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# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2017

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A Photo Essay by  
**Nii Odzenma**

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## WHO DO WE SERVE?

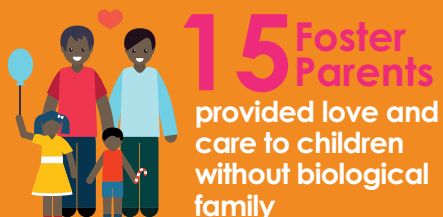
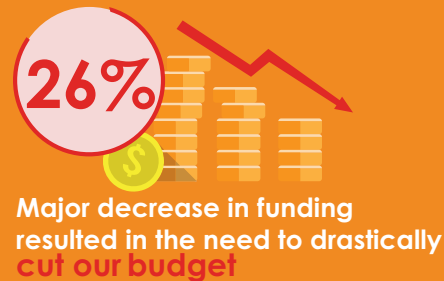
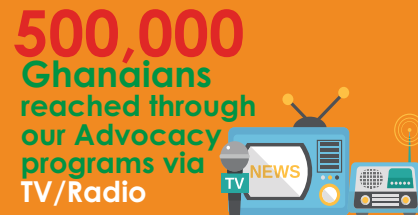
OAfrica exists to support vulnerable children and their families in Ghana. Our programmes empower children and young adults in need of care and protection due to institutionalization, abandonment, neglect, disability or abuse. We accomplish this by strengthening families and reintegrating separated children whose rights have been compromised due to poverty, violence, trafficking, disease and discrimination into safe, stable and loving households.

All the children and young adults supported today entered the programme because they met at least 3 of the following criteria for inclusion:

- Affected By Hiv/Aids
- With Special Needs
- Single Or Double Orphans
- Living On The Streets
- Ex-Orphanage Residents
- Victims Of Child Labour
- Abandoned
- Abused
- Neglected
- At Risk Of Abandonment
- In Conflict With The Law
- Victims Of Trafficking



# 2017 In Numbers



## Message From The Founder

After more than fifteen years, on and off, at the helm of OAfrica, this is my last Annual Report as CEO. It has been an extraordinary honour to serve the unlimited potential of children and young people in Ghana. Robert Dakwa became Chief Executive Officer in June, making us African-led for the first time, and he proceeded to set out clear plans to accelerate the pace of change across OAfrica. A prime example of how OAfrica develops its people, Robert rose from Finance Assistant to CEO in the space of ten years, and with OAfrica support, achieved his MBA. Since 2014, Robert and I have had to make some difficult decisions: we cut our staff from 36 to 27 as income dwindled by 26%. Ghana achieved middle-income status and the "beyond aid" agenda hit charities hard. We have also seen the effect on our bottom line as giving in the USA and Europe became more focused on internal causes. However, we know that investing today in a hopeful Africa, full of potential, in its youth and children, will reduce problems in the future. There is still much work to be done, but we are beginning to see signs of recovery.

Prior to my departure and through our transition and succession planning with Jonathan Hooker and our teams, we took the following important decisions about the future identity of OAfrica:

**Strategy:** We are a proactive company with sound moral character, we are clear on our priorities and high-impact approach. We embrace African solutions such as extended family care over outdated and foreign models such as orphanages, and support a new agenda for care reform for the entire country.

**Service Delivery:** By simplifying and digitalizing the way we do things and by focusing on the beneficiary, with excellence in service delivery as our priority, we have differentiated ourselves in terms of the quality and follow-through in our social work; as well as through the provision of mental health services for children and youth. Our parenting training has a strong focus on support through guidance and exposure to excellence.

**Reach:** We are successfully transitioning from a service delivery operation, affecting a small number of people, to an advocacy-led organization, harnessing the power of the media and digital channels to reach millions through adult education and communication for social change. This direction rides on the success of our advocacy in care reform, working with the government of Ghana to change the way the nation approaches the challenge of trafficked and abandoned children.

I look forward with pride and confidence to a new age for OAfrica!

Lisa Lovatt-Smith  
Founder OAfrica

## Message from The CEO

2017 marked the 15-year milestone for OAfrica in championing the rights of the most vulnerable children in Ghana. Counting over 700 children and young adults whose lives have been transformed and empowered through our various programs, such as Family Support Services, Family Foster Care, services for children with special needs, scholarships for young adults and the relentless push for care reform initiatives and policies protecting vulnerable children in Ghana.

It is a fitting time to say a big thank you to everyone, most notably our donors, partners, boards and all the staff who have contributed immensely throughout these past 15 years. It is with gratitude that we say “AYEEKOO” to everyone whose efforts have culminated in the celebration of 15 years of keeping children in families!

