

# Baobab Children Foundation Ghana | Westafrika



## Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand NEWSLETTER M A R C H 2024

Dear sponsors,

Dear supporters,

Dear friends of Baobab,

Now I am already coming closer to my departure to Germany and would like to share what has just happened since the beginning of the year.

### Visit from Germany

In January, we worked with Walther Mann on the terms of Adepa Farm and financing options. Moreover we worked with the great support of our board member Mr Bonna on the finalization of the new constitution. The collaboration has been very successful and has given us a new Board Member:

**Dear Walther, welcome to the Board of Directors of Baobab. Thank you so much for your great support and your patience.**

**It is always a challenging process, to manage everything here in Ghana.**



The machines are presented.



The amount of water is decreasing concerningly, due to the high temperatures it is evaporating quite fast.



**A little work on the field is good for everyone.**



**Presentation given by the farm manager**

Now we still need one ghanian woman as a board member to be 3 Ghanians and 2 Germans (2 women and 3 men).

## **The new bus is here!**

After initial difficulties to get a suitable bus, we are now very happy, that we have finally found our new bus: A coaster from Japan, 18 years old, but very little driven as an airport shuttle by a hotel in Japan. It's in very good condition. Moreover for Ghana, it is an advantage, that it doesn't have all the modern electronics that fail here all the time.

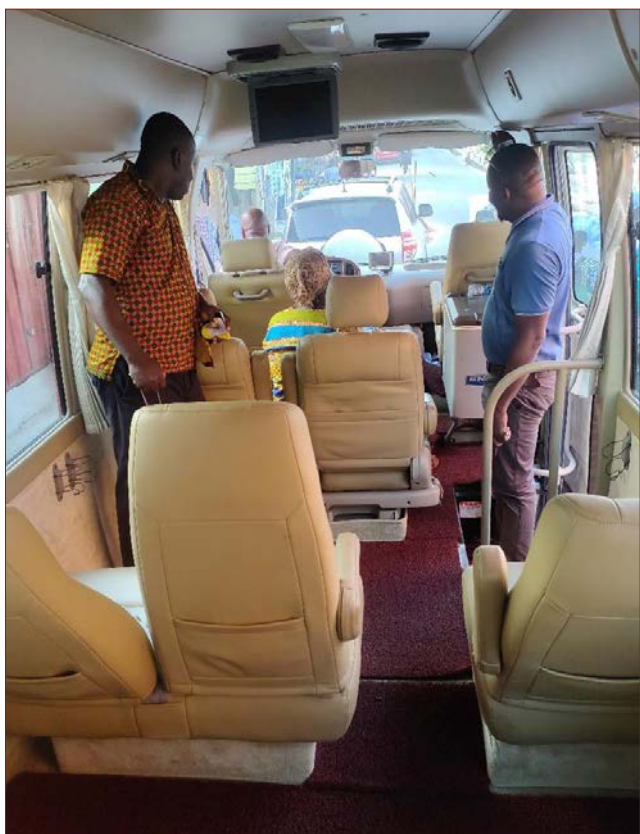


**Our new bus**

### **Upcoming work.**

We need 13 more seats as there are only 12. The seats need to be upholstered because they are white. and it needs a roof rack. It needs to be repainted as it still has the original paint which needs to be renewed and our name will be written on it. This bus can be used for so many purposes by renting it for money with a driver.





**The Board members exploring the inside of the new bus**

The old bus has been refurbished and will be repainted. It will then be used on shorter routes

All in all it will have cost us a total of €35,000 as planned.

Many thanks to Alhaji and Dela who were in charge of searching and finding the bus and who had to go through a lot.

**Many thanks to all who contributed to the financing!**

**You made it possible.**

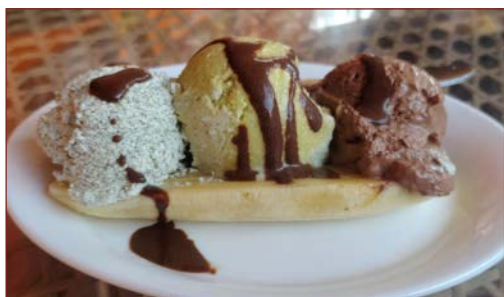


**Refurbished old bus**

## Baobab House

In this high season since November 2023 the Baobab House has received an unusual high number of guests. Recommendations from our customers as well as social media and special apps have increased our popularity.

