

REGIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Emmanuel Otoo

EDUCATION
MSW, MBA, BA, University
of Ghana, Legon

LANGUAGES
Fanti, French, Ga, Portuguese, Twi

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
Bundie Kabanze

EDUCATION
MA, Oslo and Akershus University
College
BA, University of Zambia, Lusaka

LANGUAGES
Bemba, French, Lozi, Nyanja, Tonga,
Zulu

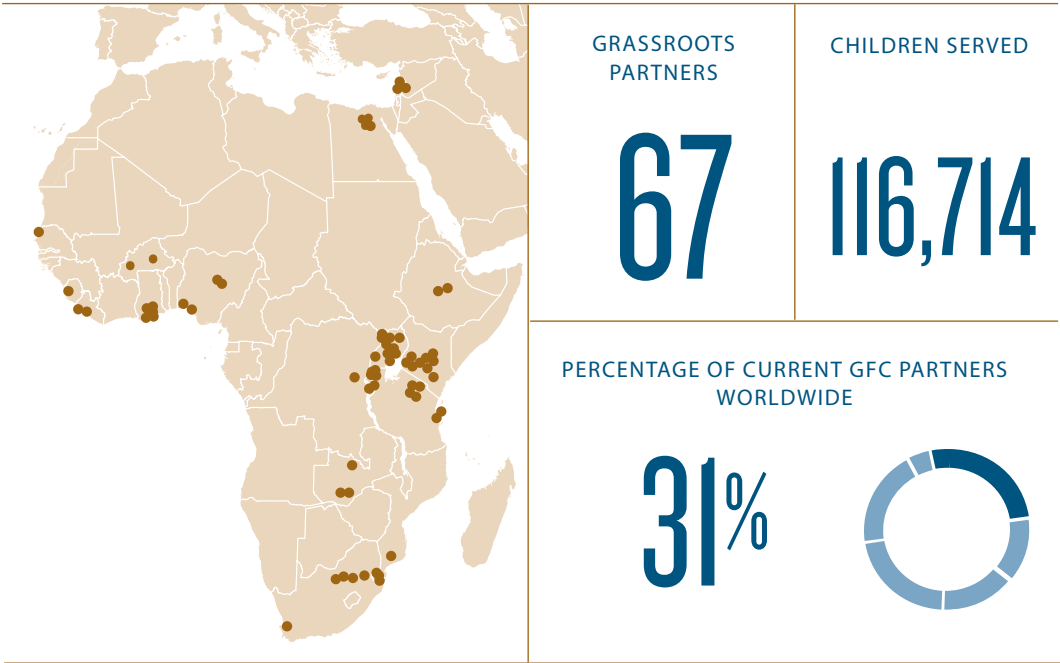
AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

The brain develops more quickly during the first few years of a child’s life than at any other time, laying the foundation for physical health and cognitive, social, and emotional development. Early childhood education and care is important for all children, but it is especially beneficial for children living in poverty, increasing their chances for success later in life—from

improving social skills and academic performance to reducing rates of unplanned teen pregnancy and incarceration.

Despite these findings, many governments throughout Africa and the Middle East fail to prioritize early childhood development (ECD), and far too many children are unprepared to enter primary school,

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COUNTRIES Burkina Faso (2), Burundi (2), Democratic Republic of the Congo (1), Egypt (4), Ethiopia (2), Ghana (5), Kenya (9), Lebanon (3), Liberia (2), Nigeria (4), Rwanda (4), Senegal (1), Sierra Leone (1), South Africa (5), Swaziland (3), Tanzania (6), Uganda (10), Zambia (3)

Regional statistics are current as of January 1, 2016.

GRANT INVESTMENTS

\$36.2M

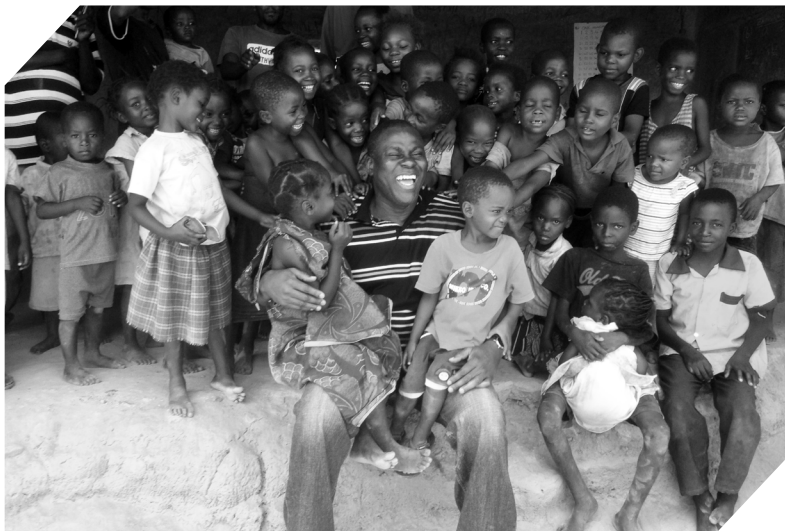
GRASSROOTS PARTNERS

619

COUNTRIES

78

SNAPSHOT



Regional program director Emmanuel Otoo enjoys a site visit to **Hope for the Needy Zambia (HONZA)**. One of GFC's newest partners, HONZA offers a lifeline to rural children, many of whom are HIV-positive, by ensuring that they have access to education, healthcare, nutritional support, and immunizations. The organization empowers rural communities to establish and operate their own early learning centers, where young children receive comprehensive care.
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where they fall further and further behind in their education and overall development. But community-based organizations are filling the gaps, making sure young children get the care, attention, and education they need for a healthy start.

This is why GFC partners with grassroots organizations such as Little Rock ECD Centre, Springs of Hope Children's Centre, and Boy Child Initiative in Kenya; Shalom Centre for Children in Tanzania; Alwan wa Awtar and Future Lights for Development Organization in Egypt; Insan Association in Lebanon; and many other innovative organizations in different parts of the world. Our partners work to ensure that families and communities, especially those in rural areas and slums, understand the importance of early learning and can provide opportunities for children.

Many of the children served by these organizations face complex challenges or have histories of trauma. Some are children of teen girls who are survivors of sexual abuse; others have been displaced by war,

conflict, or natural disasters. Some are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS or have multiple disabilities. In addition to providing children with education, these programs frequently offer additional services to help set them up for success, including age-appropriate immunizations, healthy meals and nutritional supplements, hygiene lessons, and support with transitioning to primary school.

At GFC, we seek out emergent, innovative solutions to some of the most difficult challenges facing vulnerable children—early childhood care is just one of the many issues we tackle in underserved communities by partnering with grassroots organizations. All of our partners are immersed in their communities, positioning them to reach children who would otherwise be left behind. By supporting these organizations with flexible capital, expert assistance, access to networks, and technical guidance, we help to ensure their long-term success—and the success of the children they serve.

REGIONAL FOCUSES

→ GIRLS' SAFETY & EMPOWERMENT

More than 125 million adolescent girls live in sub-Saharan Africa, where they are more likely than their male counterparts to contract HIV and less likely to go to and stay in school. In several countries, nearly half of all girls are married before they turn 18. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth remain the number one killer of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in the region.

→ CONFLICT & REFUGEES

In much of Africa and the Middle East, current and past conflicts impact communities on a daily basis. War forces children to flee their homes, disrupts their education, and increases the risk of exploitation. Refugees and displaced children require comprehensive care and protection to recover from trauma and rebuild their lives.

→ ENTERPRISE & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Faced with a difficult economy, youth are struggling to gain traction as leaders and contributors, with the most disadvantaged youth facing the greatest challenges. To become productive citizens, young people need targeted assistance, including career guidance, vocational training, and leadership development.

→ EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Early childhood education remains a relatively new concept in the region, and costly supplies, uniforms, and fees, as well as the distance between home and school, prevent many children from attending primary school. Many GFC partners integrate education programs with training on children's rights to build awareness and support their holistic development.



