

CELEBRATE

Celebrating the work and people of ATE in 2020
Registered charity number: 1149988





This Christmas, instead of our usual winter newsletter, we're celebrating some of the amazing people we work with. Enjoy these heartwarming stories of success against all odds.

Message from the Chief Executive

Merry Christmas to you all. This year has been extraordinary: challenging, exhausting, heartbreaking, with moments of overwhelming joy. Our work has been more vital than ever, as hunger and poverty spiralled. ATE has been there for the people of Lawra, providing emergency aid whilst keeping a focus on long term change. I'm very proud of the difference we make, and of our commitment and resilience. Everything we do is only possible with your donations - the generosity that we have encountered has been incredible, it's impossible for me to find the words to express my immense gratitude to every single person who has supported ATE in 2020. Together, we are making a real difference.



The resilience of children

The overwhelming quality displayed by children in Lawra, and around the world, this year has been resilience. With schools closed, food scarce and opportunities few, they have found ways to survive, and reasons to smile. We can't wait to open the doors to our school kitchens in January, welcoming our 1000 children back to education.





Celebrating our first VocATE apprenticeship graduates

We proudly celebrate the first 6 young women to graduate from our 3-year VocATE apprenticeship scheme. These young women who have been locked out of education and training opportunities, now have accredited skills and huge pride in their ability to support their families. We will now support them with seed funding, training and mentoring to become owners of their own successful small businesses!

“It wasn’t easy. Some people run away leaving their machines with their SBO’s. We would have also left but with the intervention of ATE we made it.”

Evelyn, VocATE graduate and qualified seamstress



Celebrating our incredible supporters

We are full of gratitude to every person who has supported us this year. At a time that has been so challenging for us all, we are so thankful for each and every donation. Your support has saved lives, and has ensured that ATE is able to look to the future, ready and committed to rebuild Lawra. A huge thank you also to grant makers who provided emergency funding or afforded us great trust and flexibility in our use of funds through unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic, helping us to respond quickly and effectively to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable in Lawra.

15 grant making trusts supported ATE in 2020, enabling us to drive forward long-term, sustainable change in Lawra

270 donations towards ATE's Emergency Appeal, providing vital food parcels to those who needed it

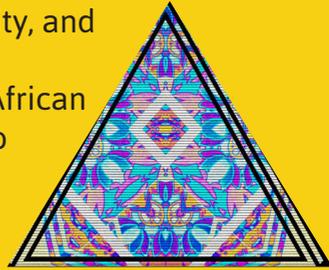
£12,525 donated specifically to core costs, helping ATE to keep fantastic staff and run efficiently

102 purchased tickets for ATE's first online Christmas Quiz!



DUA+

British Ghanaian designer Darren Agyei-Dua founded streetwear brand DUA+ in 2017, with the ethos of collaboration, creativity, and sustainability at its heart. Inspired by the beautiful patterns of West African cloth, DUA+ are donating profits to ATE's work in Lawra, and we are so grateful for the support of this innovative brand. Find them on Instagram @duaplus



116 have a regular standing order to ATE, helping us to be steady and strategic with our long-term planning

52 people helped ATE to raise £10,255 for EducATE in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2020!

12 ongoing partnerships with schools, creating links between children across continents

1062 food parcels delivered from Emergency Appeal donations

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Women Through COVID

We want to celebrate women through the pandemic, particularly those on the frontline. Theresa and Mercy, recipients of our business training and support, made just under 1000 masks during the peak in Lawra, fully funded by ATE - both diversifying their businesses and keeping people safe. We were able to distribute to all of the disabled children, their families, and business owners that we work with, and include them in PPE packs to enable staff to continue reaching rural areas. We are in awe of these women - on the frontline, continuing to work, whilst the lockdown added to the burden of domestic work with children out of school. True heroes!



Small Business Owners - Beyond Mentoring

In a year that has been tougher than ever for small start-ups, we have supported 5 talented entrepreneurs to complete their first year of the BizATE programme and become ATE-certified successful businesses. These small businesses have made good profits and positive impacts on their community, providing employment and training opportunities for others. Ali's Poultry Farm is one of these businesses: "ATE don't just give seed money, they help you to fully establish the business. I have learnt so much from my mentor, and I apply it in my work."

SNAP - Above and Beyond

Our Special Needs Awareness Programme is always vital, providing support for the most vulnerable - but never more so than in 2020. Our SNAP team really did go above and beyond this year. At the beginning of the pandemic, when we were unsure about the extent of the virus, the team continued to put the needs of our beneficiaries at the heart of all decision making. Kaamil and Ernestina showed incredible versatility, switching to an emergency aid programme overnight, working on the frontline, with the rest of the Ghana team supporting. There is no doubt that this work saved lives - we want to celebrate this.



Trustee Spotlight - Pete Willetts

People across the whole ATE family have stepped up to the challenges that 2020 has brought - not least our ever humble, ever marvellous, trustee Pete Willetts. We want to publicly acknowledge his much-increased contribution of time, his leadership on challenging areas of work, his unwavering support of our financial processes, and his willingness to jump in to help when needed.



Super Starr

The newest member of our team, Starr Gaanu Saa-Eru, joined the ATE family in February as a Hub Support Assistant. With a national lockdown commencing in March, Starr massively stepped up to the plate, becoming an integral part of the team showing dedication, drive and genuine passion for the work. We are delighted that he has now been promoted to a Hub Manager, and we can't wait to see him develop the Bagri Hub even further!



Global Good Award

In September, we were proudly awarded the silver Community Partnerships Award 2020 by Global Good Awards. This is for our innovative BizATE programme upskilling entrepreneurs in Lawra, supported by our project partners the Commercial Education Trust. We celebrate the recognition of our programme and the impact it makes in growing and ensuring the survival of small businesses in an extremely challenging economic environment.



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