



bevrijdt kinderen van armoede
Compassion[®]
in Jezus' naam

Update

UPDATE | SURVIVAL GH0441

COUNTRY: Ghana

GOAL: Help vulnerable (pregnant) mothers and their children survive through support and education in the areas of health, hygiene and nutrition

FCP: GH0441

INTERVENTION: INT-0000032985

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1. UPDATE

Glory to the most high God for how far he has brought us. The survival program has really impacted the people in the Babatokuma community. It has helped in changing the lives of the people in the community and has also to reduce the burdens of single parents in the community.

The program has led to a lot of successes in terms of literacy education, health screenings, nutrition and hygiene support. The literacy education has helped the caregivers in so many ways. Caregivers can now tell the time using the wall clock and they can also read the dates and weeks by using the calendar. Caregivers know that there are 12 months in a year and 7 days in a week and caregivers can now write and also solve simple mathematics. This has put smiles on their faces.

The health screenings have also helped in identifying abnormalities and danger signs of potential illnesses before they become severe and make sure that individuals receive the necessary medical treatment in a timely manner.

The nutritional support has helped improve the weight of the participants and also reduced the burden of caregivers. The hygiene items that mothers are supported with have enabled them maintain good hygiene practices, thereby reducing infections among them.

Our biggest challenge is occasional absenteeism. In this season of the year many caregivers are harvesting their peanuts which is the major crop harvested in the community. As a result of that, they sometimes find it difficult to come for activities.

It is my prayer that the most high God rewards all the donors for their kindness. Thank you all and God bless you.

2. INTERVIEW WITH A MOTHER

How old is your child and what is her name?

11 months old and her name is Angel.

Describe any changes in your or your baby's health since joining Survival programming?

The health screenings have helped to improve my child's health since it helps to identify symptoms or warning signs of potential illnesses before they become serious.

How has being part of Survival programming benefitted you?

I have been in the program for one year and I have benefited from health education and child protection education. The health education has provided us with information needed to make healthy choices, prevent sickness or injury and the child protection education has helped in preventing child abuse and neglect.

What do you enjoy most about being a part of Survival programming?

What I enjoy most is the retreat the center organizes for the caregivers. This has helped to build and improve my relationship with God.

What is one thing you have learned from being a part of Survival programming?

I have learnt that studying the bible is a way to know God better and it gives power to resist temptation and also strengthen us in our challenges.



Angel and her mother.



3. LETTER FROM THE PARTNERSHIP FACILITATOR

Dear donor,

I bring you warm greetings from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I thank you for your generosity and commitment to supporting Babatorkuma Presbyterian Child Development centre to effectively implement the survival program in partnership with Compassion.

My name is Samuel, the partnership facilitator supporting Babatorkuma Presbyterian Child Development center as a Compassion representative.

Your support enabled the church minister to a lot of households since child mortality and the traditional birth attendant was on the rise in the community. Most of these women were not able to access the antenatal and postnatal care. This resulted in pregnancy-related diseases, deaths and complications during delivery. There were several instances of women delivering on the pathway to their farms, or at the farm without any assistance but today, thanks be to God, this is a thing of the past. |

Your support has helped the church to minister to a lot of households in the community. There has been a reduction in the incidence of infant diseases; the regular health education for caregivers and health screening for survival babies have led to a reduction in the incidence of infant diseases among participants. Health screening reports are given the maximum attention and follow ups which has resulted to this positive impact.

The centre has seen an improved nutrition among babies and pregnant women; the center for the past three years has consistently supported pregnant mothers as well as babies with food supplements and hygiene items. This has reduced malnutrition and anaemia and has improved their lives. Participants are supported with food and hygiene items.

It is because of you that these mothers are now learning various skills at the centre; all caregivers have passed through the survival program and are currently under the home-based programming received skilled training in either soap making, local drinks processing, batik tie and dye production and variety of baby foods processing. Five caregivers were supported to start business in soap making and local drinks processing and one set up in petty trading. These caregivers are making income from the business and have begun training other people in the community as a way of expanding their income. The livelihood empowerment has helped reduce issues of relocation outside the Babatorkuma community to cities for work purposes among caregivers. All these successes are because of your support.