As we look forward to the road ahead, it is our hope to impact even more children in Ghana by leveraging our past successes and achievements, and to increase our reach in bringing hope to those vulnerable children still out there. We have faith that you will rally with us in championing child rights and transforming the lives of the most vulnerable in Ghana.

*Robert Dakwa*  
CEO OAfrica

## Ceo Review Of 2017

**65**  
children in  
40 families  
benefitted from  
our support



**12 (PLWHA)**  
People Living with  
HIV/AIDS received  
medical support &  
counseling



**4 Social Workers**  
completed the  
UN Guidelines  
for Alternative  
Care of Children  
online training



**12 Children**  
with complex special needs  
benefitted from  
specialized schooling



**67 young  
adults**  
benefitted from scholarships,  
vocational trainings, or  
apprenticeships



**12 young  
adults**  
graduated out of YASS  
on to independent living



**3,300**  
scholars, teachers, parents  
& academic policy makers  
were directly impacted  
through our school-based  
Advocacy sessions



**132**  
beneficiaries  
received medical support  
covered by National  
Health Insurance



**5**  
beneficiaries  
were successfully reunited  
& resettled with their  
biological families





## OUR MISSION

OAfrica empowers vulnerable children and young people whose rights have been compromised due to institutionalization, poverty, violence, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, abuse and discrimination. We help them become productive members of their communities by strengthening families and reintegrating them into safe, stable and loving environments.

## OUR VALUES

- Child-centered
- Family-oriented
- Child Participation
- Pro Poor
- Gender Equality
- Promotion Of Autonomy
- Non-Discrimination

## OUR VISION

OAfrica is committed to Care Reform and to ensuring that children grow up in safe, permanent family settings with appropriate care and protection and with equal rights and opportunities



# FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Poverty remains the number one reason for child abandonment worldwide. Children are often placed in orphanages by their own families due to a lack of resources in the hope they will receive adequate nutrition, education and other essentials in order to live a better life. In reality, these institutions are detrimental to the physical, emotional and intellectual development of children and can never provide the love and care a child needs in order to thrive.

Children in Ghana are often too quickly deemed orphans and placed in institutions without exploring alternative options such as kinship care, an arrangement whereby extended family members such as grandparents or aunts/uncles raise children.

**Family Support Services (FSS)** have the sole aim of keeping children out of orphanages and within their own families. We believe families are the best environments for children to grow up in and that the family unit should be preserved wherever possible. With the right kind of support, families can stay together!

We locate families and assess whether the child can be resettled with them. An individualized care plan is developed to ensure that these families are assisted financially to care for their children, along with medical, educational and emotional support. This year, 65 children benefitted from the program and 5 children were reunited and resettled with their biological families.





# FAMILY FOSTER CARE

For children who cannot live with their biological family (due to death or illness of parents, or inappropriate and negligent parenting), foster care is the next best alternative, as it provides children with a relationship of love and affection with a caring adult in a stable family environment.

Many of the children in our foster care program were abandoned due to the fact that they had special needs and their families were either unable or unwilling to provide them with the extensive long-term care they required. For these children, our dedicated foster home is a place of refuge - providing care, love and support.

All our children in foster care are looked after by specially trained foster mothers, who not only provide for their daily needs but also, more importantly, give them the love and affection they so much deserve.

Eighteen children are benefitting from the love of a foster family thanks to this program.





# SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with special needs are the most at risk of being abandoned, either in an orphanage or out on the street. These children require specialized care, something most families are simply not capable of providing – either financially or physically. OAfrica provides this care through our dedicated special needs unit, involving a foster home staffed around the clock by six trained foster mothers, who not only serve as caregivers but also provide the eight children in their care with love and affection.

Our support to children with severe special needs, including those with cerebral palsy, autism, psychosis and other disabilities, also extends to education. Children receive a specialized education catering to their unique cognitive and physical conditions. A total of twelve children with complex special needs are supported through our medical and educational sponsorship programs.



# YOUNG ADULT SUPPORT SERVICES

Youth who grow up in care are more likely to experience physical, developmental, behavioural and mental health challenges, if not supported adequately until they are ready to live independently.

We address this through the **Young Adult Support Services (YASS)** program, which focuses on reducing the vulnerability status of beneficiaries gradually over time, and supporting them in their transition out of care.

**YASS** provides financial support to cover tuition, access to internships and scholarships, health and psychological support, and transport and housing benefits, in addition to career counselling and placements. It also provides life skills training sessions to equip young people with the tools they need to become productive members of society. The end goal is to prepare these young people for autonomous adulthood.





