



**NEW BEGGININGS  
BOOKSELLERS CARRIAGE AND AFRIKIDS**



## AfriKids

AfriKids is a Child Rights Organisation, which works alongside indigenous communities in Ghana to improve the quality of life for rejected and vulnerable children. AfriKids specifically targets the root causes of the children's problems, by improving community support services and by providing access to basic education and primary health care.

AfriKids represents a genuine step forward for children in an isolated area of Northern Ghana and is proud to count Booksellers Carriage as one of their most longstanding partners

## Booksellers Carriage

Booksellers Carriage give 2½ pence for every parcel sent through our service to support the work of AfriKids. In 2007 they committed to five years of support for "Operation Sunlight" as a principal partner in a project to take 150 children out of the mines and mining process and into schools. Also avoiding a further 450 children working down mines and in the mining process. A representative of Booksellers Carriage visited the project in April 2009, daunted at the scale of the task and delighted at the progress already achieved.



Left; James from Booksellers Carriage helps construct a school that was in construction during his 2009 visit to the project. The school is now complete and is a huge asset to the community. Above; trainee hairdressers supported by Booksellers Carriage practice styles on each other.

Now, in 2011, the project has developed and grown and now counts Comic Relief and other major grant givers as supporters who have helped it develop into the New Beginnings programme. The support of Booksellers Carriage helped get the project to this point and continues to make a huge difference to the original 150 beneficiaries.

## The New Beginnings Programme

is a child rights project that removes children from illegal labour in gold mines and provides education and training opportunities. The project is located in the isolated mining communities of the Talensi Nabdam district, in Ghana's Upper East Region (UER).

Families living in poverty in the district moved to the transitional mining communities in the hope of earning money through gold mining. When AfriKids first started working in the area these communities were not officially recognised by the state, which meant there were no state provisions such as medical facilities, water supplies or schools. Living in mining communities many children found themselves lured into deep shaft mining, irrespective of the hazards of the job. Others were engaged in surface mining activities, with their education taking a back seat because of the distractions of their work.

In 2007 AfriKids were asked by the UN International Labour Organisation (ILO) to design and deliver a ground breaking project to tackle child labour in the mines of the Talensi Nabdam district.

The project tackles child mining in two key ways :

**Prevents children from entering mining, especially dangerous deep shaft mining** by organising community awareness, advocacy and education programmes, as well as providing local mothers with micro-finance loans and skills training so that they can increase their families' income and alleviate pressure felt by the child to work in the mines

Manages the withdrawal, placement and **rehabilitation of children who are already working in the mines**

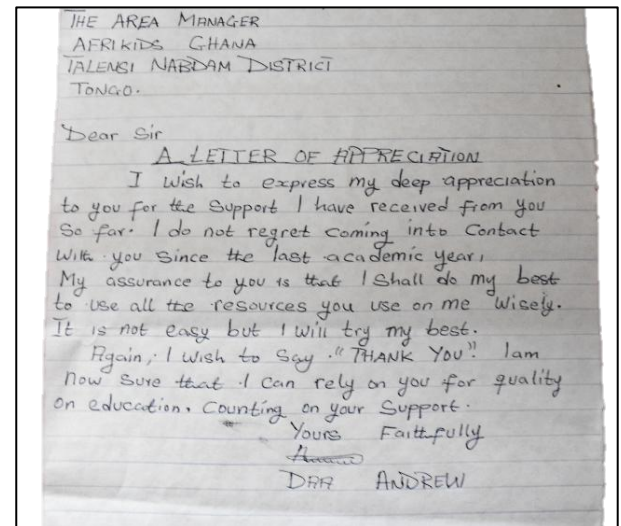
Through directly working with ex-child miners, their families and their communities, AfriKids has supported over 26,000 beneficiaries



The pictures above demonstrate the gold mining process. The dangers of mining are evident in the first image, that is a grown man climbing down the shaft. It's extremely difficult to imagine a child doing that task. The remaining images are the product of surface mining. To collect the gold the rocks have to be pounded and as you can see the actual quantity of gold is very little.



“I wish to express my deep appreciation to you for the support I have received from you so far. I do not regret coming into contact with you since the last academic year. My assurance to you is that I shall do my best to use all the resources you use on me wisely. It is not easy, but I will try my best. Again, I wish to say “thank you”. I am now sure that I can rely on you for quality in education.”



Andrew, a New Beginnings beneficiary outside the project offices. Above, an extract from a letter of appreciation he wrote to the project manager.