

# Baobab Children Foundation

## Ghana | Westafrika



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

### **NEWSLETTER A U G U S T 2024**

Dear sponsors,

Dear supporters,

Dear friends of Baobab,

My time in Germany is almost over now. We will be at the African Music Festival in Emmendingen on the first weekend in August and are hoping for dry weather this time. The festival in Würzburg at the end of May was very rainy, which challenged us a lot. Of course, the takings weren't good either.

We were also at the "Nadelwelt" trade fair in Karlsruhe in April, where our batik fabrics sold well. I later went to our partner school in Hanau for the summer festival, which was again very nice. There was also a visit to Rottenburg at ..... Gymnasium with the student council, who organized a charity run for us last year. This money really helped a lot to buy the new bus. A partnership with this bilingual school will probably be established in the near future, which makes me very happy.

### **The two Buses**



Old Bus



New Bus

The old bus has been completely refurbished and now that it has been repainted it looks very nice again. We will be able to use it again for trips closer to the school, especially to the farm.



**The seats were covered with Woodin Material**



**The students say thank you to all the sponsors – Medaase papaapa!**

The new bus is now also complete. It has new seats covered with the beautiful Woodin fabric, a luggage rack for drums or luggage and it has been repainted in the original color.

---

## Little Edith

Edith has finished school and is working for us as a kente weaver. We discovered that she was either sleeping on the street or outside her grandmother's door. After a few conversations, we realized that she had no place to stay. The family was called in and the grandmother promised to take better care of her. We decided to build her a small house. After an appeal for donations to the former volunteers, some donations were received. Thank you very much.

Unfortunately, when it comes to family, things don't happen that quickly in Ghana. We wanted to build her a room with a shower and toilet on the family property. However, our Ghanaian colleagues were concerned that the family might take it away from her if we didn't sign clear contracts.

Alhaji has been trying to negotiate with this family for months now, but they are not cooperating. Now we have tried to buy her a small piece of land, which is not easy to find as well. We are doing our best, but the process is going slowly. We try to look after her as well as possible and she just spends a lot of time at Baobab.

Probably we will use a small piece of land from Baobab to finally give her a place to stay. We can't yet say whether the money we've received will be enough. I'll let you know if it's not enough.



**Big little Edith**



As I'm not in Ghana myself, I asked the volunteers Louisa and Niels to send me a report on their projects. They worked really hard and achieved a lot

## Future Lab

*Louisa reports*



FutureLabs meeting on the school compound



Video call with the partner class at Schweinfurt

## BAG FARMING

Supplying the family with fresh vegetables or earning money from the harvest, but without even having your own farmland? Can that be possible?

The Future Lab was able to answer this question with a “yes” this term as part of the “bag farming” project. Empty rice sacks, felled oil palm trunks or broken water canisters that could be obtained cheaply were used as a basis for planting and filled with humus and home-made compost.

The students planted various spices and vegetables such as peppers, spring onions and lettuce on these bases. Even before the vacation starts they will be ready for harvesting.



Vegetables are planted in the bags.





At the sides they plant in holes



Bag Growing

## HYDROPONICS A-STRUCTURE



Hydroponic

The Hydroponics/Aquaponics group was able to implement its first project. It was an A-shaped wooden structure that supports five pipes on each side. Known as “vertical farming”, vegetables were planted in the tubes, which are cut out at the top. The advantage?

Without owning farmland, a large number of plants can be grown vertically on top of each other in a small area at the same time. Most significantly, at low cost.

Therefore an “A-structure” can serve as an additional source of income in the future.





Hydroponic



Students are explaining the Hydroponic System to the school community.

## UNIFORM



Vegetables are planted in the A-Shape structure.

In addition, the Future Lab designed its own uniform this term, which will be worn during excursions or Future Lab information events.

Farm Manager Mr. Michael, the members of the Future Lab and us volunteers exchanged ideas, created our own logo and came up with a slogan.

The new uniform was proudly presented to the other students.

Ghanaians love their Lacoste.





Just proud!



Our strong girls!

## Waste management – Waste separation

After the 2021-22 volunteers started a waste separation project which had not been continued, our volunteers decided to further develop it this year.



Lea, Vera and Levin presenting their waste project to Special Class.

*Niels reports:*

In Ghana's communities, a lot of plastic waste ends up in streams, roadside ditches, in the grass or is burned directly in residential areas. Baobab strives to educate its students and employees about the topic and tries to equip them with strategies to protect themselves and their immediate environment from the health risks of the pollution. Moreover they work to make a contribution against littering.

That is why we volunteers once again carried out a three-phase waste project this year:

### **(a) Workshops to raise awareness and develop solution strategies.**

The workshops were adapted to the different education levels of each classes. In the first part, the problems of environmental pollution were presented. In the second part, solutions were actively developed together with the pupils, for example in small role plays.



**Workshop**



**Workshop in Upper class**



**Role games**



**How can I fight plastic**





Rules for garbage separation

**(b) New garbage cans were purchased, financed by a donation from the Felis gofundme campaign.**

New dustbins were purchased after a survey among all employees was carried out. The results indicated where, according to the staff, the new dustbins were needed. Our art workshop painted the bins so that they are visually appealing and self-explanatory. They were positioned in the agreed places and a sustainable concept for correct use was developed.



Former student Emmanuel supports the painting on the containers.





### (c) Production of an educative movie

In order to draw the students attention even more to the topic of waste separation and even educate friends and family, we decided to shoot a feature film.

