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Stichting De Mangoboom

NEWSLETTER 37 – MAY 2020

Dear friends of De Mangoboom!

Thank you so much for your support for our charity. Amidst the limitations put on our freedom to move about due to the Corona crisis we send you this update from our children in Burkina Faso.

MANGO TIME

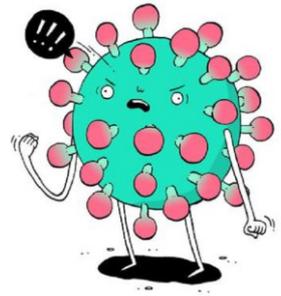
Let us start with the most important news: it is mango season again! The trees are filled with sweet and juicy mangos. In the past, we actually planted a mango tree ourselves. It is marvelous to see how in the span of a few years a seedling manages to grow into a strong tree with fruit hanging low. That's why the mango tree is (still) such a good metaphor for the work of our center.



CORONA IN BURKINA FASO

Sadly, the Corona virus has reached West-Africa as well. In the beginning of March a few people tested positive for COVID-19. That was immediately a close call for us as among the people infected were a pastor of a large church in Ouagadougou and his wife. One of our workers goes to that church. According to official numbers there are hundreds of infections and dozens of people have died as a result of the virus.

Like here in the West, measures have been taken to prevent the virus from spreading. Schools are closed as are churches, mosques, and markets. Unlike the West, however, healthcare is not well-prepared for an epidemic.



In some parts of the country hospitals and clinics are actually closed because of the threat of terrorism. Furthermore, there aren't many beds in the hospitals, let alone isolation rooms. In many hospitals, patients are everywhere to be found: in the hallways, on the ground, and close together. Additionally, people are malnourished while the malaria season awaits us. A humanitarian disaster awaits.





For the children the virus means no school. There are rather strict limitation as to where they can and cannot go. They would like to visit friends but there are already infections in the village. We aim to keep the gate of the center closed as much as possible. We also strive to teach the children even more hygienic care than usual.



ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF

“Hi, I’m Viviane. I’m twelve years old and am in secondary school. Blue is my favorite colour and my favorite animal is the chicken.

I’m dreaming of having a large bakery in Burkina when I grow up where I’ll make all kinds of delicious things. That’s why already now I love to help in the kitchen in my spare time. Sadly my school has been closed for more than a month. But it allows me to spend more time in the kitchen.”



GOAT

You probably know what a stubborn goat is. We’ve had to deal with one in the children’s center recently. In n earlier letter we mentioned our small-scale livestock farming effort. We have chickens and goats. Lots of chickens and two goats. Until recently.

One of the goats was a particular nuisance. It was impossible to have him around. Whenever he could, he would eat from our garden. He ate all kinds of things, attacked people, and did a many other naughty things.



We needed a solution because things were running out of hand. Fortunately Easter was around the corner. This was the right occasion for a get together of all the children and the care takers. Such a get together requires a good meal. Guess what? There was goat on the menu!

THANKS AND PRAYERS

- 🌿 We give thanks for everyone’s continued health so far and for the mangos that the children are able to enjoy in the current heat season. (We’re grateful for the mango tree as well!)
- 🌿 Pray for the protection of children and workers against the Corona virus.
- 🌿 Pray for the future of Burkina Faso as it suffers under the virus as well as terrorism. Also pray for the future of the children in this country.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS!

On behalf of the children in Burkina Faso.