

Baobab Children Foundation

Ghana | Westafrika



Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

Dear sponsors,

Dear supporters,

Dear friends of Baobab,

I have been back in Ghana for over 2 months now. At the beginning of my stay here, I was mostly busy getting everything up and running again in my home: Water in the polytank, internet, repairs etc.

Unfortunately, there is a huge water problem in Ghana. Due to illegal gold mining by the Chinese, plastic and second-hand clothes from Western countries that end up in the ocean and rivers, over 60 per cent of the water resources are so polluted that it has become life-threatening for many people in Ghana. There have been several strikes because people are extremely angry with the government, which is simply standing by and doing nothing. For me, this is now a situation out of which there seems almost no way out.

Recycling, a ban on all imports of second-hand clothes and a ban on plastic bags might help, but nothing is being done.

Elections will be held at the beginning of December, but unfortunately there is no real prospect of improving the situation.

If you are interested, there is a very good report (among many others) on YouTube 'Dead White Man's Clothes' about the effects of second-hand clothes sales in Ghana.

„Dead White Man's clothes“

Our Volunteers

We have three new volunteers who have gradually familiarised themselves after 2 ½ months here. We now have a third place that is for the farm but, as no one has applied just for the farm, they are all in the school garden for one week each month.

Rebecca, Johan and Finja have been working in the Cane & Bamboo, the carpentry and the Kente weaving workshops.



Rebecca is learning at the cane & bamboo workshop



Finja wants to learn Kente weaving.



Johan, carpenter, talking to our carpenter Mr. Arthur.

Their main projects now are:

- **FutureLab** – continuing to work on the students' various projects
- **Waste separation project** – building shelters for the rubbish bins etc.
- **Revitalising the school garden**, together with staff and 4 groups of pupils, each responsible for a different area.

A tragic Accident

**We mourn the loss of one of our students
Emmanuel Mensah,
who did not wake up one morning. He was born on 28 May 2006 and
passed away on 16 September 2024 - May he rest in peace.**



Emmanuel Mensah

He had a football accident on Saturday (14.9.), a laceration on his lip was stitched in hospital, he was still doing well on Sunday but did not wake up on Monday morning. The cause of death is probably an old brain hemorrhage which was determined by an autopsy. The case was passed on to the police.

The school was unofficially started in 2004, 20 years ago, and we have never experienced anything like this. What a shock for everyone. Now our carpenters have built the coffin for him, which is also a way of processing the grief.

He was buried in his village of Abuesi on 9 November. Many pupils accompanied him on the way there.

Waste Separation Project

In the August newsletter, volunteers Louisa and Niels reported on their project and also that they had made a feature film. This has now been completed and uploaded on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRHSB6fpGo>



It is an educational feature film that was developed with and acted by the students. What brilliant actors and actresses.

Congratulations to Louisa and Niels! You have created a very great film.

It's 42 minutes long and it's really worth taking the time to watch it.

THE EMPOWERED

The film is about our Girls Empowerment projects: Football and Carpentry.

This film has also been completed, 7 min long, made by a professional film team from Accra. This film is also on Youtube and is well worth watching and forwarding.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwE3GnC1qG8>



Baobab Girl Strikers



Some of the girls are now so good that the coach has given 6 names of girls who should continue playing when they finish school soon. We are working on it. They could join his team in Cape Coast.

We are still looking for a partner team that would like to co-operate with our team. We are also still looking for sponsors who want to support girls' football in particular.

The 6 selected football girls

A House for Edith Hunive



The new house for little Edith on Baobab Campus

The little house for Edith is making progress. As the farmhouse is being built at the same time and we are under time pressure, this construction has had to take a back seat. She is now temporarily living in the school again, as unfortunately things didn't work out with her grandmother. At least she has a sheltered space there until it is finished.



Edith has become a very good Kente weaver

Her sister Jessica now goes to the senior high school in Mankessim. She has coped much better with the family situation and has always been able to attend school without any problems. She will be staying with Edith during the holidays.



Jessica took advantage of the waiting time and joined sewing



Jessica Hunive, a real Senior Highschool student.

Farmhouse

The farmhouse is already well advanced. 90% of the woodwork was done by our carpenters. David Bittner from the NaBiG Foundation will be installing the solar system at the end of November and someone will have to live in it then. That's why the doors have gone to another carpenter to make.

Since the carpentry workshop has been so well developed, we have had a lot of contract work and our carpenters have been stretched to their limits.



Our students building the roof of the farm house



Farmhouse

Baobab House

As I wrote in August, we decided not to extend the lease because the rent demands were too high. It runs until 2030 and then they have to compensate us for everything we have invested in the house, either in cash or in more rental time.

Now, after a lot of research and discussions, we have found a piece of land that is right next to the current house, which obviously fits perfectly. The location of the Baobab House is one of the reasons why we are so successful. Madam Cecilia, the manager, puts it like this: 'This piece of land could have been sold a long time ago because of its ideal location, but they seem to have reserved it for us.' You can see it that way, as the owner really wanted to give it to us.

We took all the money that Baobab House had collected and I added the rest of the money from the sales in Germany, which is due to the Baobab House anyway, as I take the goods from the house. 70,000 ghc was enough for a down payment. In the meantime, we have paid the second instalment of 130,000 ghc so that we can start the re-registration process.

We need a total of €20,000 for this land. We have now paid €11,700, a little more than half. Now a surveyor is working on demarcating the land and those who have settled on the land will receive a letter stating that the land has been sold and they have to leave. That will be difficult again.

We have thankfully received an interest-free loan of €3,000 for one year from Jens Heimendahl from Berlin. Jens organises tours to Ghana and is now coming again with a group. A visit to the school is planned. Thank you very much dear Jens for your trust in Baobab.

How you can help to maintain the Baobab House:

We are now looking for even more people who would like to either donate to the preservation of this great house or give us an **interest-free loan** that will be repaid in two or three years, to be determined by the lender.

Of course, lenders receive a contract.

The Baobab House would like to take over the repayment itself if possible

Sponsored run of the St Joseph Girls' Secondary School in Hanau

St Joseph Mädchen Realschule has been one of our partner schools for a long time. I have often visited the school, including with our visitors from Ghana, Adjei Sowah and Alhaji Issaka. The school liked to organise a Ghana Day and all classes baked, cooked, painted, watched films, had discussions etc.

This year, the school organised a sponsored run for Baobab. In total, the girls raised just over €10,000. Who would have thought it! The GLS Future Foundation for Development will certainly double a small part of this.

Many thanks to the school, the pupils and those who donated.

This money will be used as follows:

- Renovation of the Kente weaving workshop (new looms included)



The Kente weaving workshop needs an urgent renovation

- **Jessica** will receive a new prosthesis and will be trained to walk properly with the new leg during a 2 week hospitalisation.

Our therapist Frederick will take over the further therapy.

- The training kitchen, which St Joseph's School has already helped to set up, is getting a new fridge and freezer.
- and whatever is left over will help to finish building the almost completed **farmhouse**.

Many thanks to all runners and donors.



Jessica Andoh is looking forward to her new Prothesis

16 Mile Walk in Washington

Our former volunteer Joseph Reichel, who always visits and supports us, has turned his walk into a GoFundMe campaign to buy expensive books for the Upper Class, who are now preparing for the challenging TVET exam.

The class consists of 11 girls and only one boy. Joseph has raised over €1,700.

Many thanks to you too Joseph.



TVET students with their first new books

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

WE HELP - THANKS TO YOUR DONATION

**Best wishes from Ghana
Edith de Vos and Team**

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)

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