



Dear friends and supporters,

### **Our summer project days are starting!**

The topic of this year's Coker village project days is out: it is *health*! Building on the themes of previous years, our Adesuwa members in Nigeria will deepen and expand the kids' knowledge about hygiene by linking it to health related issues. In Adesuwa's "health workshops" our team will explain to our Coker kids how for instance throwing garbage onto the ground can harm the environment and by extent also the drinking water. In addition, our team will raise awareness about bacteria and germs that for instance develop when food is old and how these in turn may lead to diseases. In the workshops our team will help the kids develop solutions to these potential threats which they can use on a daily basis. The project days will take place on July the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. You will be able to read a detailed report and see pictures on our website [www.adesuwa.de](http://www.adesuwa.de) shortly.

### **Ester on the ground: News from Coker village**

#### *Background information on the new business plan*

In April and May two of the families we support lost their mothers. Without the support of the mothers, the dads will have great difficulties to manage the little income they have. One of the dads for instance told us that as a farmer he does not harvest enough crops to feed himself and his six kids, especially during the dry season when he cannot work. With the money that he earns he can barely pay for the food and the oldest son's school fees. His daughter, therefore, will have to leave tailor school, as they cannot afford the fees. The other father has similar problems. He is also a farmer who lives off of planting cassava, corn and vegetables. He told Esther how he misses his wife very much and is now in great hardship as his wife had been able to financially support the family by working on the side. Although his main concern is to provide all of his 8 children with the opportunity to go to school, from now on he will have difficulties to fulfill this dream.

Adesuwa e.V. wants to help! A friend of the association has decided to support the two families financially and to offer advice on how to create a financially sustainable future. By working on a business plan together with Ester, we hope to assist the families in coming up with individual solutions to support themselves on a long-term basis. Many ideas are already being discussed! While the business plan is in the making, Adesuwa e.V. will support the families with food packages. Thank you for making this possible!

### *Esther's Coker Village visits*

In June Esther decided to visit the Coker Village kids on the International Children's Day and celebrate it with them. All of our 55 sponsored kids including some of the neighbor's kids were able to attend! Together with Esther they celebrated the day by playing games and sharing sweets together. Due to the general strike at the time, Esther however was not able to take any pictures (see below for more information on the strike). During Esther's visit in July, instead of partying, the kids were very busy studying for the final school exams.

### **Nigeria News: The general strike**

After the general elections in March (see last newsletter) Nigerians have been suffering from a general strike. Since the government did not pay some of its bills, the oil-importing companies refused to supply the country with fuel. The resulting fuel shortage severely disrupted the Lagos economy. Although Nigeria has rich oil resources itself, the country relies on the import of processed fuel, as it does not have the capacity to refine sufficient amount of crude oil. Due to this reason the government imports a large percentage of the necessary fuel. When fuel shortages occur, this has a significant impact on the daily lives of the population: People depend on public transportation to go to work, shopping etc. which in turn only runs on fuel. Fuel is also needed for generators which provide homes, companies and public institutions such as hospitals with electricity. Without fuel, not only mobility is limited but stores close their doors or receive no goods, cell phone companies stop their services as they cannot supply the telephone poles with electricity – in short: the commercial and private life is severely limited. After weeks of general strike, the government and the association of oil importing companies finally agreed on a solution, stopping the general strike at the end of May. As the below cited links demonstrate, general strikes are however no once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon, but happen on a regular basis. It is the most common way for the population and organization to put pressure on the government in order to push for a change in its behavior.



Pictures of the general strike (© Ochi Ogbuaku Jnr, Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OchiJnr>)

Adesuwa e.V. was also affected by the strike. When Esther made her way to Coker village in June, she was not able to charge her phone as they did not have any electricity. Without her a functioning phone she was therefore not able to take any pictures of the kids during the International Children's Day. In a message to us she writes:

"I couldn't take their pictures because my phone and camera was off and that was during fuel scarcity, even the power holdings also went on strike. So there was no light for me to charge my phone battery or my camera and am sorry for that."

**Additional information on these topics and Nigeria:**

- 1) Nigeria: Country, History and Politics
  - **TED Talk** by a wellknown Nigerian author! Watch this amazing clip!  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story?language=de](http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=de)
  - <http://thenewsnigeria.com.ng/category/news/nigerian-news-news/>
- 2) Information on the general strike
  - <http://thenewsnigeria.com.ng/2015/05/25/fuel-scarcity-nigerias-oil-marketers-call-off-strike/>
  - <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/25/world/nigeria-shutdown-petrol-subsidies/>

Your Adesuwa e.V.