



Challenging Heights

2017
Annual Report



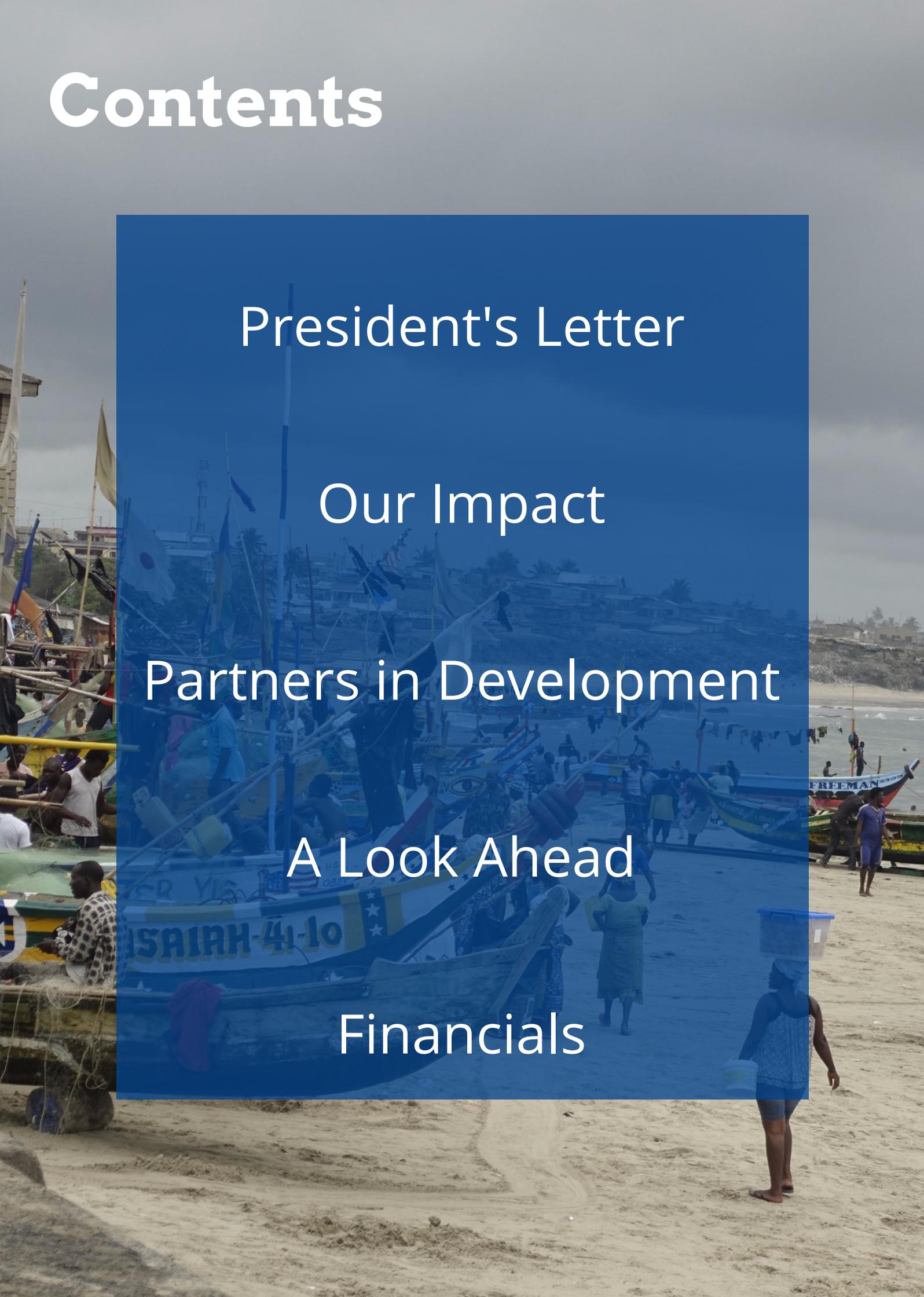


Challenging Heights Annual Report 2017



Our mission is
to end child trafficking, reduce child
slavery and promote children's rights.

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President's Letter

Dear friends,

I have some exciting news for you.

Last year, I announced Challenging Heights' new 5-year strategic plan and goal to end child trafficking in five years and child slavery within 10. The biggest take away from the strategic plan is for us, together with our partners, to rescue 700 boys and girls from slavery on Lake Volta over the next five years. We know this goal is very ambitious.

