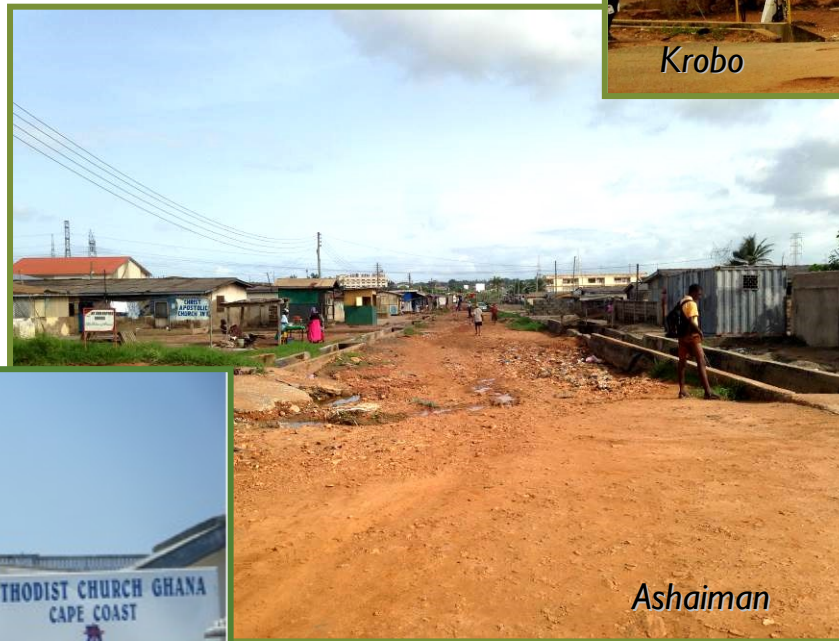




A Day in the Life of a Global Mamas Volunteer



Welcome to the Cape Coast office!

Meet Wisdom, the general manager, and Patience, the office manager.



Both have been with Global Mamas for more than five years and help new volunteers learn the ropes.

This is the quality control room in the Cape Coast office. Our products are made in the workshops of the individual Mamas in the Cape Coast community. They are then delivered to the Global Mamas office before shipment to customers. Here, Global Mamas employees carefully review all products delivered by the Mamas to ensure the products conform to our high quality standards before shipping.



Welcome to the Ashaiman office!

Meet Amos, the production manager, and Dorcas, the inventory manager.



Both originally worked in the Cape Coast office, but moved with Global Mamas to establish the Ashaiman office in 2011.

In the Ashaiman office, Beatrice and Regina are the two quality control employees. Ashaiman operates differently from Cape Coast in that the Mamas are direct employees of Global Mamas and work in the Ashaiman office. Both batikting and sewing are done on site, allowing for volunteers and Mamas to interact daily! The Mamas receive their orders from Dorcas and Amos and once they finish, their products are checked for quality by Beatrice and Regina.



Welcome to the Krobo office!



Meet Gladys, the general manager.

The sole manager at the Krobo site, Gladys keeps everything running smoothly day to day.

Krobo operates similar to Ashaiman in that Mamas are employed directly by Global Mamas and work in the office assembling the beaded products. However, Global Mamas also partners with beadmakers and bead sellers in the Krobo area, similar to how we operate in Cape Coast.



Mamas working together to make beautiful jewelry!



Quality control employee Vivan filling an order.

Meet the Mamas!

Regardless of the location, volunteers get the chance to interact with the most important part of Global Mamas – the Mamas themselves!

The location simply dictates the way in which volunteers interact with the Mamas. Here are some Mamas from our three main sites.

Cape Coast



Meet Comfort Pufaba, a seamstress in Cape Coast. Volunteers will be able to meet Mamas by visiting their independent businesses around Cape Coast and when the Mamas occasionally drop by the office. Volunteers will also see the quality control team and managers every day in the office.

Ashaiman



Meet Charity Okine, a seamstress in Ashaiman. Charity works within a team of three seamstresses in the Ashaiman office. There are six teams of seamstresses overall, along with four batikers, quality control staff, and managers. Volunteers will be able to see all the Mamas every day, as volunteers work (and live!) in the same building.

Krobo



Meet Vivian Sawyer, a bead assembler in Krobo. Volunteers work in the same building as the bead assemblers, quality control staff, and Gladys. They can also visit beadmakers and bead sellers in the Krobo area, especially at the Krobo bead market.



Laura and Nick are designers in Cape Coast. They work with colleagues in the U.S. and here in Ghana to come up with our batik patterns and product designs.

