

PROJECT FINAL REPORT

Ghana Honey Relief: Sustainable Livelihoods Through Beekeeping

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

PROJECT PERIOD February 2023 – August 2024 (18 Months)	PROJECT LOCATION Kongo Community, Upper East Region, Ghana
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS contribYOUte gGmbH & Amediewu Honey Foundation	CO-FUNDING & PARTNER Schmitz Stiftungen
TOTAL FUNDING / BUDGET €10,500	TARGET GROUP / BENEFICIARIES 30 Local Women & Smallholder Farmers

30 TRAINED FEMALE BEEKEEPERS	18 MONTHS PROJECT DURATION	100% PRACTICAL & THEORETICAL SKILL TRANSFER
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1. Background & Context

The Upper East Region in northern Ghana, bordering the Sahel, is one of the most economically vulnerable regions in the country. Despite significant agricultural potential, nearly 68% of the population live on less than €1.30 per day, with child malnutrition rates reaching up to 40%.

In the community of Kongo—located roughly 30 minutes from Bolgatanga with a population of 1,500—the local economy relies primarily on small-scale subsistence farming. Agricultural yields from crops such as maize, sisal, and shea nuts are highly volatile, dependent on climatic fluctuations and seasonal droughts. Due to a lack of access to capital, modern infrastructure, and distribution markets, agricultural income is insufficient to cover basic family needs or fund education. As a result, children attend school intermittently, and many young people migrate to southern urban centers in search of work. Women, in particular, lack independent income-generating opportunities.

2. Project Objectives & Strategic Approach

To address rural poverty and lack of economic perspectives, **contribYOUte gGmbH**, in close partnership with the local implementation organization **Amediewu Honey Foundation** and with financial co-funding from the **Schmitz Stiftungen**, executed the "Ghana Honey Relief" project from **February 2023 to August 2024**.

The initiative aimed to establish sustainable, season-independent livelihoods for 30 local women in Kongo through comprehensive beekeeping training, fostering micro-entrepreneurship within the agricultural sector and bolstering long-term community resilience.

3. Implementation & Training Curriculum

Building upon proven pilot methodologies developed by the Amediewu Honey Foundation, the 30 participants completed an extensive training program combining theoretical knowledge with practical field application:

Theoretical Curriculum

- **Colony Biology & Management:** Anatomy, social organization, and health management of honeybee colonies.
- **Site Selection & Yield Optimization:** Placement of beehives within flight range of accessible water sources and nectar-rich flora (mango, cashew, and teak plantations).
- **Disease & Pest Control:** Actionable preventive strategies and direct intervention protocols to mitigate pest infestations and colony diseases.
- **Business & Record Keeping:** Colonization tracking, harvest yield documentation, and commercialization strategies for sustainable income generation.

Practical Training & Equipment Provision

- **Hands-On Fieldwork:** Equipment handling, protective suit usage, and direct management of active hives.
- **Wax Processing & Baiting:** Production of fused beeswax for coating and baiting hives to attract wild colonies.
- **Harvesting & Extraction:** Hive inspection, safe honeycomb extraction, centrifugation, and honey refining.
- **Starter Kits:** Distribution of complete protective gear, beekeeping tools, and beehives to all trained participants.

Sustainability & Economic Impact

Beekeeping requires minimal recurring operational expenditures and integrates seamlessly into existing smallholder farming frameworks. Selling honey and beeswax provides women with a steady, independent source of income—directly enabling them to pay for their children's schooling and secure basic household supplies.

4. Conclusion & Impact

The "Ghana Honey Relief" project demonstrates how targeted vocational training and catalytic startup financing can build lasting economic autonomy in rural West Africa. Through the combined efforts of the Schmitz Stiftungen, Amediewu Honey Foundation, and contribYOUte, 30 women and their families now possess a sustainable foundation for self-reliance and financial security.

Sources & Transparency: Report compiled based on documentation from contribYOUte gGmbH (www.contribyoute.org) and project records from the Amediewu Honey Foundation / Schmitz Stiftungen.