



# Africaid WhizzKids United

## Annual Report 2024



WhizzKids adolescent youth friendly clinic & graduates of WKU's 'Girl on the Ball' program

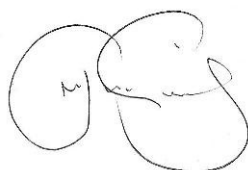
## Message from Africaid WhizzKids United CEO

As we reflect on Africaid WhizzKids United's (WKU) work in 2024 we are once again proud to share the accomplishments, and impact we have had with the 3,000 young people we have had the pleasure of educating and supporting throughout the year. Young people like Miriam, Tawfik, Patience and Rayan, who you can read more about further on in the report. We also recognise the challenges and frustrations and report on the lessons learnt and how we seek to overcome them. At the end of the day, everything that we do is centred around the young people we work with, ensuring they have a voice and safe spaces to express their thoughts, fears and aspirations.

I would like to thank the Africaid Board of Trustees in the UK - Tomas Campbell, Kevin Miles, Dominique Tatibouet and Gary Page for all their support and hard work throughout the year, and their confidence in me as CEO for a further year. I'd also like to acknowledge WhizzKids United USA Board for all their generous support – Carlos Guerra, Peter Huffman and Michael Dadashi. And last, but certainly not least, Africaid WhizzKids United, Ghana Board, Leticia Ruwena Anala, Mohammed Haroon for their weekly support and advice. Ghana being where we deliver our programmes and services.

I'd also like to sincerely thank all our staff, Meal a Day, FIFA Foundation, Common Goal, SSCN, partners, kind funders and supports both old and new, for joining us on this incredible journey which is now 23 years old.

For the good in the game,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcus McGilvray', written in a cursive style.

Marcus McGilvray

CEO & Founder Africaid WhizzKids United

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# Organisation ‘at a glance’

## WKU’s Mission

Africaid WhizzKids United (WKU), is a non-profit established in 2002 by UK HIV and sexual health nurse specialists Marcus McGilvray & Nicola Willis, and supported by a team of UK and US - HIV and sexual health professionals. WKU aligns its work with key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically: Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), Goal 4 (Quality Education), and Goal 5 (Gender Equality).

*WKU’s envisions a Ghana where all young people, regardless of gender, possess the resources, self-confidence, and equal opportunities necessary to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).*

*WKU's mission is to actively engage young people in Northern Ghana on SRHR, HIV, and gender empowerment using football as a vehicle. This proactive engagement aims to foster positive decision-making and behaviours, thereby mitigating the impact of sexual and reproductive health issues within their communities.*

WKU’s Values include:

Gender Equality	Being able to treat people equally irrespective of gender
Integrity	Possess the ability to “know and do” what is right
Collaboration	Working effectively and inclusively with a range of people both within and outside of the organization
Empathy	Being able to understand and share the feelings of another and use that understanding to guide our actions

To successfully deliver on our vision, WKU’s theory of change is built on the following three pillars:

1. Football (soccer)
2. Schools
3. Adolescent and youth friendly clinic services

1. WKU has been championing girls’ and boys’ development through football for over 20 years, and is widely regarded in the NGO and footballing ‘world’ as a global leader in demonstrating how football is the perfect vehicle with which to bring about positive teaching outcomes among young people. WKU has developed several multi-award-winning curricula which use football as a tool to teach life-skills focusing on SRHR, HIV and gender equality.

2. Working within the school system of Northern Ghana and in partnership with the Department of Education, WKU can reach a high number of girls and boys aged 12 to 18 years old with our football-based curricula in a safe environment.

3. In 2003, WKU built an adolescent youth friendly clinic in Tamale, Northern Ghana. WKU regularly sees over 1,500 youth aged 12 to 35 years access our sexual and reproductive health and rights services at each year, compared to an average of 50 youth attending Government clinics per year. WKU's success lies in the fact that the clinic is situated within a school ground – reducing stigma and because the clinic is called WKU Health Academy. Like all big football clubs around the world, they have clinics/medical centres for their players. This again reduces stigma when youth access services.

Our award-winning model has been successfully implemented by NGO partner organisations throughout sub-Saharan Africa and endorsed by FIFA, the United Nations and Prof Bruce Walker, Ragon Institute, of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard.

## **Organisation Status**

Africaid - Registered Charity in United Kingdom

Legal Name UK: Africaid Reg. No. 1045461

WhizzKids United – USA Registered 501c3

Africaid WhizzKids United – Ghana Registered Not-for-profit.

## **Organisation Contact Details**

Address: WKU Carlos Guerra Academy, Jisonayilli Road, Tamale, Northern Region, Ghana.

Email: [info@africaid.org.uk](mailto:info@africaid.org.uk) Cell Phone: 00233 (0)591908395 Website: [www.whizzkidsunited.org](http://www.whizzkidsunited.org)

## **WKU's staffing**

Finding educated, conscientious and motivated staff is one of the greatest challenges faced by any organisation working in Sub-Saharan Africa including WKU. When you consider that only 53% of men aged 15-49 years, and only 34% of women aged 15-49 years have received formal education in Northern Ghana, it's hardly surprising. As a result, 2024 saw quite a few staff come and go at WKU, which certainly isn't ideal, but merely a fact of life here. We have worked hard to try and create a good work ethic, strong staff development plan, and a team spirit based on our core values, going forwards. As an organisation we desire to be a small dynamic team that can have a real impact on our beneficiaries by creating strong and meaningful partnerships with like minded organisations etc.

## WKU Programme Delivery

In 2024, WKU delivered a total of 2,979 SRHR clinic services to young people, and reached 1,499 through its outreach school-based programmes.

**WKU Health Academy** – adolescent youth friendly clinic services:

1. Clinic Headcount-570
2. Outreach-508
3. Sexual Risk Assessment-693
4. HIV & Hep B Screening-740
5. Pregnancy Tests- 74
6. Contraceptive Pill-73
7. Condoms-292
8. Contraceptives injectibles-29

Worth noting is that we had a 75% increase in the number of young women receiving contraceptives at the clinic. Equally, we did see 16 positive pregnancies during the year, up from 7 in 2023. That said, more girls and young women are confidently accessing our services.



**WKU's Girl on the Ball** - programme helps girls aged 12 years to 18 years to take responsibility for their health, lifestyle and future - in line with the United Nation's sustainable development goals and the Adolescent Strategic Plan 2018 Ghana. Girls on the Ball uses football as a key tool to teach key life-skills, sexual & reproductive health and rights, gender, WASH, family planning, menstruation and much more. Kindly Funded by FIFA Foundation, Girl on the Ball reached 140 girls across 5 schools. All 140 girls accessed our clinic for one-on-one SRHR services. This is one key measure we use to ensure that the program is having the desired impact.



**Football 3** – Named after its ‘three halves’ – a pre-match discussion, a football game, and a post-match discussion – football3 incorporates key life lessons into every match. In mixed-gender teams, players collectively decide on the rules before the game. Following the match, they reflect on their behaviour and the behaviour of their opponents. Points are awarded for goals as well as for fair play. As football3 is played without referees, players must learn how to resolve conflicts themselves through dialogue and compromise. Football 3 reached 718 boys and girls. The programme successfully reinforced the message that girls can play football, as witnessed that they now play together in their PE lessons, and break times. 98% of the children attended the clinic for one-on-one SRHR services.

**WKU’s Play-On** - is designed to support the Ghana Ministry of Education (MoE) – curriculum for primary schools (Kindergarten). As such the rationale, teaching philosophy, aims, content and core competencies are in-line with the MoE, Ghana.

Play-on seeks to support the national curriculum for primary schools through play and use of creative learning and teaching approaches through a ‘football for good’ pedagogical approach. That is - to create a positive learning experience through football which enhances the learner’s curiosity, creativity and critical thinking and supports the MoE curriculum. 314 children aged 5 years to 12 years completed the programme in 2024. Teachers continued to express their gratitude for the programme, which they say, “creates more confidence in the learners”, and “greatly improves their school attendance as they don’t like to miss learning through football each day”.





***WKU's Creating a level playing field - is*** designed to support the desired societal change towards more gender equality in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) with a key focus on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Through the development and implementation of WKU's 'creating a level playing field' the project strives to influence change among young people by tackling gender inequalities, particularly around SRHR. The project creates a safe space that enables consciousness raising, empowered learning, knowledge building, skills development, and open reflections among young people leading to the promotion of positive masculinity and femininity. The project aims to increase leadership, representation and participation of girls and young women in 'football for good' programmes, and ensure that every young girl has a female role model in her community, leveraging football as an accelerator for female empowerment. Equally the project aims to promote the uptake of SRHR services among both young women and young men. In 2024 we partnered with WEE North which provides industrial skills training to over 3,000 young women throughout Northern Ghana. WKU provides SRHR services to the young women at it's Health Academy, and delivers sexual health education for the girls. In addition, we trained 110 WEE North girls as facilitators (2 from each of the 55 regions which make up Northern Ghana) to run Creating a Level Playing Field. We provided each group with 5 footballs, a whistle, playing bibs and cones to deliver the programme. As a result, we were able to deliver the programme to 858 young girls and boys across the Northern Region in 2024.

