



## **Ghana: Library and ICT Education**

### **To Be Worldwide Update July - December 2005**

#### **Content:**

#### **Summary Results**

#### **Objectives January – June 2006**

#### **Full report**

#### **Summary Results ICT phase**

- Building of new computer class room started in August 2005 and is planned to be ready by February 2006
- Evaluation of programme last year and change in some procedures in order to increase the participation of as many children as possible
- Parent newsletter was introduced in order to earn trust and motivate parents to let their children participate
- Computer Course for the children of the public schools was postponed until December due to a strike of the teachers and the lacking behind with the regular school curriculum
- Number of students who register on an individual basis has increased
- Internet Course for private school was held and created extra income
- Registration from adults to follow computer classes resulted in income generation for the center
- Online reading modules scholarships are available

#### **Summary Results Library phase**

- New automated library system was installed in August
- New books have arrived
- Number of books borrowed increases every month
- Book reports are written by children and awards were given to the best
- Story telling session was held
- Exchange of 'a day in the life' with Belgium school was done

#### **Objectives January – June 2006**

#### **ICT phase**

- Furnishing new computer rooms
- Add new computers
- Training of teachers
- Development of income generation activities

#### **Library phase**

- Training of staff to use new library system by Ghana Book Trust
- Categorise books, create bar codes for all books and develop borrowing cards

# To Be Worldwide Update July-December 2005

## **ICT**

July, August and September were holiday months in Ghana. Most children who were taking computer classes during our visit (August) were mostly children who had registered on an individual basis and a few children from the schools (Junior Secondary School) project who still had classes to complete.



The Educational Resource Centre was ready to take on the new group of students from the different Junior Secondary Schools as of the 19th of September (New School Year). An evaluation of the outcome of last years and first time trail was held and we have changed some procedures in order to increase the participation of as many children as possible.

Our Computer Tutors went to the Parent Teacher Association Meetings before the school year ending in order to inform as many parents personally. After the meeting we also sent a newsletter informing parents of who we are and our intentions. It is a process of earning trust and informing parents of the advantages of following the computer course.

### ***Computer Tutors: Norbert, Francis & Chris***

Unfortunately when the new school year started, the teachers of the public schools in Takoradi went on strike for a period of 3 weeks. This sparked of a series of events, which included the change of management within the Metro (government) Education Board. Being behind with the regular school curriculum did not allow the classes to start the computer course as planned as there was a lot of catching up to do. They have now committed to starting after the Christmas break. We have already received the list of students who will follow the course from most of the schools. We are also in the process of renewing our contacts with the new staff of the Metro Education Board.

Our visits to the PTA meetings of the schools we work with, has increased the number of students who register on an individual basis to follow the computer course. It has also created more curiosity amongst adults (parents) who are also showing interest in following a course.

We have also worked with a private school recently. They have their own computer lab, but no internet connection. They are now following an Internet course at our Centre.

From personal experience I found the DSL connection at the Centre, which is provided by Internet Ghana, very very slow. If we want to make the best use of the internet, through the Global Teenager Project and other online connections with schools around the world, we will have to investigate other options. This connection will not be sufficient to realise our intentions to create a small internet cafe in the future to generate local funds. We will have to look at either other Broadband providers such Ghana Telecom, however they can not inform us as of when it will be available in our area or a Satellite IP. Investing in a satellite IP option is interesting as we can then connect the other Centres to the same broadband by satellite. However this option is still very expensive. First it will be approx. \$4000. - for the equipment and installation followed by a monthly fee of \$350. -

We are constantly researching the possibilities at hand from the different providers.

New computer classroom

The building of the new computer classroom started in August 2005 and is going well according to plan. The contractor will complete his work at the end of January/beginning of February. In general the building process went well. It took a little longer than initially estimated, this was mainly due to the fact that extra beams were built/put in place to make sure that the bottom structure could support the top.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, Les Paquerettes, Net4kids Aid Foundation/Wilde Ganzen, InterimIC and the NOTS Foundation for their support.



