

**Dear all,** The covid-19 (corona) pandemic has created a truly unprecedented situation which affects us all. Our hearts go out to anyone who's been impacted by the virus, either directly or indirectly. During this time, we want to reach out and update you on how we're approaching the situation at To Be Worldwide. As you can understand our newsletter is a bit different then you are used to.

The Government of Ghana has put in place restrictive measures to help fight the COVID 19 pandemic. These restrictions were to limit the spread of the disease in Ghana, which was very effective in the beginning but with recent easing of these restrictions a rise in infections is a fact. Many of those infected are asymptomatic. The total number of confirmed cases are at 40'533, with 35'563 recoveries, 436 new cases as we speak and a total of 206 confirmed deaths.

At To Be Worldwide we asked our staff to work from home effective from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, when the restrictions were put in place. All schools closed their doors that day and Ghana closed its borders to all foreign travellers.

A trip to Ghana was planned on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March for the festive opening of our new classrooms, which we have had to postpone. The team has been working to develop new programs and fine tuning existing one's so that we can hit the ground running once restrictions are lifted. We have been engaging with our Alumni group as they are in the possession of social media and WhatsApp accounts. We are working closely with the Ghana Education Services to open up some of our activities in the middel of August to support the wellbeing of the children. Please find an account of the activities we were able to undertake in this newsletter.

Moments like this, reminds us that we're all connected. As we all face difficulties and restrictions, I'd like to re-assure you that To Be Worldwide remains fully committed to doing everything we can to build our activities and support those we can.

On behalf of the team, we wish you well and please stay safe!



## New Classrooms



The opening of new classrooms has been postponed. It will be one of the first things we do, when we are allowed to travel to Ghana. We hope the Dutch Ambassador to Ghana Mr. Ron Strikker will again be willing to speak at the opening ceremony as he would have if we had had the ceremony in March.



## Nose for Plastic



### What is Plastic?

Today we are going to look what plastic actually is and start to think about why it could be bad for the environment.

We have used our time in lockdown to develop a wonderful program. A program that creates awareness on the pollution caused by plastic in the environment and the communities of the children. Children will engage in collecting plastic waste and visiting a plastic waste management and recycling plant



## Food & Hygiene



A wonderful workshop on Food & Hygiene was held at the Centre. Thank you Maartje Santema Ambassador for Net4Kids! And Sasha 🍷.

We touched on healthy food and healthy hygiene practises. All children went home with new tooth brushes.



## Akpene's Story - We are so proud of you!

### MY TIME AT THE LITTLE LIBRARY DOWN THE ROAD

My dad took me to the To be community library at Effia Kuma, Takoradi some 15 years ago, I was around 8 years and that became my home for almost two years every Saturday from 9am till 4pm. I was young, small and with a very heavy bag every Saturday morning, thus I was very noticeable. I joined a whole new community on my own and created friendships and bonds with people from diverse backgrounds through that beautiful community library. From the roasted plantain seller across the street (who put up that stand purposely because of the library, since most of her customers were the children who frequented the place), to the children I met in the library, to the warm and accessible librarians who manned the library, to the local barber around the curve who I went to trim my hair every other week.

The Library unlocked my mind and intellect to a different level very early in life. I started to understand simple life virtues like honesty, diligence and most importantly compassion from this library. It was in this place that I learnt that every human being deserved respect no matter his or her age or station in life. Simple words of courtesy like please, sorry, etc was instilled in everyone who passed there at least when speaking with anyone in the library's premises

Today I am back to the Sekondi – Takoradi Metropolis as a lawyer, I was called to the Ghanaian bar in the year 2019, as the youngest person to ever achieve such feat and I owe a great deal of the reading habits, simple courtesy and good relationship skills to this magnificent initiative and this library. I will use this opportunity to trumpet the need for every community to have its own community library as it serves a very important function in the growth and well being of young adults. It provides an escape avenue that can be managed and train young adults unto a path of greatness, I am just grateful that the TO BE Library in Effia Kuma was there for me.

Thank you  
Akpen Darko - Cobbina



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## Distant Learning



The COVID-19 has resulted in schools shut all across the world. Globally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom. As a result, education has changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning. About a year ago we acquired 100 licences for the e-learning platform EducationCity. Children who use it are very enthusiastic and we have confirmed it is an excellent tool for our children to use to maintain and practise their knowledge and skills.

It is our wish to expand the number of licences and raise funds for simple devices that will allow children home access (*children that now have access are those allowed to use their parents smartphone from time to time*).

**Will you help us achieve our goal? € 2700.-** will provide for 25 devices + access to our EducationCity e-learning platform. **Click on the link** to make a donation. Thank you! <http://bit.ly/2naoc4w>