



Program Application: Georgina Odoom

Demographic Information

What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?	Female
What is your current gender identity?	Female
Do you think of yourself as:	Straight (heterosexual)
Would you define the community where you live as urban, semi-urban, semi-rural, or rural?	Semi-urban
Do you identify as living with a physical or mental disability?	No
How did you hear about the Community Solutions Program?	Facebook

Eligibility Requirements

What is your country of citizenship?	Ghana
Are you a citizen of any other country?	No
Do you currently live in the primary country of citizenship that you listed above?	Yes
Do you consider yourself a refugee?	No
Were you born in the United States?	No
City of Birth	Himan-Prestea
Country of Birth	Ghana
Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the United States?	No
Have you applied for United States permanent residency in the past three years?	No
Please enter your date of birth as it appears on your	09/15/1990

passport or identification card.	
Are you able to write and speak in English at a professional level?	Yes
Are you currently participating in a community project or initiative?	Yes
How many years of experience do you have in community development?	6
Are you available to travel to the United States from August-December 2024?	Yes
Have you previously applied to the Community Solutions Program?	No

Contact Information

Given Name(s) or First and Middle Name(s)	Georgina
Family Name, Last Name, or Surname	Odoom
Current Address	
Street address, building and/or apartment number	M190 Assembly HWY, Bogoso
City	Bogoso
State or Province	
Postal Code	
Country	Ghana
Permanent Address	
Street address, building and/or apartment number	M190 Assembly HWY, Bogoso
City	Bogoso
State or Province	
Postal Code	
Country	Ghana
Email Address	usefulwastegh@gmail.com
Alternate Email Address	
Preferred Telephone	0594951207
Alternate telephone	

Previous International Experience

How many countries have you traveled to outside of your home country?	0
Have you previously traveled to the United States?	No
Since March 2020, have you participated in any virtual program supported by the United States Government?	No
Are you planning to travel to the United States or have applied to a program to travel to the United States in the next year for any education, fellowship, or training program other than the Community Solutions Program?	No
Have you previously participated in any international education, fellowship, or training program in a foreign country other than the United States?	No
If selected for the Community Solutions Program, are you committed to living in your home country for a period of two years after you complete the program (from December 2024 – 2026) in accordance with the J visa regulations?	Yes

Educational Background

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?	University (undergraduate) degree
Year Completed	2016
What was your major or topic of study?	Management in Computing
Have you completed any previous leadership or management training programs?	No
If you have completed any professional certifications or training programs that you	

have not yet identified in this application, please write them here.	
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Professional Background

Name of Current or Most Recent Organization	Useful Waste Ltd
Your Current or Most Recent Professional Title	Executive Director
City	Bogoso
Country	Ghana
Telephone	0594951207
Website	https://ginodoomwastemanagement.com/c/
Start Date	Nov 2020
End Date	
Are you currently employed by this organization?	Yes
Your Current or Most Recent Professional Responsibilities	<p>As the executive director of Useful Waste Ltd. I have been in charge of ensuring the company's day-to-day running and leading in various capacities. Running a solid waste management company is capital intensive; one of my key responsibilities has been to help the company raise funds from investors. I also represent the company at all levels of engagement.</p> <p>As the founder of Grow Advancement Ghana Foundation; a non-profit organization. I oversee the organization's activities and actively engage with partners to carry out its programs.</p>
Your Top Professional Achievements or Awards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU Cash Grant: Awarded a cash grant from the EU after the SNV Green Innovative Idea Competition in November 2022. 2. Nominated for Global Award: The Humanitarian Global Award for Best SDG 8 Achievement Award 2022. 3. Presidential Pitch Competition: Secured 7th position during Season Four of the Presidential Pitch competition.

Community Development Experience

Name of Organization	Useful Waste Ltd
Your Role or Title	Executive Director
City	Bogoso
Country	Ghana
Website	https://ginodoomwastemanagement.com/c/
Your Role's Responsibilities or Activities	<p>As the executive director of Useful Waste Ltd. I have been in charge of ensuring the company's day-to-day running and leading in various capacities. Running a solid waste management company is capital intensive; one of my key responsibilities has been to help the company raise funds from investors. I also represent the company at all levels of engagement.</p> <p>As the founder of Grow Advancement Ghana Foundation; a non-profit organization. I oversee the organization's activities and actively engage with partners to carry out its programs.</p>

Please select the statement that best describes your community development organization	Small, locally led organization or social enterprise
How long have you worked or volunteered with this organization or social enterprise?	3-5 years

Vision (Essay Questions)

1. With many international professional development programs available, what attracts you to apply to the Community Solutions Program specifically?