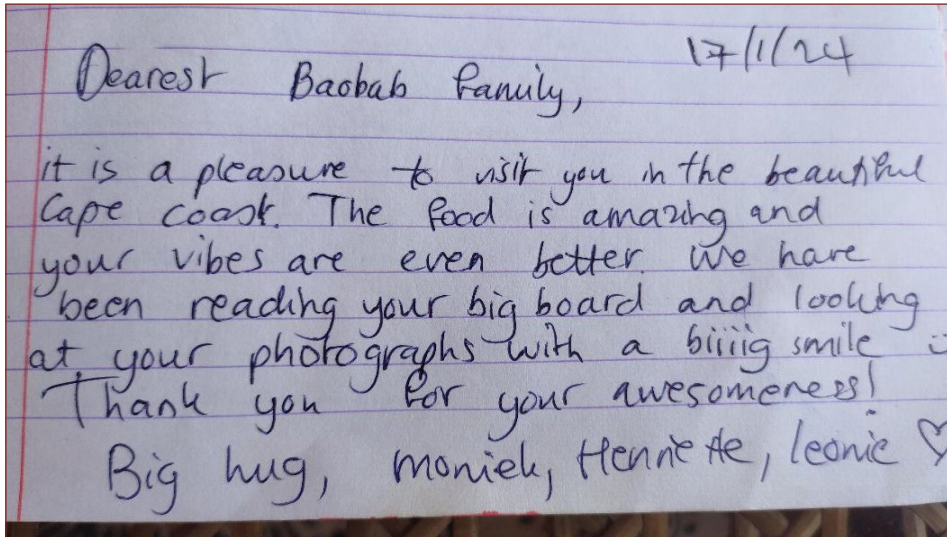
***„Best food in Cape Coast, great atmosphere, super nice service, great products in the shop and an admirable project behind it“.***



**Workshop with Christian**

Since last year, Chef Christian has been coming once a year to hold a workshop on vegan and non-vegan ice cream production without any additives and eggs.

The feedback gets better and better, even when the rooms were too warm in the dry season and there was noise from the announcement speakers in the morning. This bothers a lot of people, but they come anyways and our location is ideal (except for the noise, which we cannot stop). In addition, guests from other hotels love to come and eat with us, as our prices are still affordable, despite the general increase in prices in Ghana.



Feedback in our guestbook.

More and more organizations visit us as part of their traveling tours and are increasingly interested in our school and the farm as well.

Batik workshops at the school, cooking workshops for individuals or groups at the Baobab House or for groups at the school, drumming and dancing, sight-seeing, etc.

A group of 14 people, the family of a German who got married in Ghana, came to the Baobab House and wanted to learn about Baobab



Am nächsten Tag hatten sie einen Besuch der  
 The next day they had booked a visit to the school with a batik workshop and lunch.

The buffet was prepared very professionally by our catering students and Madam Dinah and the food was excellent. This is all part of the practical training.

Guests exploring our carpentry workshop.





Joseph, our batik teacher, leads the workshop.



A male and a female student also help.



Our wonderful catering girls have prepared a buffet.



Another wedding party of 35 people was catered at Baobab House.

The Baobab House has become for a source of many contacts that help us in some ways.

**Here are some examples:**

The mayor of Freiburg, Martin Horn, was in Accra with a delegation. A young man of that delegation traveled with a friend through Ghana. He works for the city of Freiburg with start-ups and social business. He stayed at Baobab House and was very enthusiastic about our approach of using social business to partially finance the project. He will now connect me in Freiburg, so that I can attend meetings when I'm in Freiburg and promote the Baobab House as a social business and learn from the others. A teacher from Stuttgart is working on a textbook and would like to present our project as an example of sustainable development cooperation in Ghana.

In the restaurant I met a Dutch mother and daughter who have a family foundation and support people with disabilities.

I was allowed to submit an application. Now we were lucky to receive 2 toilet blocks for our students with disabilities and 6 wheelchairs.

3 young people from Germany were staying with us, who asked me if I knew about geocaching. I didn't. Now they have prepared everything for our registration and people can find us on this route.

