

## **Inquiry Application for Funding to The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation on behalf of OurFoundations**

### **Project Description**

At OurFoundations, we strongly believe in the core principles of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) as a blueprint to making our world a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous place for all who live in it. Although OurFoundations is a relatively new non-profit organization, we have spent much of the last two years working towards that mission and making progress in my home country of Ghana to improve life for those that live there. Much of our core mission, and our organizational objectives align with the Mott Foundation's goals and program areas around civil society and enhancing community philanthropy. We do this through our key priorities in three areas: Education, Healthcare, and Sustainable Infrastructure/Development. A partnership between the Mott Foundation and OurFoundations will continue to help continue to bring our work to life, greatly benefiting the people of Ghana.

Much of our initial focus has been building out sustainable infrastructure aligning with two key SDG's— Sustainable Cities and Communities and Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Through this work, we constructed a 5-mile road in the Nyamebekyere village of Ghana this year for the local community, benefitting school children, farmers, and travelers. Roads are the foundations of economic development and are fundamental for other significant community health care, educational and economic advancements. The road has been a tremendous asset to the town and provides access to fundamental resources, including transportation, health care and education, while promoting economic development by providing access to the urban markets and expanding access to employment opportunities for local citizens.

While this was an important start, the need for adequate infrastructure, innovation, and efficient transportation continues to be of critical importance in Ghana. Like much of Africa, Ghana's vast infrastructure deficit is a constraint throttle on its growth but also an opportunity to leapfrog to new, more efficient technologies. As Africa becomes more urbanized, public goods will become available and cheaper to deliver to a more geographically concentrated population. Additionally, more urbanization puts undue pressure on the limited infrastructure resources and drives the infrastructure development focus to the overpopulated urban centers. In contrast, new infrastructure projects and maintenance of existing ones in the countryside continue to ensure long-term postponements and delays. Mobilizing resources to address basic infrastructure development needs is more critical than ever.

We are proposing an additional road construction/infrastructure project in Ghana that would span from Yereyeya village which lies on the main road to Awadua town. There are many farmers and school-aged children who use the path currently to access resources in the nearby towns and villages. The road will be approximately 15 miles upon completion. Like the previously constructed 5-mile stretch of roadway we completed this year, this new road will help spur economic development for both individuals and businesses. It will more easily connect underserved communities and citizens with healthcare services, and more easily enable children to get to and from school. This road won't just link geographic areas, it will link people, it will link goods and services, and most importantly it will link opportunity and innovation. As we did

with our first road construction project, a substantial amount of work will need to be done including the removal of trees, reduction of hills and excavation of rocks, construction of culverts and gutters, and the filling of swampy areas with compact materials. Like our last project, we believe much of this can be completed over the next year.

This project will have the potential to positively impact hundreds of more citizens in Ghana. From children going to school, to farmers transporting goods, to the elderly seeking healthcare. This next step in our mission will provide a tremendous benefit to the people of Ghana. One of the Mott Foundation's guiding principles is ***“Building strong communities through collaboration to provide a basis for change.”*** We believe that too. We hope you will collaborate with us to continue to make positive change for the people of Ghana.

## **Organization Description**

OurFoundations, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization located in the United States, and it operates thriving community-centered programs in West Africa. We focus on helping the people of West Africa, where millions live in underserved communities.

Our belief is that sustainable impact starts with neighborhood and local leadership, which is why we are a community-led organization dedicated to advancing the economic empowerment and personal development of people who live in remote communities in West Africa where basic economic development infrastructures are limited. Our goals include enabling better access to education and health care by providing better modes of infrastructure and transportation that aid in the access to technology, municipal, and national markets. We believe that we are all one people, and the world will be better if we build communally and continue to make strides that impact lives across borders. We seek to advocate for globally disadvantaged and poor communities. We seek to galvanize support for the basic economic infrastructures and organize volunteers, donors, and the public to tackle the urgent needs of some of the most socioeconomically challenged communities in West Africa.

Dr. Robert Asante, a native of Ghana, is the Chairman and formed OurFoundations in 2021. He solely manages the organization's operations with assistance and guidance from six active board members which can be found here ([Our Profiles – Our Foundations](#)).

OurFoundations has worked with other districts in Ghana and donors in the United States, including Twifo Ati Morkwa district in the central region, the Prestea Huni-Valley district, and other individual donors who supported our project financially. The foundation also recently received a donation in the amount of \$5000.00 from Premier Charities organization in Wilmington, Delaware, USA.

Although OurFoundations is a relatively new organization, we have worked hard to make progress in Ghana. Last year, we funded and completed a 5-mile stretch of road for the local community, benefitting school children, farmers, and travelers. Roads are the foundations of economic development and are fundamental for other significant community health care, educational and economic advancements. The road has been a tremendous asset to the town and

provides access to fundamental resources, including health care and education, while promoting economic development by providing access to the urban markets and expanding access to employment opportunities for local citizens. We also have a successful partnership with the Twifo Ati Morkwa Director of Health Services (the district's government-run health care system), to provide support for the clinics in districts. It is one of our first healthcare projects in Ghana.

We will complete this next infrastructure project by partnering with the team and multiple alliances we have already established in Ghana. The contractor, Group C Company limited, was reliable and efficient, the leadership in the district provided technical assistance, and the community supported the project with their personal time and donations. We will also continue to work with our generous financial donors in the United States to ensure project completion. Our partnership with the district executives and community leaders will ensure sustainability after the project is completed.

Building stronger communities is essential to improving quality of life and positive outcomes for underdeveloped and underserved nations. We know the Mott Foundation feels the same way. We strongly believe funding from the Mott Foundation will help us reach our next goal and help us change lives for those who need it most. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further with you and hope you will consider our request for assistance.