



## **2018 Annual Performance Report**

*“Dedicated to supporting children between the ages of zero to seven years old who have lost their mothers during childbirth have a healthy, happy and educated life.”*

## Table of Contents

Message from Founder and CEO .....	3
Introduction .....	6
Operations .....	7
<b>Beneficiary support</b> .....	7
<b>New cases in Ghana and Liberia and challenges</b> .....	7
<b>Future Operations in Sierra Leone</b> .....	8
Financial Highlights .....	9
<b>Table 2: Financial Summary for 2017 and 2018</b> .....	10
Selected stories.....	12
<b>HSF-Ghana</b> .....	12
<b>Selected stories – Liberia</b> .....	15
Conclusion.....	22
Appendix .....	23
<b>COUNTRY FOCAL POINTS:</b> .....	23
<b>HSF MANAGEMENT TEAM: LIBERIA</b> .....	23
<b>HSF MANAGEMENT TEAM: GHANA</b> .....	23
Social Worker - Feeding Services/ Education Services .....	23
<b>HSF HEAD OFFICE MANAGEMENT TEAM</b> .....	23
HSF vetting criteria.....	24
<b>Support Application</b> .....	25

# Message from Founder and CEO

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## Health Support Foundation

I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Performance Report of the Health Support Foundation. This report portrays our performance in accomplishing our mission of supporting children between the age of zero to seven years old who have lost their mothers during childbirth have a healthy, happy, and educated life.

Following a successful launch in 2017, HSF has had a tremendous two full years of operations. I will like to share a few progress areas as well as some challenges experienced during these first two years and provide an outlook of next year.

- We started operations in Ghana and Liberia, and are at the initial stages of negotiating with a potential local partner in Sierra Leone.
- We provided and continue to provide in-kind and financial support to 32 children in Ghana and Liberia, making it possible for the beneficiaries to have access to basic baby formula, supplemental food supplies, cloths, In-home nanny assistance, daycare, and to attend pre-school or elementary school.
- Our Board of Directors is constituted, and our management team is operational
- We have undergone an independent financial review of our first two years of operation and received a clean opinion

The year was however not without challenges. Despite many requests for support, we could not accept new children beyond the 32 we had due to limited funding. We are committed to a sustainable funding model that requires us not to overcommit financially. At the same time, it was difficult to turn away so many eligible children and their families who very much needed our support.

In the coming year, we will continue to focus on providing support for the children in Ghana and Liberia, finalize our negotiations with a local partner in Sierra Leone and be operational. This will require us to raise additional funding to continue our support for the children in Ghana and Liberia and for the new children to be accepted in Sierra Leone. With 1,360 mothers dying per 100,000 live births, Sierra Leone has the worst maternal mortality ratio in the world. According to the UNICEF estimates from 2015, 1 in 17 mothers in Sierra Leone has a lifetime risk of death associated to childbirth. As you will agree, there is a tremendous need for our support in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, as our contribution to stemming the tide of maternal mortality in Sierra Leone we will also focus on developing maternal mortality prevention education program.

In a nutshell, we have laid a solid foundation for growth having put in place the necessary governance framework, operationalized our business model in two countries and working on another, and undergone an independent review of financial reporting processes. The

prospects are bright, and we look forward to continuing to learn from our current operations and perfecting our business model.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our partners and donors for their support in 2017 and 2018. Without your support, none of the above accomplishments would have been possible and most importantly the beneficiaries of our support would have been worse off. In 2019, we will count on your continued support for HSF to continue being a mother to the motherless.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Dapaah

Dorothy Dapaah, Founder and CEO



# Introduction

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The Health Support Foundation is a 501 (C) organization based in the US that supports children between the ages of zero to seven who have survived the death of their mother during or immediately after childbirth. The Foundation raises funds and in-kind donations from individuals and organizations, and channels them to support the emotional, physical and financial needs of victims of maternal mortality children. The Foundation evaluates the unique circumstances of each child and provides the following support based on need:

- Baby formula and food to alleviate malnutrition and stunting
- Expert counseling services to address psychological and emotional needs
- Essential goods such as diapers, clothes, shoes, and daily hygiene items.
- Ad-hoc in-home nanny childcare and preschool fees support through partner networks
- Medical care subsidies, or no-cost immunization and annual wellness checks at through partner networks
- Drugs for children through collaboration with pharmaceutical companies who donate necessary medication

As you may be aware, reducing maternal mortality remains a global challenge. The WHO estimates that on average, 300,000 women die annually worldwide, but prevalence rate is highest in low-income sub-Saharan African countries. In many countries, little attention is paid to the its effects of maternal mortality on surviving children, although they are most vulnerable and need significant support throughout their early years of life. In many cities, towns and villages, victims of maternal mortality suffer from malnutrition, stunting, lack of education, lack of emotional support, and in some cases social stigmatization.

