

PPRC Newsletter Volume 23 – July 2024

Dear Friends,

We've been busy with some exciting developments, and the first half of 2024 has gone by quickly. We hosted about 250 Catholic priests, sisters, and brothers from the Archdiocese of Cape Coast to celebrate their Lenten Day of Recollection in Ahotokurom. This was an excellent opportunity for us to showcase the good work of PPRC.

Local in-kind and cash donations from groups and individuals continue to increase. This is very encouraging, especially given our severe economic challenges due to high inflation.

We are most grateful to all our international friends, supporters and benefactors for their continued support and dedication. Every donation is greatly appreciated. Without you, we could not continue improving the lives of our many vulnerable and marginalised beneficiaries, who are genuinely grateful for your help.

We are delighted with our staff's ongoing dedication and commitment. They are focused on ensuring that the people in our care are well-treated. We work together as a team, respecting, trusting, and caring for each other.

We now have full-time staff working at Enyinndakurom, and they will soon move to live there. It will be challenging, but that is the nature of our work. Our weekly management team meeting is held in Enyinndakurom at least twice a month, and our CEO works there at least two days a week. Our ongoing presence helps us understand some of the fundamental issues on the ground.

At the start of the year, we increased our budget for staff salaries and other expenses by 12%. We would have liked to increase it by 18% to match the

projected inflation for 2024, but after board discussions, we decided to go for the prudent option. This will be carefully reviewed towards the end of this year as the cost of food, fuel, and utilities has risen by 24% so far this year.

A few of our young people are applying for places in third-level education, which has become expensive, with school fees, accommodation and living expenses. However, in keeping with our policy, we'd like to support these young people if we can find sponsors. If you know anyone who'd like to help, please contact us.

Fundraising is becoming mission-critical, and we are revising our fundraising strategy. This newsletter includes our current list of one-off projects and recurring expenses that need sponsorship. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you can help.

Thank you for all your help and support, and God bless You.



Dr Mark Mantey, CEO



Batik Making – Enyinnda



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1. Ghana’s Financial Crisis

Ghana is still grappling with a deep economic crisis. Recent inflation has been severe, and the Ghana Cedi (GHS) has

lost about 50% of its value against international currencies, as shown below. The bad news is that our costs in GHS have dramatically increased, and donations in GHS don’t go as far as they used to. To give you an idea of the impact of recent inflation, an average chicken now costs GHS150 (~€10), equivalent to ~15% of the average PPRC worker’s take-home pay.

The only good news is that PPRC spending in international currency terms has fallen significantly over the past five years, so it now costs ~30% less to run PPRC (in GBP or Euro) than it did in 2018. This means that foreign donations now go further than before.

Year	Average Inflation %
2021	10.0
2022	31.5
2023	40.3
2024 YTD	24.1

T1. Recent Inflation in Ghana

Internat. Currency	Ghana Cedi (GHS)/Unit			2-year Loss (%)
	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24	
USD	7.9	11.2	15.3	-48.3%
Euro	8.3	12.1	16.4	-49.5%
GBP	9.5	13.9	19.31	-50.8%
Overall Average				-49.5%

T2. GHS vs. International Currencies

2. Fundraising & Sponsorship

Fundraising is becoming mission-critical; we are running out of money and urgently need to raise more. The Archdiocese Communication Team recently completed a documentary to support our fundraising efforts. We remain hopeful and grateful to Father Theophilus Nkrumah Hagan and his team for their help. We were delighted





to hear that the Friends of Ahoto UK, with DMJ support, have successfully registered a new charity called "Friends of Ahoto (PPRC) CIO." This will reinforce their ongoing support for PPRC, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with them. Their assistance and encouragement over the past 30 years have been vital in developing our mission to support those most in need in our society. A big thank you to everyone involved!

If you'd like to donate to PPRC from the UK, please use this link: <https://www.ahoto.org/support>

Please use the Irish Friends of Ahotokurom (IFoA) account for other countries, as detailed below. IFoA is a registered charity with 'Tax Exemption Status,' which means your donations go even further. We also have a list of projects that donors can sponsor, as outlined in Appendix 1 below.