The survival program has been keen on its commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ. Caregivers are engaged in spiritual activities such as retreats, bible studies and retreats quarterly. These caregivers are given bibles and are taught how to read these bibles in their local languages. These activities have helped improve family bonds in some households as caregivers are encouraged to hold family devotions.

The community has recorded an end to child mortality and an improvement in maternal health, all because of timely intervention and the implementation of GOBI-FFF from the child survival program. It is our hope that the community will continue to develop and be released from poverty as the church continues to partner with Compassion. The survival program is basically the hope for many babies who wouldn't have survived. Thank you and God bless you for all your support that has enabled us to fulfil our mission on earth. We admire and glorify our Lord for what He keeps doing for us.



4. LETTER FROM A MOTHER

Glory is to the highest God for how far he has brought us. My name is Ama, caregiver of Shamima. Shamima is now five months old. The survival program has helped us in so many ways.

To begin with literacy education, which is ongoing for survival mothers. This has helped me so much and it is still helping and will continue to help Shamima when she starts school. This is because I will also be able to teach her at home when she returns from school. I can now tell the time using the wall clock and watches, I can also tell dates, months and weeks using the calendar and can also solve simple mathematics and this has brought joy to me.

The health screenings have helped in identifying symptoms or warning signs of potential illnesses before they become serious and have helped to ensure that we receive the necessary medical treatment in a timely manner.

Also, family planning education has helped me to decide on when to have children. This will also help to avoid financial problems.

Lastly, the child protection educations which are organized for caregivers. This education has helped me in protecting my child in a very good way. This is because abuse and neglect of children can lead to negative consequences.

I thank God for giving our sponsors a kind heart. I say a very big thank you and God bless them all.



Shamima and her mother Ama.



5. PHOTOS



Education on malaria prevention. The purpose of the education is to help reduce the incidences of malaria. At the end of the education caregivers were able to know that malaria is a life threatening disease and can be prevented by avoiding mosquito bites and sleeping in a treated mosquito net.



Literacy education. Caregivers were educated on the measurement of time. The purpose of this education is to teach the caregivers how to read time. They learnt that time is measured in seconds, hours, days, weeks, months and years. In addition, they learnt the types of measuring instruments for time which are clocks, calendars and watches.





Literacy education. Mothers learnt how to use the calendar and on how to read the time.



A caregiver leading her colleagues in praising the most high God for how far he has brought them. The purpose of this retreat is to encourage caregivers to reflect on who they have been, who they are now and who God desires them to be.



Hand washing education. During this education caregivers were taught that germs from unwashed hands can be transferred to other objects like toys and then transferred to another person's hands.



Mothers were engaged in games as a way of bonding.





Health screening activity at the project. This is done to ensure there is early detection of diseases and then treatment is done if the need arises.



The implementer visited the caregiver and the newly born baby in their home. During the visit, the caregiver was educated on how to care for a newborn baby. After this visit, the caregiver was able to know that a newborn baby needs to be clean all the time and must be kept warm. She was also reminded to only feed the baby with breastmilk.



Family planning education. The purpose of this education was to help prevent unwanted pregnancy and also help caregivers to have their desired number of children.



Breastfeeding education. The purpose of this education is to ensure babies are fed exclusively with breast milk for six months.





Education on upper respiratory tract infection. This education went on successfully and caregivers were able to know that upper respiratory tract infection is a viral infection that affects the nose, throat and airways and it usually resolves within seven to ten days. The purpose of this education is to help prevent the infection among children.



Education on typhoid fever. The education was purposely done for caregivers to know the cause, signs and symptoms of typhoid fever. They were educated on its prevention to avoid the spread which includes hand washing with water and soap.





Group photo of the participants.