Project Location

Country: Ghana
City: Takoradi

Organization

Organization Name: To Be Worldwide
Organization Type: Other
Specify: Non-Government Organization

Website

www.tobeworldwide.org

Privacy Law

Consenso al trattamento dei dati personali
Do you authorize the FMD to the treatment of your personal data?: I do authorize the FMD to the

Project Type

Education up to 15 years

Project Description

Description Frase (max. 500 characters):

The "I Want To Be Program opens the minds of children and their families to what they can become in their communities. It leads the kids on a journey of self-discovery using interviews with local professionals, teamwork and field trips to companies. The program is a combination of a computer application, homework assignments and field visits.

Project Summary (max. 2000 characters):

To Be Worldwide, founded in 2002 by Nellie Kirschner-Timmer (Ghanaian/Dutch), developed the concept of an Educational Resource Centers **(ERC)** to help children ages 6-15 of predominately from public schools were facilities are lacking, realize their full potential. The Centres include a computer lab with 40 computers, a children's library and lessons programs. Over 12000 children have enrolled at our Centres. We cooperate closely with the Ghana Education Services, providing computer lessons to local schools during school hours as well. To Be Worldwide is registered in Ghana and the Netherlands, with a full board in each country. She has won the Global Junior Award in 2009 for her work.

Helping children realize their full potential for a better future includes helping them understand their talents and how to develop these. And most important "why" they need to be developed and what opportunities this can lead to.

An expanding middle class and recent oil finds off the coast introduce a host of new career opportunities. Children in Ghana, however, have a narrow and often unrealistic view of career options. When researching kids' ambitions, 95% of children told us they wanted to be a 'doctor' or 'lawyer'. It is also uncommon for children to voice their own opinions in Ghana, given the large role family and church play in their lives. Children base their ambitions on what their environment thinks will bring them status and wealth. As a result, with no understanding of the possibilities and with immediate financial needs pressing, most children forgo higher education. They leave school at age 16 to take a low paying job and help out with the family's finances.

Compounding this issue is the fact that Ghana's schools offer limited career counseling. Children choose orientation courses in Junior High School without much awareness on how this relates to careers. Many teachers don't know the steps towards a certain career either. Children generally pick the same courses their friends have selected.

To help children and their parents explore more realistic career goals and understand paths to achieve them, To Be Worldwide developed the **"I Want To Be" Program**. View a short demo of the application here http://www.cnote.nl/tobe/demo/demo.html [1] . (Demo mentions a 2 month period. With all learnings it is now run in 3 weeks consecutively).

How long has your project been running?

2015-04-01 00:00:00

Objectives and Innovative Aspects

The '**I Want To Be' Program** and computer application aims to open the minds of children and their families to what they can become in their communities, and encourage them to stay in school longer. The program leads the kids on a journey of self-discovery using interviews with local professionals, teamwork and field trips to companies.

Children are selected to participate in this program by the Ghana Education Services in cooperation with the To Be Worldwide Team. This allows us to put together a group of

children from members of the Education Centre and children from local public schools.

A typical "I Want To Be" Program is run over a period of 3 weeks with sessions of 4 hours a day. Homework assignments are also part of the program. 40 children are offered the opportunity to participate. A carefully selected team, including members of the Ghana Education Services, is responsible for running the program. The parents of the children are also involved at different stages during the program, to ensure their commitment to the changes and ideas their children may want and have. Children and their parents are invited to an introductory session, where the goals of the program are explained and the expectations from all parties are discussed. On 2 occasion groups of children will visit companies to learn about their operations and they also visit Professionals to interview them and learn about their jobs. On return to the Centre, the groups prepare their presentation for their fellow students and their parents who are then invited.

The children learn what the career opportunities are in their communities, while improving their writing, presentation and computer skills. At the end of the course, they are able to voice their own desires and ideas about their future.

