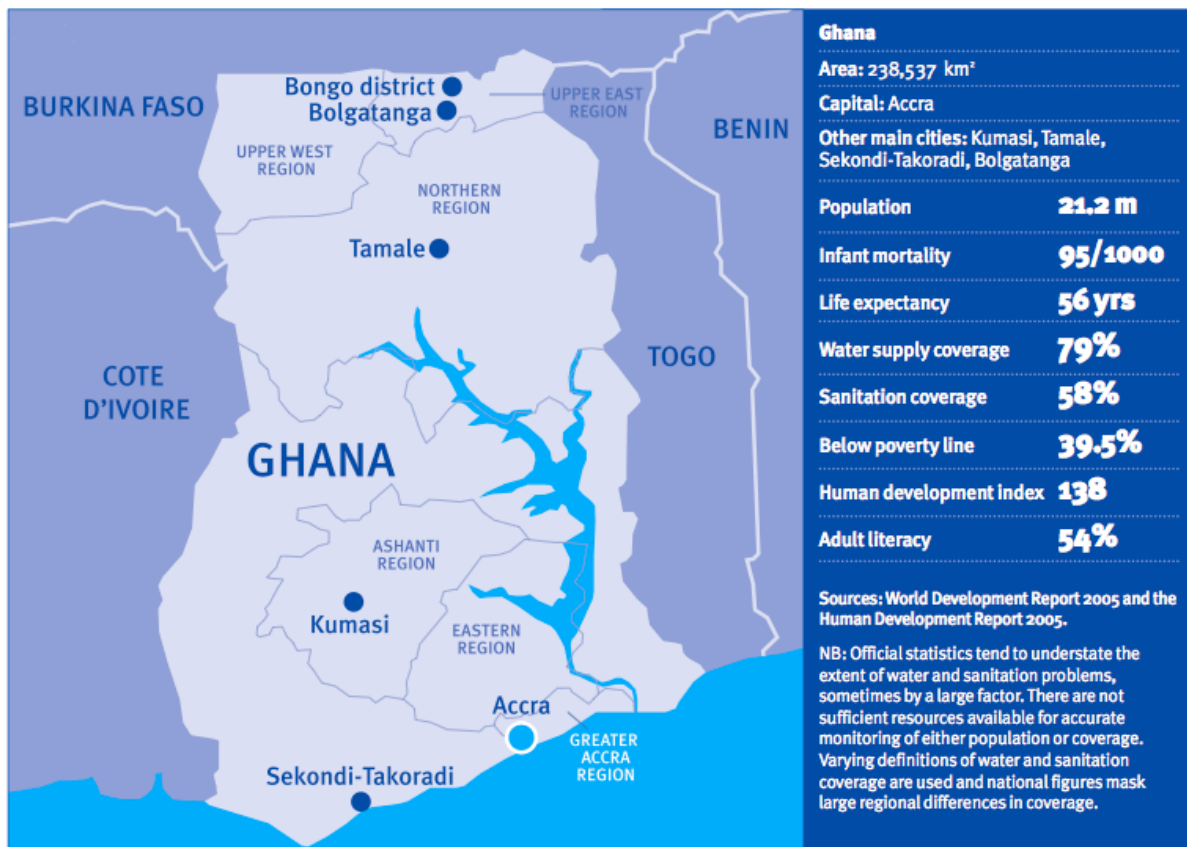


# Information Pack for Prospective Volunteers



# Where?

You will be based in the remote but very friendly, rural village of Gboloo Kofi Eastern Region, Ghana, West Africa. It's hot, 33c+ and 70-80% humidity.



This region is classified as an area of great poverty. The majority of locals farm small holding, generating just enough food to feed their families and anything left over is sold in the local market seven miles away.



The village is a very safe place and you can confidently walk around alone during the day and night. Walking around the village will soon generate a small gathering of curious, raggedy kids who love nothing more than to watch and listen to your every move.

We have a great relationship with the Chief of the village and the respect of the community. The village has a school and two wells. Village by Village built one of these wells and has provided 10 scholarships for the children of the village. In addition we are building a library and information centre inside the school grounds. Working with our local partners we have also constructed 20 latrines for the people of the village and started one business and provided specs for those living inside the village.