## Key findings from the WEE North girls visit to our clinic



The screening services at the WKU Health Academy have yielded important insights into the health of WEE North ladies attending screening. During the Hepatitis B screening, four cases of Hepatitis B positive results were detected, underscoring the need for ongoing awareness and testing. Referrals were made to K4 Consult Laboratory. Blood pressure (BP) checks revealed a total of 14 cases of high blood pressure, highlighting a significant health concern. Some women were already aware of their hypertension and were actively receiving medication, while others were unaware of their condition, which emphasizes the critical importance of regular health screenings. Additionally, several women reported experiencing high blood pressure postpartum, suggesting a potential correlation between childbirth and an increased risk of hypertension. This finding points to the necessity of monitoring blood pressure in new mothers and addressing postpartum health comprehensively. Overall, these key findings illustrate the vital role of regular screening in identifying health issues early, providing necessary interventions, and promoting better health outcomes.

### **Conclusion:**

The recent findings regarding Hepatitis B and high blood pressure among the Wee North Ladies underscore the vital need for regular health check-ups and early intervention. The identification of four Hepatitis B cases reveals a significant gap in awareness, emphasizing the importance of routine screenings for better health outcomes. Additionally, the recording of 14 high blood pressure cases highlights a pressing health concern, particularly among postpartum women, suggesting a need for targeted monitoring and support in this demographic. Moreover, the increased uptake of family planning services reflects a strong desire among these women to take charge of their reproductive health, when given the opportunity, indicating a shift towards empowerment and informed decision-making. To build on this momentum, it is essential to ensure that accessible and continuous health services, education, and support are available. By doing so, the WKU Health Academy can empower the Wee-North Ladies to prioritize their health and well-being. This proactive approach not only addresses current health issues but also fosters a culture of health awareness and self-advocacy, enabling these young women to make informed choices about their futures and overall health.

## **2024 Highlights**

In July 2024 Common Goal (which uses the power of football to drive social change around the world) hosted a Forum in Berlin for the over 200 network members from around the world. This was a wonderful opportunity for WKU CEO to meet old friends and make new ones, and learn from each other how we can successfully use football to help deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. One very poignant presentation from Common Goal, highlighted the dramatic fall in funding available for organisations such as WKU working in Sub-Saharan Africa. This in deed is a huge concern as WKU has seen both funding opportunities and its finances sharply decrease since pre-covid. That said, it was very motivating and invigorating to be able to attend the Forum.

The Third Half is a social enterprise that combines soccer, travel, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to create impactful, community-focused experiences. The company offers transformational travel experiences hosted by locals from nonprofits, using soccer as a universal language to promote social responsibility, leadership, and global citizenship. It operates as a public benefit corporation with a mission to build a new generation of global citizens while supporting underserved communities worldwide through soccer-related travel and education. In July 2024 we

welcomed eight intrepid explorers from San Fransico, USA, and one Third Half guide from South Africa on a nine-day exploration of Ghana and specifically WhizzKids United. This was undoubtedly the highlight of the year. Our guests had taken the time and money, to give up their precious holiday time to come and visit WKU in Tamale, Northern Ghana. Tamale isn't really the most comfortable or prettiest destinations but rather dusty and very hot. The entire staff of WKU, Game Changers Football Academy and Little Afrika Lodge enjoyed every moment spent with our guests, who proved so engaging and interested in every aspect of their trip. Their kind feedback included:

"Andre was super invested in our safety and whether we were enjoying the trip. The WhatsApp updates were great and the photo sharing was helpful. He was as much a part of our group as he was a representative of The Third Half." "Andre has a wonderful disposition and is great at handling with grace all the craziness as well as very good with the boys" "Andre and Marcus were super cool and friendly. They seemed interested in what we were doing and took care of everything." "Andre was organized, communicative, accommodating and friendly. I feel like we have made a friend for life." "Marcus has such a large heart. He cares so much about what he does and the people of Ghana and Africa more broadly. He is interesting, friendly, warm and open. The fact that he shares his family with us as much as he did makes for a truly unique experience. "Marcus was really nice and was very knowledgeable about Tamale" "Fantastic openness and empathy. And every need / whim met!"

