

# Baobab Children Foundation

## Ghana | Westafrika



**Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand**

**Newsletter February 2018**

**Dear friends, dear supporters,**

On behalf of all staff members of Baobab and the children we work for, I would like to thank you for your active support in 2017. I would also like to thank all of you who support Baobab so energetically at stands or other activities in Germany. We are not many people in Germany, but those who are still active in the action group are doing even more. Medase papaapa!

My call for donations for Christmas was successful. We have achieved our goals. We were able to buy a brush cutter and a new lawnmower.



The brushcutter and responsible Mr. Barnabas

The 10,000, - € for the Health Center has come together. Share1love collected 5,500, - € and we collected 4,500, - €. Since the money from Share1love came together through collective donations, it could be possible that the Zukunftsstiftung can double that amount. Then we would have 15,500, - € and could start construction. Meanwhile, the plans for the Health Center have grown a bit and we believe that we would need 20,000 euros to complete this project. But we will start and build so that afterwards an extension is possible.

**A big thank you to all the donors.**

**WE HELP- THANKS TO YOUR DONATION!**

## Visitors at Baobab

At the moment we have more and more visitors who want to visit the Baobab Center. It seems to have got around that Baobab is a special project in Ghana. Some are European student groups that want to learn about sustainable human development aid in a small project.



Students from Skandinavia



Looking for the culture children

While others are visitors who want to learn from us as they want to build a project themselves. Friday we had a visit from a group of organic farmers from Ireland and UK, who are traveling by bicycle. Since we had our Farm day, all of our farmers were around and had in depth conversations with our guests. Later on, it was said that they learned a lot from each other.



The visitors are allowed to stay overnight with us.



Presentation of our farm manager and the farmer

These visits are becoming more and more complicated for us and therefore we now have an entrance fee for groups. We also tell individuals that we are looking forward to a donation. Now that the Center has grown, the tour takes 1-2 hours. Mostly, they also wish to speak with the management. Often we have to change the program because they want to see students in the workshops. Friday is farm day and a popular visitor day, but generally unfavorable for us.

Of course, we are very happy about the great response from visitors, because it is also a sign to our employees and students that Baobab is „special“. They are really proud to work and learn at Baobab.

### **Wasserprojekt: Water is life.**

The water project was started in December with the rainwater reservoir and a well drilling test. Walther Mann has also managed to find sponsors for two solar pumps. They are again sponsored by managing directors, companies and private individuals from Würzburg.

**Many thanks to Walther and all the sponsors.**



the current status of the water reservoir

## Beposo Project

Good news: the papers are ready now!

Unfortunately, the surveyor betrayed us and misappropriated the money we paid him to register the land and disappeared. We had to start the whole process from the beginning, but we are now through. It is something that can happen to anyone, even to an experienced manager like Alhaji. The Ghanaian courts mostly have to deal with land problems like this. That's why Alhaji waited until the land officially belongs to us, before we invest more. Then we also had to face one more problem: the chief wanted to sell the land to someone else unless we give him „ something“.

This is not legal, as the piece of land in front of our land can be used by us. But this is the negative side of the Chieftancy culture in Ghana: they are so powerful that you pay reluctantly as it can make life difficult for you otherwise. Nevertheless it looks like we can start now. The former students are already waiting to finally start working there.

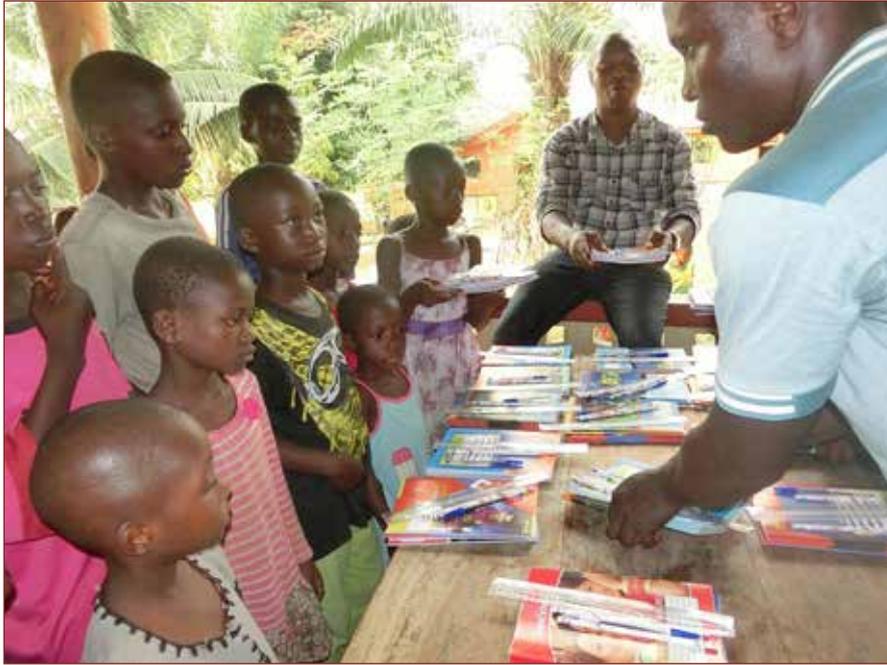
„With god's grace we will start very soon,“ said Headmaster Mr Divine.