A Swiss man rode his bike in 5 months from Zurich to Cape Coast on his way to South Africa. We talked and I asked him how he found us. He pulled out his phone and opened an app for overland travelers by bike, motorcycle, truck... In this application we were recommended by someone who was with us. He had chosen us for our food.

Before March 6, Ghana's Independence Day, Baobab House was fully booked and literally overrun for several days. I talked to some German volunteers. They have a WhatsApp group that all German volunteers in Ghana can join. And there are tips for good places in Ghana and the Baobab House is highly recommended.

**Next steps for the future  
Securing the Baobab House:**

**We are looking for an interest-free loan of €5,000 to be paid at the end of 2024 from the income of the Baobab House, which we predict will not be a problem, to renew the rent for another 10 years.**

**This would only be a necessary payment to secure the contract. It expires in 2028 and our landlord is 96 years old. We don't know what the heirs will do.**



## ADEPA-Farm



Since January 2024, Adepa Farm has 6 new former students (4 boys and 2 girls) who graduated in December.

In total there are now 8 former students and only one farmer from outside. We are very hopeful that we will be able to generate more income this year with more workers than before.

Thank God it has rained in the meantime and our rainwater basin has been refilled. We were very worried that the water will not be enough for the dry season. The additional basin still needs to be finished. Since we have encountered rocks, these rocks need to be broken up to get the necessary depth.

### **FUNDRAISING FUNDRAISING FUNDRAISING – FOR A SUSTAINABLE FARM**

Perhaps someone would like to support the further development of the farm or knows where we can apply.

We would need €5,000 to cut the rocks and complete the rainwater lake.

We are still looking for a sponsor for a farmhouse. Since no one lives there, it was just broken into the machine house. Thank God only one trimmer was stolen. The planned farmhouse will cost about 35,000 €, but we would be happy to build a small house for 10,000 € to provide security.

# ONE YEAR OF FUTURELABS

a report from Louisa

***„Hello everyone! We are Baobab FutureLabs. In FutureLabs we do research and share ideas. We try new ways of learning, do practical work and spread our knowledge to fight climate change and develop for a better future!”***



Video call with partner class in Schweinfurt



Agroforestry model

*This March, Baobab FutureLabs celebrates its first anniversary. Since its inception, a lot has happened that we can look back on with pride. Starting with the division into agroforestry, aquaponics and soil improvement groups, the participants invested a lot of time and energy in researching about their various topics. On their own initiative, they developed initial ideas for concrete implementation on their plots and were able to launch them in August.*

*At the same time, the visit of Future Labs founder Oliver Kunkel from Germany provided new impetus, increased the focus on alternative forms of learning and encouraged the students in their achievements and future prospects. In October and November, a balanced structure of further research and planning, experimentation with new, interactive forms of learning and practical work in the fields could be developed. Especially in the agroforestry groups, great progress was made with the planting of the first trees and the creation of the first vegetable beds.*

*Another highlight was the visit to the Research Farm at the University of Cape Coast, which opened up new horizons for the students and encouraged them in their own research. The FutureLabs were also not discouraged by the approaching dry season in November and the resulting limited opportunities on the farm.*

*On the contrary, they were now able to focus more on the important aspect of sharing knowledge. Together with the German partner class, they had the opportunity to present the FutureLabs on the German television program „Tagesthemen Mittendrin“. The German and Ghanaian classes presented their work progress to each other using specially created models of their projects.*

*The idea of sharing the knowledge acquired with as many people as possible, anchoring it in the community and thus achieving a greater impact, became more of a focus for many students.*



*The Future Lab has been expanded in two ways. The first is the design of a uniform that will provide basic information about each project and be used for field trips. The second is the creation of short videos about the research results of the FutureLabs, that will be shown to the other students and the community. „An example would be „Don't cut trees!“*

*In retrospect, it is clear that the concept of self-initiated solution finding has great potential. Instead of copying from the blackboard and waiting for the teacher to say „right“ or „wrong,“ the students have learned to appreciate the development of their own ideas, which is almost non-existent in the Ghanaian school system. Thanks to their suggestions and the close cooperation with the farm manager, Mr. Michael and us current volunteers, the FutureLabs has diversified. We are looking forward to the coming months, in which the practical field work will continue thanks to the beginning of the rainy season and the cooperation with the German class is expected to intensify.*

Unsere 2 Our two volunteers are doing a really good job. Many thanks to Louisa and Nielson.



