

Baobab Children Foundation Ghana | Westafrika



Socially and physically challenged - hand in hand **NEWSLETTER A P R I L 2026**

Dear sponsors,

dear supporters,

dear friends of Baobab,

Once again, my time in Ghana is coming to an end. I will return to Freiburg on May 6th.

Our Sponsors

As mentioned before, during this special year I would like to send shorter newsletters more regularly—also to highlight and honor those who have supported and believed in our work over many years.

Today, I would like to dedicate this space to our main sponsor:



Respect

social - ecological – economic

If you visit www.formesse.de, you will find these values under “Responsibility.” Formesse is a company that truly lives its social responsibility—both in its local region, the Black Forest, and in its long-standing support of Baobab.

Formesse also has a fascinating history as a family business. It was founded in the same year I was born—something I only discovered recently, but which touched me deeply. Next year, we will both celebrate our 80th anniversary: Formesse and I.

The company, or rather the Jaschke family, has supported us for 20 years. My daughter once ran a restaurant called Klösterle in Neustadt. The Formesse headquarters in Löffingen is nearby, and it was there, in the restaurant, that we first met. That meeting marked the beginning of our shared journey.

Initially, Formesse supported individual sponsorships. Later, they wanted to fund a specific project of their own, which unfortunately we were never able to realize. In the meantime, Volker Jaschke began covering the salaries of our staff on a monthly basis—a commitment that continues to this day.

Although Baobab has grown significantly and this contribution no longer covers all salaries, it remains an essential support that helps us manage our ongoing costs.

Today, the company is led by Matthias Jaschke and his wife Sonja, who have continued this partnership seamlessly. In 2025, Formesse also supported the installation of the school's solar system, and in 2026 contributed to building a second rainwater reservoir for irrigation.

We meet every year in Freiburg to reflect on Baobab's progress and future plans. After so many years, this partnership has grown into something much more—something like family.

On behalf of the entire Baobab management team, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Jaschke family for their extraordinary loyalty and support. Where would we be without you? MEDASE PAPAAPA!

Jubiläum



Baobab Children Foundation



25-Year Anniversary Celebration in Freiburg

We will celebrate 25 years of Baobab on September 26, 2026, in Vauban, Freiburg.
Planned program highlights include:

- Drum circle with Dietmar Göppert
- Talk by Edith de Vos (founder)
- Contributions from management members in Ghana and former volunteers
- Lecture by Dr. Massmann (GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung)
- Volunteer gathering with Katja Allinger (Freunde der Erziehungskunst)
- Exhibition at Haus 37 featuring artwork by our students
- New documentary film: "25 Years of Baobab – Giving Disadvantaged Children a Future" (working title)
- Additional art exhibition in Freiburg (venue to be confirmed)
- Screening of Baobab films (since 2004) at Kulturaggregat Freiburg on September 16, followed by discussion
- Ghanaian food
- Music and dance
- ...and more

If you would like to contribute ideas or help organize the event, please contact me via WhatsApp or Signal: +49 160 1720236.

We warmly welcome all forms of support—organizational and financial.

Celebration in Ghana

We will also celebrate in Ghana on **November 12, 2026**.

Anyone who has always wanted to visit Ghana is warmly invited to join us! November is a particularly pleasant time to travel, as temperatures are milder than in the hotter months from February to April.

Volunteer Project: Readers are Leaders

On the Art of Reading and Its Challenges

This school year, we have finally launched a long-planned reading project. The aim of this international initiative is to encourage students—especially in Africa—to discover the joy and importance of reading. Schools in Ghana, Nigeria, and Germany are already participating. The project begins with the book Boom-Boom by Nigerian author Jude Idada, who also serves as patron of the initiative. He has been committed to promoting reading across West Africa for many years.

He is supported by Georges Gambadatoun (Benin), founder of ReadingRideAfrica, and Annette Rönner-Seydl (Germany), who has worked with Baobab since 2017.

The story follows a young boy whose family is affected by sickle cell anemia—a disease that is widespread in Africa. It is both moving and educational, raising awareness of health issues while also offering students in Germany insight into life in a different cultural context.

And yes—it also improves English skills.

But at the beginning, some students raised important questions:

“Do I really need to read fluently for my future? I want to open a tailoring business—how does a novel help me?”

As volunteers fresh out of school, we found it challenging to respond. Suddenly, we had to think like teachers. We also realized that even in Germany, reading culture can be limited in some contexts. Here in Kissi, however, daily life is often much more demanding. Reading requires time, focus, and motivation—resources that are not always available.

With the support of two teachers and Annette, we developed an approach. The project now includes 15 students from four different grade levels.

One particularly successful idea came from the students themselves: reading outdoors, in the shade and fresh air. This has proven very effective, and we are happy to share this suggestion with other groups.

On May 16, the project will be presented at the 104th German Catholic Convention in Würzburg.

