Improving nutrition in the school feeding program for children in Ashomang School-Ghana

Accra, Ghana

Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu

Year Founded: 2008
Organization type: nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector
Project Stage: Idea
Budget: $100,000 - $250,000
Website: http://www.conservealliance.org

- Food security
- Poverty alleviation
- Rural development
- Youth leadership

Elevator Pitch

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

The project seeks to improve nutrition level of meals in the school feeding program through the establishment of small poultry units in schools. These units' layer birds will supply eggs which contain protein. These eggs will be used in the preparation of school meals for children.

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

Poor nutrition in the school feeding program in the Ashomang Primary School is of interest. The school foods have high levels of carbohydrates especially with rice, banku, maize meals that are served. The protein components are normally flaked fishes, very tiny pieces of chicken or meat which is woefully inadequate. Other forms of proteins are beans meals served. In addition, these protein meals are eaten on very less frequent basis.

Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!

Small poultry units will be built and managed by schools. Layers will be raised to produce eggs daily for the schools. These eggs will be made available to school cooks to use in the preparation of school meals. This will enhance amount and frequency with which protein will be available to the school children. Some broilers will also be kept in addition to the layers. When the broilers are matured and also the layers are no longer productive, they will be served as meats for the school children. A portion of the eggs will be sold to purchase fruits, that will supplement lunch meals by providing the children with vitamins.

In this pilot phase, our target number of children are 100 in number. They are in class one. A poultry unit that contains 50 birds, that will produce a total average of 350 eggs in a week.

Impact: How does it Work

Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.

This solution is expected to supply eggs for the school on a daily basis. The eggs will be collected by the school children after they feed these birds. The eggs will be sent to the school kitchen. A portion will be used for cooking and the other portion saved for sale. The revenue from the sale will be used to purchase fruits for the children. The difference is that, as the project addresses protein deficiency in the schools’ meals, it
creates a system where schools can access fruit supply which is essential for vitamins. In the long run, the savings made on purchases coupled with revenue from sales creates income for the school.

**Impact: What is the impact of the work to date? Also describe the projected future impact for the coming years.**

There will be a balanced physical and cognitive development of the children. Protein is crucial for human cognitive development especially that of children. This project by its nature will enhance the amount of protein in the foods of the school children on a much regular basis. This protein will create a balance in the nutritional components of meals served which is mostly carbohydrate filled. Some amount of eggs will be set aside for sale; the revenue obtained will used to purchase fruits for the consumption of the school children. Fruits are essential due to its vitamins and roughages. On the average, an egg can fund three oranges. Three oranges can be sliced into pieces to serve 12 children for a lunch meal. Furthermore, the poultry units will enhance practical agricultural studies for the school, since the school will play an active role in its establishment and management.

**Sustainability**

**Financial Sustainability Plan: What is this solution’s plan to ensure financial sustainability?**

This will be ensured through the sale of extra eggs for money. Part of the revenue will be set aside for the management of the poultry units. Furthermore, due to the supply from the school poultry units, the cooks will make savings on their purchase on protein related cooking ingredients. The savings will be channeled to cater for the expenses of the project. Also, we will train teachers to act as future managers of the project.

**Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?**

Organizations like Rural Reconstruction Nepal, focuses more on policy makers and how they can help improve nutrition. This solution differs because the schools are assisted to create and manage a sustainable system that will enhance their nutrition problem. Secondly, this project addresses issues related to both proteins, vitamins, iron. This is lacking in other solutions that addresses a single nutrition deficiency. The activities of the project will also enhance the academic and entrepreneurial abilities of the beneficiary children. These make the project’s impact multi phased.

**Team**

**Founding Story**

Conservation Alliance was formed out of the growing need for communities to be empowered to conserve biodiversity. These natural resources are the main source of livelihoods for most poor communities. In an era where climate change impact is becoming more pressing, coupled with the threats it poses to communities, Conservation Alliance was formed i.e. 2008 to help bring on board all stakeholders to empower people to take active roles, in conserving biodiversity, at the same time having a sustainable income mechanism.

**About You**

**Organization:** Conservation Alliance

- **First Name**
  - Paa Kofi

- **Last Name**
  - Osei-Owusu

- **Twitter URL**
- **Facebook URL**

**About Your Organization**

- **Organization Name**
  - Conservation Alliance

- **Organization Country**
  - Country where this project is creating social impact
    - , GA, Accra

- **Has the organization received awards or honors? Please tell us about them**
  - 1. FAO project for Bia-Krokosuo conservation (2013-2016)
  - 2. World Cocoa Foundation fund for youth cocoa farmers in Arkasa(2011)
  - 3. USAID funding for training of 6000 cocoa farmers in Nigeria (2013-2014)
  - 4. BALISTO funding for youth cocoa farmers in communities fringing Kakum national Park

**Nutrients For All**

**Where do you ensure the availability of nutrients?**

Full nourishment foods, Human wellness and vitality.
| If you had greater capacity, which additional sectors would you like your solution to target - either through expansion, partnership, or thought exchange? |
| Healthy environments, Nutrient-rich farming. |
| How specifically would this added capacity help you improve the quality, efficiency, or sustainability of your existing product or service? |
| The additional capacity will enhance our abilities to produce most of the food crops that are used for the school feeding program. Additionally, we will then be in the position to produce crops using the right crop varieties |

Source URL: https://www.changemakers.com/nutrientsforall/competition/entries/improving-nutrition-school-feeding-program-children