Irish Friends of Ahotokurom (IFoA)	
Bank	Bank of Ireland
Branch	University of Limerick
Sort Code (NSC)	90-59-50
Account No.	6638 9119
IBAN No.	IE31 BOFI 9059 5066 3891 19
BIC No.	IE31 BOFI
Reg. Charity No.	20149

T3. IFOA Bank Details

3. Donations

We are very grateful to the Friends of Ahotokurom UK for their efforts to ship adult diapers to us, which arrived on Good Friday. This saved us a lot of money and you'll be glad to hear that women experiencing fistula have also benefited from this supply, just as they were preparing for surgery at Mankessim Catholic Women's Hospital. We are

sincerely grateful to Trudy, Barry, Fionualla and all those who made this valuable donation possible.



Donation – New Bethel Revival Ministry Int. Amsterdam

In 2024, we were blessed with many local groups and individuals donating in cash and in-kind. These donations are greatly appreciated, as they help us provide our core services. We recently received generous donations from the Muslim Communities in Cape Coast and the Fire & Prisons Services Officers.



Donation – Twifo Oil Palm Plantation

We recently implemented a system to record and report in-kind (non-cash) donations. Up to the end of May 2024, cash donations amounted to 24,700 GHS ~€1,750, while in-kind donations were worth GHS 96,200 (~€6,347).





At the end of last year, PPRC donated about 40,000 GHS worth of food and drink to multiple beneficiaries, including Enyinndakurom, outreach clients, and PPRC staff. These donations are highly valued in these challenging times.



Donation – JL Properties, Accra



Donation – Prison & Fire Officers of the Muslim Fraternity

4. St. Elizabeth's Day-Care

We recently became concerned about client attendance, so Doris and Grace initiated home visits to discuss the reasons for irregular attendance with the parents. They discovered that two children had moved to alternative residential facilities, while several children had health issues and had been staying home based on medical advice. A key learning from this was the need to establish and maintain better communication with the parents.

Six children are currently receiving training in various vocational skills,

including beadwork, mat-making, and wool working. Grace and Hadiatu lead this program, which is dedicated to equipping the children with practical skills.

Our staff organise daily music therapy sessions, which the children greatly enjoy. Also, every Wednesday, Mr. Albert, a music tutor from the University of Cape Coast, conducts music coordination training sessions for children and staff, enhancing their coordination and musical abilities.



Arts & Crafts – St. Elizabeth's



St Elizabeth's at Bakatue Festival, Elmina





St Elizabeth's at Bakatue Festival, Elmina

We've set up a learning room for six young adults, focusing on foundational subjects such as mathematics, language skills, and science. Unfortunately, our ICT program has been delayed due to staffing shortages.

An orthopaedic team from Nsawam, led by Mr Osei, recently visited. They assessed five children and recommended specialised equipment and exercises to aid their physical development.

In March, the DAATS Foundation conducted a comprehensive training session for our staff and engaged in fun activities with the children.

We are pleased to announce the admission of a new client from Fosu who is now residing in Ankaful village. We hope to welcome another new client shortly.

Zion Love Foundation offered training on batik making and tie-dye. Our staff attended the train-the-trainer sessions to be able to train our children. We are committed to providing exceptional care and support to our clients and their families. We are still looking for speech and language therapist services.



Arts & Crafts in St. Elizabeth's – with Claire and Maurice Quillinan



Games in St. Clare's

5. St. Clare's Nursing Home

We have twelve residents at present. Staff and client devotion was introduced and is held every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 am. Vida Oppong, a non-residential leprosy survivor, needed medical care and nourishment and was taken in for a few weeks of residential care. She came with her son, Philip, who is about seven



years old. A group of clinical nurses from the Department of Mental Health, University of Cape Coast, came for a two-week attachment for hands-on experience. In January, the late Mr Patrick Hinson was given a fitting burial with the support of PPRC, relatives, friends and loved ones.

6. St. Joseph's Outreach

We provide 33 individuals with education, livelihood, and health support, and the number continues to grow. The process of reintegrating beneficiaries with their families is making good progress. This year, one of our top priorities is to update the database of our outreach clients.

7. End of Year Celebrations

We had a great Christmas party in late December 2023, funded by his grace, the Archbishop of Cape Coast, in recognition of the work done by PPRC staff. Then, in early January 2024, we had a New Year's Party for St Clare's, St Elizabeth's and all PPRC staff, kindly funded by the BBF Foundation, Cape Coast. All concerned thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated both parties.



