



In Ghana, people living with disabilities and women suspected of witchcraft face many barriers to living healthy, happy and dignified lives. Misunderstood for their differences, they are neglected by their communities and have limited access to employment or education. PWS&D is working with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana to overcome these barriers and empower vulnerable people to build brighter futures.

Support for Presbyterian World Service & Development's programs in Ghana help transform the lives of people with disabilities and marginalized women by advocating for human rights, inclusion and the understanding in their communities. By teaching important life and vocational skills, people with disabilities discover their abilities and outcast women are reintegrated into their communities free from discrimination.

### **Garu Centre: Willing and Able**

Society may use the term disabled but participants at the Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Centre in Ghana are willing and able to overcome challenges. Participants receive skills training and education opportunities to create brighter futures for themselves and their families – often training as apprentices and starting their own businesses in the community.

The Garu Centre advocates for the rights of people with disabilities by educating communities on special needs and dispelling common myths about



disabilities that lead to stigma and discrimination. As disabled people at the Garu Centre receive training and encouragement, they experience the amazing changes that can happen when we focus on someone's abilities and provide opportunities in a loving and supportive environment.

## Gambaga Go-Home Project

The Gambaga Outcast Home is a place of refuge in northern Ghana for women who have been branded as 'witches' by their communities. Not only does an accusation of witchcraft result in a loss of dignity, these women are also cast out of their communities and away from their families. There are many challenges to life at Gambaga, especially for the children who accompany their mothers to the camp. Returning to the village is also fraught with danger.

PWS&D and the Presbyterian Church of Ghana are working to improve living conditions at the camp, offer formal education to children and provide livelihood training. In order to foster acceptance and pave the way for their return, the Gambaga Go Home project sensitizes communities about respect for the elderly, human rights, mental illness, disabilities and other health issues that are often mistakenly attributed to witchcraft. With this support, the women involved in the Gambaga Go-Home project are enabled to return home and now feel 'counted' by their communities and society.

## New Life and New Hope

From a young age it was apparent that Mariam was different—she would never be able to walk. Life became even more difficult when both of her parents passed away. Left alone, with no one to support her or care for her special needs, Mariam resorted to begging on the streets. Having witnessed Mariam begging, the Garu Centre

reached out with the support Mariam needed to start a career and discover a better way of living. She was assigned a tri-wheel chair so she could travel around her community easily and enrolled in the vocational training program. While participating in the program, Mariam met Grace, a member of a local church and a gifted seamstress. Grace is now teaching Mariam how to sew clothes and to earn an income for herself. Mariam no longer begs on the street. She has a new life, friends, and hopes to one day have her own sewing business.

## Your Gifts Make a Difference!

Through your generous support of PWS&D people with disabilities and outcast women are receiving social acceptance and the tools to lift themselves out of poverty. Below are examples of how your gifts are shared:

**\$120** to train and educate a community about gender and human rights

**\$145** provides a child, whose mother has been accused of being a witch, with tuition, school uniform, supplies and lunches

**\$400** covers the apprenticeship fee for a disabled student

**\$14** supplies hairdressing materials for one student

**\$23** provides a student with soaps and shampoos

**\$900** provides a student with a sewing machine

**\$1,600** provides a student with a tricycle weaving loom

