

Advancing Partnerships for Improved Learning

Case Study:

Ambition for the Needy School, Tamale, Ghana

Ambition for the Needy School is located in the Zagyuri suburb of Tamale, Sagnarigu Municipality, in the Northern Region of Ghana. Established in September 2003, by Ms. Theresa Owusu, a determined farmer and vegetable trader, the school was born out of Theresa's aspiration to provide education despite facing personal challenges that interrupted her own educational journey.

Theresa's vision for Ambition for the Needy School was to ensure that children in areas with limited formal schooling would have access to pre-primary and primary education.

Despite her own educational setbacks, Theresa remained resolute in her commitment to positively impacting children's lives through education.



The school currently caters to **181 learners aged between 3 and 15 years, with 92 boys, and 89 girls**, including two children from the Fulbe community, and two learners with disabilities. Initially a one-teacher school, Ambition for the Needy School now boasts a team of eight teachers, most of whom have been with the school for over 5 years. **The school operates on a low-fee model, charging GHS 60 (\$5) per term or GHS 180 (\$15) per year.**

Despite the school's efforts to provide affordable education, several challenges hinder its progress. **The infrastructure is inadequate, with five simple wooden classrooms accommodating two grades each. Additionally, the school lacks toilet facilities, portable drinking water, and office space for administrative purposes.** These limitations affect the teaching and learning environment, making it difficult to provide quality education.

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During the visit, our team observed classroom activities and engaged with students, teachers, and parents to understand the school's challenges and potential impact. **Parents and members of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) expressed their preference for Ambition for the Needy School over the nearest government school, highlighting the quality of education provided despite the existing challenges.** They shared stories of former students excelling in higher levels of education, indicating the positive influence of the school on its students' academic journey.

Ambition for the Needy School in the Zagyuri suburb of Tamale, Ghana, serves as a beacon of hope for children in underserved communities, providing access to education despite numerous challenges. With continued support and investment in infrastructure and resources, the school has the potential to further transform the lives of its students and contribute to the overall development of the community.