Party Preparations



Enjoying the party



PPRC Christmas Party with Archbishop Palmer-Buckle (Dec-2023)



New Year's Party fully sponsored by the BBF Foundation, Cape Coast



8. Livelihood Projects

Anita Arthur attended St. Elizabeth’s for many years. She was born in Twifo Praso in 1994 and suffers from cerebral palsy (diplegia). Anita’s project experienced delays due to COVID-19, her father’s untimely death, and initial project uncertainties. Based on extensive consultations with Anita and her family and learnings from past projects, it was finally decided to establish a cold store selling frozen food. The KEEA municipal assembly donated a freezer, and the family has acquired land for the project.



Measuring Anita’s Site



Anita’s Shop under Construction

Anita is determined to achieve her goal of independent living in keeping with PPRC’s policy. Located in Twifo Aboabo in the

Central Region, the construction of the shop is about 45% complete. It is situated amidst lush forests and traditional cocoa and palm fruit farms.

Peace Awadze recently indicated that she would like to graduate from St. Elizabeth’s and start a livelihood project. In April, a team led by Grace began a vocational training program with Peace to help her gain the basic skills required to be successful. The goal is to launch Peace’s project by the end of this year.

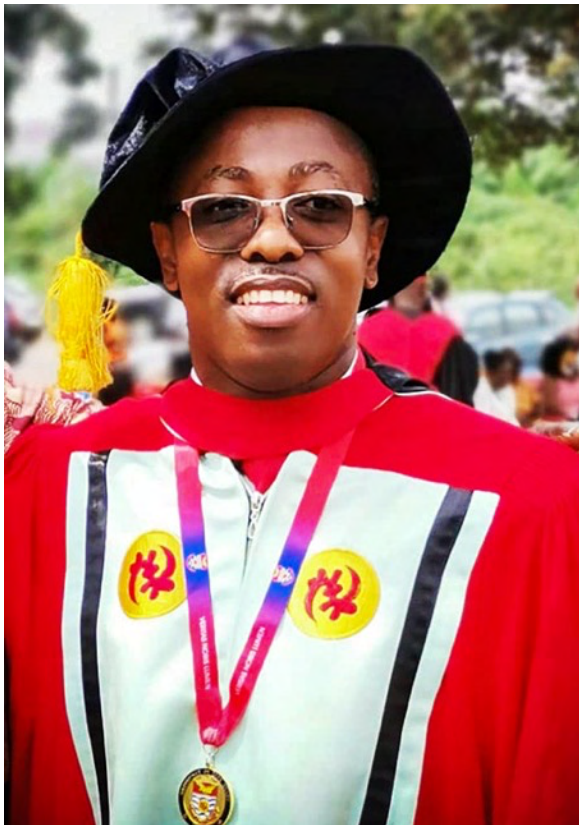
9. Dr Joe Oduro

We were proud to witness Joe Oduro receiving his PhD in Social Science recently. Joe spent much of his early childhood in hospital and then spent many years in rehabilitation at our residential childcare facility, St. Joseph’s. Joe had to adjust to a new life by learning to cope with various prosthetic devices. It was hard work, but Joe persisted and prospered with the help of PPRC staff (especially the DMJ sisters), his brother Ben, and numerous benefactors and supporters, especially the Hayward family and the UK Friends of Ahotokurom. He developed his aptitude for art and became well-known for his many talents. He did all this while focusing on his education at St Augustine’s Secondary School and then the University of Cape Coast.



Joe Oduro with his wife and children

Joe is now a member of the teaching staff at UCC and is blessed with a courageous wife, Mary, and three beautiful daughters. Joe is one of the many young people cared for in St. Joseph's over the years; we sincerely thank all our staff, friends, family, and supporters who have contributed.



Joe Oduro Graduating



Joe, his wife Mary + brother Ben (R-L)

10. Mary Azumah

Mary, aged 24, is pursuing a Bachelor of Education Degree and is now in the second semester of her third year. We are delighted to report that Mary was recognised as one of the first-class students at this year's Principal's Excellence Awards; see the certificate below. We've been supporting and encouraging Mary to pursue her studies. Mary's mum, Alima Tipoka, works at St. Clare's.