The good news is that we are off to a flying start. Together with our partners, we rescued 91 children, 74 boys, and 17 girls. We exceeded our annual target of 75, and achieving this result in the face of such an ambitious target is something we are proud of.

We continued our support to our previously rescued children, ensuring that those who are already receiving care are gaining the best services to thrive in their communities.

Our Women's Economic Empowerment Programme continued to impact hundreds of women in our communities. Our cold store delivered them fish throughout the year, as a part of our child-trafficking prevention programme.

This year, will continue reaching for our goal of ending child trafficking in Ghana's fishing industry. We will rescue 104 children with our partners. We are bringing back our Youth Empowerment Programme and improving our advocacy for change program.

We could not have done this without your support, so we say thank you. Thank you to all of you who supported us in various ways – those who gave, those who hosted us, and those who referred us to sources of support. We are grateful to you all.

As fundraising continue to be the greatest challenge, we ask you to stand with us, and to travel the journey as we end child trafficking in Ghana's fishing industry.

Once again, thank you for your support.



James Kofi Annan
President

Our Impact

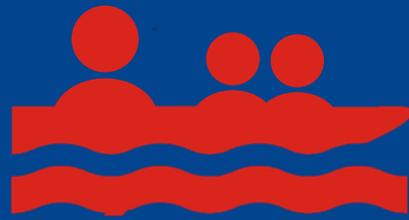
When it comes to our mission to end child trafficking, reduce child slavery, and promote children's rights, it is important to remember the human beings that our work impacts each day.

This summer, Kweku* and Kojo* were reintegrated with their mother. She was so overjoyed at their arrival, she ran from the house to meet them with her arms flung open, ready to embrace them. The smile spread across her face is unforgettable.



91
children
rescued

53 rescued by
Challenging Heights



25
referred by
Mercy
Project

10
referred by
Engage
Now Africa

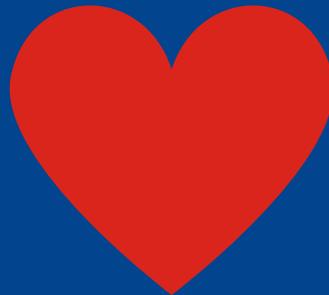
2
referred by
Free the
Slaves

1
referred by
Department
of Social
Welfare

149 children
cared for

122 boys

27 girls

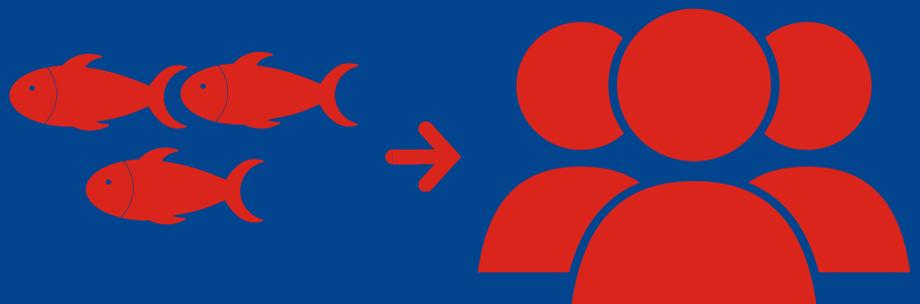


88
children
reintegrated

141
children
monitored



260 women's
livelihoods
supported by
the cold store



When Mrs. Arthur's sister died while giving birth to her third child, Mrs. Arthur could not stand for the idea of her niece and nephews not having a chance at an education. She offered to take them all in, but discovered the older two had been trafficked to Lake Volta.

Mrs. Arthur came to Challenging Heights for help rescuing them. With five children of her own, all in school, she knew it would be difficult to care for three more.

When she received the livelihoods support upon their reintegration, she was excited. She was able to expand her business from a simple corn mill to a provisions shop.

She uses her profits to ensure all her children go to school. "This business is the backbone of the family," she said.



