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Our 7th journey to Ghana

31.8.17 – 14.9.17

Final Report

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

The Children's Learning Centre „Home for Hope“ - Focus on Extension of School

It happened again! Since 2012, not a year passes without a project journey to Ghana, so 2017 was also no exception. At the end of August we flew back there - almost exactly nine months after our last visit in November and December 2016



Our project work is now more than ever clearly divided into two divisions: the orphanage and its supply and the relatively new "Home for Hope Preparatory School". Since both projects work incredibly well side by side and together, we can talk now of a great success - in the Children's Learning Centre "Home for Hope" in Gomoa Tarkwa.

The „Home for Hope Preparatory School“

The School

Clearly, this trip had the expansion of our school as a top priority. Opened last December, it has evolved during the last nine months to a thriving educational institution. By now

- Visit **134 schoolchildren** our school, of about 100 external pupils from surrounding villages
- Are the **classes Kindergarten I until Junior High School** being taught – after the completion of another 4 classrooms it can be taught to Junior High School III
- Employs the school **13 teachers and a headmaster**
- Are **4 classrooms in use, and 4 more in construction**

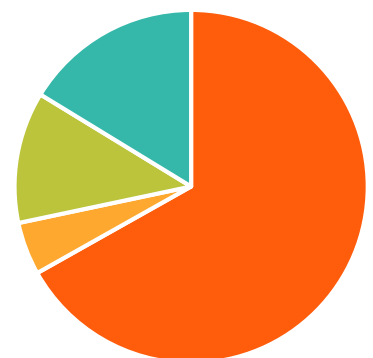
These are the numbers that we are very, very proud of. Important right at the beginning of this trip was, to sit down with the construction company building the four new classrooms, to discuss with them the way forward and in particular: to pay the final rate for the construction.



We expect that the new classrooms will be completed in November. For schoolchildren, this means in particular: more space; for the school itself this means: the ability to teach two more class levels, to enable the older children or young adults to visit the "Home for Hope Preparatory School".

FACTS AND FIGURES

Total Expenses
8000 Euro



- 4 New Classrooms
- School Equipment
- Electricity
- Salaries (September+October 2017)



The Team

In addition to the expansion of the school, it was very important to learn more about the teachers. We had many conversations with Mr. Mensah, the headmaster, whom we appreciate very much for his passion for teaching as well as for his organizational skills. He manages all matters related to the school, for example the use of the revenues through school fees.



In addition to our talks with the headmaster, there was also a meeting with the great teachers. One half has been hired since 2016, after a call for tenders by the Ghanaian Board of Education. The other half starts its service in October, shortly after the start of the new school year.

The Pupils

The roundabout 100 external pupils pay a fair price compared to other schools in the - an equivalent of 20 cents a day. The children living in the orphanage can attend the school free of charge. The revenues from school fees serve to cover smaller expenses for the time being, but should help in the future to make the school operate completely self-sufficient. The school to be able to finance itself is John's and our big goal.

As we pay for the facilities of the children in the orphanage with school materials, this trip also once again offered a longer stay in our favorite school supplies store. The children are now equipped with enough textbooks, pencils and books for new the school year.



The school children of the "Home for Hope Preparatory School" wear a unique school uniform which is common in Ghanaian schools. Below you can see Kaki wearing our school uniform with the school's own logo.



Also, certificates were issued last year for the first time. Here you can see the very the brilliant performance by Dominic, one of the boys living in the orphanage.

CIRCUIT: GOMOA TARKWA DISTRICT: GOMOA WEST
 DATE: 21st JULY 2017 YEAR: 2016/2017 Number On Roll: 6
 CLASS: G AVG SCORE: 66.4 NEXT TERM BEGINS: 12th SEPTEMBER 2017

SUBJECT	CLASS SCORE 80%	EXAM SCORE 82%	TOTAL SCORE 100%	POSITION	REMARKS/AGGREGATE
LANGUAGE/LITERACY	40	34	74	1st	VERY GOOD 2
PARENTAL LITERACY	44	44	88	1st	EXCELLENT 1
MATHEMATICS	41.5	40.5	82	1st	EXCELLENT 1
INTERNAL SCIENCE	47	41	88	1st	EXCELLENT 1
REL. & MORAL EDUCATION	43.5	36	80	1st	EXCELLENT 1
SOCIAL STUDIES	41.5	36.5	78	1st	EXCELLENT 1
I.C.T.	47	38.5	86	2nd	EXCELLENT 1
CREATIVITY ARTS	39.5	31.5	71	2nd	VERY GOOD 2
PRE-TECH/ VOCATIONAL			65.4		