Mary Azumah - Certificate Award



Mary Azumah's Certificate

11. Enyinndakurom Village

We are supporting 40 people, including 34 leprosy survivors, one Buruli ulcer patient, and five others. Leprosy survivors receive regular medical visits from the PPRC medical team, including weekly wound dressings. They are also supplied with food and clothing when



available. We recently celebrated World Leprosy Day, and it was moving as our elderly leprosy survivors shared their experiences.

skills training in beadwork and have recently trained ten children. We expect these training activities will improve the prospects of all those involved.



PPRC Staff, World Leprosy Day, Enyinnda



Enyinnda Musicians



Batik Making – Enyinnda



Enyinnda Meeting with Residents



Enyinnda Dance Sessions



Enyinnda Meeting with Residents 2

We have started music & dance sessions coordinated by a University of Cape Coast tutor. Thirteen children are currently enrolled. Two PPRC staff are providing

12. Enyinndakurom Projects

The shops construction project is progressing nicely. We are looking forward to generating income from this project to support PPRC activities. We are engaged in significant discussions with



the KEEA Municipal Sanitation Department to improve the community's water and sanitation. A new borehole, biodigester and upgraded toilet facilities are being considered. We will be seeking funding to start this project in August. We have also taken action to curtail land encroachment at Enyinndakurom.



Enyinnda Shop interior – Plastered



Shops Under Construction



Roller Door Installation



Two Shop Fronts – Doors Installed

13. Visitors & Visits

We've had many visits from our stakeholders and Irish connections, including Josephine Page & family and Friends of Ahotokurom. The Irish Embassy also invited PPRC to attend the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Accra. We hosted about 250 catholic priests, sisters, and brothers from the Archdiocese of Cape Coast to commemorate the Lenten Day of Recollection in Ahotokurom. Some of our staff also attended the Holy Week Retreat and a day of recollection at the Franciscan Valley of Prayer and Silence in Saltpond. The Department of Music and Art at the University of Cape Coast invited us to their Independence Week Celebrations, and our staff took turns attending the event and enjoyed it.

14. PPRC Staff

Our staff received in-service training on basic life support practices from Mankessim Catholic Hospital. The interns from the University of Education, Winneba (UEW), who spent seven months with us, have returned to finish their degrees. We hope to have them continue their excellent work with us through the National Service Programme. Towards the end of their service, the interns were visited by their supervisor, Mr Emmanuel Acheampong, a senior staff member from

the UEW. Another significant milestone was reached in January when our National Service personnel were awarded their UEW degrees.



Josephine Page & Family & PPRC Staff



Grace at her Graduation



Archdiocese Day of Lenten Recollection



UEW Interns + Mr Emmanuel Acheampong



PPRC Staff Graduating

15. Transport & Roads

The local roads to Ahotokurum, through Ntranoa, Kiful and Atonkwa, are in a deplorable state. They pose a big challenge for us, especially in the rainy season. Our vehicles continue to suffer from these harsh conditions and incur increased maintenance costs; recently, we had to spend ~40,000 GHS

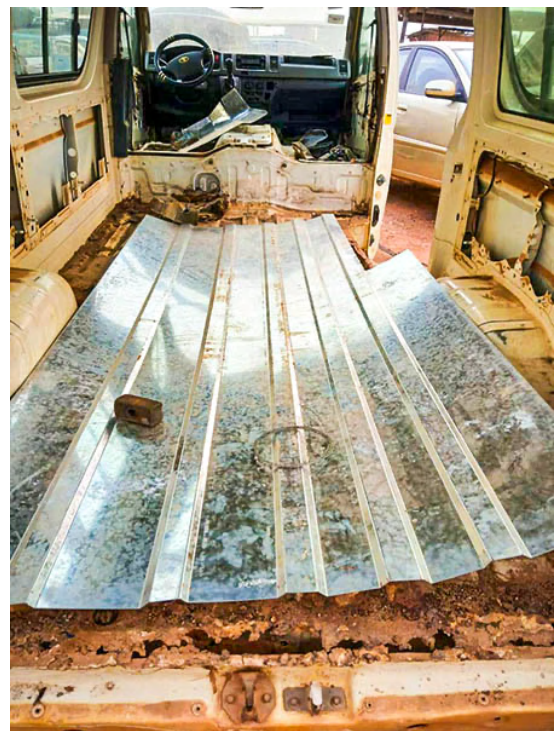
(~€2,500). Over the years, PPRC has contributed significantly to repairing these roads. The most recent repairs were assisted by sponsorship from our good friend, Sr. Lisa SSJ. We plan to install culvert pipes in two of the worst affected areas to help improve the road.