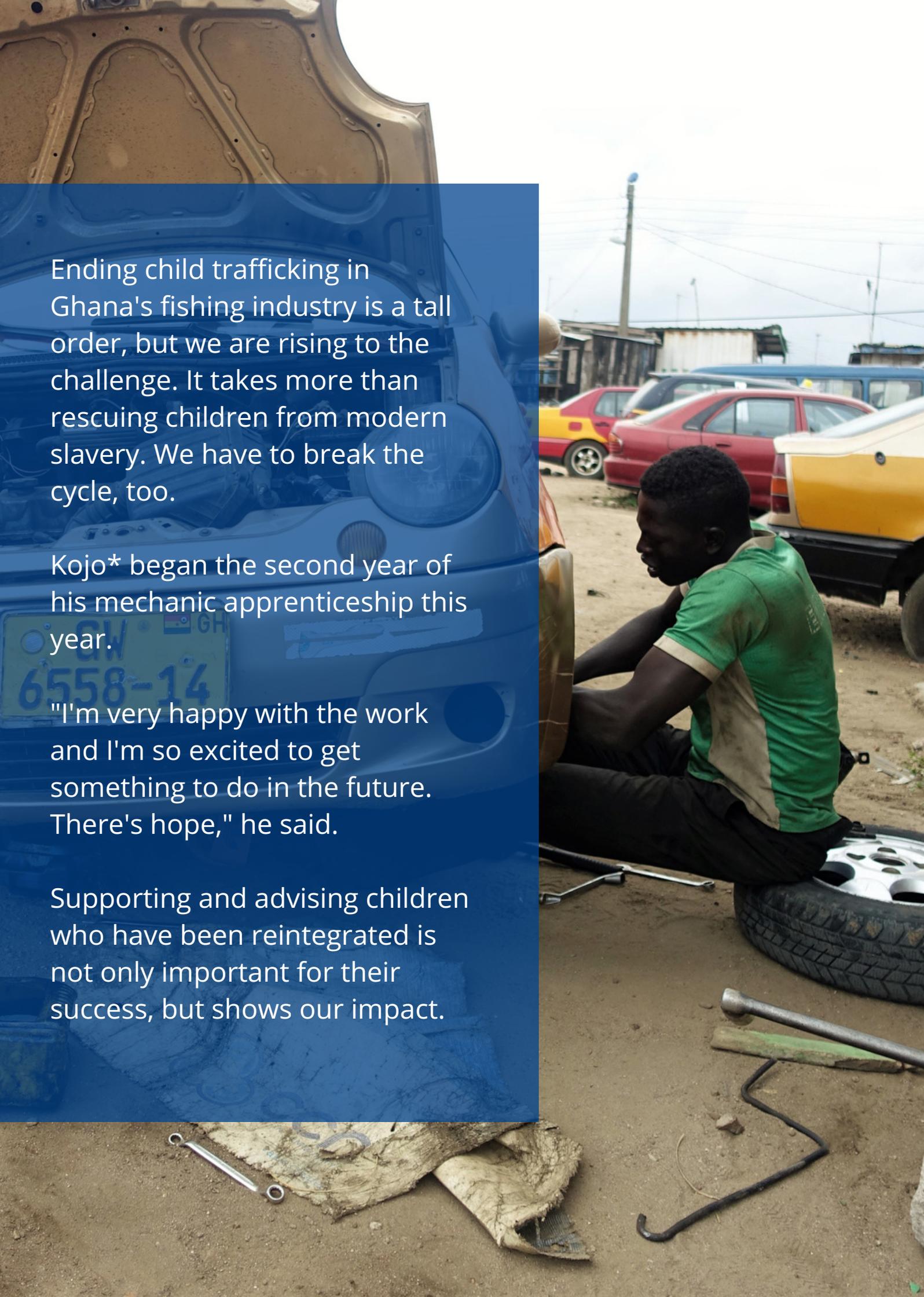
A young girl in a light blue school uniform with a maroon collar is the central focus. She is holding a large white sign with red text that reads "END TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS NOW!!!". In the background, other children and a large blue water tank are visible. Another sign with the word "TRAFFICKING" in blue is partially visible behind her. To the right, a sign with a red "STOP" sign and a female symbol is also partially visible.

**END TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS
NOW!!!**

Every year, July 30 is observed as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. In 2017, Challenging Heights partnered with the government of Ghana to host a durbar (community event) in Senya.

Local schoolchildren paraded through the streets with signs asserting their rights and decrying trafficking. A youth cultural troupe performed a dramatisation of children being trafficked, the treatment they endured, and finally their rescue.

Speeches were made by the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection and James, among others, leaving the community invigorated to address trafficking.