# CARE REFORM INITIATIVE

The **Care Reform Initiative (CRI)** was launched in 2006 as a joint venture between the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), OAfrica, UNICEF and other child protection agencies in Ghana. The initiative seeks to reduce over-reliance on care systems for the approximately 4,500 vulnerable children who are still living in institutional care, thus moving towards a range of integrated family and community-based childcare services.

The end goal is a more consistent approach to caring for vulnerable children so that every child is assured a permanent home in a supportive and loving family. The main components of care reform in Ghana seek to prevent the disintegration of families.

In line with this initiative, our mission advocates for the reintegration of children with their own families, either with their biological parents or extended family (kinship care) or placing children in foster care when they truly have no family members who can appropriately care for them.

OAfrica is proud to have been one of the key players behind the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in 2010 and was the only NGO mentioned as an implementer in the actions matrix of the original plan.



A photograph of two women standing outdoors, engaged in conversation. The woman on the left is wearing a blue and yellow patterned dress and a red headwrap. The woman on the right is wearing a pink dress with a yellow and black bird pattern. They are standing in front of a light-colored wall with some graffiti.

# RESILIENCE ADVOCACY

We apply a two-pronged approach to advocacy, namely via traditional and new media and additionally, through public forums - to bring awareness to issues impacting everyday Ghanaians with a view to instigating sustainable change - in behaviour, attitudes and even policies. With mobile penetration in Ghana at an impressive 79.94% (National Communications Authority), the power of social and mobile media permits the transmission of educational messages on a mass scale, thanks to their viral nature.

While TV, radio, print and social media remain effective channels of communication; there is an opportunity to explore alternative platforms at mass gatherings such as music concerts, street theatre and rallies. We aim to reach as many people as possible and to make a positive and tangible difference to the lives of Ghanaians.

Since launching in February, we have already been featured on TV channels and radio stations such as Ghana TV and Jubilee FM, highlighting pertinent subjects and campaigning for social change. The combined media reach for OAfrica 2017 was a remarkable half a million people!

On school visits alone, more than 4,000 individuals have been impacted directly – including pupils, teachers, parents and academic policy-makers respectively. Our campaigns focus on empowerment and resilience building and often challenge out-dated practices and mindsets.



## Major Contributors 2017

## Goodwill Ambassadors

**OAfrica** would like to thank our Goodwill Ambassadors from around the world who have dedicated incredible talent, time and finances to the children and families of our organization



**Victoria Abril**  
France



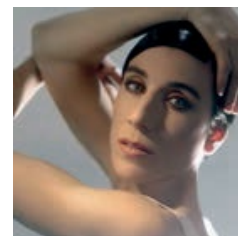
**Inés de la Fressange**  
France



**Rossy de Palma**  
Spain



**Margherita Missoni**  
Italy



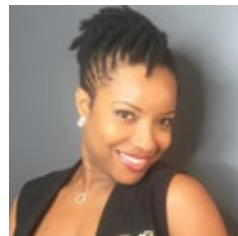
**Blanca Li**  
France



**Marcel Desailly**  
International



**Loles Leon**  
Spain



**Joselyn Dumas**  
Ghana

**GHANA**

Pierre-Maurice Steven  
Francis Norman  
Roberto Marchiori  
Lucy Asiedu  
Sampson Boateng  
Clara Opokua  
Chuks Ineh  
Melisa Seshi  
Sheilla  
Frank Atakora  
Isaac Gborsi /Florence Gomache  
Yesu Global  
Yinka Djin  
Felicia Amoah  
Sampomaa Boateng  
Clara Opokua  
Kwaku Owusu Donkor  
Angela Maabena Takfi  
Nana Asantewaa and friends  
Bouygues Construction  
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**USA**

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Nana Antwi-Ansorge  
Raffaele Bassetti  
Faty Bates  
Zeynep Bayazid  
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Patrick Bousquet-Chavanne  
Chiara Bovo  
Franklin Breckenridge  
Nana Brew-Hammond  
Jo Ann Brimmer  
Giandonato Cali  
Giuseppe Cerami  
Ahra Cho  
Danielle Chocron  
Emanuela Cisini  
Cecilia Codd  
Paul Crockett  
Alice D'eparbes  
Mindy Dorf  
Robert & Mary Anne  
Eichhorn  
Fabrizio Ferrara  
Kenyatta Funderbuk  
Jan Furman  
Jennifer Galliher  
Paz Garcia  
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Marialuisa Gorla  
Javier Hidalgo Barrero  
Amalia Izzo  
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Larisa Karvon  
Katie Kennedy Perez  
Isabel Kirsch  
Lewin Laurie  
Tatiana Lazareva  
Elaine Lenihan  
Giulia Maria Leone