Ghanaians are regarded as the friendliest of all African countries and in the evening it is an accepted practice to walk from campfire to campfire watching how the locals prepare food and chatting about the day's events. You will always be invited to stay for dinner!

# What will I do?

We offer four volunteering opportunities:

1. Teaching English
2. Community Building Projects
3. Healthcare and Eye care
4. Football Coaching

Our volunteers will have the opportunity to work in an informal and relaxed environment on these projects. While volunteers will be expected to work hard, we also hope to have a good time! There will be the flexibility to work on different aspects of the project. Working with a team will be important, and living in another culture should allow for excellent personal development. Village by Village is a small charity, and so the feeling of 'giving something back' will be on a very personal level.



## Teaching English

Improving education standards is the key to the development of rural communities. This has a direct impact on the future of the whole community. However, all too often these rural communities find it difficult to attract teachers who are instead attracted to the bright lights and even brighter prospects of the city schools.

Also, whilst many governments promote free primary and secondary education for all, there are very few resources to increase or improve classroom facilities, leading to overcrowding.

As a Village by Village Teacher you can play an important role in reducing class sizes and injecting enthusiasm, energy and a fresh style of teaching, whilst gaining knowledge and experience from local teachers. You will also be able to help those children who perhaps struggle to keep pace with the rest of the class. Your combined efforts can lead to a sustainable improvement in education standards.

What will I teach? You will spend most of your time helping with basic literacy, maths and various other subjects. The school would be particularly keen for you to teach what you feel happiest teaching.

Additionally, if you are a keen musician, interested in drama or have a passion for sport, the school would be really keen for your help in these areas.

The schools will be particularly keen for you to help with conversational English. English is central to the education system. The ability to speak English can lead to better employment prospects and is essential for anyone hoping for a career in the tourist industry.

"Before we had the pump we went to the stream to fetch water. There were animals drinking there too. The water would hurt my stomach. Now I'm pleased I don't have to go there any more, I never visit there. I am happy with the new water.

Before I had diarrhoea and I had to go to hospital and stay there for five days. It was all new to me. It was big and strange and there were lots of people. I had to get injections and it was scary. I missed school while I was in hospital. I enjoy school so much. When I am older I want to be a doctor because I want to help other people who are sick."

## Community Building Projects

Village by Village building projects are usually at the core of all group projects. Based in rural areas and working on projects that small rural communities really need, you could be building a school or local library, or you could be digging a well or improving sanitation by building a toilet block.

Often, you will be working on projects that the people of the village have been unable to undertake because of lack of funding. Therefore the money you bring to the project has a direct impact on the local community.

No previous building experience is necessary and you certainly don't need to be muscle bound to work on these projects. Experienced local masons, carpenters and craftsmen will lead the group, teaching you the required skills and supervising your work. On the projects you could be digging foundations, laying cement, building walls, plastering or painting.



## Healthcare and Eye Care

In the western world access to medical care is available to all. However in many of the countries where we operate the standard of medical care is heavily dependent on where you live and how much you can afford to pay. For volunteers this means that you will be gaining experience in clinics with few of the facilities we are used to at home. This also means that you may see examples of medical conditions that you just wouldn't see in a western hospital.

"I am helping with the latrine construction. I helped to dig the pit, mould the blocks and carry them here. We spent five days excavating the pit, it took one day to mould the blocks and another day to line the pit. I am spending a lot of time here but I will benefit from it so I don't mind.

We used to go to the toilet far away in the bush. It was a real problem and in the rainy season it was very muddy and there were snakes. Having a latrine in the house will improve sanitation around our home and make a real difference. When I have finished the latrine I will be happy to help other households to build theirs."

For example, in some of the hospitals where we work, while accompanying doctors on daily ward rounds it will be common to see patients with advanced sepsis or suffering from tetanus simply because they could not afford to pay for antibiotics or the proper treatment. On the same ward visits you will learn how doctors use intuition when making diagnoses because x-ray and ultra sound are simply not available or are unaffordable.

