TO BE WORLDWIDE ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY-JUNE 2006 PROGRESS REPORT BUILDING OF NEW COMPUTER CLASSROOM

A: General Pictures







Children in old computer classroom

Children from school in vicinity of Centre

Children along the road



Impression of children



Taking an ICT course at Centre



Children in the Library



Children in their classroom



Junior secondary school students



ICT class at the Centre

B. Narrative Report Building of New Computer Classroom and ICT in general

B1. Activities

Building a new computer classroom for the Takroadi Educational Resource Centre proved necessary. The existing 2 small classrooms could no longer accommodate the large numbers of children interested in following a computer course at the Centre. In the site report written by Wilde Ganzen (Mr. Harry Clemens) on the operations of To Be Worldwide, its Ghana office and the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre supported the necessity to build a new computer classroom.

B2. Results

The building of the new computer Classroom commenced at the end of July 2005. It soon became clear that we would incur more cost then budgeted as the existing building on which the extra floor was going to be build did not have a reliable support structure for the top floor, thus extra support pillars were built into the existing building. Not only did this affect the budget but it also caused a substantial delay.

A choice was made to realise an external staircase to the new classroom. The objective here was to

provide another entrance, to be used when the classroom functions as an Internet Café. Visitors to the Internet Café will not have to pass through the whole building now. We are presently negotiating with the US non-profit organisation One Global Economy (part of One Economy www.one-economy.com) to help us realise a fast internet connectivity solution. Representatives of One Global Economy visited the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre in March 2006. With the realisation of an internet Café, we hope to create an income generating activity to support sustainability.

Whilst the building of the new classroom was taking place the Basic Computer Skills Course was being taught in the old classroom. We have not needed to suspend classes due to the building activities.

We are presently in the process of setting up the computer classroom. The extra computers have arrived from Computers for Development. This brings our total computer count to 43 computers. The tables are being produced locally and are funded by R.C. Het Maagdenhuis (furniture was not included in building budget).

We had hoped to have completed setting up the classroom by the end of May. Unfortunately we are experiencing a delay in the production of the tables as the rainy season is in full swing. The carpenters work outside and now only have limited space to produce. We were also expecting students from an exchange program with ICT colleges in the Netherlands to spend their internship at our Centre. They would then help us set up the classroom. Unfortunately the exchange organisations wasn't able to arrange for the students to arrive in May. It will not be until September.













Computer classroom viewed by Deputy Minister of Western Region and ready to be set up



The carpenter had delivered 8 tables, another 8 are waiting to be polished and another 4 are in production making it 20 tables in total.

The ICT program at the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre has provided and is providing to date, training for 310 (active) students. With the initial "kick off" of the project geared at the Junior Secondary Schools we had reached a further 265 children. Due to different circumstances (e.g some junior secondary schools starting their own computer lab, lack of interest from parents etc.) students did not continue. We have since initiated activities to bring some of

these and other students into the program by actively taking part in Parent/Teacher Association Meetings, Teacher Training Courses in ICT and creating motivation programs for the children.

The facilities of the ICT program have also allowed us to take part in virtual projects such as the Global

Teenager Project of the IIC D, run by Rescue Mission Ghana and the UNESCO Digital Art project which is presently taking place. In particular the last project was a means to bring back our graduates to the Centre as it requires students who already posses the basic computer skills.

B3. Analysis

We are very happy with the results/quality of the building of the new classroom. The main building process was completed at the end of April. As mentioned before we encountered a delay in building, due to the extra support pillars. The rainy season has now attributed to a delay in the production of the furniture (tables). We expect to have the tables in by the end of June 2006.

We have not had to suspend any classes due to the building process as we were able to continue to use the 2 (small) old classrooms.

B4. Progress report

In the next 6 months we will have completed the setting up of the classroom (July 2006) We will prepare to host the Basic Computers Skills course for the new Junior Secondary school year. Preparing includes visiting PTA meetings and distributing information to students and their parents, training teachers in Basic Computers Skills and hosting an information day at the Centre.

Once the new classroom is operational we will also target the adult market in order to increase our income generating activities. We will provide training for those interested for a fee.

B5. Concluding comments

The implementation of the project has been satisfactory. There were regular progress meetings between the constructor and the Centre Manager. To Be Worldwide main office in the Netherlands was kept abreast of the progress. Despite the delay that we have experience (as mentioned previously) it did not have an effect on the daily operations of the Centre.

ICT General

The theme of the UNESCO Digital Art project is "scenes and sounds of my city". The children (graduates of our ICT course) have chosen to address the issue of use of plastic carrier bags at the market circle of Takoradi and the fact that they are being discarded all over the place. A serious environmental issue. As soon as the work of the children is on-line to be viewed, we will naturally inform everybody.