WKU has certainly made wonderful new friends for life.



## Going Forwards

As previously mentioned, WKU is keen to develop a small and dedicated team passionate about championing the rights of young people with a key focus on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. We realised in 2024, that although it is great partnering with WEE North, trying to monitor the delivery of Creating a level Playing field across 55 regions was untenable. After careful consideration, we decided that WKU should focus solely on young people living in Tamale. Tamale is the fastest growing city in West Africa with an estimated youth population of 400,000. That's more than enough to keep WKU busy in the years ahead. The emphasis will be to find and support facilitators which we can train and support to deliver our Creating a level playing field curricula throughout schools in Tamale.

As a result of the third half visit to WKU, one guest, Suha Jhaveri worked with the CEO throughout September and October to develop a three year business plan and budget which shapes our vision for the next few years as we seek to be a centre of excellence in delivering SRHR services and champion gender equality in a region where both boys and girls face significant challenges regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The Northern Region of Ghana is traditionally a patriarchal society where gender inequality prevails, limiting girls' opportunities for growth and development across the social spectrum. Poverty, low parental income and education, childhood marriage, and religious practices are significant barriers to girls' education, health services access and socio-economic progress.

As a result of Suha's visit, we are proud to announce that Suha has joined our Advisory Board alongside Stephen Blewett, MTN CEO, Ghana.

In closing, I'd like to urge you all to stay on the journey with us, support us where you can, and please try and visit us. Together, we can continue to help the likes of Miriam, Tawfik, Rayan and Patience:

#### **PLAY-ON**

1. Abdullai Mariam, a 7-year-old girl, was very reserved in class. She struggled to talk about herself and often avoided answering questions when lessons involved body parts, hygiene, or family roles. She did not know much about keeping her body healthy or why eating balanced food was important. But during the play-on program, through the **All About Me** sessions, Mariam learned to name body parts and explain their functions using songs and football games. She became more confident in speaking during circle-time activities, especially when sharing how she brushes her teeth or helps keep her environment clean. In the **My Family** lessons, she proudly described the roles of her mother and father herself.

2. Issah Tawfik, an 8-year-old pupil also did very well during the program. He said "Learning has become fun for me. I am no longer shy. I ask my madam for clarification in class when I don't understand something. By the end of the programme, he was not only answering questions with confidence but also leading his peers in football drills and reminding them about eating healthy food and keeping the environment clean.

#### **GOTB**

1. Bagyei Patience (16 years) did very well in the program and shared with us: "The topic on career goal setting helped me to think about my future and what I want to become." I understand more about child marriage and why it is not good for young girls. Patience was always present for the sessions and answer lot of questions all the time.

2. Rayan (15years): "I now know more about peer pressure and how to make good decisions". Also, the football and games made learning fun. Whizzkids United is a learning place to be.

**CLPF program**

1. Adam Zeinab, a female student of Choggu Yapalsi JHS 1 was participating in the program and very interested in the field session. when asked she said she wanted to be a footballer and since we have come to help them, work against gender inequality, she is very happy. Before the program ended, she could dribble the boys on the field and even take her colleagues through the manual.