## Baobab Culture Troupe

Some of the Culture Troupe children come from distant villages and are therefore always late for training. Derrick, the leader of the troupe, applied for bicycles for these children. At the beginning of each term, we also give books and pencils to the children. The parents were invited and the bicycles were issued on the condition that the children regularly come to the training. If they stop, they have to return the bikes.



Bicycle kids with parents



Notebooks for the school visit

### **Drumming and marching for Ghana's Independence 61 years ago**

Every March 6th, students of Ghana march in memory of Ghana's independence. The training often begins weeks before. Sometimes schools are awarded, if they march well and salute imaginatively as they march past the dignitaries. Baobab also participates. This year the students began to practice one month before. My appeals to not start everything at the last minute seem to work out. Our wheelchair users will participate as well to let the public see that we are an inclusive school.



It will be rehearsed for the 6th of March

## Report from Josef about his volunteer work at Baobab

It is 8 o'clock and I start my morning with a cup of coffee, breakfast from the school kitchen and the news show from the previous evening. Strengthened by the meal I am ready for my daily routine. Mr. Boady is already waiting for me at our Organic Farm. Together with my farm mates Akon and Thomas we begin to dig up the numerous beds. We plant tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, carrots and peppers. At the moment we have to water a lot, because the dry season has affected the plants a great deal. But we are in good spirits, as our new seedlings, especially the peppers, are developing splendidly. In order to maintain this condition, we spray the plants with our self-produced pesticides. Neem oil (insecticidal action), chilli and garlic mixed with water protects our farm from insect damage. Despite my (initial) non-existent green fingers, working on the farm gives me a lot of pleasure. Precisely because I have found in Mr. Boady a very intelligent and pleasant contemporary. We are both fascinated by the world news, and we enjoy discussing political topics as well as critical social issues every day.

Around 12:00 the bell rings for lunch, which we volunteers take with the students in the Dining Hall. The kitchen is really outstanding especially on Mondays, because then they cook my favorite food: rice with a stew of onions. Probably doesn't sound so delicious, but trust me, it is!

Afterwards I either work again on the farm or I have time to rest. At 3:30 the practical workshops are over and the students have their leisure time. It's not a problem to keep the guys busy, the girls are more difficult for me to deal with. When I arrived six months ago, only a handful were really ready to play sports. However, over time, more and more started showing an interest in playing volleyball. And through tournaments organized on the weekends, the motivation is constantly increasing

After dinner at 5 pm, Julia, Johannes and I call for homework supervision, also called „Prep“. For about an hour we offer the children the opportunity to do their homework in the Dining Hall. Of course, we support with advice, but I honestly have to tell you that I actually reach my modest limits when it comes to maths questions for the upper class ... luckily there is Johannes. If there is no homework, many children come to improve their reading and writing skills. Sometimes I grab a picture book and organize a kind of spelling challenge with the students.

The weekend offers us the greatest freedom. Whether football tournaments, bike tours or board games. No one is putting a spoke in our wheel, we can follow our creativity.

Given this opportunity I would like to mention that I am very proud of my „Moringa group“. On Saturdays from 10-12 clock 4 guys and 2 girls produce together with me many products for our shop in Cape Coast. Thanks to the new solar dryer, we can produce papaya, lemongrass, citronella or Moringa tea (or powder) within a very short time. In addition to manufacturing, the students also get to know the medicinal effects of the products.

Josef Reichel, Kissi

## **DONATION ACCOUNT**

### **Donations**

**Good news: The Zukunftsstiftung is doubling again this year**

**Collective donations up to 10.000,- €.**

**Many thanks to Mrs. Dr Massmann and her colleagues.**

#### **Important:**

It must be passed on to the Zukunftsstiftung, from which collection the donation was made.  
Beate.Oladeji@gls-treuhand.de

#### **Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung**

DE05 43060967 0012330010

BIC: GENODEM1GLS

**Code word:** Baobab Sammelspende

For transfers, please specify the address. Or send to Mrs. Oladeji.

#### **Please send single donations or sponsor donations to our account at the aaD:**

africa action/Deutschland e.V.

Pax-Bank eG Köln

IBAN DE03 3706 0193 0000 9988 77

GENODED1PAX

Code word: GH 75 BAOBAB

**Thank you very much to all the donors and sponsors.**

**WE HELP- THANKS TO YOUR DONATION**

---

#### **CONTACT:**

##### **SPONSORSHIP**

Monika Lockemann

patenschaften@baobab-children.de

Tel +49-711-728 5638

##### **EVENTS, VOLUNTEERS, GENERAL**

Edith de Vos Managing director of Baobab Children Foundation

WhatsApp +233 244723241

ghana@baobab-children.de

Edith de Vos is in Germany once a year for 4 months from May and can be invited to lectures, markets, events.

##### **GENERAL INFORMARION ABOUT BAOBAB**

Heiner Kirsch

heinrich.kirsch@t-online.de

Tel +49-761-6963302

##### **FINANCES AND DONATION CERTIFICATES**

Frank Gottschalk info@africa-action.de

Address:

africa action/Deutschland e. V.

Südweststraße 8

50126

Bergheim

Tel: +49-2271 - 767540

##### **FUNDRAISING & ART EXHIBITION**

Stuttgart

Monika Lockemann

fundraising@baobab-children.de