A young man in a green and white t-shirt is sitting on a tire, working on a car. He is in an outdoor setting with several other cars parked in the background. The scene is set in a dusty area with some buildings and utility poles visible. The man is focused on his work, and various tools are scattered on the ground around him.

Ending child trafficking in Ghana's fishing industry is a tall order, but we are rising to the challenge. It takes more than rescuing children from modern slavery. We have to break the cycle, too.

Kojo* began the second year of his mechanic apprenticeship this year.

"I'm very happy with the work and I'm so excited to get something to do in the future. There's hope," he said.

Supporting and advising children who have been reintegrated is not only important for their success, but shows our impact.

Partners in Development

A person wearing a tan bucket hat, a dark blue t-shirt, and striped shorts is painting a yellow wall with a roller. The person is seen from the back, and a blue fanny pack is visible. The background shows a window with blue bars and some green plants in the foreground.

73 volunteers
contributed
5,125 hours

We cannot do what we do without partnerships and each year we are delighted to welcome visitors and partners who support our mission of ending child trafficking in Ghana's fishing industry.

Thanks to volunteers from Sunwest Bank and Castle View High School, the school and Challenging Heights Hovde House each received fresh coats of paint.

With the help of two short-term volunteers, we were able to research new grant opportunities for our continued growth.

If you are interested in joining us in Ghana, please visit our website to learn more.

A Look Ahead

As we prepare for 2018, we are very excited to focus on strengthening our partnerships.

In 2017, we helped to form a coalition of anti-trafficking organisations in Ghana. The groundwork has been laid and we're looking forward to using that network to become better at what we do and to tackle child trafficking together.

We're also excited about continuing to build partnerships with our supporters. It's people like you who make this work possible.

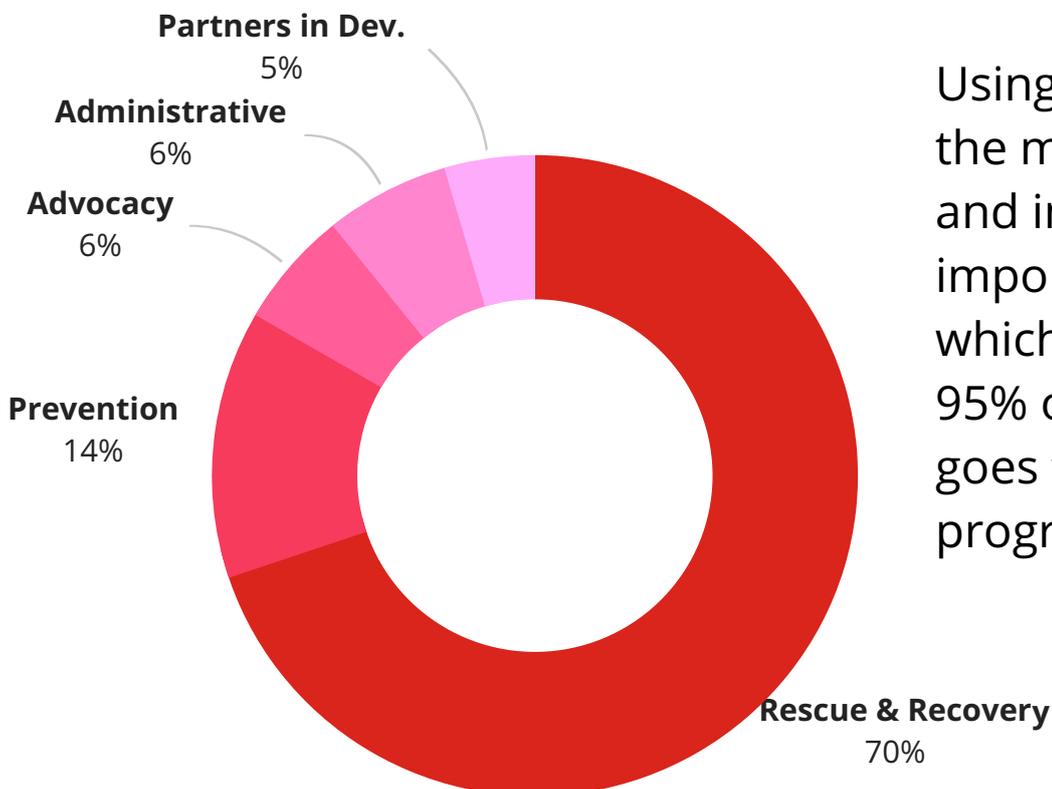
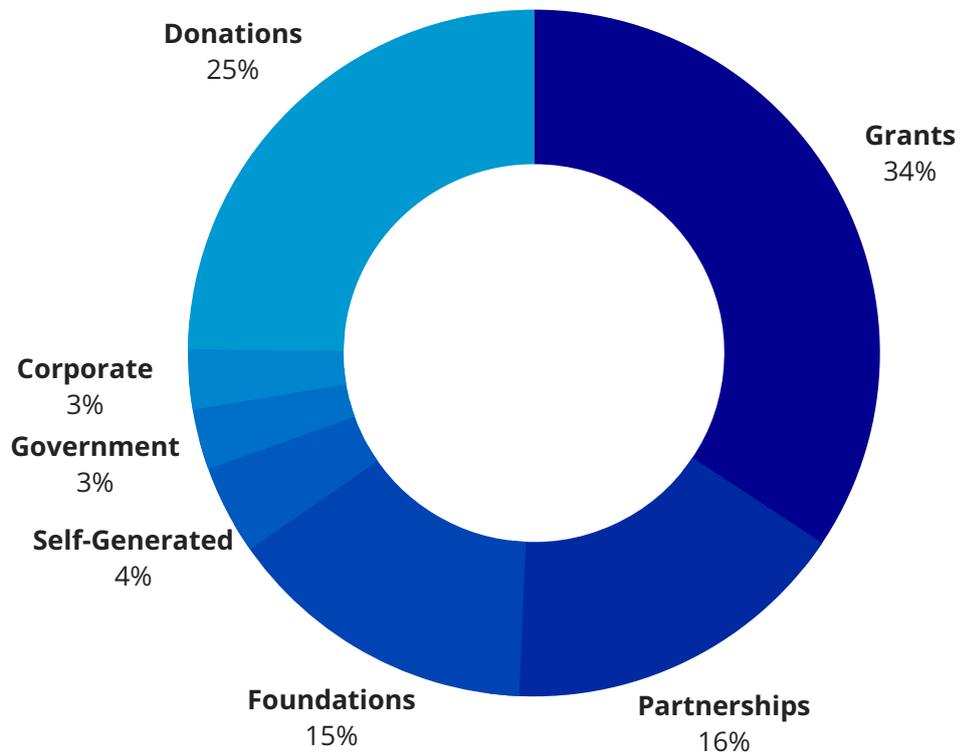
At the end of 2017, we broke ground on Phase 1 of the expansion of the Challenging Heights Hovde House. The new classrooms along with Phase 2's additional dormitories will be completed this year. This will increase our capacity to care for 100 children at a time.

