

# Baobab Children Foundation Ghana | Westafrika



## **Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand** **NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022**

Dear friends of Baobab,

dear supporters,

It is already vacation season and times are not easy, both in Ghana and in Germany. Nevertheless, I dedicate this newsletter mainly to our celebrations of the 20th anniversary, but I would also like to look into the future.

How will Baobab continue when donations no longer reach Africa these days because there are so many problems on our own doorstep?

Therefore, first a look at our farm project, which requires special attention right now, as it should contribute to the sustainability of Baobab. What can we do in Ghana to continue our work?

### **Baobab Adepa Organic Farms**

The farm already had a small income from moringa and vegetables in the first year but then the dry season caught up with us and we waited longingly for rain. During this time we harvested everything we had planted, supplied the school and the restaurant and also sold quite a bit, especially at the Baobab House and to hotels. Our rainwater lake was unfortunately empty due to the drought and we took advantage of the situation to dredge it a little deeper and bigger, sponsored by the company Warema.



Excavation of the water dam

**Extreme weather events have also arrived in Ghana:**

The dry season is much drier and heavier rains now occur in the rainy season!

What we want to create now, while it is still raining in Ghana:

An overflow basin to catch the overflowing water from the lake also for the dry season. The farm will be equipped with ditches, so that in case of heavy rain the whole farm will not be flooded, as it was the case in the last months.

**Call for donations - Call for donations - Call for donations for an overflow basin**

**Cost: 7.500 €**

**(Due to rocky ground and the extreme increase in prices, it is unfortunately quite expensive)**



Flooded farm area

Also with the help of the company Warema we bought a small van with a cooling system, which is now used to deliver our vegetables. Many thanks to Warema for their support of the farm project.



We are trying to attract regular customers who are interested in buying organic vegetables. At the moment, besides some private customers, these are mainly hotels and restaurants. Of course, we also want to grow enough vegetables to supply the school kitchen and reduce costs there. Unfortunately, due to the extreme increase in prices (inflation in Ghana 27% +), the costs of the school kitchen have increased by 50% in the last few months.

Moringa was ordered by a cosmetic company, but this was interrupted because of the dry season. The trees were still very young and there was not enough to continue the production. However, the trees were in full bloom during the dry season and we took advantage of this to enrich our moringa tea with dried flowers, which tastes much better.

Near the rainforest, we cleared land of grass and brush so that more trees could be planted. We also fenced off the rainforest so that everyone knows that the forest is a protected area where cutting down trees, burning and hunting are prohibited. Koenig & Bauer financially supports the activities for the protection of the rainforest. Many thanks.



The students are looking forward to plant trees.



Preparation of the field to plant trees



## Baobab@20

On March 31, 2022 (delayed one year by Corona) we celebrated „20 years of Baobab“ in Ghana, a great success! Hundreds of people came: Parents, residents of the villages, former students\*, chiefs, representatives of the surrounding schools, the government, a partner NGO came with 15 members, the press and TV were well represented.

With some speeches, dances and a dance drama of the Culture Troupe: „Stop the pollution, be part of the solution“, poetry, a fashion show, a modern choreography, a very impressive exhibition of products from the workshops, we could impressively show what we have and who we are.

21 students graduated and the former students made a parade because they were proud to be seen. Felicia, a former student with physical disabilities, gave a short but impressive speech. She now trains other young women in tailoring. And of course there was plenty to drink and eat.

Since the festivities, we have had a great response in the form of registrations from students from neighbouring villages who want to join us later this year.



Chiefs and Elders



Arrival of the MCE of KEEA



Culture dance from the North of Ghana



Alhaji and Edith



Felicia the former student



Speech of MCE with lots of promises



Veronica is giving poetry



MCE (left) with Mr Prah who brought me to Kissi



Visitors



Culture Troupe



Fashion Show



Comfort Assimeku's graduation



Daniel's graduation



All graduands

## Activities in Germany

At the beginning of May we had a booth at the Nadelwelt fair in Karlsruhe and sold really well this year, partly due to a much better location of our booth. Many thanks to the hardworking former volunteers who took the time to help.