We have been receiving registrations from adults (students) to follow classes at our Centre. These students range from 17 to 31 years. These students pay a higher fee to follow the classes, which will help us generate more income locally. Once the new classroom is completed we can take on more students. We have already asked our partner Computers for Development to help us increase the number of computers in our new classroom.

The **Headsprout** (online reading modules [www.headsprout.com](http://www.headsprout.com)) Broadband Enhancer had been installed and we are ready to use the 25 online-reading modules scholarships we have received from Headsprout.

We will select children from the school classes who regularly visit our Centre in their library hour. We will ask the teachers to compile a list of students they feel require assistance with their reading skills.



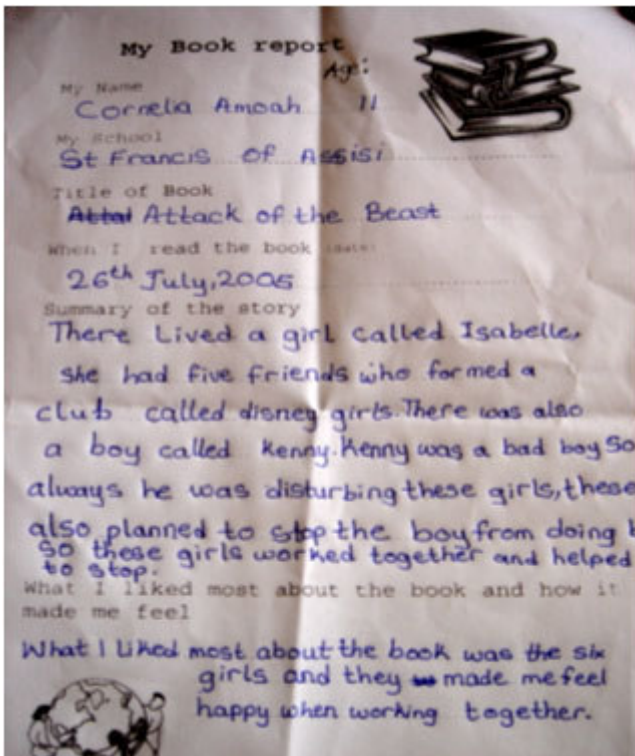


## Library

Before travelling to Ghana we had shipped a number of boxes of books for the Library. Our very important sponsor the American Book Centre donated most of these books to us. These boxes arrived as we were in Ghana. The boxes also included books we were able to buy with funds from Net4kids Aid Foundation sponsors. These books were hand picked by us because of their relevance. They included books on African Heritage (e.g. about African princesses), History and African folktales.

We have installed the automated library system Autolib 2000 on a Pentium IV computer at the front desk. Francis our computer Tutor is familiarising himself with the technical aspect of the system and we have asked the Librarian Mrs. Patricia Arthur of the Ghana Book Trust, who also uses the same system, to train our staff to work with the system.

This will require them to categorise all present and new books, create barcodes for all books and create borrowing cards for the members of the library. This process is quite time consuming.



The concept of being able to borrow a book was very new to many children and took getting used to. Now the number of books borrowed increases every month. The library is also attracting older children and some adults who are looking to improve their reading skills but don't have the means. All Children who borrow books are writing great book reports on the books read and there are regular draws from these reports that are then awarded a prize.

Plans were discussed with staff to structure the reading activities more and a letter was sent out to the parents asking if anyone would be interested to help us help the children improve their skills by setting up small reading groups every Saturday for an hour.

Unfortunately we have not received any reactions from parents. We will address it at our the next PTA meeting. If we are unsuccessful with this approach we will consider employing a retired teacher to assist us in this process.

We also witnessed a story telling session by children. They would get up in front of the group and summarize the book they had been reading.

As of September 2005 the Library will present us with a monthly report that incorporates the following information on the number of registrations, book reports received, books borrowed and activities organised that month.

### Activities

The children visiting the Centre spent a morning creating drawings about "A day in their life " This was prompted by a set of drawings I brought along from a primary school "De Dames" in Antwerp. This school had raised funds from which books and creative material such as pencils, markers and paint etc was bought for the Centre.



