

# Baobab Children Foundation Ghana | Westafrica



## Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

Dear friends and supporter of Baobab,

I have been back in Ghana since the end of October. My trip was effected by extremely strict Corona conditions: a negative test in Germany (I did mine in the airport so I could be sure I would have my results in time), another negative test in Accra (which was organized perfectly and very quick). From the moment I entered the airport in Frankfurt to the parking lot in Accra I had to wear the medical mask. The next day I drove in my own car to Cape Coast and there I realized that for most Ghanaians Corona is over already, but unfortunately this is a fallacy. The numbers are relatively low, we can do anything and sometimes we have to wear masks (banks, big stores, church, ...), but recently the numbers went up a bit, right now there are 930 people who have been tested positive and 327 have passed away due to the virus.

„The sea is coming home“

### Ghana and Sea Defence - Partly necessary and often destroying the beauty of Ghana's coastline

The first thing that caught my eye was the extremely ugly sea defence. Ghanaians refer to the rising sea as “the sea is coming home”. Even before I travelled to Germany, they had vehemently started to protect the towns and villages against the rising sea. The result is truly not pretty. Huge mountains of boulders are partly artfully piled up, partly simply dumped. Which now can be found right at my doorstep as well. My beautiful rocks facing the sea have been files in and I now have a “seafront” between me and the sea.



Unnecessary sea defence; beautiful rocks got buried in concrete.



Here it makes sense, since it protects the main road between Accra and the Ivory Coast.



**An example of how Oasis Beach in Cape Coast was destroyed.**

### **The Baobab School**

The students are allowed to attend school, starting on October 5th, for two months. Junior Highschool 2, Senior Highschool 2 and vocational students that are writing there exams next year. Since we are such a small school, all students were allowed to come to us. Eight of our students have not come back because of various reasons: girls are pregnant, boys are taking too long now, since they have practically lost one year.



**One of hundreds of Pragias in Cape Coast.**

They have started working as carpenters and tailors or driving Okada (motorcycle taxi) and Piaggia, which are motorcycles with small open passenger cars behind them, which meanwhile make traffic unsafe throughout the Cape Coast area, but are very popular because they are cheaper than taxis. the Ghanaians call it Pragia.

The students who came were very happy and it was really fun to experience them like this.

Some complained that they had just started at Baobab, when they had to return home for almost seven month to help the family on the farm or selling. They'd have forgotten everything and had to start over. Yes, that was also reported by teachers, especially in the practical subjects. In July 18 students were allowed to come to take their exams, but the stayed at home because we were not allowed to have too many students.

Some advanced students came back only to make their masks. A total of about 6000 masks were sewn. It is great to see what the school and the Baobab House were able to do. Here is a walk through the workshops.



**The work of the batik workshop**



**One hundred of these woven coasters got commissioned as gifts.**



Sarah, the only girl in Cane & Bamboo.



Madam Pamela and her students at the sewing department.



The carpenters



Print of new shirts for the next year.



Catering students present their achievements.



Kente weaving.

## Ordering of masks

The Zukunftsstiftung had ordered 1900 masks for the Christmas letters to its donors. They were sewn by students as well as former students who work in the Baobab House. That was great action. Many thanks to the Zukunftsstiftung for allowing us to take over this project. It was really stressful for everyone, as there was a time limit so that they could arrive in Germany in time. But especially for the employees at the Baobab House, any challenge was welcome to be able to do at least something for their salary, when they already had little to do.

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## Covid 19 Relief Program

In addition, the German Embassy in Accra contacted us to ask if they could fund a Covid 19 relief project after they had turned me down in April. There was money left over. Quickly a plan was forged, cost estimates were made and the embassy accepted the most expensive project that my colleagues had developed.

2000 masks for 10 of the surrounding schools and two health centers (Kissi and far inland Anween), 12 luxurious Veronica Buckets with sink foot pedals etc. liquid soap (made by Baobab House), disinfectant and paper rolls. On December 9th, a committee of staff and students went by bus and pickup truck to the schools and health centers to distribute the donations. In a moment, pupils were “admonishing” bicycles because their way to school was so far. A beautiful and very successful action.

Many thanks to the German Embassy for this support.

<https://www.baobab-children-foundation.de/de/baobab-hilft/>

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## Baobab House

The Baobab House suffers silently because there are hardly any guests. Income is sparse and if the organization did not fund the staff, the house would have to be closed and the staff sent home without pay. Just as the Baobab House supports the school in normal times, they are now funded by Baobab in times of need. Our guests right now are mostly Ghanaians or African Americans. There are almost no “whites” here right now.



The Baobab Shop.



These beautiful fabrics are sold at Baobab House.