**AFRICAID YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2024**

Date	Cheque No	Amount	Description	Category	General Dontations GD	Meal a Day MAD	Greater Good GG	Abbot WK UK	FFH/Whizz Kids	REF
2-Jan	DR	-£1,898.83	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,898.83	0		0	
2-Jan	DR	-£517.84	HMRC	MAD	0	-£517.84	0		0	
5-Jan	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
9-Jan	CR	£12,500.00	Christadelphian	MAD	0	£12,500.00	0		0	
16-Jan	DR	-£1,931.00	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,931.00	0		0	
16-Jan	DR	-£485.67	HMRC	MAD	0	-£485.67	0		0	
19-Jan	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
20-Feb	DR	-£1,931.20	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,931.20	0		0	
20-Feb	DR	-£485.47	HMRC	MAD	0	-£485.47	0		0	
23-Feb	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
25-Mar	DR	-£1,931.20	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,931.20	0		0	
25-Mar	DR	-£485.47	HMRC	MAD	0	-£485.47	0		0	
25-Mar	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
15-Apr	DR	-£453.09	HMRC	MAD	0	-£453.09	0		0	
15-Apr	DR	-£1,963.58	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.58	0		0	
15-Apr	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
20-May	DR	-£474.30	HMRC	MAD	0	-£474.30	0		0	
20-May	DR	-£1,963.58	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.58	0		0	
23-May	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
19-Jun	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
19-Jun	DR	-£453.29	HMRC	MAD	0	-£453.29	0		0	
19-Jun	DR	-£1,963.38	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.38	0		0	
26-Jun	CR	£12,500.00	Christadelphian	MAD	0	£12,500.00	0		0	
11-Jul	DR	-£1,963.58	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.58	0		0	
16-Jul	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
29-Jul	DR	-£454.24	HMRC	MAD	0	-£454.24	0		0	
22-Aug	DR	-£452.14	HMRC	MAD	0	-£452.14	0		0	
22-Aug	DR	-£1,963.38	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.38	0		0	
28-Aug	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
30-Sep	DR	-£1,963.58	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.58	0		0	
30-Sep	DR	-£453.09	HMRC	MAD	0	-£453.09	0		0	
30-Sep	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
30-Oct	DR	-£453.98	HMRC	MAD	0	-£453.98	0		0	
30-Oct	DR	-£1,963.58	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.58	0		0	
31-Oct	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
2-Dec	DR	-£453.29	HMRC	MAD	0	-£453.29	0		0	
2-Dec	DR	-£1,963.38	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.38	0		0	
5-Dec	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	
10-Dec	CR	£12,500.00	Christadelphian	MAD	0	£12,500.00	0		0	
16-Dec	DR	-£453.09	HMRC	MAD	0	-£453.09	0		0	

16-Dec	DR	-£1,963.58	Marcus McGilvray S	MAD	0	-£1,963.58	0		0	
19-Dec	DR	-£314.41	Nest Pensions	MAD	0	-£314.41	0		0	



Amount left	13,076.68
Total fixed costs 2024	-858.90
Total gross salary 2024	-40,988.30

Scenario

Year 2025						
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6

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**Africaid**  
**Registered Charity No:- 1045461**  
**Accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Independent Examination Report**

**1) Proper Book-keeping**

The book-keeping records are kept on a computer spreadsheet. Dominique Tatibouet has continued the role of Finance officer. The financial records continue to be kept in the same manner on a spreadsheet, he has prepared the year end reports for the year end 31 December 2024 from these records.

**2) Cashbook and payment controls**

The following sample of payments in the cash book were supported by invoices and reconciled to the bank statements

<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>£</b>
21-Feb-24	WKU Ghana	Football for Hope	2638.44
17-Jun-24	HMRC	PAYE	453.29
11-Sep-24	Celtic Payroll	Payroll processing	21.50
16-Dec-24	Marcus McGilvray	Salary	1963.58

Payments are made via electronic payment using the BACS system.

**3) Income Controls**

The following receipts were checked to ensure that the income had been received, recorded correctly in the spreadsheet and traced to the bank statements.

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>£</b>
27-Aug-24	Whizzkids United	Donation	12500.00
14-Feb-24	Xenia Polyakina	Donation	2638.44
27-Aug-24	D Moore	Donation	1000.00

**4) Payroll Controls**

The Salaries to employees were paid correctly, the preparation of payroll being outsourced to Celtic Payroll services. The payments have been made after tax and NIC has been deducted and HMRC PAYE requirements have been properly applied. The salary and associated payments for December 2023 did not clear the bank until 2 January 2024 so these are included in the 2024 accounts.

**5) Bank Reconciliations - Closing funds**

An ongoing bank balance is maintained in the spreadsheets for the current Account. The year end reconciliation was reviewed against cashbook and the bank statements and no unexplained entries were noted.

<b>Closing Bank Balances at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>£</b>
Barclays Current Account No: 23037827	13076.68
Barclays Business Saver Account No: 53067025	14.12
Paypal account:	Nil

**6) Year End Procedures**

The year end accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis and agree with the cashbook. There is an audit trail from the underlying financial records to the accounts.

**Marie Larby Accountancy**  
**Unit 6A station Road**  
**Brompton Ind Park**  
**Brompton on Swale**  
**Richmond**  
**North Yorkshire**  
**DL10 7SN**

**Dated - 24 October 2025**