It is with pride that we can mention that we have made a difference in the life of one of our graduates, Esther Attinou. Due to the opportunities (educational and inspirational) she enjoyed at our Centre, she has been able to further excel in her studies and transfer to a better school. We look forward to tracking her progress. For the purpose of tracking the progress of students, To Be Worldwide is developing a "Student Tracking Program".

Table 1 Expenditures according to financing units

Items/Description	Budget (planned)	Actual expenditure
No. 1 Construction	13'393	15'894
No. 2 Electricals	1'132	1'150
Total	14'525	17'044

Table 2 Income for the project

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	Date received	Amount in local	Amount in Euro	
		currency		
Received from Wild Geese		49'500,765 cedis	4'500	
Net4Kids Aid				
Foundation/InterimIC				
First instalment				
Second instalment, etc				
Received from other donors		108'901,683 cedis	9'900	
Own contributions		11'000,170 cedis	1'000	
Total		169'402,618 cedis	15'400	

^{* 11&#}x27;000.17 cedis to a euros / cedis in millions

Table 3 Income and expenditure

	In local currency	In Euro
Total Income	169'402,618 cedis	15'400
Total Expenditure	187'486,897 cedis	17'044
Balance	18'084,279 cedis	- 1644

^{*} extra expenditure in budget was due to the support pillars that were required for the structure of the building.

Deficit of budget will be covered by un-allocated funds (not directly allocated to a specific part of the project) received, e.g. Funds from HRM-werk and fundraising activities at schools (Willemsparkschool).

LIBRARY

The automated library system is in use!! It took a while, as the system was rather complicated. A local programmer has assisted us in simplifying parts of the program we require on a daily basis. All books have been provided with their barcode and students have received their library card. The system now automatically registers books taken out and returned by scanning the barcode. It keeps track of books that are overdue and a record of which books students read.





^{* 9&#}x27;900 from other donors: other donors are Les Paquerettes and NOTS Foundation

^{*} furniture (€2900) and external stair case (€1400.-) are not included in this budget.



The library is functioning well. **1329** students are registered members of the library and the primary schools in the vicinity of the Centre still visit the library during school hours with their class. We now have 6000 books.

We have ordered a selection of local books, books in the local languages (books in the local languages) for the library. We are surely working towards a well-balanced library.

We are presently researching the educational software we hope to purchase from funds received from Net4kids Aid Foundation. We are looking into software that we feel can also support the curriculum of

the schools. As the educational system of Ghana was based on the British system our research focuses on the UK and of course we are looking into all initiatives by Ghanaian government or organisation.

We will make the software available on all computers by placing it on our internal network. Students can then use the software to increase specific skills or support their school homework or projects. If possible the software should also have a teachers section, which will allow teachers to use the software to support their teaching. As soon as our new computer classroom is furnished we will provide the teacher with a basic computer skills course. We are sure this course will also contribute to their ability to motivate parents how important it is for of the children to follow a basic computer skills course.

With funds received we are also hoping to acquire educational games for the children. Games they can play on their own or in groups. These games stimulate certain skills, like logical thinking etc. examples games made by the company Think www.think.com.

Komenda



We have been awarded land by the Komenda community in order to develop the **Komenda Educational Resource Centre**. We have also received all the necessary papers for the land signed by the chiefs and witnessed in court. We are now in the process having our lawyer review the papers and commissioning a building plan so that we are able to make an accurate as possible budget.

We have also provided the Komenda team with an extensive questionnaire. This questionnaire will provide us with answers on several issues such as basic water, electricity and sanitation to the working relationship the community has with Non-Profit/Non-Governmental organisation.

Once the budget is clear, we will commence fundraising activities, contacting our present sponsors both in the Netherlands and Ghana as well as finding new ways to help fund the Komenda Educational Resource Centre.

We are very excited about realising a new centre but are also aware that it is a project that will require time and precision as a new centre also means that the organisation in Ghana will need to be equipped with the right capacity to take on the management and daily operations of this centre. Naturally we will keep you informed of all step taken in this process.



Activities

The school year is nearly at its end (4th of August) and we can look back at a successful year at the Centre. We have chosen to end the year with a small party for all those students who have completed courses at the Centre. We hope that they will motivate others to join our programs and help us realise our goal of helping them reach their full potential and stimulating them to give back to their community through the skills obtained. In our Student Tracking- and Giving Back Program, we will outline how they can *give back* and how we intent to support them in this.