

Baobab Children Foundation Ghana | Westafrika



Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand NEWSLETTER OKTOBER 2020

Dear friends and supporters of Baobab,

Over 4 months have passed since the last newsletter reached you. I stayed in Ghana until the end of June, which is when I came to Germany on an evacuation flight, organised by German Ghanaians. Sadly all of the events we usually take a part in to sell school products were cancelled. Basically I spent most of my time here on holiday in and around Freiburg, which was nice for a change.

In the meantime, life in Ghana continued under corona conditions.

The Ghanaian government has dealt with the pandemic quite well

Early on the washing of hands and keeping your distance became a prominent aspect of everyday life. People started wearing masks around the same time they did in Germany. Taxis and Trotros were less loaded and a lot of testing was done. Contact tracing was very intensive e.g. if one person in a village tested positive, the whole village was tested. The borders were closed early on and everyone who entered the country, on special flights, had to spend two weeks in quarantine in a designated hotel – at their own expense!

Since September 1st international flights were allowed again, but the land and sea routes are still closed. With a negative test you are allowed to check in and have to pay \$150 again on arrival at the airport for a quick 30 minute test. If the test is negative you may continue your journey, if not you have to go into state quarantine.

As at October 6th, there were a total of 46,987 infected. Currently 303 are infected, of which 15 are seriously ill. 306 people have passed away due to Covid-19.

The children are the ones who suffer



All schools were closed down in March. In June the exam students were allowed to come and take their exams: JHS 3 and SSS 3, as well as the vocational students of NVTI (which includes our exam students).

On October 5th all JHS 2, SSS 2 and vocational students who are taking their exams next year were allowed to come back to school. Apart from the students that did their exam in July, all of our students can now come back to our school.

All other students must stay at home. This is total chaos, since most of these children are completely left to themselves, without home-schooling and most work on the streets or in the fields. When they get back, they will have been away from school for almost a year with no structure and no one who really cares, except in rich families. This is something the government hasn't done well at all! 2020 is election year in Ghana as well and in December the new president will be elected. The politicians are interested in different things because students are too young to vote. The children are left out in terms of education, but the churches have opened again.

Baobab takes initiative and helps

As an NGO we have an obligation to alleviate need, which is why we have decided to help.

1500 masks were sewn and donated



Emmanuel helps sewing masks

Two Veronica Buckets, liquid soap and disinfectant were donated to the market and the Health Center in Kissi



We provided the Metropolitan Hospital with healthy food and Moringa juices for the Covid-19 patients. At first ten, then fifteen and in August only 5 patients were stationed at the hospital and had food provided by us. In mid-September we started again with six meals for the patients and health workers. At the moment we are down to two patients.



All of our students in the villages received a food donation and masks.



Meeting with parents and students: Education about Covid 19

This was only possible because of donations we received from multiple people, a special thanks goes to the “Zukunftsstiftung” which has actively supported our will to help

Thank you to everyone who supported us during this difficult time.

Gari production from our own Cassava plants

Since the students were not there, we had too much cassava on our farm. A former student with her family was called to make Gari for us from the cassava. Gari can be kept for a long time and is part of daily food in Ghana.

Using the simplest methods, they built fireplaces, brought a mill with them and, with the help of the few students present, Gari was produced which we can use for the next few months.



Comforts whole family has come.



The fresh peeled cassava is ground.



The ground cassava is dried and roasted.

New activities are planned now

After receiving a rejection from the German Embassy in April, they contacted us again. There were funds left over this year and they were willing to finance another project. Unfortunately the food donation to the hospital could not be financed by the Embassy.

Nine schools in our area and two health centers will get a new kind of water container, soap, disinfectant and masks. Our employees at Baobab House will be sewing another 2000 masks since they don't have much to do at the moment due to the lack of guests. This will also help us to finance them. Students at the school will support the sewing of masks.

Thank you very much to the German Embassy in Accra.

Good intentions – but not so good after all

Last year we worked on a concept to reduce costs and developed a new system. Whoever brought a child to us should contribute to the cost of food instead of paying only 30 Cedis Commitment Fee per term. We decided on 420 Cedis per term (about 63€). Those who couldn't afford it could apply to pay less. But, as a result, only eight new students, of about 30 who registered, started the new school year in January. In particular our main target group did not come. Our Ghanaian colleagues had already warned that this would happen.

Now we have to get back together and come up with something new. It is very difficult to finance a vocational and boarding school for the poorest without donations and sponsors. I had always hoped that we could make enough through production and income from Baobab House so that we would be less dependent on donations.

We could change our target group and raise school fees, like other private schools are doing, but then we would lose our goal to “empower the disadvantaged”.

Wonderful news

In the past seven months since the Corona virus pandemic started, we have got six new sponsors. Normally, if we're lucky, we get one or two each year and sometimes none at all.

This is something that caused us all a lot of joy. Thank you, for thinking about us.

I asked one of our new sponsors how she had found us. She had known Baobab for some time through an uncle and also received our newsletter. I would like to quote her on why she wants to be a sponsor:

“... I have been living in Düsseldorf since my art studies. This year here in NRW, when there was surprisingly good support for artists due to the consequences of the Corona restrictions, I decided that I would like to pass on some of this. It was especially important to me to look for a project in which art, culture and also sustainability play an important role. And that is why I decided to sponsor Baobab. I am incredibly happy to sponsor Abigail!”

Thank you!

The Corona virus did not stop us

Since mid-April my Ghanaian colleges have achieved a lot.

- The Baobab House was renovated when I was still in Ghana
- The Bicycle Workshop was renovated and now has a new roof
- The Carpentry, Cane & Bamboo, Batik and Sewing Workshop had many orders to finish
- The Moringa production was able to continue
- The work on the farm continued
- We were able to sew a total of 3000 masks



New roof for our Bicycle Workshop

DONATIONS DONATIONS DONATIONS

1. We are looking for donations to support our food supply for the Covid-19 patients and health workers.

To finance one week of food (6 meals and 6 Moringa juices x 5 days at 5 € for each supply) we currently require 150 €

2. We will be sending a container to Ghana in November

Due to the Corona virus “Fahrräder für Afrika” (“Bicycles for Africa”) was not able to collect enough bicycles.

They can be delivered to the Wagenhallen in Stuttgart on Thursdays 03.00 – 06.00 pm and Saturdays 11.00 am – 03.00 pm.

We are looking for:

bicycles
wheelchairs
sewing machines
carpentry tools and machines
First Aid materials

Address:

Innerer Nordbahnhof 1, 70191 Stuttgart
Contact Georg Leitner
E-Mail: tus-georg@t-online.de

3. And as always, we are still looking for new sponsors to help us with the running costs of our organization

The usual contribution is 30 € per month.

Whole classes at school can also become donors: for 25 children that would be 2 € per month each.

Here is the link to our homepage:

<https://www.baobab-children-foundation.de/en/about-us/sponsorship/>

Whoever wants to help, no matter how big or small the donation, can either donate via Paypal directly on our website or via

africa action/Deutschland e.V.
Pax-Bank eG Köln
IBAN DE03 3706 0193 0000 9988 77
GENODED1PAX
Kennwort: GH 75 BAOBAB

Please state the password as well as your address for a donation receipt!

Thank you to all donors.

WE HELP – THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS!

Best wishes from Ghana from Edith de Vos and the Baobab Team

GHANA

DONATION ACCOUNT

africa action/Deutschland e.V.
Pax-Bank eG Köln
IBAN DE03 3706 0193 0000 9988 77
GENODED1PAX
Code word: GH 75 BAOBAB

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