ATTENDANCE: 54 OUT OF A TOTAL OF: 54 PROMOTED TO JHS

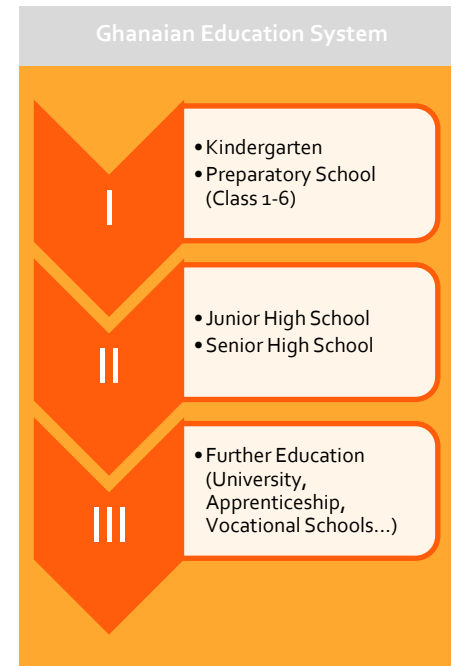
CONDUCT: HE IS VERY CALM AND RESPECTFUL
 ATTITUDE: HE IS VERY ATTENTIVE DURING CONTACT H
 INTEREST: GOOD IN PLAYING FOOTBALL
 CLASS TEACHER'S REMARKS: KEEP IT UP
 HEAD TEACHER'S SIGNATURE: [Signature]

SCHOOL FEES:

ARREARS:	NEXT TERM
FEES Gh₵.....	FEES Gh₵.....
FEEDING Gh₵.....	P. T. A. Gh₵.....
P. T. A. Gh₵.....	PRINTING Gh₵.....
	TOTAL Gh₵.....

STATIONERY:

A1 Ex. Book.....	Note Book 1..... 30	Ruler.....
A2 Ex. Book.....	2B Pencil.....	ARM Board (Slate).....
D1 Ex. Book.....	HB Pencil.....	Drawing Board.....
D2 Ex. Book.....	Maths Set.....	Crayons.....
G Ex. Book.....	Pen.....	
E Ex. Book.....	Note 3..... 5	Signed: [Signature]
F Ex. Book.....	Graph Book.....	HEADMASTER



IBAN: DE45 7625 0000 0009 7361 90

BIC: BYLADEM1SFU

The Orphanage

Workshop „Democracy and Children’s Rights“

Knowledge is power – and in Ghana often a precious good. Without internet or sufficient public libraries, it can be difficult for the children of the orphanage to find out about topics relevant to them. On September 11th, we therefore organized a workshop on the topics of democracy and children's rights for the 13 oldest children of the orphanage in cooperation with the Ghanaian Social Welfare Authority.



Speaker was the head of the social welfare office in our district, Mr. Benjamin. With much distinctive material and his powerful way of talking, he gave the children many important facts about children's rights and democracy. At the end, we distributed questionnaires to the children to obtain their opinions on the workshop in an anonymized way, the results were: positive. We will certainly hold workshops now on a more regular basis.

Electricity

After the successful connection of the orphanage to the public power supply, the first electricity bill was due now. The children in the orphanage as well as the school children are regularly reminded use to not waste electricity. It is still unthinkable for us, however, that there were times in which the children had to live without any electricity – so we are now even happier to see how much the access to electricity increases the quality of life.

The Team

Of course, employees are not only required in the school, but as usual in the orphanage, too. In addition to Ma, who has been there since the very beginning and cook for the kids, there is a woman who washes clothes of children and a nurse who checks through the children on a regular basis.



And then there is John Essaah, the best manager in the whole world. We are completely on the same wavelength, and this time, as usual, we had many productive discussions with him - John is a man of vision, always caring about others.



The Children and the House

Every time we notice how much happier and healthier the children look compared to some years ago. This is certainly due to the continuous improvement of living conditions in the orphanage: There is now a TV, donated by a Ghanaian pastor and with which the children love to gather in the evenings and watch their series, our Swedish partner organization (childrenshome.se) has built a giant football pitch, there is a small volleyball field and - the pride of the children - a ping pong table!

In general, the house and the whole property is a colorful and vivid place, including also the 3 cats, 2 partridges plus their 5 partridge kids and 15 chickens including their breed. Also, the plants on the site grow better and better: Cassava, plantain, yam and papaya are currently successfully grown and can provide the orphanage partially with fresh fruits and vegetables. For the financial independence of the orphanage the crops are not enough though, but we are confident that in future they will contribute to this independence massively.



We want to thank you once again, our biggest supporters. We are so looking forward to everything coming up in the next time!

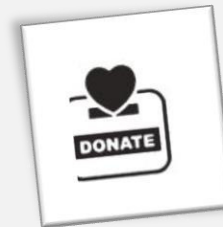
Yours

Larsa Bell

Carsten Hoff

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

West African Proverb



Plans for the Future?

- Getting an own **School Bus**
- Building **6 Toilets for the School**
- Building an **ICT-Lab/Library**
- Extending up to **Senior High School**
- Securing the **further Future**(Apprenticeship /University) of every single child