

Tools FOR SELF RELIANCE

practical help for
practical people



Tools for Self Reliance in Ghana

Girls Growth and Development

Growing up in the northern region of Ghana is tough – especially if you're a girl. Chances are you won't have a secondary school education and you'll have no prospect of a job.

Many young women migrate to the relatively prosperous south looking for work and a better life. But even there the opportunities for work are slim. The women get work where they can, as porters, cleaners or in the sex trade. Many return home, where they are not always welcome.

After seeing many girls pass through her clinic following beatings from their families and worse, a nurse called Madam Stella Ntori realised the girls needed help to integrate back into the community. She set up a

training organisation called Girls Growth and Development (GIGDEV) in Tamale, the northern regional capital, and started to teach basic seamstressing skills.



GIGDEV founder Stella Ntori

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Initially Madam Stella taught the girls on her front porch, using the little money saved through her work to buy sewing machines and materials. Ten years ago Tools for Self Reliance teamed up with GIGDEV and today our partnership is still going strong. GIGDEV provides the training, and we fund the training and supply the tools.

Things have come a long way since Madam Stella's porch. GIGDEV now has four training centres – three in rural

communities outside Tamale – plus its headquarters in the city, which boasts a crèche, hostel, sales unit, and several workshops and classrooms.

GIGDEV trains 100 new students in tailoring and hairdressing every year. While they study, the girls also learn basic literacy and numeracy skills. They learn how to set up and sustain their own





Adam Fuseina

Adam (20) is a student at GIGDEV. She lives in the village of Dimabi, 4 km from Tolon on the outskirts of Tamale. She sells garments that she's made to her family and friends.

Adam makes about 1 cedi (that's about 40 pence) per shirt after the cost of material and buttons has been deducted. To complement her vocational training she's also received some literacy and numeracy training. So now, as well as making the garments she can also take measurements and record them accurately. She can also decide how much to charge. As the only one in her family who can read, Adam can help her brothers and sisters too.

business and they receive counselling on issues such as health care, HIV/AIDS, hygiene and nutrition.

GIGDEV is no longer just reacting to the situation. It now works proactively to discourage girls from taking the perilous journey south. And this is having a huge impact.

By providing livelihoods opportunities, raising awareness of the problems facing young women and helping people understand the risks the girls face, GIGDEV is helping the whole community.

GIGDEV needs our help to continue its work.

And [we need your help](#) to pay for training up future generations of young women and sending the sewing machines they so desperately need.



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