Repairing Local Roads near Ahoto



PPRC Staff going to a Wedding



Minibus – Major Repairs



Local Roads – Flooded



White Pickup – Major Repairs

16. Hostel

Income was reduced in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 but has since recovered, as outlined below. The hostel is always busy, and it's the preferred facility locally. We recently reviewed our tenancy policy. Applying Christian principles, the rent is moderate, so we don't overcharge our tenants. The hostel water pump has been having problems. It was up and down, and we had an electrician, a rewinder, and a plumber working on it for about three months, but finally, it gave up the ghost. We recently acquired a new pump.

recruiting students with agriculture backgrounds as National Service Personnel to help intensify and improve our farming efforts. We are committed to enhancing our eco-friendly environment and hope to plant more hardwood trees to support the 'Green Ghana' agenda. We recently harvested over 180 pineapples, 17 bunches of plantain, seven bunches of bananas, and 170 coconuts.

Year	Income (GHS)	Income (Euro)
2020	2,825	421
2021	10,200	1,471
2022	13,150	1,398
2023	18,725	1,487
2024*	11,580	715
* to 31-May-2024		

T4. Hostel Income Trends



Pineapples harvested from the farm

17. Farm and Maintenance

Our dedicated team is working hard to keep our facilities well-maintained. Our expenditures on general maintenance, including plumbing and carpentry, have been high, but that's the nature of our work.

With generous donations from our friends in Ireland, we recently purchased a robust strimmer. Abundant growth after the recent rains has kept the machine busy, demonstrating its necessity and value. We would be most grateful if anyone would like to donate another strimmer.

We have been selling some pineapples to local village traders, which augments their income and means we don't have to go to the market ourselves.

The recent rains, essential for growing the vegetables we need, have raised our hopes for a good farming season. We are



Local Pineapple Vendor



18. Electricity

Our solar plant passed its 5th anniversary in March 2024 and is still working. However, local electricity network issues have reduced its output over the past year. We're working with our maintenance contractor to see if we can improve the situation.

19. Water

Over the past six months, Ahoto has had a constant water supply with no significant issues. Our borehole is on standby, and we need to invest in point-of-use filters before we can switch to using the borehole supply.

20. Audits and Accounts

Our auditor, Accurate Professional Solutions, Accra, recently completed auditing the PPRC accounts for 2023. PPRC assets were also assessed and valued. We are planning to have our AGM before the end of 2024.

21. Ahoto Videos - 2013

Below are links to three YouTube videos made in and around Ahotokurom/Elmina by Keith Walsh in November 2013, which you might find interesting:

<https://youtu.be/2jCjUBzFwQ0?si=wWjGNcNcAZk1F3wE9>

https://youtu.be/9bVIAkl4wBo?si=ICu-_uochZk79En4

<https://youtu.be/CEtD5D9g9Kk?si=-nzJH8sqfCpRkD6N>

22. Obituaries:

We want to remember all our friends, supporters and board members who have recently gone to God. May their souls rest in peace.

- Fr Robert Hagan
- Mr Eddie Fegredo
- Sr Margaret Mary Haller

- Ms Noreen Collyer
- Mrs Perpetua (Pet) Kilcullen
- Ms Mary Conlan
- Mrs Mirian Hayward
- Dr Ekow Amankrah-Otabir

Noreen Collyer was a loyal member of Friends of Ahotokurom, bringing many new supporters on board and enabling the building of the Market at Enyinndakurom. She was in charge of circulating the postal version of this newsletter to friends even after she lost her sight! PPRC was proud to offer a message for her eulogy and be present at her funeral via video link.

Perpetua (Pet) Kilcullen: In April, PPRC staff attended the funeral of Trudy Kilcullen's mother via video link and were represented by sending a message for the eulogy. The Kilcullen family has touched the lives of so many people in Ghana, and Auntie Pet was behind all of this. We mourn her loss, and we pray with the family in thanksgiving for Pet's life. May Pet's soul rest in peace.

Mary Conlan: a fantastic woman and a great supporter of PPRC, was a member of the UK Friends of Ahotokurom until her health began to fail. She visited Ghana in 2000 when the Enyinndakurom housing project was commissioned. PPRC staff joined a live stream of her funeral on 7 June. May her soul rest in peace.