The Community Solutions Program offers a comprehensive, well-structured, and supported approach to professional development that aligns with my goals of making a positive impact on my local community and enhancing my leadership skills. It provides a unique opportunity to learn, grow, and collaborate on a global scale, which is what draws me to this program specifically.

2. What is the primary issue or issues that you are currently working to address in your community? What work have you already done to address this issue or issues? Please be specific and highlight what you consider your greatest accomplishments working on this issue or issues in your community.

The primary issue that I am currently working to address in my community is environmental sustainability and waste management. Specifically, I am focused on reducing the environmental impact of improper waste disposal and promoting responsible waste management practices.

Work Accomplished:

1. Eco-Friendly Waste Bins: One of our greatest accomplishments has been the introduction of eco-friendly waste bins made from repurposed discarded car tires. This innovation not only reduces tire pollution but also provides a sustainable alternative to conventional plastic bins.
2. Comprehensive Waste Collection Services: We have successfully implemented comprehensive waste collection services for households and institutions in our community. This has reduced the incidence of illegal dumping and has promoted the responsible disposal of waste.
3. Segregation and Recycling: Our efforts in segregating waste into different categories, such as organic waste, plastics, paper, and metals, have led to successful recycling partnerships. The materials collected are sold to companies that use them as raw materials for production, contributing to a circular economy.
4. Organic Compost Production: Through our composting process, we have successfully produced nutrient-rich organic compost from organic waste. This compost is now used in local horticulture and agriculture, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.
5. Community Engagement: We have conducted numerous educational programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns in our community, raising environmental consciousness and encouraging responsible waste disposal and recycling practices.

Our greatest accomplishments include the successful introduction of eco-friendly waste bins, a reduction in illegal dumping, and the positive impact on local agriculture through organic compost production. These achievements not only enhance environmental sustainability but also contribute to the overall well-being and cleanliness of our community.

3. What motivated you to get involved and work on this community issue?

I was motivated to get involved in working on the community issue of sustainable waste management and environmental responsibility due to my deep-rooted passion for environmental conservation. Witnessing the adverse effects of irresponsible waste disposal and

pollution in my community fueled my determination to make a positive change. I recognized the pressing need to address these issues to create a cleaner and more sustainable environment for current and future generations.

Furthermore, my commitment to empowering and uplifting marginalized groups, particularly women, youth, and people with disabilities, served as a driving force. I believe that by engaging these underserved communities in meaningful work related to waste management and environmental sustainability, we can create opportunities for economic empowerment and social inclusion.

The prospect of transforming discarded materials into valuable resources, such as organic compost and clean energy, aligned with my vision of a circular and sustainable economy. It was this holistic approach, encompassing environmental, social, and economic dimensions, that motivated me to dedicate myself to this community issue. I am committed to driving change, promoting eco-friendly practices, and improving the well-being of my community while advancing the cause of environmental responsibility.

4. What do you envision are the key approaches to effectively solving this community issue(s)? What knowledge or skills do you believe you need as a community leader to do this? From what you already know about the program, how would participating in the Community Solutions Program assist you in developing this knowledge and these skills?

Effectively addressing the community issue of environmental sustainability and waste management involves a multifaceted approach. First, public education and awareness campaigns are essential to inform the community about responsible waste disposal and the environmental consequences of improper waste management. These initiatives aim to change behavior and foster a greater sense of environmental responsibility among community members.

Second, innovative waste management solutions, such as repurposing materials for eco-friendly waste bins, are critical for reducing pollution and promoting sustainability. These approaches not only address the immediate problem but also offer long-term, eco-friendly alternatives to conventional waste management practices.

Third, effective waste management often requires collaborative partnerships with local governments, nonprofit organizations, and recycling companies. Building such partnerships can extend the reach and impact of waste management initiatives, leading to a more comprehensive and sustainable solution.

As a community leader, I recognize the need to enhance my skills in project management, community engagement, and advocacy to lead effective initiatives in waste management.

Participating in the Community Solutions Program presents a unique opportunity to develop these skills. The tailored fellowship with a U.S. nonprofit organization or local government agency will provide hands-on experience and guidance in project management. Furthermore, the program's integrated leadership curriculum and individualized coaching will help refine my leadership skills, essential for community engagement and advocating for policy change. Collaborating with professionals and leaders from diverse backgrounds worldwide will provide a global perspective on waste management challenges and solutions, enriching my understanding and problem-solving abilities. Additionally, the program's network and partnerships could open doors to potential collaborators and resources, crucial for advancing local waste management initiatives.

5. If you were to identify a project to complete following your U.S.-based experience, what would your project be? Please describe your project, including the beneficiaries, activities, and goals, being as specific as possible.