Our volunteers Louisa and Niels love Fufu.



Katja Allinger from our sending organization came for a visit.

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## Koenig & Bauer - Fanny Koenig Furniture Workshop



The carpentry project is now completed: Expansion of the carpentry shop, new workbenches built by Baobab, work clothes and shoes for the boys and girls, tools, machines. The last 4 machines that were still missing have now been purchased and installed. We now have a very well-equipped carpentry shop at school and will hopefully get even more orders, which of course also have to be advertised

Grinding machine



**Mold Machine**



**Small band saw**



**Wood planer and panel saw machine**

## **GOOD NEWS!**

For the year 2024, Koenig & Bauer will pay for the carpentry department, a total of €23,000 in 3 installments. This will help us a lot with the monthly financing. It's a great relief.

**Many thanks to Koenig & Bauer for their generous support.**



## Sponsorships

They are always a big issue for me because they are so important for financing the daily work at the school. Students always need sponsors. Each year, the students write a letter to their sponsors:

I would like to get an answer, I would like to have a photo of you, I would like to know what you are working on, how your family is doing....They really want to know who they are communicating with.

So please only sponsor a child if you really want to have contact. If this is difficult, then simply become a sponsor of the school, which helps both of us here in Ghana, as the sponsorship money finances the running costs. You are welcome to send me letters by email, we will print them out and give them to the child.

### **BECOME A SPONSOR OF A CHILD (FROM 50 €PER MONTH) OR THE SCHOOL (FREE AMOUNT).**

[www.baobab-children-foundation.de/de/spenderkonto/patenschaften/](http://www.baobab-children-foundation.de/de/spenderkonto/patenschaften/)

In doing so, you help children who WANT to learn, who WANT to be trained, because they have understood that they can learn at Baobab for a better future. And they are incredibly grateful for that. Quote from a sponsorship letter from a new student:

*„What I like at Baobab school is that the teachers teach us very good, so that everyone can understand and follow, the food we get here 3 times a day is very healthy and we have a nurse who is taking care of when we are sick. The volunteers organise entertainment so that we can show our talents and are not sad to be far away from our families. From the first moment I stepped into the school compound I was very comfortable.“*

**Dora, Faustina and our youngest, Joel, are looking for sponsors.**



**Dora, 17 years**



**Faustina, 16 years**



**Joel, 12 years**

In January we welcomed 27 new students, 7 boys and 20 girls. Our girls empowerment projects now seem to attract more girls, especially from the villages around.



Our new students

**MANY SMALL PEOPLE  
CAN MOVE BIG THINGS  
WITH MANY SMALL STEPS**

**WE HELP - THANKS TO YOUR DONATION**

**Warm greetings from  
Edith and the Baobab team**



## DONATION ACCOUNT

The GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung is doubling collective donations again this year, and a portion for larger donations, but this depends on the team that discusses the doubling and decides what will be doubled, it does not happen automatically.

**Thank you to Dr Massmann and her colleagues.**

**GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung**  
**DE05 4306 0967 0012 3300 10**  
**BIC: GENODEM1GLS**

**Code: Baobab Sammelspende**  
**Enter your address as well**

Please write to Beate.Oladeji@gls-entwicklung.de from which collection the money came from. Don't forget your address for donation receipts!

## All sponsorship contributions and donations for running costs to:

**africa action/Deutschland e.V.**  
**Pax-Bank eG Köln**  
**IBAN DE03 3706 0193 0000 9988 77**  
**GENODED1PAX**  
**Code: GH 75 BAOBAB (very important!)**

**Please enter the code and your address for the donation receipt**

If you're on Facebook, you can always find out more about Baobab there:

<http://www.facebook.com/BaobabChildren> <http://www.facebook.com/baobabhouse>

Instagram: [baobab.children.foundation](https://www.instagram.com/baobab.children.foundation) and [baobab.house.restaurant](https://www.instagram.com/baobab.house.restaurant)

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