## Operations

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HSF was operational in Ghana in early 2017 and in Liberia in November 2017. In Ghana, we have collaborated with local hospitals to identify children who need our services. Through partner hospitals' social workers, in-kind support such as baby formula were delivered to children who have been vetted and qualified for support (see appendices 24 for the HSF vetting criteria). Nanny/Daycare providers were paid directly as are the schools the children of school going age attend. We liaised directly with our recipients monthly to verify the services received.

In Liberia, we started vetting of potential beneficiaries by working through the Lord's Pentecostal Church and a Social Worker. A public announcement was made on radio and small team of three vetted all the candidates who responded using the HSF vetting criteria. Following the vetting, 31 kids were shortlisted the team visited each child in their house to collect additional data, to understand each child's family situation and to determine the need for support. After this, exercise 20 kids were selected by the HSF management team for support.

### Beneficiary support

We have provided the following support to beneficiaries in the following age groups: Basic food- Basic formula – Ages 0- 6 months; Food Supplement and Daycare – Ages 7 months – under Pre-school age; Education support- Pre-school age to 7 years.

A breakdown of the number of children supported is provided in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Support provided in 2017 and 2018 by number Children**

Description of Service	Number of Children supported in Ghana	Number of Children supported in Liberia
Basic food- Baby Formula	8	10
Food supplement	12	19
Education support/ in-school feeding	7	9
In-home nanny care	5	10
Clothes, shoes, toys, etc	12	19

*Note: Some children received multiple services*

### New cases in Ghana and Liberia and challenges

Besides the 31 children we support in Ghana and Liberia, there continues to be new cases and new demand for our support in these countries. However, due to limited funding we are unable to accept additional children. In the coming year we vet all new request and



prepare a pipeline of qualified children who will be eligible for our support should be able raise additional funding. In Liberia there already (23) of vetted and prequalified children who will bring on board when funds are available.

During the implementation, HSF-Liberia social workers were faced with challenges regarding the availability for follow up appointments of some of the Caretakers of beneficiary kids. Also, some of the caretakers have considered HSF-Liberia program as Heaven-sent and hence are over-reliant on the support we provide which is intended to be supplementary to what is provided by the beneficiary's immediate family. We will continue to educate caretakers about keeping appointments for follow up visits by the social worker. Also, reiterate that HSF is only supplementary to the support the family is providing.

We will stress the importance of family support to beneficiaries in both Ghana and Liberia.

### Future Operations in Sierra Leone

Starting operation in Sierra Leone is a priority for HSF in 2019. Our Board of Directors supports this expansion and has asked the management team to identify potential local partners to work with. We have identified one potential local partner but are at an early stage of discussions on collaboration. We hope that by July 2019, we will finalize our collaboration agreement for Board approval to begin operations. This is an exciting opportunity for HSF, but it will also require us to raise additional funding to start providing support to potential beneficiaries.



## Financial Highlights

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An independent review of our financial statement was conducted by Juliana Hayfron-Benjamin, a Certified Public Accountant for 2017 and 2018. No material weaknesses were found. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the financials for 2017 and 2018.

Our principal source of financing for 2017 and 2018 has been individual donations and we plan to expand the scope of fund raising to corporations and organizations who share our vision. At the same time, we will solicit continued donations from individuals. We also had a successful auction during the fund raising and launch event in 2017 and will plan another event in the future.

Program expenses include grants or monthly financial support to beneficiaries of the Health Support Foundation program of support. Basic food-Baby formula support is the cost of commodities purchased and delivered to children not older than six months whose basic need is milk. Food Supplement and Nanny Care support is the cash grant paid directly to providers of care for children older than 6 months but under pre-school age. Education support is a grant that was paid directly to the school of children between pre-school age and seven years. Operating expenses consists of travel expenses incurred by social workers and volunteers who supervise the progress of beneficiaries and assess their need for continued support.