African Americans are still numerous in Ghana after the 2019 “Year of Return”. Ghana invites them to come and they get Ghanaian citizenship ver< quickly. Repatriation is what we call it. And they also travel to Ghana, not just to stay here, but to finally get to know the “promised” land they consider home. They don’t seem to have any qualms about that. Even my neighbor’s 95 year old mother dared to make the trip. African Americans find it rather unsafe to be in America with the high number of Corona sufferers and deceased and they feel safer and more welcome here. Rascism in America makes them feel they are not wanted there and Ghana tells them: if they don’t want you there, you are always welcome in Ghana. This opens their hearts as all suffer from racism in America.

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## **A HUGE THANK YOU! MEDASE PAPAAPA**

To put into words how I feel about supporting Baobab in such a difficult year is very difficult. I know that many of our supporters are often in a difficult situation themselves and still think outside the box, where life is even more difficult, which I find remarkable and amazing. I am especially grateful this year that no godparent has resigned, but that we have received an unusually large number of new godparents. This year we got 14 new godparents! I am speechless and thrilled to bits about it. Thank you very much.

The students have written letters to their new godparents with great joy and I have already send them off. The academic teachers were very committed and supportive. Usually the volunteers did this, but now that they couldn’t come the teachers had to do it and they did a great job. Of course, the godchildren would be immensely happy if they received an answer from the godparents. It’s good if they can put a face to the godparent, so a photograph is really appreciated.

### **Here our address:**

name of the child,  
P.O. Box DL 534,  
Cape Coast,  
Ghana

We’ll write the other letters in January, when the students return.



**Stella is reading a letters from her sponsors.**

Due to the greater support from new sponsors, we have abandoned the failed attempt to get the parents/ caretaker of the students to participate in the meal. Everyone now pays 50 GHC commitment fee per term. The students whose sponsirs have increased to 50 € per month do not have to pay the 50 GHC and they get a small pocket money to buy the most necessary things (soap, ... ).

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## Other activities that took place in the last three months

### Artproject by the artstudents

Everywhere on the center we now have beautiful posters.



### Renovating the Volunteers House



The roof was damaged and in danger to collapse.

## Christmas Event of the Walther-Rathenau-Schools in Schweinfurt

In the 4th year the Walther-Rathenau-schools in Schweinfurt, one of our partner schools, financed the traditional Christmas holiday donation. Many thanks to Samuel and Annette, who always organized it and of course to the whole school.



The staff at Baobab House getting rice donations.



The staff at the centre are getting rice donations for Christmas.

## Awards for a few teachers with I-Phones.

11 iPhones were donated by the firm Fehrer in Kitzingen.



Staff getting handed iPhones.



Mr Dela and Vida.

**Lastly, I would like to make an appeal for donations that is very close to my heart.**

We always have students who finish with the foundation exam and then do not progress.

1. A former student, **Emmanuel Frimpong**, is now at the University of Technology studying Fashion and Design because he has a generous sponsor in America who wants to support him until he finishes his studies. He has a salsa school and has only been able to transfer half of his amount for next year due to Corona. It is about 500 € which he is now missing. He does what he can, is always at Baobab House helping sew to work for his food. A wonderful young man who we would love to keep as a teacher for Baobab.



**Vic sewing masks at the school.**

Either we get this amount together with donations or another possibility would be if someone would be willing to take over a sponsorship for her with 80€ per month or two people with 40€ per month each. If you would like to take this on, please contact me.



**Emmanuel Frimpong, dedicated Fashion Designer.**

2. **Vic, Victoria Yawson**, passed her Foundation Exam in 2018 and always wanted to go on to school and study Fashion Design. She had graduated from junior high school before coming to Baobab. Vic has been doing service at Baobab for about one year, helping to sew masks and sewing for clients in her village Kwahinkom (small, small, as the people are very poor). She herself comes from a very poor background and was always among our special needs students because we had to finance everything for her.

Now we have found an opportunity for her at Cape Tech, a technical high school in Cape Coast, to do a technical baccalaureate in Fashion Design in one year, so that she can later study at the Technical University. Vic has always been an exceptionally good student and I would like to make it possible for her to fulfill her dream of a higher education and create a way out of poverty through a scholarship.

**For 1 year she would need 1000,- € for her, which includes:**

<b>Schoolfees</b>	<b>3720 GHC / 531,- €</b>
<b>Food</b>	<b>2000 GHC / 285,- €</b>
<b>Transport</b>	<b>720 GHC / 100,- €</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>588 GHC / 84,- €</b>

**She could live at the Baobab House.**

## **WE HELP – THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS**

Please donate to:

**africa action/Deutschland e.V.**

**Pax-Bank eG Köln**

**IBAN: DE03 3706 0193 0000 9988 77**

**BIC: GENODED1PAX**

**Passwort: GH 75 BAOBAB**

Please enter the password and your address for the donation receipt!

