

“Message from ATE Chief Executive”

Greetings from a rainy Lawra! We're having a very busy summer with exciting developments in all sectors of ATE's work - not least, the launch of our brand new apprenticeship program, VocATE. As always, thank you to all ATE supporters, in the UK and Ghana, for believing in our work- we couldn't do it without you!” – Sarah Gardner.



Registered Charity Number: 1149988

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The ATE Film

The stunning ATE Film, produced by Epiphany Productions, was shot in Lawra in January this year and was screened in London and Ramsbury at the end of May. It provides a real insight into life in Lawra, in this peaceful but incredibly poor and neglected part of Upper West, Ghana. It tells the stories of people we work with and how ATE works with the community to reduce poverty and bring social change, and is largely told in the words of the people of Lawra themselves. It was also screened to 120 members of the community in Lawra in July. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who were inspired to make donations or increase your standing orders. Barka! (“Thank you” in Dagaare)!



SNAP: Special Needs Awareness Programme

Disabled children in Lawra, Ghana, often face discrimination, poverty and isolation. ATE works with disabled children and their parents to meet some of their basic needs, overcome isolation and change traditional negative perceptions.

This year the Lawra SNAP Committee, all dedicated parents of severely disabled children themselves, have taken on a bigger role in delivering monthly support group meetings. They are passionate about these meetings which provide an absolute lifeline for families facing similar struggles.



“My extended family and the community used to insult my child but now everybody sees him as one of us, part of the family, and everything is better” – Parent of a disabled child, SNAP survey.

In June, ATE staff member, Leela, travelled to Lawra to focus on the impact of SNAP through surveys with parents and home visits. Read all about her trip: <http://bc.offexploring.com/leela-in-lawra/blog/ghana>



We now look forward to opening a new SNAP support group in the district soon to reach more disabled children, their families and community.



BizATE developments

It's been an exciting time of review and growth for the ATE Small Business Development Programme. ATE is proud to have now successfully supported 56 small business owners with 8 more newly joined in July. We select people from all sections of the community, particularly those most in need of assistance.

A thorough evaluation of the programme, funded by the Commercial Education Trust, was led by our Chair of Trustees and Dr Nick Maurice in January. The report highlights that on average ATE-supported small business owners have been able to treble their monthly income making a sustainable difference to their lives.

The evaluation not only sparked improvements to the programme, but also new project ideas to reach more people, more effectively. As a result, ATE is launching projects to support dry season farming (to help yield crops all year round) and an apprenticeship scheme (making practical use of people's skills to train others in their community).



Dry season farmers in Lawra – the feasibility report for this project is here: <http://ateghana.org/publications-reports/>

School feeding

For months at a time, people of Lawra do not get enough food to eat to meet their basic nutritional needs due to the harsh climate, poverty and reliance on subsistence farming. Without energy to learn, children go foraging for food rather than going to school.

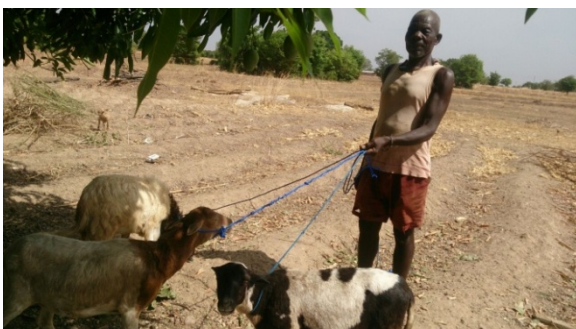
School feeding is an important and simple way of ensuring that children attend school and can concentrate to do well in class. ATE currently feeds over 850 school children in Lawra and attendance at supported schools is now high.

The school cooks at each of our supported schools are incredible. You need to be fantastically strong to churn out huge pots of banku (fermented corn and cassava dough, served with soup) for these school lunches and they make a great team!



BizATE success story

John Dakura is one of the small business owners selected earlier this year to be supported by ATE. After ATE training to develop a business plan in January 2016, John was granted £130 to grow his sheep rearing enterprise. At a spritely 72 years old, John is enthusiastic and committed to learning new business skills which will enable him to increase his profits and generate some savings for greater security in his older age.



John Dakura with sheep purchased with his BizATE grant

New ATE Office in Lawra & Ramsbury

Earlier this year we opened our first office in Lawra; an instant hub of activity for ATE meetings and the community coming to find out more about our programmes. We also currently have a

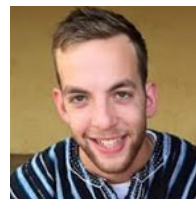
temporary office in Ramsbury, opposite the Bell pub. Do drop in! Open Wednesdays & Saturdays.



The ATE team

ATE bids farewell to Luke Hodgson, Assistant to ATE's CEO, who began by volunteering with the charity in 2013 and supported ATE to grow. We wish him well as he enjoys his role in the States this summer. Read his touching reflections on ATE here: <http://ateghana.org/farewell-to-luke/>

At the start of the year, ATE welcomed two new members of staff; Edith Kebo, part time Project Assistant based in Lawra, Ghana and Leela Shanti as part time Operations and Fundraising Officer in the UK.



Luke Hodgson



Edith Kebo



Leela Shanti

ATE Barn Dance – 10th September 2016

After an incredibly successful barn dance to raise funds for ATE in Ramsbury last year, we're gearing up for this year's on 10th September. Tickets are £12. Contact: admin@ateghana.org

Sun, sea and a free donation for A.T.E.!

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