## Table 2: Financial Summary for 2017 and 2018

**Health Support Foundation**  
Statement of Activities  
Year Ended December 31, 2018

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Support received		
Cash Donations		
Individual	5,980	9,523
Corporate		
Auction	2,190	
Grants		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>8,170</b>	<b>9,523</b>
Expenses		
Food Supplement and Nanny Care	1,680	1,162
Education support	1,760	4,052
Basic food - Baby formula	600	5,942
Operating expenses		2,782
Miscellaneous	723	300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,763</b>	<b>14,238</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>(4,715)</b>



*Residence of some children*



## Selected stories

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### HSF-Ghana

[Emmanuel, Eunice, and Emmanuella](#) Kingsley the father of Emmanuel, Eunice and Emmanuella a single father who has been taking care of these triplets since May 2016. The unexpected death of their mother after delivery has made it tremendously challenging to care to the triplets.

Fortunately, monthly remittance for payment of in-home nanny and baby formula during the first 8 months provided by HSF and subsequently providing food supplements. Since starting school in September 2018, HFS has channel funding in supporting them with substantial payment of their school fees, transportation, and feeding cost. All three kids are happily attending Startrite Montessori School in Accra Ghana.

*Career day picture at school.*





### *Baah, Manu, and Gyapong*

HSF sponsors three families in the Wasa Amenfi Municipal in the western region of Ghana. The Baah family, twins have been supported since they were three weeks old and are now fourteen months old, the Maun family have been supported since two weeks old and now 12 months old and the Gyapong family have been supported since the first week of birth and now four months old.

Monthly allowance provided through the social worker to purchase baby formula, food supplement, diapers, soap, detergents, and cash donations to the families. In addition, HSF donated clothing, shoes and toys to the family. Below are some pictures of the kids during donations and home visit.

*The Baah twins in picture*



**Baby Manu**



**Baby Gyapong**



## Selected stories – Liberia

### *Abijah*

Two day after delivery, Abijah mother died. Abijah is currently been taken care of by her auntie Jacklynel at their Du-port road residence in Paynesville City.

The deceased mother was diagnosed with Hepatitis B virus infection, which resulted to liver damage, and died while giving birth.

The challenges confronting the family is great, especially young baby without mother just after birth. Caring became a serious problem for her auntie. Fortunately, the HSF-Liberia voluntary approached the family and provided monthly baby formula and medical needs. As auntie of Abidjan Stanford said, “I am grateful to God first and the HSF family for their tireless efforts towards her support and pray that they continue.”



### *Gabriel and Godfrey*

Gabriel and Godfrey are twins. They lost their mother at age three (3) days. Their auntie Tene is their caregiver resident in Montserrado County.

Their mother Korto died due to respiratory distress and aspirational pneumonia.



Per Tene “The HSF has been so helpful to me in caring for the children; therefore, I am so happy and thankful for their support and pray that they continue to support the children as without the consistent support I cannot afford to take care of these children.”



### *Elise*

Elise was Six (6) Days old when her mother died and is been taking care of by the Grand Mother, Mrs. Helena Smith in Paynesville City, Montserrado County Liberia. Elise’s Mother died of eclampsia and diabetes metabolic. The unexpected death made it very difficult for the grandmother based on the financial situation in Liberia. Luckily, for her, she was connected ed with the HSF and ever since received regular baby Formula Clothing, and medication assistance. Per Helena” Upon this, I will love to thank the Health Support Foundation for their numerous support to Elise and I pray that do more.”



### *Rita and Feta*

Rita and Feta, Twins lost their mother after she has given birth to them. They live on clay street, Monrovia, Liberia with their Grandmother Patricia who is now their caretaker. Per Patricia “Being a single grandmother, I struggle with the daily needs of the kids. Coming in contact with HSF Social Worker was a prayer answered. The kids went through the vetting process and enrolled in the program., The life of kids is better and joyful. Food is available each day due to r regular food supply from the Foundation. Also, medical assistance is provided when needed and clothing”

I Thanks to God almighty and the Foundation for their support and I pray that they continue the good work.



## Abel

Abel lost his mother on July 27, 2018 while giving birth due to internal bleeding. Abel lives with his grandfather Mr. Isaac in Du-port Road Paynesville City, Montserrado County Liberia. According to Mr. Isaac, he being an elderly man makes it difficult to have the necessary resources to take care of Abel. However, with HSF help, the challenge of providing daily needs for Abel is resolved. Life is better for my grandson. The foundation has provided monthly supplies of food, and clothing and medication. I will also extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the foundation for helping to provide the needs for my grandson.



