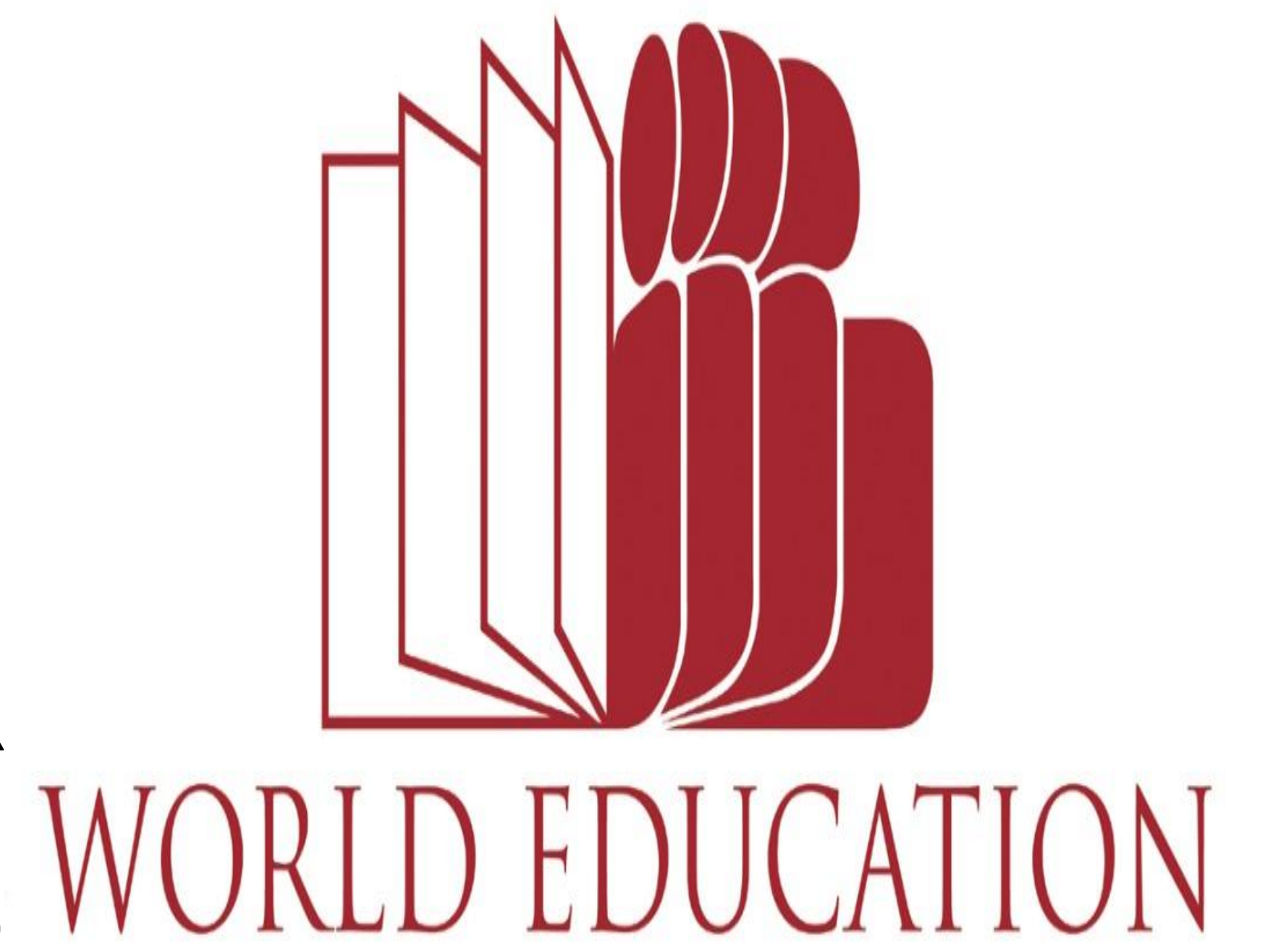




World Education Inc.

Ghana

IN COMMEMORATION OF 2022 INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF THE AFRICAN CHILD – ARE OUR CHILDREN
ACCESSING QUALITY EDUCATION WITHIN SAFE AND
PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS?.



The 16th day of June, 1976, is a remarkable date on the Global Calendar. It is the day the World, and particularly, Africa, recall with much pain, Soweto, South Africa when about 10,000 black school children, marched more than half a mile to protest the quality of their education and demand their right to be taught in their own language. Progressively, in 2012, the United Nations called for universal, public primary education for every child in Africa.



At World Education Inc., we believe every child has the right to access quality teaching and learning in a safe and protective environment that also guarantees the child's safety and well-being.

In Ghana, basic education is compulsory and free for every child. Beyond getting access to school, it is necessary to ask if children are accessing safe protective learning environments. Do we have functional systems, structures and protocols to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of our children are guaranteed when they go to school?

Generally in the world, children are a vulnerable group in any society and are more likely to be exposed to varied abuses and harmful practices like, physical abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, emotional abuse and neglect. It is even worse to note that sometimes adults in whose care these children are placed are the perpetrators of these acts of abuse.

At World Education Inc., we believe every child has the right to access quality teaching and learning in a safe and protective environment that also guarantees the child's safety and well-being.

To this end, we have since 2018, been raising awareness on the need to institute child protection and Safeguarding policies and interventions among several local NGOs in the education sector and across 7 regions and 33 districts in Ghana. Practically, through the implementation of the Strategic Approaches to Girls' Education (STAGE) Project, a little over 17,000 girl children in various learning centers and schools have been 'safely' introduced to literacy, numeracy and life skills, and subsequently transitioned into either Formal Schools or Skill Acquisition Ventures of their choices.

We call on all stakeholders in the education sector to push for safe and protective learning environments for every child. These include but not limited to:

- Define, Publicize and Uphold a clear Child Protection and Safeguarding Statement of Commitment.
- Clearly Define and Enforce Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Systems in the formal and non-formal sectors of education.
- Ensure Proper Screening and Recruitment of child care givers and trainers of children.
- Clearly communicate user-friendly Abuse reporting channels in all schools, vocational and technical training centers for children and child care institutions.

Collective action should be taken to ensure the implementation of progressive strategies targeting the elimination of all forms of harmful practices towards children in Africa.

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JUNE 16, 2022 | ACCRA, GHANA