

What we have been up to:

A borehole was set up and inaugurated in an African village, Tornu, our first ever launch in Africa (January).

In Bihar, we spent time providing food and education for the children there (March).

We hosted a party and sponsored swim in the UK, as well as distributing multiple food parcels in light of Ramadan in Sierra Leone (April).



Borehole Inauguration

Featured below are some photos taken in Tornu. It was one of our first steps taken as part of The Ghana Water Project.



Supplying clean water for Tornu

We started work in Ghana in late November 2021, beginning with a town in the Volta region with a population of over 600 people, called Tornu, in the North Tongu district. Our Africa coordinator, Bismark Adjei, identified certain villages in rural Ghana where people were at risk, which Tornu was one of. They were walking very long distances to obtain water and were also using collected rain that was shared with animals, making the water unfit for consumption. Bismark took a borehole technical team to survey the village to identify the best solutions to help make safe water more accessible for its residents. They created a 7000 litre polytank that was attached to a mechanised borehole pump, with 4 outlet taps coming out of a large concrete panel. Dr Pamela Kaushal, the founder of Vidya Jyoti, visited Ghana in January 2022, and inaugurated the borehole on 26th January. To ensure the cleanliness of the water provided, samples from the borehole were taken and sent to test the composition, showing that the water was potable. Subsequently, Bismark conducted a survey with Mr Yaw Johnson to identify all the pumps that were no longer functional. Thirteen such handpumps were found. Vidya Jyoti offered to conduct a repair and maintenance project for the boreholes that needed it.

Food and schooling in Bihar

Our team traveled to Bihar, a state located in East India, to help feed and educate the people there. From 13th March, we spent 9 months feeding around 920 children, as well as providing them with skills such as being able to read and write.

Hosting parties

We had the honour of being able to host an Easter party on 2nd April with 45 people with disabilities from Community ConneX (previously known as Harrow Mencap). The function was held in a church, in the town of Pinner, Middlesex. The honorable Mayor of Hillingdon attended the event and expressed his happiness to see such dedication and selfless service from our team members, all of whom dedicated their time and effort into helping organise the party. As well as providing tasty snacks and fun games, Angela Bhardwaj (our charity's secretary) put together an Easter hunt for the guests to enjoy. As well as finding the Easter eggs, our guests also had fun dancing to songs during the disco.

Accommodation for Ukrainian refugees

Pictured below are the rooms that were provided for the Ukrainian refugees who had fled to Poland. The rooms also contained basics such as washing machines, showers and gas cookers.



Food parcels



Tamsin D'Silva



Ramadan food parcels

Vidya Jyoti joined hands with another charity called Better Lives Foundation. BLF have set up a hospital in Sierra Leone, a rural town located in West Africa, where they provide medical care free of charge. During Ramadan, we provided a monthly supply of groceries that includes items such as rice and cooking oil to 54 families in need. BLF also donated 54 food parcels, meaning the total number of packages sent was 108. The monthly cost of one family's food supply is £10.

Sponsored swim

One of our volunteers, Tamsin D'Silva, who has Down's syndrome, performed a sponsored swim to help raise funds for Vidya Jyoti. On 9th April, she swam 100 laps, and ended up raising £568.

The Ukrainian refugee project

Vidya Jyoti collaborated with an organisation called Eduarte. They are a very well reputed charity who are based in Poland, and are receiving thousands of refugees from Ukraine. This partnership was coordinated by our Treasurer, Vishal Bhardwaj, and we helped them by supporting them with the provision of essential items for the daily use of the refugees. We sent £2000, which they used to purchase vital products such as mattresses, bed frames for the elderly, butane and propane gas cylinders, kitchen equipment like pots, gas cookers, fridges and other equipment. These were given to 12 refugees, who were also supplied with accommodation in halls and gyms in the town of Radlin, Poland.