



Dear friends and members of Adesuwa,

Project Days 2019: Barbara's Travel Report

"Adesuwa" means "Family"- this was the motto when I made my trip to Coker Village in April this year.

Priority Number One was to visit the children and their parents. Our local helpers organized a meeting at one of the schools attended by all of our children, their parents, supporters in Coker Village and the tutors. I was warmly welcomed by our kids who sang a special "Thank you Adesuwa" song which they composed together with the tutors. I was really touched by their efforts.

After this lovely greeting, I spoke to the kids' parents. They highly praised the work and the tangible successes of Adesuwa's support. They are very happy about the progress their children have made so far. Because their children have made such great progress so far, the parents hope, of course, that their children who are graduating from primary school will be able to continue their education. I hope that through further donations from our supporters and with additional sponsors for foster children, this will be possible in the future.

Having spoken to the kids and their parents, I met the English language tutors. The tutors confirmed their pupils' excellent progress in the English language and asked for new textbooks to further develop their skills. In this case, however, the tutors and the children will have to be patient. Our social worker Esther and I decided to wait for the results of the next test before they make a final decision.

All these good news made me very happy of course. Yet what I appreciated the most was to see the sheer enthusiasm of the kids. When I asked whether they regularly do their homework, all the children screamed "Yes!". The parents confirmed that they always help their children with their school tasks. And "Yes!" cried the children, as Barbara asked whether they like going to school. Great news!

On the second day we carried out our “Medical Outreach”. Three doctors and 4 nurses – assisted by the tutors and Esther – examined the children and their parents, including blood and urine tests as well as weight and blood pressure checks. In addition to the children, Adesuwa enabled 105 medical adults to be examined. Here we had to disperse some tablets and make some referrals for further examinations.

Thanks to Esther’s excellent preparation and organization, the “Medical Outreach” went smoothly and was a complete success:

All Adesuwa children are healthy!



Aside from this happy news about our children’s health, I also discovered that the majority of the families get their water from the river or from boreholes. Because these boreholes are not deep enough, they cave in after a few years and are therefore not a sustainable source of water. The water from these shallow boreholes is contaminated, endangering the children’s health and even their lives. Adesuwa has been aware of this problem. To provide a short-term solution, we have been distributing Aqua Tabs, which are dissolved in water to decontaminate it. Adesuwa is however working on a more sustainable long-term solution to solve this issue.

To achieve our goal of clean water, we will need to rely on partners and supporters – around the globe! During my stay in Nigeria I met with a potential sponsor in Coker Village and Lagos. We sincerely hope that – in line with our motto of “hand in hand” we will be able to build more bridges in the future so we can improve the future prospects for the kids and families living in and near Coker Village.



You can find further news about current events in Nigeria at:

- Terror attack in Nigeria
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/nigeria-suicide-attack-triple-blasts-kill-30-borno-190617092813178.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/jun/17/nigeria-bomb-attack-konduga-suicide>
- School collapses – at least 8 children dead, hundreds are missing
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/14/world/africa/nigeria-school-collapse.html>
- The Fulani people – herdsman fighting over land
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/nigeria-land-struggle-farmers-fight-resources-190615125325385.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2019/jun/28/nigeria-cattle-raising-fulani-tribe-in-pictures>
- Caine prize winner Tochukwu Emmanuel Okafor tells stories of Logos' city dwellers
<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-africa-48816519>
<https://soundcloud.com/caine-prize/all-our-lives-by-tochukwu-emmanuel-okafor>

Your Adesuwa e.V.