Landry Lie  
Elena Lovo  
Flavio Luiz Cecchetto  
Francesca Maderi  
Nura Makki  
Anna Maria  
Luca Marini  
Maria Mellander  
Roberta Meloncelli  
Roxana Mirica  
Camilo Mori  
Milena Moutsopoulou  
Stephanie Nikolopoulos  
Efua Opoku  
Brillstein Entertainment  
Partners  
Clelia Pasqui  
Francesca Perni  
Marine Raman  
Michele Rebai  
Elisabetta Ricci  
Helen Richardson  
Sabine Roehl  
Antonio Rosamina  
Faty Sako  
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Elia Gloria Reyes Navarro  
Sonia Barrajón Martínez  
Gloria Lorente Isla  
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Fernando Masia Marti  
Emma Sandoval Serra  
Alba Argemi Maldonado  
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Diaz  
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Arantxa Casla Salazar  
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Blanca María Manzano Muñoz  
Blanca Muñoz  
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Carmen Bayod  
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Erica Maria Mayor Rivero  
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Fernando Toscano Benítez  
Francesca Hosta Pivat  
Francisco Tenado Galindo  
Gracia Patricia Quintana Perez  
Guido Boving  
Immaculada Esteban Soria  
Itziar Elexpuru Albizuri  
Javier Moreno Pascual  
Javier Salvado Monreal  
Jerónimo González Gargallo  
Jesús Bravo Jimenez  
Jesús Martín Oya  
Jordi Roca Viladrich  
José Ignacio Gargallo Del Rio  
José Victor Diaz Varela  
Josina Liera Fuelle  
Juan Luis Libano Torrontegui  
Juan Rafols Raventós  
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Miriam Vernet Forrellat  
Modesto González Mestre  
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Missoni  
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Cash & Rocket Events Ltd  
Fondazione Amici dei Bambini  
Fondazione Child Priority  
Fondazione Nuovo Fiore in



## Leadership

### International Advisory Board

#### President

Lisa Lovatt-Smith  
Ed Asante  
Fernando Masia Marti (until Dec.)  
Jonathan Hooker  
Luca Magni

#### 2002

OAfrica Ghana  
NGO No: 1951

#### President

Lisa Lovatt-Smith

#### Executive Committee

Jamil Maraby  
Edward Boateng

#### Secretary

Naa Okailey Adamafio (until Nov.)  
Esther I. Fefoame (from November)

### Certificates and Associations

Better Care for Children Committee (previously Orphans and Vulnerable Children Committee) of the Government of Ghana

Ghana Association of Social Workers

Coalition of NGOs on the Rights of the Child

### Management Team Ghana

#### Chief Executive Officer

Lisa Lovatt-Smith (until June)  
Robert Dakwa (from June)

#### Chief Development Officer

Niranjana Singaperumal (from February)

#### Young Adult Support Services Manager

Francis Anipah

#### Family Support Services Manager

Jacinta Atakora

#### Advocacy Manager (from June)

Platini Ashiagbor

#### Chief Communications Officer

Lisa Gibson

#### Human Resources Manager

Esther I. Fefoame

#### Accountant

Jacob Poula



#### 2002

OAfrica Spain  
CIF: G 62986971

#### BOARD

Fernando Masia Marti (until Nov.)  
Jonathan JHooker (From Nov.)  
*President*  
Lisa Lovatt Smith  
*Treasurer*  
Patricia Boving  
*Secretary*  
Sonia Barrajón  
Mercedes Vilardell  
Jonathan Hooker (until Nov.)

#### OPERATIONS

Carmen Pérez:  
*Fundraising & Advocacy Manager (until June)*

#### 2003

OAfrica France  
477 998 850 00010

#### BOARD

Lisa Lovatt-Smith  
*President*  
Gerlinde Hobel  
*Vice-President*  
Didier Hassan  
*Treasurer*

#### OPERATIONS

Magali Joubert (until April)  
*Fundraising & Advocacy Manager*

#### 2003

OAfrica Italy  
2010/21622

#### BOARD

Margherita Maccapani  
Missoni Amos  
*President*  
Lisa Lovatt-Smith  
*Vice-President*  
Luca Magni  
*Secretary*