## Joefina

**Joefina** is 3 years of age, living with her Aunty Patience. Ms. Patience said she came across the HSF Program when one of the Social Worker was on the field collecting data. Joefina's mother died in Ivory Coast, en route to the hospital after suffering from birth complications. Baby Joefina was brought to Liberia to live her aunt Patience shortly after. According to Patience, since the inception of the HSF, she is grateful and blessed by God Almighty for the organization interventions in Joefina life. Today she is in school and her aunt prays that the organization continues to generate more financial support that will empower Joefina to obtain higher education.



## Naomi

**Naomi** is with her grandmother at Boys Town, Margibi County. Her late mother, Gertrude died as a result of postpartum hemorrhage (maternal death). The current economic situation in Liberia has made it extremely challenging for her grandmother to care for Naomi.

“Per the grandma, elderly women like her have no source of income making it extremely difficult providing for her needs. In the midst of managing how to provide Naomi's needs, Gertrude heard about the HSF Liberia. After accepting her case, the HSF has taken full responsibilities of Naomi's schooling and food. Therefore, she is very much happy and thankful to the HSF family. I pray that the foundation keep on the good work.





## Prosperous

**Prosperous S** is 2years, live in Peugeot Garage, Monrovia, Liberia. She lives with her Grandmother Helena. The late mother's death was due to hemorrhage after delivery which occurred at the J.F.K medical hospital. Per Helena, she was introduced to HSF program by social worker in the community. Since the involvement of the HSF, Prosperous life has change totally. Her most pressing concern regarding education and providing regular meals for the child is addressed by HSF. Prosperous is excited to go to school with a smile. Therefore, I am grateful to the Almighty God for the organization and its members and hope more support come to Liberia that will help and make our children learn and have quality education."



## Blessing

**Blessing** is 3 years old lives with his Aunty **Marie** in the Twelve Houses Community, Paynesville, Liberia. Wondering where and how to find support for Blessing to enroll in school, Marie approached HSF and was fortunate for Blessing to be enrolled for education and feeding assistance.



## Conclusion

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Overall, it has been an exciting two years. We still have a lot to learn as a new organization but are heading in the right direction with bright prospects for growth and more impact. We meet a very important gap in the social welfare arrangements of the countries we work where support for children who have survived maternal mortality is limited. We are proud of the impact we have had so far. Yet, there is more room for growth, and we look forward new and exciting challenges in the coming year.



# Appendix

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## **COUNTRY FOCAL POINTS:**

GHANA: Michael Basomafi  
National Program Coordinator  
Email: [bosomafi21@gmail.com](mailto:bosomafi21@gmail.com)  
Phone Number: 011233208824348

LIBERIA: Tim Dzebu  
National Program Coordinator  
Email: [kdzebu@gmail.com](mailto:kdzebu@gmail.com)  
Phone Number: 011231881091888

## **HSF MANAGEMENT TEAM: LIBERIA**

Irene S. Esiri  
Child Protection services  
Josephine Kettor  
Social Worker - Feeding Services

Stanley T. Quaquai  
Social Worker - Education Services

## **HSF MANAGEMENT TEAM: GHANA**

Benjamin Addae  
Social Worker - Feeding Services/ Education Services

## **HSF HEAD OFFICE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Mary Dodoo  
Fundraising Coordinator

Mabel Bashorun  
Communication and Outreach Director

Leslie Barwuah  
Program Coordinator

Phebean William  
Program Coordinator

Amy Awate  
Volunteer Coordinator

## HSF vetting criteria

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A public radio, churches, and community's announcement are made within a stipulated period of time. Applicant's information data are documented for additional investigation to determine eligibility. Vetting process of three team members' is complete to understand the circumstance of the child. Below are criteria's that that are taken into consideration before accepting the child into the program.

1. Filling out data sheet.
2. Age range from 0-7years.
3. The child/children must be a survivor of maternal mortality.
4. Conduction of interview.
5. Caretaker inability to provide the needs for the child
6. Poor Living Condition/Environment.
7. Background checks

## Support Application

### Health Support Foundation

Name(s) of Child /Children who survived their Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Deceased Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Surviving Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Short description of circumstances surrounding the mother's death:

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Short description of how surviving children are being taken care of:

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What is the most pressing need for the child/ children for which help is being requested:

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Does the surviving spouse give permission for the picture of the child or children to be taken and shown at the HSF website? Yes/No?

Name of person filling this form:

Date:

