

Baobab Children Foundation Ghana | Westafrika



Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand **NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025**

Dear sponsors,

dear supporters,

dear friends of Baobab,

Back in Ghana! This time I was almost 6 months in Germany, and we were not idle there: Nadelwelt Trade Fair, Würzburg Festival, African Music Festival in Emmendingen, and Africa Days in Düsseldorf. Sometimes more, sometimes less successful regarding income, but always with many good conversations at the stand, of course with the hope of support.

Promises to become sponsors, and then no sponsorship applications are forthcoming. Still, we hope that one or two will contact us after all.

Thanks to everyone who is always ready to be at the stand and support the sales. It is always a lot of joy to work with you.

Then I met sponsors and travelled to partner schools to report on Baobab's developments. Also very important for me was my visit to Dr. Massmann, Head of the Zukunftsstiftung. She is my mentor and the meetings are very intensive. Even if she doesn't have much time, she always takes the time to meet with me.

Many thanks.

I want to start with the most difficult topic: the running costs.

The school's running costs are unfortunately still not covered, which leads to big difficulties over the year. Since July we have been paying 15% for administration to Africa Action, therefore there is even less money. The Ghana Cedi has appreciated, which is bad for us. In March we got 17 ghc for one euro ($7,000 \text{ €} \times 17 = 119,000 \text{ ghc}$), and now we are getting about 12 ghc for one euro ($7,000 \times 12 = 84,000 \text{ ghc}$), that is 35,000 ghc less. The exchange rate is good for the country but bad for the many people who receive money from relatives abroad and for us as well.

The Farm income still does not cover their expenses and salaries. This means the school currently still funds the farm.

We have a monthly school budget of 10,000 € with regular sponsorship income of 7,030 € per month. In addition there are some donations for birthdays, from schools and simply from people who support us. The doubling by the Zukunftsstiftung is also usually freely available. This allows us to get through the year somehow, but only somehow. The last 2 months of the year and the first 2 months of the new year are always the most difficult.

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The last 2 months of the year and the first 2 months of the new year are always the most difficult. Wie können wir mehr Paten und Patinnen bekommen für die Schule? Hat jemand eine Idee? Irgendwie werden wir es wieder hinbekommen, auch wenn wir vielleicht die Schule vor Weihnachten 2 - 4 Wochen früher schließen müssen.

How can we attract more sponsors for the school? Does anyone have an idea? Somehow we will manage it again, even if we have to close the school 3 weeks earlier before Christmas.

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

GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung

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Subject: Baobab

WE HELP – THANKS FOR YOUR DONATION

A Safe Home for Edith

In the last newsletter I reported that the house for Edith had been completed. The student Mabel, who lives with her there, seems to be taking good care of her. She is like a mother to her and Edith visibly benefits from it.



Edith is sharing the food with Petra.



Edith is showing Petra how she is producing lizards.

Petra, her sponsor, visited Ghana for 2 weeks. Here is her report:

After we had gotten to know Baobab School locally in 2008, we took on a sponsorship. The money had been quietly deducted from the family account for all those years. At some point the child changed because the sponsorship of the first sponsor ended, but who exactly it was did not matter to me. From time to time a handwritten letter arrived, which I never answered, too far away was this world in Ghana. Although I met Edith de Vos again and she told me what the topic with my sponsorship child was, it did not truly touch me.

The wish to travel to an African country again grew stronger and Edith de Vos asked me whether I could clearly support Little Edith again. She has finished school, but an independent life because of her psychiatric situation is not possible. When asked whether Little Edith could return to her family, I received a description of the situation there and that it wasn't possible.

So a housing and accompaniment concept for Little Edith was set up on the Baobab site. A correspondence with Little Edith began. I became really curious and tied my travel plans to the possibility of meeting in person. Thus I met my sponsored child, learned how she weaves Kente, and met her friends. I sat for a whole day on a wooden bench under the tree next to her little house, and she taught me how to knot a lizard out of beads.

We had a lot of fun and ate from one plate together. Now I have a beaded keychain as a keepsake.

I was also able to meet the family spontaneously; it was very adventurous to dive spontaneously into real life there. Now I also really understand that Edith cannot live there. The next day we went to Kissi to buy shoes and irons.

At the Kissi market I could finally get all my questions about various spices answered. It was really a beautiful and touching encounter with Little Edith. I experienced the exchange I had wished for. The people at Baobab do their best so that Little Edith can become stabilized to live a self-determined life in self-responsibility someday.



Petra brought some used dress for Edith and Mabel.



Rosa, Lena and Nelly after arriving in Accra.

Our new volunteers

„The Baobab School community is valuable to us: every day we spend with students and staff both at work and in our free time. At lunchtime amusing conversations await us, and if someone becomes ill, there is someone who immediately helps.

We thus dive directly into social interaction. We also like the variety of projects and everyday life: there is always something going on“

The Adepa Farm

The farm now looks fresh again after the big and during the current small rainy season. There are a lot of vegetables and we harvest twice a week for delivery with our Farm Van. I enjoy buying exclusively organic vegetables from the farm at the moment.



