

# FUND A SNAP GROUP

## TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF DISABLED CHILDREN IN DOWINE

### Help bring disabled children into the light

Children with disabilities can face terrible poverty, illness, malnutrition, prejudice, abuse and isolation in Upper West Ghana. But we're working to change that.

Ten years ago, we launched our first rural SNAP disability group in Dowine - today it supports 93 children and 90 carers, giving them the chance to thrive. Our transformational programme:

- improves children's health and quality of life with medication, health insurance, equipment, play schemes, learning and lots of love;
- gives carers the knowledge and strength to be great parents, with advice, advocacy and a chance to share;
- runs monthly meetings in the village;
- ensures no-one is left behind, with regular home visits;
- enables access to education, providing uniforms, books and wheelchairs to 31 disabled pupils in Dowine;
- challenges society's perception and fear of disability.



#### JULITA'S STORY



Julita and mother Tierto are regular attendees at Dowine SNAP - and the group has changed their lives!

We provide them both with health insurance, Julita gets medication - and the bike we gave them means Tierto no longer has to carry Julita two hours to the monthly meetings!

**"Seeing others with disabled children means I know I am not alone. I have learnt new things, I worry much less, life has improved."**

#### EVANS' STORY

When we met Evans at Dowine SNAP he was continually crying in pain. Born without arms and a single finger on his left shoulder, he was so severely malnourished and distressed, we thought he might die.

That was two years ago. Now 4, he's responded brilliantly to the high nutrition, high calorie food, vitamins and pain killers we provided - he's gained weight, can sit on his own, use his feet to play, walk with a little help - and smile. Mum Hannah said: **"Life was hard to me and my child. There were a time I thought he might die - but now we are fine, we have hope."**

**"The stigma of disability is almost done away with. People have seen that every human being is important."**

*John Bosco, community leader, Dowine*

#### HELP GIVE 93 CHILDREN IN DOWINE A CHANCE

12 monthly meetings in the village: £500

Health insurance for 90 families: £140

Medication: £360

Disability equipment: £400

Urgent care (health/malnutrition) £750

Play resources: £50

School costs: £770

TOTAL: £2970