



Varkey Foundation Ghana
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The Varkey Foundation is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under charity number 1145119 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company number 07774287. Registered office 5 New Street Square London EC4A 3TW.

The Varkey Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation committed to ensuring that every child has an opportunity to receive a quality education.

We support global teaching capacity and seed excellence and innovation in the next generation of educators. We also funded the Global Teacher Prize to shine a spotlight on the incredible work teachers do all over the world.



FACTSHEET

TEACH TO REACH REMOTE CLASSROOMS

The TRC project targets refugee children in primary school who have been displaced because of conflict. The goal is to prove that our concept in displacement education settings increased children's attendance in school, creates professional development and capacity building opportunities for teachers and community members, and impacts pupil learning of numeracy and literacy.



Innovative education for refugees & internally displaced persons



Aims:

- Transform the lives of refugee children through access to high quality education in primary maths, English, and after-school life skills lessons.
- Give students foundational skills in reading, writing, and numeracy that will allow them to overcome language barriers, make up for learning loss, and access the national curriculum to integrate into their host community.



Background:

- Since February 2017 and through the UNHCR's Innovation Fund, the Varkey Foundation has been operating the TRC project; an interactive distance learning project which aims to improve the educational experience of refugee children using solar power for energy reliability and cost-effectiveness.
- We deliver maths and English tuition as well as after school gender empowerment classes to refugee camp Primary Schools and the nearby local community Junior High Schools.
- Master trainers at our studios in Accra broadcast lessons to technology-enabled classrooms, recreating a regular classroom online which allows students to speak with the studio teachers; ask questions that are answered in real time, and partake in activities.
- This is particularly important in a refugee camp setting where children are given the opportunity to interact with Ghanaian teachers, students and learning materials, supporting their integration into their host community and country through education.

Pilot Project:

- The pilot project ran between February -December 2017 in Ampain refugee camp in the Western Region of Ghana. Established in March 2011, the camp is home to nearly 3500 refugees fleeing hostilities from Cote d'Ivoire.
- In total, 514 hours of tuition for pupils and teachers were delivered during the pilot phase.

Pilot Impact:

Through our internal monitoring and evaluation we found that:

- Qualitative research shows that through this project there has been improved punctuality and motivation by pupils and teachers and that the pronunciation, sound recognition and eagerness of pupils to engage and interact with technology has increased.
- Pupils performed better in Numeracy, with the strongest performance shown amongst Basic Numeracy (P3 & P4).
- The greatest gains throughout the project were made by boys who showed a gain of over 7% in scores across all grades.
- At Endline, attendance rates for pupils were highest in P6, indicating that students who are more accustomed to the project are more likely to attend.

Teacher training was also offered as part of the project, our endline evaluation indicated that this reduced absenteeism, encouraged student-centred lessons, as well as improved teaching methodologies and classroom management

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Gratitude, gratitude, gratitude. The programme is fantastic and helps teachers as well as children.

**Ampain
Headteacher**

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At first I was not child-centred in my teaching I would do it alone but now I communicate with children and it has helped a lot.

**Ampain
Teacher**

Second Phase:

- Thanks to the support of UNHCR, the second phase of TRC will involve the continuation of the project in Ampain Camp and an extension to Egyekrom Camp, in the Central Region of Ghana. The camp was established in July 2011 and has a total population of nearly 1,500 of which most are Ivorian.
- This camp will receive maths and English tuition as well as after school gender empowerment classes, teacher training and community engagement sessions between May - December 2018.
- More than 400 children will benefit from TRC's expansion to Egyekrom Camp, in addition to the children already benefiting from the project in Ampain.
- The second phase of the project will also focus on further efforts to secure attendance to afterschool programs as well as to engage out-of-school girls at both camps.

In collaboration with UNHCR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. Launched in June 2016, UNHCR's Innovation Fund is an experimental resource that field operations can use to prototype or scale up good practices and test out creative ideas.

With this project, UNHCR and The Varkey Foundation seek to contribute to the wellbeing of refugee children in Ghana, who are currently out-of-school or at risk of dropping out due to their present circumstances, by helping them catch up with their basic education, allowing them to continue with their secondary education and providing them with high quality literacy and numeracy lessons.