Collective donations for doubling at the Zukunftsstiftung are no longer possible this year.

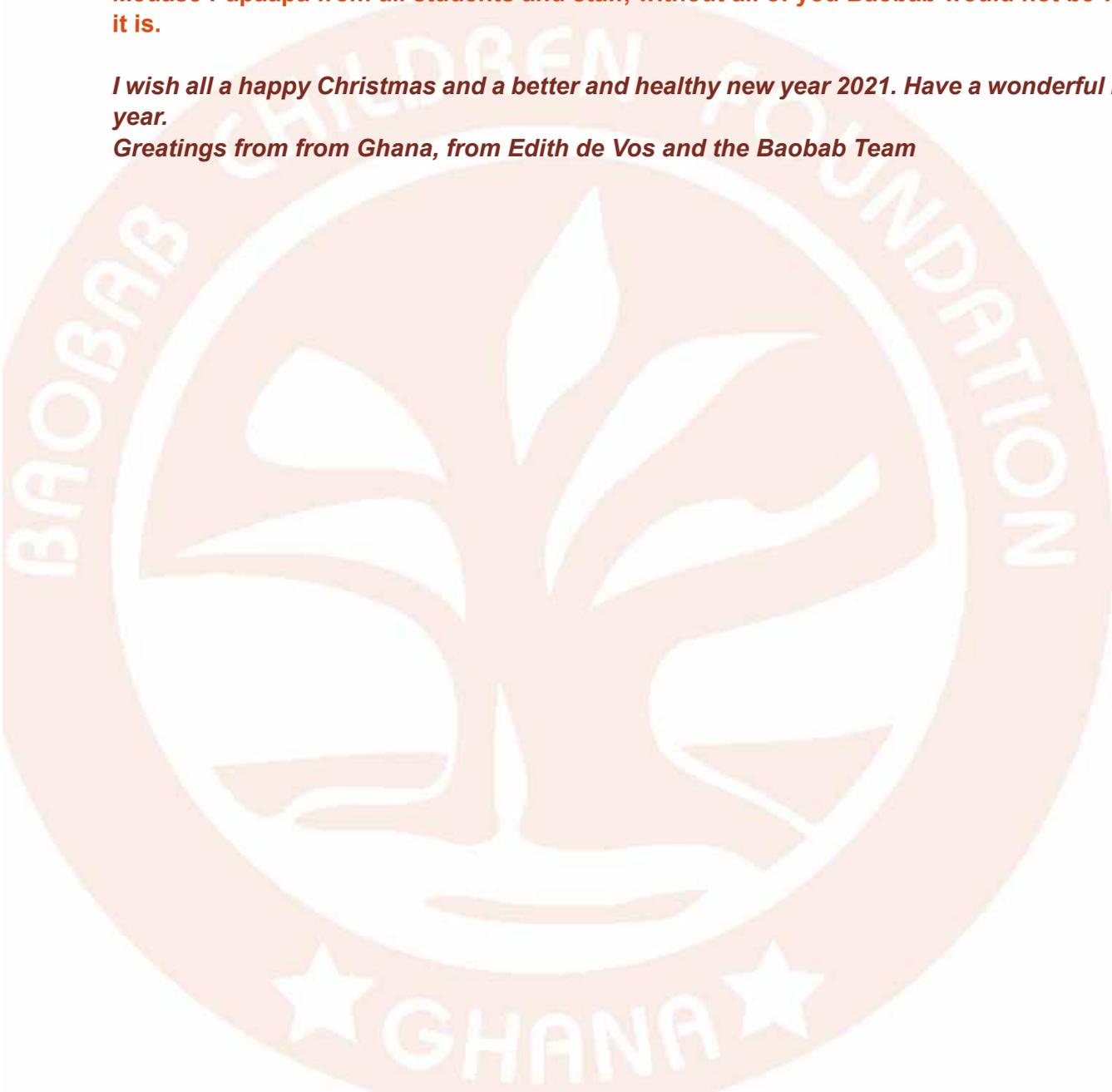
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Once again, a heartfelt thank you to all sponsors and donors, people who in the background advertise for donations and actions, order and fill containers, sew masks, donate rice and all that Baobab has to offer. We remain active and confident and hope for a happy new year 2021.

Medase Papaapa from all students and staff, without all of you Baobab would not be what it is.

*I wish all a happy Christmas and a better and healthy new year 2021. Have a wonderful new year.*

*Greetings from from Ghana, from Edith de Vos and the Baobab Team*



## **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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