

# TO BE WORLDWIDE JULI-DECEMBER 2007 PROGRESS REPORT

## General Pictures



*Pictures by Caro Bonink*

## **ICT**

The new education reform introduced into the system in September 2007 has prompted us to look at the scheduling of our courses. Regular school classes have been extended resulting in us scheduling most of our classes in the afternoon. The new education reforms make ICT a more important part of the school curriculum, thus we have handed in a new proposal of cooperation to the Metro Education Department based on the new education reforms, highlighting where we can be of added value.

### Enrolments for ICT courses:

July	14
August	20
September	22
October	23
November	17
December	9*

\* The Centre was closed for holidays in December for 2 weeks



We were very fortunate to have 2 ICT volunteers to help us optimize our systems at the Centre. After an extensive analysis by Ruud Davids (from our sponsor InterimIC) of our present situation, Juan Guinle, a volunteer through NOTS foundation worked closely with Prince Ernest and Samuel, our local staff, to realise a tech refresh and standardization of systems. Both Prince and Samuel were very motivated, as they obtained very important skills by working with Juan on this project. Capacity

building at the Centre was made possible by PSO, through their cross-over programme.

Ruud Davids also researched the internet options in Ghana and ways for us to upgrade our connectivity package. Unfortunately with the present budget, opportunities are limited. Rates for reliable connectivity solutions vary from \$1000 to \$5000 a month with an initial investment of approximately \$3500 for equipment. If we were to consider upgrading to this level we would need to fundraise \$16'000 to be able to obtain a reliable connection for a year. We then hope that within that year more providers will be present in the market, more competition thus lower prices.



Ruud Davids full report on the Internet situation will soon be available on our website.



### **E-learning courseware available at Centre**

With the standardization of systems and software at the Centre children can now access the e-learning courseware from all the computers. The courseware is very popular with the children. We have received an update of the courseware which includes new courses. This will be installed in February 2008. In May of this year an e-learning conference will be held in Ghana. Our partner E-learning for kids will present their work, introducing us as

their partner in Ghana. [www.elearningforkids.org](http://www.elearningforkids.org) [www.elearning-africa.com](http://www.elearning-africa.com)

### **Library**

The summer holiday at the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre saw a steady stream of children visiting the Centre on a daily basis. There were reading- quizzes and other activities organised under the expert guidance of Mr. Asare, a head teacher of one of the schools we work with.

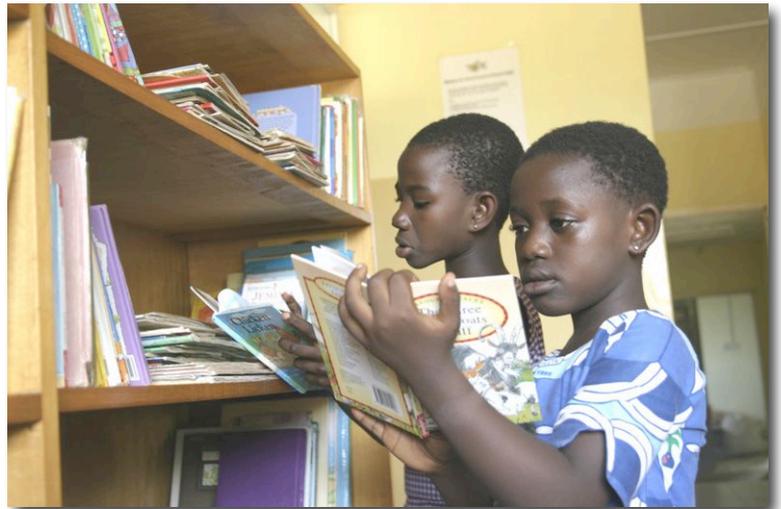
### **Library enrolments for this period were:**

July: 47 students, August: 65, September 65, October 73, November 72, December 16\*

\* The Centre was closed for holidays in December for 2 weeks

**\*Centre was closed for holidays in December for 2 weeks**

The Centre was visited by a number of travellers from The Netherlands, They spent a day at the Centre and pitched in to help process (selecting books, registering them in computer, providing them with barcode) a number of books. These could then be added to the books in the library.



**The number of books borrowed:**

July	357
August	371
September	361
October	510
November	604
December	122 *

*\* Centre was closed for holidays in December for 2 weeks*



Besides functioning as a regular library, now children also come in to do their homework. They use our reference books for their work. We will select more reference books on our next visit to the Depot of the American Book Centre, our very generous book sponsors. Children were given an essay competition at the end of June. The winners were announced in August. They were awarded a price. All winning essays are published on the website.

We are currently dedicating one of the old computer rooms adjacent to the Library towards an adult/teacher room. The room will have a small adult library with reference books for teachers, administrators and entrepreneurs. We will also make 4 computers available with Internet connectivity to be used by teachers (free of charge) and others such as independent entrepreneurs (small fee to generate income).

**Activities**

Caro Bonink, a fotojournalist, has been working with To Be Worldwide on a digital photography project called "Similarities" This project links a school in the Netherlands and our children in Takoradi. Caro travelled to Ghana in October to work with the children there. The result of their work and a blog written by Caro can be found on our website. InterimIC, Iona Stichting, NCDO and a Design Studio are the main funders. Several individuals have donated digital cameras for us to use. Also see [www.tiscaro.nl](http://www.tiscaro.nl) for more information on those who have donated their camera's and Caro's work. Caro Bonink completed the Academy of Photography in 2002. She has travelled in Asia reporting on issues such as child labour and the sex industry in which children are involved. Caro is also a regular photographer for the Amsterdam based news paper "Het Parool".





## **Expansion Plans**

To Be Worldwide is committed to taking the concept of the Educational Resource Centre to other areas besides **Takoradi** in Ghana. We have identified 2 locations, one in Cape Coast and one in Anaji. We have looked at suitable land and are talking to the district assemblies about the next steps and procedures. We also looked more into the land issues in Ghana and realised the intricacy of it. Since 2004 there are 66'000 land conflicts at court in Ghana. Our experience with obtaining land in Komenda has made us aware of the issues at hand. We are still waiting for land papers on Komenda, however we will naturally proceed with the first location that delivers the correct documents. [www.ghanalap.gov.gh](http://www.ghanalap.gov.gh)

## **A look ahead**

- \* A trip to Ghana is planned in February to view proposed land in Cape Coast and discuss terms and conditions of land donation.
- \* The evaluation of the capacity building opportunities supported by PSO will take place during the above mentioned trip. Ms. Millicent Odongo from Computers for development will perform the evaluation.
- \* A shipment of Pentium IV computers will take place in March.
- \* Ruud Davids and a volunteer will travel to Ghana for a tech refresh
- \* Sponsor InterimIC to undertake a trip to the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre.
- \* Visits to the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre by UNPD interested in the concept.
- \* To Be Worldwide present at e-learning conference in Accra in May 2008