



Dear friends,

Last month we paid an exploratory working visit to Jordan, the third country where we want to start activities. Jordan has played an intermediary role in the Middle East for decades. They have taken in millions of refugees over the years; especially from Palestine, from Iraq and in recent years from Syria. The so-called "reception in the region". The country takes its responsibility in this, but that weighs heavily on the national budget and infrastructure. All moral and financial help is more than welcome, and we would like to contribute to that.

At the beginning of April I was also on a working visit to Togo. In addition to distributing French, English and German letters, we worked with the director of APEM on the project to build a school for deaf children, we met and coached young people we support financially, made videos and photos for educational material for students in the Netherlands and the USA and facilitated an English lesson at the English Club.

As for Friendshifts, we continue to grow: in Myanmar, Su Hlaing Htet has become our contact person. She takes care of all letter exchanges and Zoom contacts on site. Nadia Barbar is the new volunteer who translates the Jordanian culture and the Arabic language for us. Titasha Banerjee takes care of communication on social media, maybe you noticed :-). In March and April we had 4 helpful interns from the OLZ. We have started with a new school in Togo: Lycée d'Agou. And... we have a new business partner: Mendix!!

We are looking for more serious volunteers for administrative and logistical support, among other things. Are you or do you know someone who would like to take this on, please send a message.

Our new partner : Mendix

Mendix, a Siemens business, is originally a Dutch software company that has developed a low-code platform which enables building mobile and web applications.

They don't focus on what they do themselves, but on what others can do with their support. The slogan is: Go make it. This slogan is also leading their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities. Friendshifts is 1 of the 3 charities they support. Last January, all employees were able to donate an amount to 1 or more of the 3 charities. We will use Mendix's donation to build two classrooms for deaf children in Togo. Even though the children are deaf, with Mendix's support they too can get an education and "go and make it".



Hello Jordan

During our visit we became acquainted with several local organizations. **Ruwwad** organizes, among other things, programs for children from a deprived area of Amman. In October, 25 children will write letters with students from Trilium in Paris.

I Learn offers programs to, among other things, develop self-study skills, teach critical thinking and increase self-confidence of young people in refugee camps and poor communities. In the autumn we will start a pilot to bring teenagers from Jordan into contact with students in the Netherlands. We have also had meetings with **Tammei Youth Development**, **Madrasati** and **Eureka Tech** and are now looking at what we can develop together.



A winner of the "beautiful-letter-contest"



Field coordinator Kenda of I Learn explains the activities like IT courses and art classes.



Fun during photo shoot in Togo.



Exchanges with Myanmar started

Pupils of Trilium International School in Paris and pupils of English A3/G3 of the Drachtster Lyceum have written letters with residents of the Golden House in Myanmar. In June we will establish Zoom contacts to learn even more from each other and to practice English language skills.



Togolese teachers follow IT course

With help of Amorph Systems, we fund an introductory course in computer skills for the entire team at the Lycée d'Agou in Togo. The participants learn to use the computer and discover all possibilities of the internet; open an e-mail address, Wikipedia, You Tube tutorials, Google Translate etcetera. They will use the many resources and teach even better to the underprivileged students of the school.



Schools in Myanmar open again

On June 1, schools in Myanmar will finally open again. This also applies to the PDO High School in Mandalay. Children who were temporarily with family during the Corona crises and the political unrest, are now coming back to the Golden House. The students have had no education for 2 years. The backlogs are huge. Together with our partner World Child Care, we provide financial support for new school uniforms.

Thank-you-drink big succes

On April 24, we were able to meet many of you during the "thank you drink". In the sun-drenched garden of our secretary Marjan van Ham, visitors could taste Togolese and Myanmar snacks, view many of our educational materials, meet each other (sometimes for the first time) and enjoy a beautiful concert by Harvest Moon. Next year again. Be welcome again.



Thank you for your support and interest!!
Thanks to you we are able to make a lot of impact.



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