Project Description

The "Eco-Artisanal Empowerment Initiative" is a multifaceted project that will focus on empowering local artisans by providing them access to upcycled waste materials and the necessary skills to transform these materials into art, home décor, and functional products. The project encompasses the following key activities:

1. Waste Material Collection and Segregation: Collaborating with households and institutions to collect non-recyclable waste materials such as discarded tires, plastics, and metals, which would serve as the primary resources for the artisans.

2. Artisanal Workshops: Organizing a series of workshops, training sessions, and mentorship programs for local artisans. These

sessions would focus on teaching creative reuse techniques, product design, and sustainable crafting practices, enabling artisans to maximize the potential of upcycled materials.

3. Market Access: Establishing an online platform and a physical store where artisans can showcase and sell their upcycled products. The project would actively promote these products, enhancing market visibility and sales opportunities for the artisans.

4. Eco-Art Exhibitions: Hosting regular eco-art exhibitions and events that showcase the creativity of local artisans and highlight the potential of waste-to-art projects.

Beneficiaries:

The primary beneficiaries of the "Eco-Artisanal Empowerment Initiative" are local artisans and craftsmen/women within our community. Additionally, the broader community benefits from the reduction of waste and the creation of eco-friendly, upcycled products.

Project Goals:

The "Eco-Artisanal Empowerment Initiative" sets out to achieve the following objectives:

1. Artisanal Empowerment: Provide local artisans with opportunities for income generation and skills development, contributing to their economic sustainability and empowerment.
2. Environmental Awareness: Raise community awareness about the environmental impact of waste and highlight the potential for creative, eco-friendly solutions, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.
3. Community Engagement: Foster community pride in local artisans and their eco-art creations, encouraging support and appreciation for their work while strengthening community bonds.

6. Imagine that during the Community Solutions Program, your host collaborator for the four-month practicum is someone whose nationality, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion is different from yours, and it is a challenge for you to understand and work with them. What specific steps would you take to foster a successful working relationship with your host collaborator whose identity is very different from what you are familiar with?

To foster a successful working relationship with a host collaborator whose identity significantly differs from my own, I would take several specific steps to ensure effective collaboration and mutual understanding:

First and foremost, I would make a dedicated effort to become culturally sensitive by educating myself about my collaborator's culture, values, and customs. Understanding their background and the factors that shape their identity is essential for me to establish mutual respect.

Active listening would be a cornerstone of our interactions. This means giving my collaborator the opportunity to express their perspectives, concerns, and ideas without interruption.

Rather than viewing our differences as barriers, I would celebrate the diversity in our partnership. I would acknowledge that our unique backgrounds bring valuable perspectives to the table, and diversity can lead to creative solutions and innovative ideas.

Finding common interests or goals is crucial to building rapport. I would identify shared objectives within our project and focus on these commonalities as a basis for collaboration.

Asking questions would be a regular practice. If I encounter something I don't understand or need clarification about cultural practices or norms, I would not hesitate to seek information. This demonstrates a genuine interest in learning and adapting.

Open feedback and adaptation would be encouraged. I would be open to receiving feedback from my collaborator about my own behavior and actions. If there are aspects of my approach that are insensitive or problematic, I would be willing to adapt and improve.

Ultimately, I would emphasize our shared mission and the positive impact we can make through our collaboration. Reminding ourselves of our common purpose can help bridge gaps and keep us motivated.

7. Imagine that during your CSP fellowship in the United States, you experience a very challenging week. You feel that your practicum host collaborator is extremely busy and isn't spending enough time collaborating with you on your project. You are stressed by an upcoming practicum deadline and the Community Leadership Institute coursework. You also find yourself missing your friends, family, and life at home. What specific steps would you take in this situation to overcome these challenges?

In such a challenging week during my CSP fellowship, I would take several specific steps to overcome these difficulties. Firstly, I would initiate an open and honest conversation with my practicum host collaborator. I would express my concerns about the limited collaboration and the importance of meeting our project deadlines. Together, we could establish a clear communication plan and expectations to ensure we work effectively.

To manage the stress related to upcoming deadlines and coursework, I would prioritize and create a structured schedule. This entails breaking down tasks into manageable chunks and allocating specific time slots for each. Seeking support from fellow fellows and mentors within the program could also be valuable in managing the workload.

To address homesickness, I would actively engage in community activities and reach out to my fellow participants. Forming connections with peers and sharing experiences can help alleviate feelings of homesickness. Additionally, I might explore local cultural events or find opportunities to connect with individuals from my home country who may be residing in the U.S.

Focus Area	Environmental Issues
Sub-themes:	Renewable Energy Access to Education Environmental Awareness Pollution and Carbon Reduction Waste Management Youth Engagement Climate Change Recycling Sustainable and Alternative Energy