This year is about strengthening. Strengthening our core programming. Strengthening our partnerships. And strengthening the fight against child trafficking in Ghana's fishing industry.



Financials

We are extremely grateful for all of our funders who make this work possible. Here's a breakdown of our funding sources for 2017.



Using our funding in the most effective and impactful way is important to us, which is why nearly 95% of our funding goes towards programming.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support we received from all of our partners and supporters. With their passion and commitment, all of them helped us to achieve so much in 2017.

27 Million Voices	Amber Amankwah
Abolish Slavery Now	Chuck & Kathy Glatz
Amvets Auxiliary to Post No. 23	Curt & Jen Sidden
Arizona State University	Douglas Cutchins
Beauty for Freedom	Jim & Marion Boyd
Blindon Foundation	Genevieve Hovde
Breaking the Chain through Education	Geoff Sander
Breslaff Foundation	Glenn Anderson
Butterflies/Child Development Khazana	Jane Henderson
Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives	Jeff & Ilana Kashdin
Castle View High School	Jim Weber
Douglas County School District	Lisa Clerie
EMpower	Lisa Halsted
Engage Now Africa	Mark Hamilton
Family for Every Child	Miles Mcleod
Free the Slaves	Shari Reilly
Freedom for All	Sophie Stenbeck
Grand Valley State University	Tiffany & Jeremy Makinson
Heritage High School	Terri Dopheide
Hovde Foundation & Sunwest Bank Charitable Foundation	
Inter Church Organisation for Development Corporation	
M. Night Shyamalan Foundation	
Made in a Free World	
Mercy Project	
Micah 6:8	
Millersville University	
TOMS Shoes	
UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	
UNICEF	
Women in Social Enterprise	