Volunteers with design expertise like Barbara assist with textile design, patterns and other design projects.



In Ashaiman, interns like Elise take photographs to be used on our social media pages and for internal use, such as staff posters.



In their downtime, volunteers at Ashaiman also help around the office by helping quality control assess batik cloth.

Near the Office



The offices in Cape Coast, Krobo, and Ashaiman have stores near them where volunteers can buy snacks. Across the street from the Cape Coast office is Comfort's store, as seen in the photo to the left. Comfort is always eager to help volunteers learn some words in the local language, Fante. Next door to the Ashaiman office is Helen's store. Helen is usually accompanied by her adorable baby nephew, Roy.

A tip: medaase means thank you!

While English is the official language in Ghana, each region has its own local language(s). This means that even though Cape Coast is about three hours from Accra and Ashaiman by car, in Cape Coast, people speak Fante, whereas in Accra and Ashaiman the main local language is Twi. In Krobo, the main local language is called Krobo.

Ashaiman and Cape Coast are full of local "chop" stands, which sell cheap yet delicious food. In Cape Coast, there's a chop stand next to Comfort's store, where volunteers can buy a delicious Ghanaian vegetarian lunch of beans, rice, hard-boiled egg, and fried plantain. Krobo offers a fried rice stand right outside the office, while the chop stand in Ashaiman is a five minute walk from the office.



Home Sweet Home: Cape Coast



Cape Coast volunteers live in the Global Mamas volunteer house in Elmina, about 20 minutes from Cape Coast...



...which is across the street from the ocean and boasts comfortable rooms with mosquito nets....



...and a talking parrot named Busua, named after the beach in Ghana's Western region!

Home Sweet Home: Krobo



Volunteers in Krobo live in the same building as the workspace. There are limited volunteer accommodations at this location.



Home Sweet Home: Ashaiman

Ashaiman volunteers live in the same building as the office and workspace, meaning no workday commute! There is a porch on the second floor, great for eating together or just relaxing. Volunteers live in part of the upstairs with their own bathroom and a kitchen downstairs.

The house also has a courtyard in front, where Mamas hang drying batiked cloth during the day.



Home stay accommodation is also available in most volunteer locations to give volunteers an opportunity to participate in the daily life of a Ghanaian family.

Cultural Workshops



Volunteers can take batik lessons from one of the Mamas in Cape Coast and Ashaiman. It's great to learn how the process of batiking works and spend some time with the batiker while it dries! At the end of the lesson, volunteers will have their own batiked cloth.

Another workshop option in Cape Coast is a cooking class with local culinary wizard, Auntie Esi, where volunteers will learn how to make delicious Ghanaian dishes like red-red, palava sauce and boiled yams, groundnut (peanut) soup, and fufu.

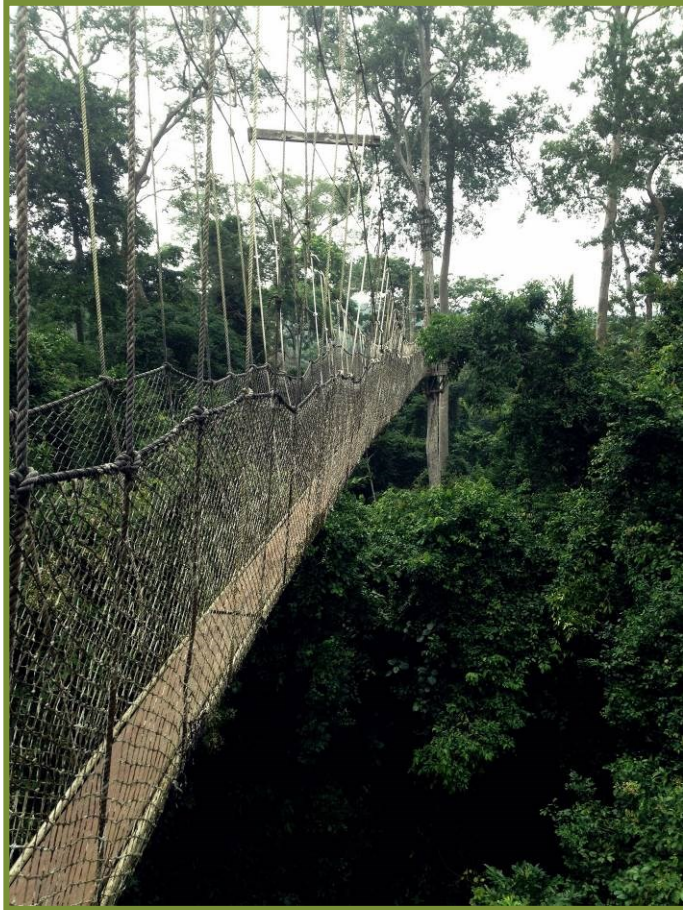


In Krobo, volunteers can take a beadmaking workshop with Moses and Grace. They teach volunteers to transform pieces of glass into handmade beads.