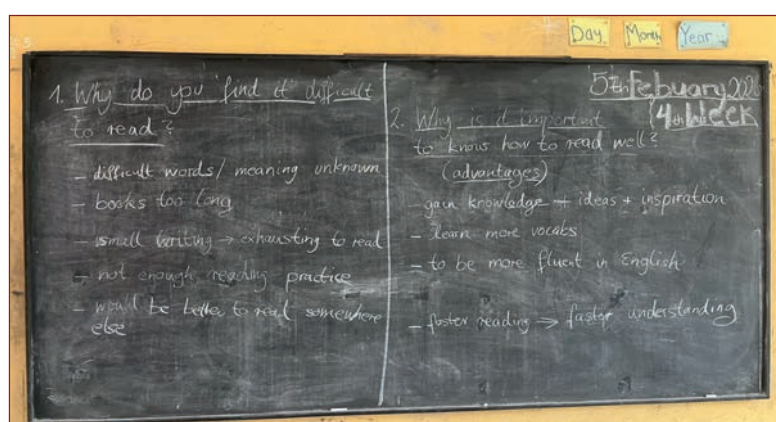
Workshops at the Rathenau Schools will also follow.

We are excited to see how the project evolves.

Lena, Rosa, Nelly and Annette



Reading under the trees



Panel Picture

Transition Workshop with Sonja Petersen

Sonja Petersen, the mother of one of our current volunteers, visited Ghana over Christmas and offered to support us as a mediator.

With her background as a German-South African who grew up in West Africa, and her experience as managing director of a Waldorf school in Germany, she brings valuable insight.

I asked her to help us prepare for the future—when I gradually step back from daily responsibilities. The goal is not to replace me, but to strengthen the Ghanaian team to take on full leadership.



Transition workshop with Sonja

In March, Sonja returned for two weeks and worked intensively with the management team. This process was challenging, emotional, and deeply important.

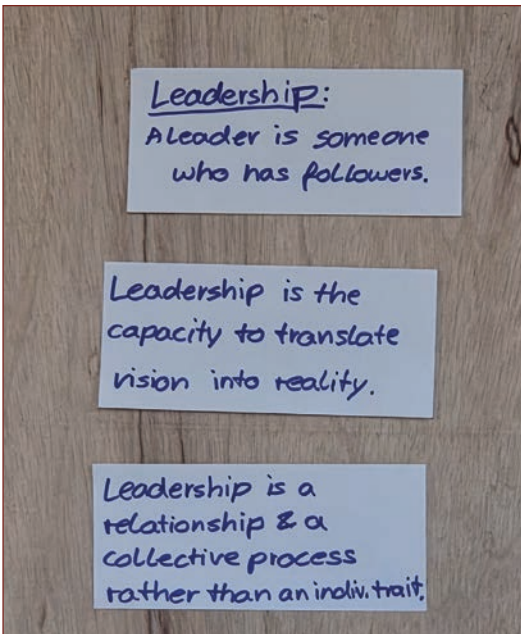
We are now one significant step further.



Workshop participants from left: Mad Cecilia, Mr Alhaji, Sonja, Mr Rinus, Mr Michael, Mad Pamela, Mr Dela, Edith, Mr Techie. 6 Managers, 2 board members and Sonja



Sonja



Leadership

Sonja is offering her work voluntarily, and I would be very grateful if we could find ways to at least cover her expenses. If you know individuals or organizations that support such transformation processes, please get in touch.

Thank you, Sonja, for creating a safe and trusting environment that allowed this process to begin.

For me personally, this transition is not easy—but it is also deeply relieving.

www.sonja-petersen.com

**MANY SMALL PEOPLE
TAKING MANY SMALL STEPS
CAN MOVE GREAT THINGS**

WE HELP – THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS

**Warm greetings from Ghana,
Edith de Vos and the Baobab Team**

DONATIONS

The **GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung** will once again match collective donations this year. For larger donations they may match part of the amount, depending on the team that decides which donations are doubled. It does not happen automatically.

It is very important that the team knows which fundraising campaign the donation comes from, even if the donation is transferred directly, for example for a birthday.

For all donations, project donations, or matching donations

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

Reference: Baobab collective donation or what the donation is for (birthday/funeral etc.) or simply Baobab.

For **Collective donations** please email Beate.Oladeji@gls-entwicklung.de to inform them where the funds come from.

Please do not forget the address for donation receipts!

All sponsorship contributions:

(Please use this account only for sponsorship contributions, 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!)

Please also include the address for donation receipts.

Many thanks to all donors, sponsors, and supporters.

~~WE HELP – THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS~~

You can also follow Baobab here:

Facebook: <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)

WhatsApp +49 160 1720 236 | ghana@baobab-children.de

CONTACT

SPONSORSHIPS

Monika Lockemann

patenschaften@baobab-children.de

Tel +49 171 4523192

EVENTS, VOLUNTEERS, GENERAL

Edith de Vos, Founder Baobab Children Foundation

WhatsApp +49 160 1720 236

ghana@baobab-children.de

Heiner Kirsch

heinrich.kirsch@t-online.de

FINANCES AND DONATION CERTIFICATES

info@africa-action.de

Tel +49 2271 767 540

ART EXHIBITIONS

Monika Lockemann

fundraising@baobab-children.de

Tel +49 171 4523192

GLS ZUKUNFTSSTIFTUNG ENTWICKLUNG

beate.oladeji@gls-entwicklung.de

Tel +49 234 5797 5155

FUNDRAISING

Monika Lockemann fundraising@baobab-children.de

Walther Mann capitano2612@gmail.com

Felizitas Greis feli.greis@googlemail.com

Joseph Reichel for „old volunteers“ reichel.jo@googlemail.com

Copyright ©2008 Edith de Vos