View a short demo of the application here http://www.cnote.nl/tobe/demo/demo.html [1] (Demo mentions a 2 month period. With all learnings it is now run in 3 weeks consecutively).

Results

Describe the results achieved by your project How do you measure (parameters) these. (max. 2000 characters): The "I Wa...
its objecti...
opportuni...
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such as F...
program ...
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How many users interact with your project monthly and what are the preferred forms of interaction? (max. 500 characters):

The ERC where the "I Want To Be" program is run, has 1000 individual new enrolments annually, plus 7 schools with a class of approx. 45 children each (total 315 weekly) that follow ICT courses. The "I Want To Be" Program caters to 40 children annually (permitted by budget). Weekly we welcome over 500 children. We have not measured what the interaction is on a monthly basis.

Children visit the Centre to read and borrow books, follow reading classes, work with educational material, take ICT classes and use the e-learning material. They can also take part in creative activities such as drawing.

Sustainability

What is the full duration of your project (from beginning to end)?: From 1 to 3 years
What is the approximate total budget for your project (in Euro)?: Less than 10.000 Euro
What is the source of funding for your project?: Grants
Specify: To run an " I Want To Be" Program for 40 children over a period of 3 weeks is € 3500 per session.
Is your project economically self sufficient now?: No

Transferability

Has your project been replicated/adapted elsewhere?: No
Where? By whom?: Our project has not been replicated by others yet, however we do hope to be in a [...] soon to share with others
What lessons can others learn from your project? (max. 1500 characters):

We have learnt that the [...]
children participating. T[...]
addressed by the progra[...]

We feel that we could h[...]
children that are layered[...]
children participating.

To make such programs[...]
Education, Schools, par[...]
because a sense of own[...]
Education is essential to[...]

By documenting most o[...]
Want To Be" Program, [...]
partner organizations in[...]
and on the job training a[...]

Are you available to help others to start or work on similar projects?: Yes

Background Information

Barriers and Solutions (max. 1000 characters): Since we have been active in the communities in Tak[...]
a child's right to learn and develop at risk. These ofte[...]
choosing not to permit their children to part-take in ac[...]

them to the market to sell items or to help around the house with younger siblings. In such cases, we invited parents to discuss the issues, point out the benefits of the programs, work to find a suitable time schedule and with the support of the counsellor of the Ghana Education Services (GES) and head-teachers of the schools, we are often successful. However, every new government election brings changes to our relationship with the Ghana Education Services. It then requiring us to go back and re-establish those relations. Our ability to expand our programs and service within the communities in a timely manner depends on how successful we are in building such a relationship.

Future plans and wish list (max. 750 characters): The computer application of the "I Want To Be" Pr... then took 2 years to test the program and run the i... for input so that we could make improvements as v... possibilities in software development and sufficient... realise that the application needs to be redesigned... application will allow us to develop one that will be... different platforms. We could also create a "white la... customize it to their needs. For this we would requi... developer to help us realise this objective

Attachments: 📄 A short discription and fotos of the "I Want To Be" Program [2]
📄 Comments by Parents on the outcome experienced of the program [3]
📄 Newsletter on our activities incl. I Want To Be [4]
📄 Newsletter on our activities incl. I Want To Be [5]

ICT Education and Career Orientation [6]

Fondazione Mondo Digitale
Via del Quadraro, 102 / 00174 - Roma (Italia)

Source URL: https://www.gjc.it/en/progetti/i-want-be-program

Links
[1] http://www.cnote.nl/tobe/demo/demo.html
[2] https://www.gjc.it/sites/default/files/i_want_to_be_report.pdf
[3] https://www.gjc.it/sites/default/files/iwtb_outcome_parents.doc
[4] https://www.gjc.it/sites/default/files/newsletter_julydec2016.pdf
[5] https://www.gjc.it/sites/default/files/newsletterjanjune2016.pdf
[6] https://www.gjc.it/en/keywords-separate-commas/ict-education-and-career-orientation