

Newsletter November 2020

Dear Donor,

Providing children with life opportunities and chances means guiding them - on the street, in our drop-in centre, in our homes, in their family and during their vocational training

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the entire world - here in Ghana the Government closed the schools already in mid-March. Today, almost eight months later, school doors are still locked, and they will probably remain closed until the end of the year.

As per our experience the number of street-connected children has highly increased in recent months.

Only few children have the privilege of being taught online or remotely. The sad reality is that a flexible way of learning is not available to disadvantaged children. In addition to the problems that already existed, the current situation has an even more devastating effect on the lives of disadvantaged children.

Vocational training has been interrupted for months - without knowing when and if it can be resumed at all.

Schools are closed and with that their additional role in providing children with vital health, vaccination, and nutrition services as well as a safe and supportive learning environment is no longer available.

As you see, even that safe environment has been disrupted. Hence, children are today more exposed to physical and emotional violence. They are more vulnerable to child labor and sexual abuse.

Children also have been encouraged by their own families to go out on the streets and earn money due to the difficult economic situation. This is one of the reasons why our work also involves families. However, our work always puts the individual needs of a child first.

Although we have not been allowed to run our drop-in centre as usual, we have found alternative

ways to safely support children on the streets. Our meals sharing program allowed 4,000 children to receive 40,000 meals and hygiene education. Furthermore, our network of contacts provided mobile education and hotline services during the past months.

Since mid-September, our drop-in centre has been open again and as of October our street workers are back supporting children on the streets.

Our new branches in Kumasi and Tamale have been opened since January 2020. With the help of the new teams on site and 20 years of experience, we were able to quickly start and expand our work - despite the current challenges. This is especially important because poverty often leads children from rural areas to the streets of Accra. Thus, this negative movement must be contained with the help of our new presence.

This year to date alone, we have ensured that all 70 children in our homes and over 100 children whom we accompany in their families have been able to continue their education and are already preparing for next year's school entry.



Yakubu (boy in the middle) and his family

We are also proud and grateful that we have been able to further strengthen our cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF, and other NGOs such as "Muslim Family Counselling Services" and "Street Children Project".

As you can see, more than ever before, street-connected children and their families need your support - not only on the streets, in our drop-in centre and our homes but also in the family and during their education / professional life.

In the coming year, we want to accompany more street-connected children back to their families and expand our work in Kumasi and Tamale. In addition, we will also guide young people in their

vocational training in cooperation with companies and experts, so that they learn a profession with which they can improve their quality of life in the long-term.

We are incredibly grateful that your support will continue to make this progress possible.

D. Ruedisuti Sodjah

Daniela Ruedisueli Sodjah



Rafiatu learns sewing with great passion.