13 highly motivated pupils developed a storyline together with us and acted it out brilliantly. The film shows the problems of plastic in the fictional “Asempa Village”, whose inhabitants develop strategies to protect themselves from plastic in the story.

Some pupils even produced a song for the movie on their own initiative



Scene at the market place



Louisa makes sound recordings



Jessica gets wired



One scene is on the farm





The chief comes to help.



The movie song is recorded

In order to reach the local target group as effectively as possible, we produced the film in the local language, Fante. English subtitles are available and the movie can now be watched by searching for „Plastic Village Baobab Children Foundation“ on Youtube.

[https://youtu.be/SRH5B6\\_fpGo](https://youtu.be/SRH5B6_fpGo)

Working on the movie was a great experience, because our amazing actors and actresses performed very well and we even discovered a lot of hidden talent.

## A few more important messages

### Baobab House

Baobab House has decided not to renew the lease (it runs until 2030) as the landlords are asking far too high a rent. They are looking for a plot of land nearby so that they can buy the land themselves and build something of their own in the long term.

### Farmhouse

This year we will be able to start building the much-needed farmhouse on the Baobab Adepa Organic Farm. The first construction phase is being financed by the Böhmer family from Obernburg. Many thanks to them. It will be a 3-room house built with local materials wherever possible.

The necessary energy will be supplied by a solar system, which will be installed on the roof of the farmhouse in cooperation with NaBIG e.V., a company active in Ghana. The company was founded by David Bittner, who also supports other charitable projects in Ghana.





The farmhouse will be built with these burnt clay bricks.

The solar system has now also been almost fully financed by donors.

With the completion of the first construction phase, the first workers will be able to live on the farm. This will guarantee more security on the farm.

In the past, our machine house was broken into and so we had to hire two additional security guards. This additional expense will not be necessary anymore after the completion of the farmhouse. It also makes sense to have someone on the farm at weekends.

We are currently renting rooms in Ayensudo for farm employees. They have to walk a long way from there as we no longer have bicycles. Many thanks to Walther for his efforts.

## Short film about the “Girls Empowerment” projects

In a conversation with an employee of SC Freiburg, with whom we would like to cooperate with our Girls Strikers, we came up with the idea of making a short film. Later we decided to expand the film and report on our two girls' projects, soccer and carpentry. Our intention was to better describe how we specifically support the girls. The Ghanaian filmmaker Isaac Okoh from Accra came with his team and filmed the girls during the activities. We are very excited about this film, which we will use in a variety of ways.

It can be found on Youtube: „The Empowered. Baobab Children Foundation“.

<https://youtu.be/hwE3GnClqG8>



Film Team



I would like to thank all those who make our projects possible, who always help me to organize stands in Germany, who try to raise funds for upcoming projects and all those who help to cover the running costs of the school through regular support.

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

**WE HELP - THANKS TO YOUR DONATION**

**Best regards from Freiburg  
Edith de Vos**

## DONATION ACCOUNT

This year, the **GLS Future Foundation for Development** is still doubling collective donations. In the case of larger donations its usually just a part of it, but this depends on the team that discusses the doubling and decides what is doubled.

Many thanks to Dr. Massmann and her team for their support, which is always so helpful.  
For project donations or for doubling:

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

**Reference: Baobab collective donation** or what you are donating for

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!)**

Don't forget the addresses for the donation receipt.

**Many thanks to all donors, sponsors and godparents**

### WE HELP - THANKS TO YOUR DONATION

If you are on Facebook, you can also keep up to date with news from 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)

**WhatsApp +49 160 1720 236 | [ghana@baobab-children.de](mailto:ghana@baobab-children.de)**

**Youtube: Baobab Children Foundation Ghana**



## KONTAKTE

### PATENSCHAFTEN

Monika Lockemann

[patenschaften@baobab-children.de](mailto:patenschaften@baobab-children.de)

Tel 0711–728 5638

### VERANSTALTUNGEN, FREIWILLIGE, ALLGEMEINES

Edith de Vos, Gründerin von Baobab Children Foundation

WhatsApp +49 160 1720 236

[ghana@baobab-children.de](mailto:ghana@baobab-children.de)

Heiner Kirsch

[heinrich.kirsch@t-online.de](mailto:heinrich.kirsch@t-online.de)

### FINANZEN & SPENDENBESCHEINIGUNGEN

[info@africa-action.de](mailto:info@africa-action.de)

Tel +49 2271 767 540

### KUNSTAUSSTELLUNGEN

Monika Lockemann

[fundraising@baobab-children.de](mailto:fundraising@baobab-children.de)

Tel 0711–728 5638

### GLS ZUKUNFTSSTIFTUNG ENTWICKLUNG

Bei Überweisungen an die GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung

[beate.oladeji@gls-entwicklung.de](mailto:beate.oladeji@gls-entwicklung.de)

Tel +49 234 5797 5155

### FUNDRAISING

Monika Lockemann [fundraising@baobab-children.de](mailto:fundraising@baobab-children.de)

Walther Mann [capitano2612@gmail.com](mailto:capitano2612@gmail.com)

Felizitas Greis [feli.greis@googlemail.com](mailto:feli.greis@googlemail.com)

Joseph Reichel für die „old volunteers“ [reichel.jo@googlemail.com](mailto:reichel.jo@googlemail.com)

Alle Rechte vorbehalten. Copyright ©2008 Edith de Vos