Your role: Of course the type of experience you gain will depend heavily on your interests and previous clinical experience. Medics with clinical experience may be able to utilize their experience and apply what they've learnt to help out over worked doctors, possibly using the experience to brush up on areas they have neglected or struggled with. Local doctors will also be keen to hear

about new techniques and advances in medical practice in western medicine.

Those still to gain clinical experience will be doing less hands-on work. The nurse to doctor ratio in our partner hospitals and clinics is much lower than at home, so as well as accompanying doctors on ward rounds and spending time observing in various departments, you may be able to help with the day to day care of patients.

# Football Coaching

Football in Ghana has never been so popular. 2006 saw Ghana debut in the World Cup, Ghanaian Footballers such as Essien at Chelsea are making an impact all over the World and to top it all Ghana is hosting the African Nations Cup in 2008...Everyone is watching it, talking about it and playing it, and now you have an opportunity to be a part of it!

Ghana is football mad. Football is without doubt the worlds most talked about sport. You can barely go anywhere for longer than half an hour without the opportunity arising to have a chat with someone about the state of the game; whether that be on if the local pub side should deploy attacking full backs or if Ronaldinho really meant 'that free kick' in 2002. Wherever you go there is scope for debate, difference of opinion and argument. There is passion. And this is just in the UK...

Now imagine witnessing this passion on the other side of the world. Imagine having just finished an evening training session with some of Ghana's finest under 8's and heading to a local mud hut bar with the father of one of them to discuss Michael Essien's impact in Europe or soak up the atmosphere as Ghana prepare for the Africa Cup. Imagine discovering one country's passion through your own.

This is what Village by Village Football is all about, it is immersing yourself in a country through passion. Through our football programs you will connect with a culture far more powerfully than by just passing through. By dedicating your time, skills and knowledge of the game you will be contributing so much more than you could ever imagine.

**Ghana, a tropical country situated on the west coast of Africa, is one of the most densely populated in the region. When it regained its independence in 1957 it was one of the richest nations in Africa – it produced a tenth of the world's gold and was a leading cocoa exporter. However, following an optimistic start Ghana suffered a series of setbacks including coups, food shortages and corruption that led to years of economic decline.**

**Since 1993, when a new constitution was adopted and political parties were able to form, the country has become more stable. Freedom of speech and a vibrant press are now helping to deepen the country's democracy. It is now seen as a model for political and economic reform in Africa.**

**Yet, despite this, it is very poor and heavily indebted. The three northern regions are particularly deprived with one in ten children dying before their fifth birthday.**

# Money

To go overseas in 2008 **you are expected to fund raise £850** for the charity. 100% of the money you raise will be donated to charity. We supply you with a "How to fundraise" package and arrange for an online donation receiving website. This raised sum is donated directly to Village by Village a registered UK charity. You are responsible for your flight, insurance and vaccinations.

Fundraising will be done individually, but also as a team. We will have group meetings where we can share ideas and organise group money raising projects.

Most volunteers are surprised by the response to their efforts and many raise more than the sum required and enjoy the challenge.

We feel that raising funds through sponsorship is an important part of preparing yourself for your gap month. It shows to others your determination and initiative and demonstrates to yourself your ability to rise to a challenge.

What we spend your raised money on:

- Provision of project materials (bricks, cement etc)
- Project support costs (tools, technical equipment etc)
- Employment of local staff and skilled labour
- In-country travel and airport collection
- Food and accommodation
- Permanent in-country staff & support 24 hours a day
- Highly experienced leadership teams
- UK support, guidance and administration

If you don't make the target, yet we feel you have made a genuine effort, we will do our best to get you overseas, but you must realise that between you and us, the full amount has to be raised or Village by Village could not exist.



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Registered Charity Number 1116952

## Next Step

- **Select a date to travel**
- **Complete the application form**
- **Pay a non-refundable of £200 deposit to secure your place**
- **We issue you with an Acceptance Pack which tells you what to do**
- **Fundraise the remainder of your donation**
- **Travel to Ghana.....**

**Go on break the ice and give us a call for an informal chat 07887 870090**