#### OPERATIONS

Francesca Pinto  
*Fundraising & Advocacy Manager*

#### VOLUNTEER STAFF

Ernesta Pedone  
*Public Relations*

#### 2007

OAfrica USA  
56-2617512

#### BOARD

Terry Oppong  
*President*  
Nana Brew Hammond  
*Vice President*  
Edward Asante  
*Secretary*  
Denise Powell  
Ashley Adam

#### ADVISORY BOARD

Ashley Rhodes-Couter  
Dr. Rebecca Davis

## Audited Financial Statements

## 2017 OA Ghana Consolidated Accounts (GHC)\*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	(GHC)*
<b>Income</b>	<b>1,700,929</b>
International donations (OA offices abroad)	1,643,336
Local Donations & Other Income - Ghana	57,593
<b>Project Expenses</b>	<b>1,641,100</b>
Fundraising / Sustainability	597,816
Family Support Services	378,388
Young Adults Services	366,422
Special Children's Unit	206,071
Foster Family Community	54,208
General expenses	8,076
Telephone and communication	7,920
Workshops and meetings	7,646
Advocacy and Resilience	4,547
Utilities	4,021
Repairs and Maintenance	3,885
Care Reform Initiative	2,100
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>75,106</b>
Transport Expenses	6,077
Other professional fees	24,619
Bank and interest charges	4,735
Audit fees	30,875
Training & Development	8,800
<b>Administrative Staff Expenses</b>	<b>202,472</b>
Salaries and wages	202,472
<b>Depreciation Expenses</b>	<b>60,460</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,979,138</b>
Surplus / (Deficit)	(278,209)
Balance at 1 January	547,095
Balance at 31 December	268,886



## Audited Financial Statements

## Consolidated Summary in Euros\* 2017

### Consolidated accounts for OA fundraising branches in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States

USA currencies were converted to euros taking the historical rate of the 15th of each month and then dividing by 12.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	TOTAL	FRANCE	ITALY	SPAIN	GERMANY	USA
<b>1. INCOME</b>						
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	161,912	76,691	26,940	27,150	12,972	21,364
CORPORATIONS	185,949	59,290	34,858	82,901	8,900	
GRANTS	208,808	8,250	133,980	33,768	-	38,600
OTHER	5,239	-	28	4,472	738	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>561,908 €</b>	<b>144,231 €</b>	<b>195,806 €</b>	<b>148,291 €</b>	<b>22,610 €</b>	<b>\$ 59,964</b>
<b>2. PROJECT EXPENSES</b>						
PROJECT EXPENSES - TRANSFERRED TO GHANA	282,748	65,000	99,590	80,288	7,270	36,000
PROJECT EXPENSES - SPENT ON BEHALF OF GHANA	55,424	24,760	15,839	7,582		8,521
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>338,172 €</b>	<b>89,760 €</b>	<b>115,429 €</b>	<b>87,870 €</b>	<b>7,270 €</b>	<b>\$ 44,521</b>
<b>3. RUNNING EXPENSES</b>						
ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL EXPENSES	31,503	14,542	4,088	5,009	4,203	4,308
HUMAN RESOURCES - SALARIES	102,223	23,483	41,897	35,605	130	1,303
HUMAN RESOURCES - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	38,032	5,540	9,160	10,533	10,632	2,550
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>171,758 €</b>	<b>43,565 €</b>	<b>55,145 €</b>	<b>51,147 €</b>	<b>14,965 €</b>	<b>\$ 8,161</b>
<b>4. AWARENESS</b>						
FUNDRAISING/PR	63,128	17,097	23,480	16,510	-	7,107
SENSITIZATION	1,066	-	1,066		-	-
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>64,194 €</b>	<b>17,097 €</b>	<b>24,546 €</b>	<b>16,510 €</b>	<b>- €</b>	<b>\$ 7,107</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>574,124 €</b>	<b>150,422 €</b>	<b>195,120 €</b>	<b>155,527 €</b>	<b>22,235 €</b>	<b>\$ 59,789</b>
<b>SUP/ (DIF)</b>	<b>(12,216) €</b>	<b>(6,191) €</b>	<b>686 €</b>	<b>(7,236) €</b>	<b>375 €</b>	<b>\$ 175</b>

## Our Major Donors 2017

The following corporations and foundations contributed \$30,000 or more, therefore qualifying as our Major Partners for 2017: Baglioni Hotels Spa, Clarins, Fondazione Child Priority, Fondazione Nuovo Fiore in Africa, HUMEX, Otto per Mille della Chiesa Valdese - Unione delle Chiese Metodiste e Valdesi



*The unforgettable Italian touch.*



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