

ABOUT ME

- Doreen Agyiriwaa Marfo
- Electrical/Electronic Engineering
- Junior
- Involved in Ashesi Maths Resource Center, Coaching & Counselling, Loozeele Initiative

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$

LOOZEELE INITIATIVE

- An initiative that leverages on the resources in the northern part of Ghana to provide stable source of income for young girls who migrate to the south as Kayayei (Head Porters).
- These girls usually end up on the street and are prone to all forms of abuse.
- Our vision is to mitigate rural-urban migration.
- We train and support them to create a source of income to care for themselves and others through an annual entrepreneurship program.
- The initiative finds ready market for their products across Ghana.
- Impact: We sent 25 kayayei girls back home to engage in basketry, weaving and shea butter production. These girls are now saving money from products sold and assisting their families.

Thus, they have a stable source of income now and rural-urban migration has reduced by 25 Kayayei girls from Bolgatanga.



IMPACT OF COVID-19

- We wanted to work with high school graduates this year. The team had delivered 100 application forms to 7 high schools in Bolgatanga. However, schools have been closed. Hence, has affected key stakeholders.
- The pandemic has affected the number of volunteers who had anticipated to work with us because of safety protocols during this season.
- The training grounds initially procured has been disapproved because of Ghana Education Service rules.
- 50% of Kayayei have migrated back home since they are homeless in the south.
- Budget will increase due to the procurement of safety tools during this period and high incentives for resource personnel for the entrepreneurship training.

Northern COVID-19 Support

- Observe strong safety protocols to prevent contraction of COVID-19. Getting a health professional to be with us during the program, procuring nose masks, sanitizers, veronica buckets to ensure safety.
- Expand the entrepreneurship program to accommodate 10 more girls who have gone back home.
- Organize training sessions in focus groups at periodic intervals to observe safety protocols.
- Hire one more resource personnel for the training to avoid overcrowding of the girls.
- Fund 10 feasible projects at the end of the program and monitor the growth and sustainability.
- Innovate the fabric design to suit the demand of the country now. For instance, turning fabrics into protective tools (nose masks, gloves).
- Provide enough raw materials for our girls in the weaving, basketry and shea butter production.
- Procure technologies and machines that will boost operational excellence.

THANKYOU



Doreen Agyiriwaa Marfo

+233240034450



doreen.marfo@ashesi.edu.gh