Mirian Hayward: we are pleased to report that the shops' project at Enyinndakurom, enabled by Mirian Hayward's generous legacy, is almost complete. Her spirit lives on through this legacy, and we remember her and her family in prayer.

Dr Ekow Amankrah-Otabir's passing in June profoundly impacted many people worldwide. He dedicated his life to treating leprosy survivors, serving with



humility, dedication, and selflessness. He played a vital role in securing government land for the redevelopment of Enyinndakurom. He was also a member of the PPRC Board of Advisors for many years, aiding in the rehabilitation and reintegration of leprosy survivors. His contributions were crucial to PPRC's successes, and his loss is immeasurable. Tributes describe him as "a great man and a friend with God" and lament his untimely death. We plan to honour his memory, reflecting on his critical role in establishing and upholding our guiding principles. May he rest in peace.

**One Week
OBSERVATION**

**DR. EKOW
AMANKRAH - OTABIR**
1958 - 2024

>>> Friday, 21st June, 2024 || 7:00am <<<
@ Calvary Methodist Church, Abura, Cape Coast

ALL FRIENDS AND SYMPATHIZERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Dr Otabir's Funeral Notice

Table 1. Projects / One-off Expenses - 2024

#	PPRC Service	2024 Once-off Projects/Expenses	Category	Est. Amount (GHS)	Amount (£)	Amount (€)
1	St. Joseph's	Jeep 4WD [outreach]	Vehicle	769,500	40,500	47,500
2	Enyinnda	Borehole System	Facility/Refurb.	44,000	2,316	2,716
3		Toilet facilities - Renovation		35,000	1,842	2,160
4		Strimmers (x2)	Tools/Equip.	14,000	737	864
5		Wheelie bins (x10)		6,000	316	370
6	St.Clare's	Building Refurbishments	Facility/Refurb.	36,000	1,895	2,300
7		Freezer	Tools/Equip.	8,000	421	494
8		Washing Machine		8,000	421	494
9		Table-top fridge		2,500	132	154
10		Industrial Blender		1,300	68	80
11	St.Elizabeth's	Building Refurbishments	Facility/Refurb.	36,000	1,895	2,300
12		Therapy & Learning Rooms	Facility/Refurb.	33,000	1,737	2,037
13		TV - 48"	Tools/Equip.	6,000	316	370
14		PA system		6,000	316	370
15		Bakery project		4,000	211	247
16		Fans (x6)		1,800	95	111
17	Maintenance/ Grounds/ Farm	Strimmers (x2)	Tools/Equip.	14,000	737	864
18		Farming Tools/Equipment		15,000	789	926
19		Generator (2KW)		3,400	179	210
20		Safety Boots (x7)		3,045	160	188
21		Irrigation equipment		3,000	158	185
22		Industrial Gloves (x10)		500	26	31
23		Sander (250W)		500	26	31
24		Electric Drill (500W)		500	26	31
25	Office	Office Chairs (x3)	Tools/Equip.	5,500	289	340
26		Office Printer + Supplies		4,500	237	278
27		Extension Leads (x2)		1,600	84	99

Table 2 - Recurring / Operating Expenses 2024

#	PPRC Service	Recurring/ Operating Expenses 2024	Est. Amount (GHS)	Amount (£)	Amount (€)
1	St.Clare's	Food & Supplies	37,000	1,947	2,284
2		Maintenance - Salaries/Supplies	31,500	1,658	1,944
3		Wound Dressings	17,000	895	1,049
4		Medication	14,500	763	895
5		Staff Training	8,500	447	525
6		Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	7,000	368	432
7	Transport	Auto - Fuel - All vehicles	50,000	2,632	3,086
8		School Bus - Insurance.Maint.	26,000	1,368	1,605
9		Mini Bus - Insurance.Maint.	20,000	1,053	1,235
10	Outreach	Social Workers (x2)	29,000	1,526	1,790
11		Salaries/Supplies	16,000	842	988
12		Staff Training	7,000	368	432
13	St.Elizabeth's	Building Maintenance - Salaries/Supplies	33,000	1,737	2,037
14		Staff Training	7,000	368	432
15		Personal protective equipment (PPE)	7,000	368	432
16	Farm/Grounds	Prisoners Rehabilitation	21,500	1,132	1,327
17		Gardener	14,500	763	895
18	Enyinnda	Social Worker	16,000	842	988
19	Office	Office Administrator	16,000	842	988