We should be able to do this again next year. Unfortunately, the new date has been moved up to 3/31 - 4/2/2023, when I am usually not yet in Germany.



Former Volunteer Joelle helped



Former volunteers Johannes and Julia also came to help

## Baobab@20 in Germany

In the meantime we also celebrated in Freiburg. About 20 former volunteers came to the party and also many other guests despite tropical temperatures (hotter than in Ghana). That made me very happy. Keke was responsible for the great Ghanaian food and in the evening there was African live music by Mamoudou Doumbouya from Guinea, Raphael Kofi from Ghana (organizer of the African Music Festival in Emmendingen, which also celebrates its 20+1 year anniversary this year) and the guest bass player Aboubass from the Ivory Coast.

An all around successful festival. Food and drinks were given as donations, which all in all covered the costs of the party. In 4 years we will celebrate again: **25 years of Baobab!**



Former volunteers are presenting themselves with a little story from Ghana



**Mamoudou**

**Raphael and Aboubass**



**The music invited to dance**

## Besuch aus Ghana

Adjei, our artist, and Alhaji, our General Manager, were invited by Monika Lockemann. Many thanks to Monika, they really felt very comfortable with you in Stuttgart.

Alhaji and Adjei came to Freiburg for our party and to the Montessori School House, where we talked together about our help for the Special Needs children and answered questions. Many thanks to the SMV who gave us a cheque for 1.000 €.

There were 2 exhibition openings, one in Dätzingen Castle and one in Warendorf, where Adjei played an important role and they enjoyed the honour of signing the Golden Book in the Mayor's Office.

<https://www.baobab-children-foundation.de/de/ausstellung-auf-der-ebbers-galerie/>



In Hanau, speech of the director Mrs Hoeller-Gaiser

We were in Hanau visiting St Joseph Mädchen Realschule and Adjei was able to do an art project there. Alhaji and I told some classes about Baobab and answered questions from the girls. Many thanks to the openness of the school and Mr. Grote for organising this visit.



Students are painting with Adjei



You already can see what it will be



Nearly finished painting in only 4 hours

In Stuttgart they helped „Bicycles for Africa“ to load the container to Ghana. Many thanks to „Bicycles for Africa“ for the many beautiful bicycles that are now on their way to Ghana.

Last but not least we were in Schweinfurt at one of our partner schools, the Rathenau schools, where Adjei could realise an art project together with the art teacher. (see newspaper article on the home page) Alhaji and Adjei also visited some classes to answer the many questions the children had.

In the evening we went to the nearby art-house cinema to see the movie „Der Waldmacher“ followed by a discussion with the teacher and climate activist Oliver Kunkel, Alhaji and me. Many thanks to Annette Rönner-Seydel for this invitation.



**Alhaji is mounting into the container to pack the bicycles well**

<https://www.baobab-children-foundation.de/de/stop-the-pollution-be-part-of-the-solution/>

Finally, Alhaji and I went to Warema so that they could meet our „Mr Fixit“ in Ghana and we visited Koenig & Bauer, also with the intention that they could meet Adjei and Alhaji. Thank you very much for taking the time to meet us.

All in all, a very full program for the two and certainly very instructive, among many other things: that it can be quite hot in Germany and that not everything runs smoothly here either, as in their trips with Deutsche Bahn.



**Sometimes we have to eat icecream in this heat in Germany**



**Signing into the Golden Book**



Alhaji with Mrs Renkhoff-Muecke, CEO of Warema



Alhaji, Dr Pleske, CEO of Koenig & Bauer and Adjei

We will be in Emmendingen again this year at the  
**African Music Festival**  
and hope for a lot of visitors at our booth.  
Time: 4.8. to 7.8. in Emmendingen on the Schlossplatz.

Best regards from Freiburg from

Edith de Vos

## DONATION ACCOUNT

**Good news: The Zukunftsstiftung will be doubling all collective donations this year, drawing a limit at 10.000,- €. Thank you to Dr Massmann and her colleagues.**

Important: The Zukunftsstiftung has to be informed about who is making the donation.