The children in Antwerp had created drawings about a day in their life which we put up on a board at the Centre and then asked the children there to draw a day in their life. These drawings were then be given to the children in Antwerp.

The children really enjoyed themselves.



At the end of the session one of the children volunteered to get up in front of the group and say "Thank You" to the children in Belgium for raising funds and making it possible for them to have creative/drawing sessions. It was all filmed.

The children look forward to receiving more creative materials in the form of pencils/markers, board games, puzzles etc. We have already received funds to realise this from Net4kids/GWI

**Thank you for all your support and we look forward to a fruitful 2006**

## **General information on trip to Ghana**

On the 9th of August I flew out to Ghana for a visit of 3 weeks (a working holiday with the family)

The first 2 days in Ghana (Accra) were spent meeting sponsors and partners. We met the Reverend Pimong of the European Union Micro Projects Management Unit. They were very happy with the way we put their funds to use at the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre and are very open to supporting us again in the future. The department is looking to receive our proposal in December of this year.

My second meeting was with Mr. Augustine Agu of Unicef Ghana and Dr. Cobbah, the Chief of the Komenda region. We discussed setting up a Centre in Komenda (Central Region, Komenda instead of Elmina) in cooperation with Unicef. Dr. Cobbah as Chief of the region would identify suitable plots of land in accordance with our criteria and invite us to make a choice.

It was a very fruitful meeting. The next day Mr. Agu introduced me to the Unicef Team. It was a pleasure to meet Mrs. Caroline den Dulk, Mr. Akihiro Fushimi and Mr. Andrew Osei.

Mr. Agu has been offered a transfer from Unicef Ghana to Unicef Ethiopia and has invited To Be Worldwide to come to Ethiopia with the Concept of the Educational Resource Centre.

On arrival in Takoradi, I paid a visit to the Honorable Ms. Horner-Sam, the Deputy Minister for the Western Region of Ghana, who has supported us from the beginning and had prepared a letter of recommendation for our organisation which we can use to approach local companies for their support.



***Ms. Horner-Sam***



A board meeting of To Be Worldwide Ghana was held. A more active role of the board was discussed and a quarterly meeting schedule was implemented. Board members would also participate in activities at the Centre on a rota basis.

***To Be Worldwide Ghana Board***

**Financial Statement 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 months 2005 July –December**  
 (Statement in US Dollars)

**To Be Worldwide/Net4kids Aid Foundation**

<u>ICT Phase</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Funds Spent</u>	<u>Funds Received</u>	<u>Funds to Spend</u>
<b><i>Funds from InterimIC towards ICT Phase</i></b>				
General Funds	137	137	0	0
Internet Subscription	700	700	0	0
Extra Internet funds	1304	500	0	804
<b>Total</b>	<b>2141</b>	<b>1337</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>804</b>

Funds spent: \$ 1200.- subscription and updates and maintenance (router, received new one later)  
 \$ 137.- on maintenance of computers, cartridge

**Library Phase**

***Funds from GWI towards Library Phase and Computer Tutor salary***

Salary Librarian	1634	800	0	834
Automated library system	3260	3260	0	0
Salary ComputerTutor *	0	2900	2900	0
Unallocated funds	95	95	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4989</b>	<b>7055</b>	<b>2900</b>	<b>834</b>

\* Computer Tutor salary over 12 months

Funds spent : \$ 800 Salary Librarian  
 \$ 3260 Automated Library system  
 \$ 2900 Salary Computer Tutor  
 \$ 95 miscellaneous (printing material for library)

<u>Budget End 2004</u>	<u>Funds Received 2005</u>	<u>Total Funds spent ICT</u>	<u>Library</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Funds Available End 2005</u>
<b>9225</b>	<b>4204</b>	<b>5487</b>	<b>6304</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1638</b>

**N.B.**

In 2005 To Be Worldwide also received funds for the construction of a new computer room of Euro 4.500. For this a separate reporting will be submitted in April 2006.