↑ GFC partner **Tahaddi** supports Syrian refugees and other vulnerable children living in Hay al-Gharbeh, a shantytown in Beirut, providing them with quality education and health services. The organization also offers family-tracing services for unaccompanied children and counseling for children coping with trauma. With support from GFC, Tahaddi has expanded its shelters and added more education classes. During its partnership with GFC, Tahaddi has grown its budget by over 150 percent and has increased the number of children it serves from just 72 in 2010 to more than 400 in 2015. © Tahaddi

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: LEBANON

Greater Beirut hosts 30 percent of Lebanon's 1.5 million refugees, half of whom are children. Many of these children experienced terrible violence and trauma before arriving in their new home. Coming from Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere, most families settle in Beirut's shantytowns, where there are high levels of crime and violence. Resources are scarce, and social services are virtually inaccessible to the many refugees who lack legal status.

GFC has three current partners in Beirut, all of which have been adapting their programs over recent years as the refugee crisis has dramatically influenced their communities. Through a community school, an after-school program, and counseling services, **Insan Association** provides some of Beirut's most vulnerable children—many of whom are Syrian refugees—with a safe place to learn, play, and heal from trauma. GFC has been actively working with Insan over the past two years to meet the increasing demand for its services.

GFC partner **Nawaya Network** supports youth living on the streets of Beirut, connecting them to financial and educational resources so they can build their skills and work toward self-sufficiency. Mentorships, small-business programs, and job placement assistance empower young people to take charge of their futures and contribute to society. For refugees who have experienced trauma and abuse, Nawaya also provides counseling, family tracing and reunification services, and foster-care programs.

CELEBRATING EVERYDAY HEROES: MAJOR AWARDS

Our grassroots partners have visionary leaders who are heroic, innovative, and deeply committed to children's rights. We are particularly proud when they are recognized with prestigious awards and honors, placing them in a distinct class of global leaders and social entrepreneurs.

In 2015, **Insan Association** was among five GFC partners that received the inaugural With and For Girls Award, a global award designed to identify and support strong, community-based, girl-driven organizations. Based in Beirut, Insan runs a community school and an after-school program for vulnerable children (many of whom are Syrian refugees), as well as a girls' education program. The organization rescues and supports girls who are forced into early marriage or domestic work and helps them to leave unsafe situations, get counseling and legal aid, and go to school.

Cooper Chibomba, the founder of **Youth First Development** (YFD), received a 2016 Mandela Washington Fellowship from President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative, which empowers young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking. Through the fellowship, Chibomba will have the opportunity to hone his skills at a university in the US and then receive professional development training after he returns home. Located in Zambia's Chibombo District, where poverty forces many children



↑ A young beneficiary of Youth First Development in Zambia. © Youth First Development

into child labor and exploitation, YFD rescues children from harm and provides them with care, education, and employment skills training to help them lead safe and productive lives. Many of the children YFD serves have been sexually abused or forced into early marriage; others spend their days working on farms or in mines. Tragically, some resort to commercial sex as a means of survival. YFD coordinates pro bono legal experts, doctors, and other NGOs to ensure that each child receives holistic care.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MOBILE LIBRARY BUILDS LITERACY IN RURAL GHANA



↑ Children reading books provided by Street Library Ghana. © Rosie Hallam / Financial Times

There are very few libraries in Ghana; in eastern Ghana in particular, most children have no access to reading materials outside of school (and many are not enrolled in school at all). A pioneering literacy organization, **Street Library Ghana** (SLG) equips communities with the skills and materials they need to implement their own library programs. Through its mobile library, learning materials, and mentorship and leadership programs, SLG engages entire communities around the importance of reading and brings the world of literature to children who would otherwise grow up without books. Since becoming a GFC grassroots partner, SLG has expanded its reach from serving 1,500 children in 2012 to more than 4,700 in 2015. GFC has supported SLG's growth with capacity-building services, including an organizational development award to help SLG develop a strategic plan. With support from GFC, founder Hayford Siaw was awarded a 2015 Ford Motor Company International Fellowship of 92nd Street Y, which is given to emerging humanitarian leaders.