Sightseeing in Ghana

Volunteers also have the opportunity to take in the sights around the area. In Cape Coast, volunteers can visit the Cape Coast and Elmina Castles. Other destinations for day and weekend trips from Cape Coast include Kakum National Park, which is about an hour away, and Escape Three Points, an eco-lodge about three hours from Cape Coast.



Nearby Kakum National Park offers a canopy walk through the rainforest!

The Cape Coast Castle, located only a short walk from the Global Mamas office.



Volunteers enjoying some weekend beach time at Cape Three Points.

Ashaiman volunteers can reach Accra, Ghana's urban and diverse capital, in less than an hour or travel to beautiful beaches in Prampram, New Ningo, and Ada in one to two hours. Tema is the next town over from Ashaiman, and offers restaurants, shopping and nightlife. Weekend trips include travelling to Wli Falls, Krobo, and Cape Coast.



Visit the Global Mamas store, located in the Osu neighborhood of Accra. Volunteers receive a 30% discount!



Ashaiman Mama Justina teaches local teenagers traditional African dance. Her dance troupe will perform for Ashaiman volunteers and teach them to dance and drum!

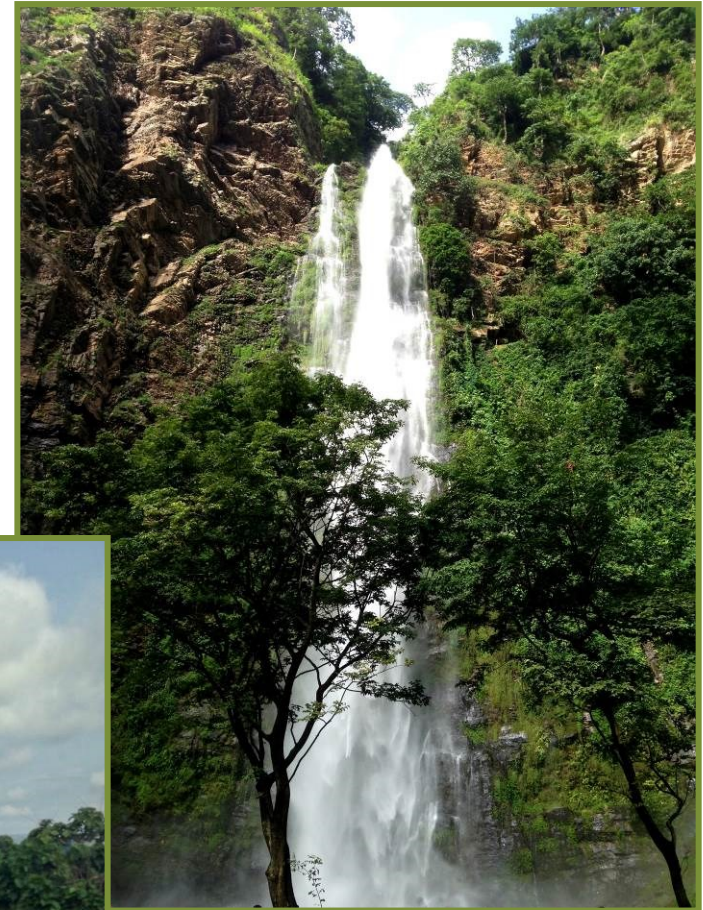


The beautiful Maranatha beach in Ada is just two hours away! Small huts are available for an overnight stay right on the beach; a nice restaurant and lounging area are situated on the shoreline.

Krobo volunteers are able to experience the beadmaking capital of Ghana, taking in the beautiful and busy bead markets right in Krobo. About an hour from Accra, Krobo gives volunteers the same opportunities to take in the city and surrounding areas as Ashaiman volunteers. Furthermore, Krobo is on the road to the Volta Region, giving Krobo volunteers closer access to exciting places like Wli Falls, Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary, and the Volta region capital of Ho.



Just a small selection of the beautiful handmade beads found in the Krobo bead market.



Stand below the breathtaking surge of water at Wli Falls!



The rolling green hills of the Volta Region.