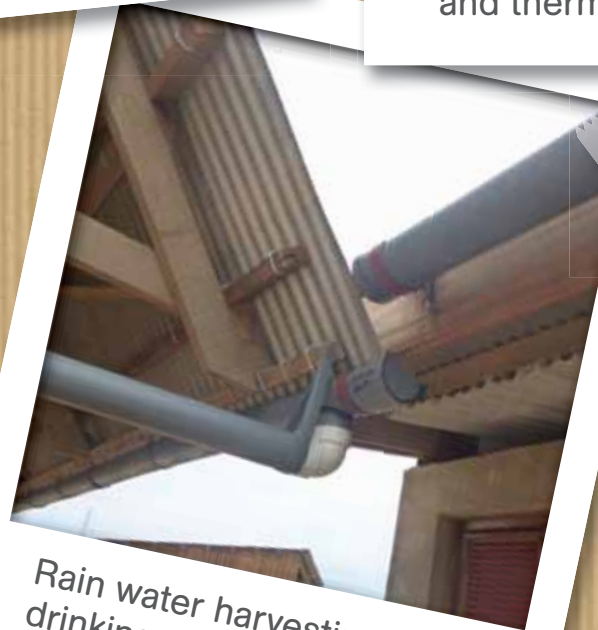
Large classrooms give more
space per child



Pivoting windows maximise
daylight without glare



Coconut fibre as acoustic
and thermal insulation



Rain water harvesting for
drinking and handwashing



Delivering training in a model classroom



Learning centres in class support play and activities

Transformational
Teacher
Training:
Sabre's
Approach



Resource centre for teacher made materials



Encouraging teachers to use outdoor spaces

Achievements to date

To date, Sabre is best known for building child-friendly and sustainable kindergarten complexes, which have been recognised as providing some of the highest quality classrooms in Ghana by key stakeholders such as UNICEF and the UK government agency DFID. The schools have been cited as a case study in the government plans to scale up quality kindergarten education.

2010 – completed first prototype school at Dwabor

2011 – replicated value engineered design at Ayensudo (district Centre of Excellence)

2012 – started work on third school at Amenano

2013 – fourth school planned at Dominase

Together these four schools will deliver an optimal learning environment for at least **480** children a year – **4,320** children over the minimum 25 year building lifespan.

The build process has also provided livelihoods training to **45** community labourers and artisans.

We are now bringing this same high quality and innovative delivery model to the challenge of providing kindergarten teachers with transformational training to help them understand and deliver the activity-based learning concepts contained in the national curriculum, and enact the new play-based teaching approach that the government has adopted for kindergarten.

2012/2013:

14 current teachers receiving transformational training

28 student teachers receiving transformational training and enhanced practical placements

560 children benefiting from improved teaching and learning.

From September 2013 teacher numbers rise to **26**, and student teachers to **80**.

Projected children beneficiary numbers as the project goes to scale:

Year 2: **1,300** Year 5: **20,110**

Plans for the future

In 2012, the Ghana Education Service (GES) completed a wide ranging review into early childhood education provision, and published a five-year operational plan to scale up quality kindergarten education nationwide.

Sabre was closely involved in the review process, and worked as part of a cross-sector consultancy team to conduct the review and develop the operational plan.

The review process was praised for its strong participatory approach and commended for engaging multiple departments in GES in an issue which had previously been given little consideration or attention.

Sabre is now committed to supporting GES in the delivery of the operational plan, with a focus on interventions in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana. Our Brighter Futures Programme focuses on two core activities within the government plan: Building Better Schools and Transformational Teacher Training. Working closely with implementing partners such as GES, the regional coordinating councils, district assemblies and the Our Lady of the Apostles and Holy Child Colleges of Education, we are developing phased implementation plans to build centres of excellence, and develop model classrooms to deliver transformational teacher training to up to 240 teachers a year.



What your donation can achieve

Your donation can help us to build a brighter future for school children in Ghana...

£100,000 builds a complete sustainable kindergarten complex providing a centre of excellence for teacher training and a fantastic learning environment for 120 children a year.

£6,000 provides a child-friendly toilet block using a dual chamber system and ventilated pits for an environmentally sustainable solution.

£3,000 sets up a resource centre to support teacher-made learning materials.

£1,650 installs a rain water harvesting system to capture water for hand washing and drinking – an innovative first flush system ensures the water is clean and healthy.

£900 funds a teacher on the one year transformational training programme, including mentoring and coaching support.

£300 provides a resource box made by local artisans, including construction blocks, musical instruments and puppets.



How to donate & tax deductible giving

Regular donations to Sabre provide a stable income to ensure that our vital project work in Ghana is sustained. All donations, large and small, are gratefully received and contribute enormously to the success of our projects. Here are details of two schemes which are incredibly easy to use:

Give As You Earn (GAYE)

Through this tax efficient scheme your donation is made from your gross salary before the government deducts tax. Many companies also run matching schemes to make your donation go even further. All donations are tax free and your company's GAYE provider will claim Gift Aid on your behalf, making the whole process very simple for both you and us. Please contact your payroll team to find out how to set up your donation, or alternatively sign up online **here**.

Give As You Live (GAYL)

This fantastic free donation scheme allows you to raise money for Sabre every time you shop online, at no extra cost! Simply download the Give As You Live widget to your computer, create an account and set Sabre as your charity of choice. Every time you shop online at stores that are signed up to the scheme, a percentage of your total spend will be passed to us. Full details can be found **here**, together with instructions on how to get started!

Any donation to Sabre from individuals and companies in the UK can be tax efficient – GiftAid allows us to recover an extra 25% on top of individual donations, and companies can offset up to 5% of any donation against their corporation tax bill.

Please see **www.sabretrust.org/donate** for more ways to give.

Thank you!

With your support
we really can build a
brighter future for school
children in Ghana

This is not a crisis appeal... this is an opportunity to support a programme that is making a very real long term difference to people's lives in Ghana – one of the most stable and potentially successful countries in Africa.

Please make Sabre's Brighter Futures programme your charity of choice and help us to give these children the best possible start to their education.



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