Beate.Oladeji@gls-treuhand.de

**Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung**

**DE05 4306 0967 0012 3300 10**

**BIC: GENODEM1GLS**

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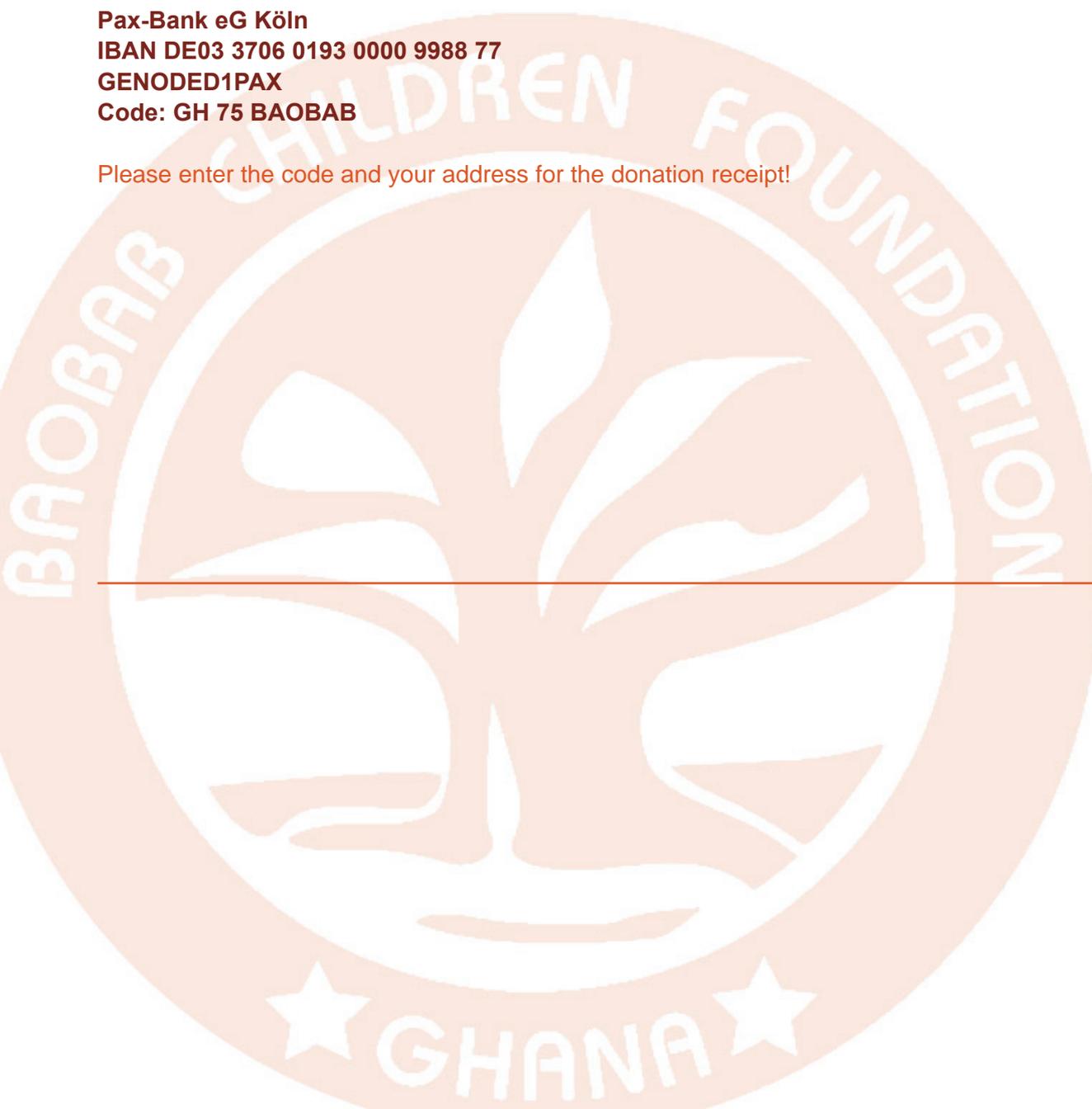
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