Sweet Potatoes



Carotts



Huge Sweet Potatoes



Local tomatoes

Nevertheless, we still have too few reliable staff. At the moment 7 people work there, but at least 10 are needed. Right now there are 4 service students there until Christmas; after Christmas four more girls will work on the farm. Through the farm house they can also live there.

One volunteer goes to the farm for one week per month and also shares a room with a staff member. This is a baseline experience for our German volunteers. Life with a group of Ghanaians is something very different from the volunteer house on the school campus.

„I’m Lena, nineteen years old and I come from Aichtal. On the farm I feel I am finding myself, while listening to nature—the calm perhaps arises from the hard physical work that farming requires.“



Nelly

„I’m Rosa, nineteen years old, and I come from Mülheim an der Ruhr. Through living and working on the Adepa Farm I learned a lot about the practical work and the processes on the farm.

It did me good to spend time alone in the peaceful nature full of life and sounds during the physical work. I also loved the feeling of satisfied exhaustion after work.“

Next year a volunteer will come for 5 months; she has completed an organic agriculture apprenticeship after high school and would like to come now.

For the next volunteer generation 2026 we already have an application from a girl for the farm. We are very happy about such applications as they are really needed on the farm.



Lena

„I’m Nelly, 20, originally from Togo, and I have been living in Tuttlingen since my ninth year. In the first week on the farm I was allowed to do many things I had never done before.

I prepared, planted and cared for my own bed. I could experience firsthand how much effort and patience goes into growing vegetables before they reach our plate.“



Rosa is harvesting ground nuts

BAOBAB HOUSE

The Baobab House is in Low Season, i.e., clearly fewer guests. Some complain about the price-performance ratio and also want new mattresses, constant internet, and ideally air conditioning. They are all people from Western countries, so not poor. That is difficult for the price we ask.

At the moment it is 16 € for a double room with 2 fans; toilets and showers are shared and always very clean. We are working on a new land for our own sustainable Baobab House. It is taking a little while for the owner to get all the legal papers ready, but he is almost done now. The delay is due to the court, which for various reasons is constantly unavailable.

Visit of the gGmbH Fair Equity

The visit from Fair Equity resulted in their decision to support us. The first great news was that they will finance a renovation project for us with €15,000 (minus 7% for africa action). The dormitories have been completely renovated and new toilets are being built, though they are not yet finished. New rain gutters have been installed on various buildings to collect even more rainwater for the toilets and for the dry season.

A big thank-you to Fair Equity and the Bedford Foundation for the generous donation. Many thanks also to Africa Action for recommending us and supporting the process.



Refurbished girls dormitory



Refurbished boys dormitory

THE KENTE WEAVING WORKSHOP

The restoration of the Kente weaving workshop was made possible by St. Joseph's Girls' School in Hahnau. It looks really good now and the workshop is secure.

Many thanks again to you girls who ran to raise funds for this project.



Refurbished Kente weaving workshop



The arts group painted kente strips on the pillars

Visit from Dinah and Daniela of africa action

Dinah, 80, is a Special Educator and was the Director of Special Education in Ghana. She is the representative of aaD in Ghana. Daniela is on the board and is also Jessica's sponsor. Dinah held a short workshop with some of the staff on working with special children, such as those we also have, and on their transition into society after their school years, based on the principle of: evaluation, transition, follow-up, with active involvement of the children's families. This was very important and very interesting for our school.

Thank you Dinah.



Mad Dinah holding a workshop



Mad Dinah talking to the students.

Daniela also came to meet her sponsored child Jessica. It was brief, but still — I think it was good for both of them.



Daniela and Jessica

**MANY SMALL PEOPLE –
CAN, WITH MANY SMALL STEPS –
ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS!**

WE HELP – THANKS TO YOUR DONATION

**Warm greetings from Ghana
Edith and the Team**

DONATION ACCOUNTS

The **GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung (Future Foundation for Development)** is still doubling pooled donations this year; for larger donations they double a portion, depending on the team that reviews and decides which donations will be doubled — it is not automatic.

It's very important that the team is informed about the source of the pooled donations, even if money is transferred directly to the account for a birthday collection, for example.

For all donations, project donations, or donations intended for doubling

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BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Reference: Baobab Sammelspende or the specific purpose of the donation (e.g. birthday ...) or simply Baobab.

For pooled donations: please send an email to: Beate.Oladeji@gls-entwicklung.de indicating from which collection the money came.

Please do not forget to provide your address for the donation receipt!

All sponsorship contributions:

Please only transfer sponsorship contributions here; all other donations should go to the Zukunftsstiftung

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

Again, please do not forget to provide your address for the donation receipt.

Many heartfelt thanks to all donors and sponsors.

WE HELP – THANKS TO YOUR DONATION

If you are on Facebook, you can also find regular updates from Baobab there:

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

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

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

Youtube: [youtube.com/@BaobabChildrenFoundationGhana](https://www.youtube.com/@BaobabChildrenFoundationGhana)

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