



The 8th journey to Ghana

1.9.18 – 17.9.18

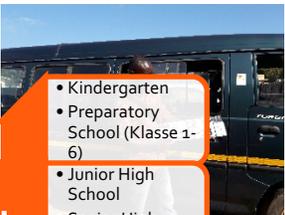
Final Report

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

FACTS AND FIGURES

This year's focus: Good education

This year we came to Ghana with plans to buy a school bus and commission the construction of more toilets for the school after a night in Brussels. We can already promise once: In addition to these two focused topics, we have also achieved much more this year!



- Kindergarten
- Preparatory School (Klasse 1-6)
- Junior High School
- Senior High School
- Weiterbildung (Studium, Ausbildung, Kurse...)

As always, the project work is divided into two areas: orphanage and school..

Above all, the new school bus, the improvement in the children's English and the cohesion in the staff were positively emphasised. A computer room and toilets were felt to be urgently needed. Many small things can already be financed by the school fees. But there is still a long way to go until the school can pay for itself completely.



After long quarrels with our client he finally continued with the construction of the 4 more classrooms one year late. These are so urgently needed - there is hardly enough space for the children in the Junior High School.

In addition, we have started the construction of two teachers' rooms with the company MAGGLO, which is run by a German-Ghanaian couple. The teachers do not have a retreat at the moment, so it was very urgent. The bricks with which MAGGLO builds are special bricks made of clay and are stacked on top of each other according to the Lego principle and no longer need to be plastered or painted. In addition, loam has the positive function of acclimatising rooms well. For these rooms we decided not to use corrugated iron as the roof, but clay tiles. There are not many construction companies in Ghana that lay bricks, but we were able to find one, the contract has been signed and the roof should soon be covered.

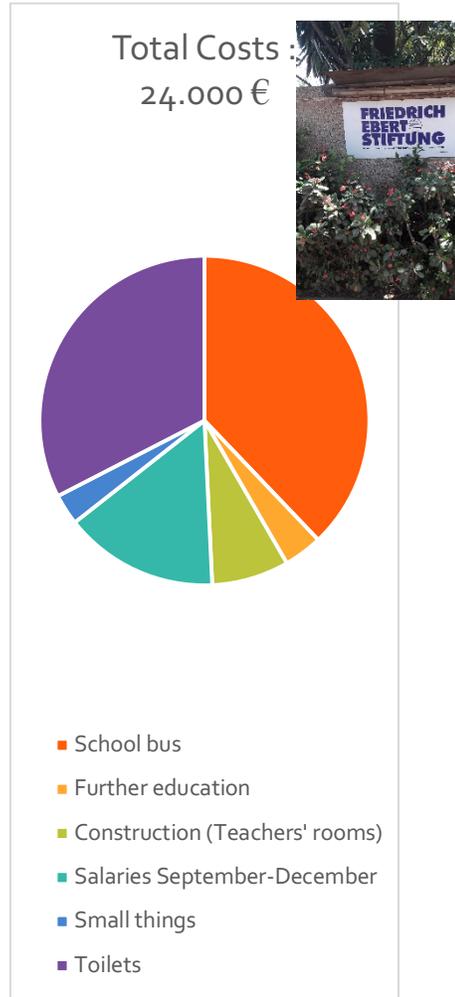
As usual, we pay into the pension fund per employee and wait for the first invoice from the tax authorities, which is due soon.

The „Home for Hope Preparatory School“

In numbers:

- 17 teachers
- 1 cooker
- 164 pupils

Soon it will be the third anniversary of the school! Something like this is being celebrated in Ghana. In July or September 2019 the big celebration will take place, and in the course of planning it we already sat down with the planning committee, consisting of six persons including John, in a plenum. To appear there in 2019 is a must for us! Since the minimum wage in Ghana was increased (to 200 GhC), we have increased the salaries. The cook is financed by the income from the school fees. In addition, we evaluated the satisfaction of 17 teachers with their work in the school using anonymous questionnaires. The feedback was positive throughout, we, the principal and John will deal with the suggestions for improvement.



The school bus has been in operation since the first day of school and is used to collect the pupils from the

surrounding villages and bring them home after school. This is very common in Ghana and was very high time for us. The bus is officially registered and insured (we could do all this in the Cape Coast office) and was bought by John, a friend of him and us both in Accra - and originally comes from South Korea. We were able to confirm with our own eyes that the bus is well used, every morning it picks up 3-4 carts of children. They pay the equivalent of 10 cents for the return trip, so the bus will soon be self-sufficient and will not cause any additional costs for us.

As soon as possible we will also build the eight urgently needed toilets. We have already provided the money for the construction - about 9.000 €.

The orphanage

In numbers:



5 employees
37 children

Finally, the large lights on our power pylons and the property is finally lit up again at night and the children can go to the

toilet at night without worries.

In the orphanage are now 5 people employed, John, Ma, Nurse, 2nd and 3rd "Mother" and there is a new child, Dilo.

On our penultimate evening we distributed the things that we had sent to Ghana by container ship to the children. New, original football boots and backpacks - the children were blown away. Thanks at this point to Baumann Kreativ in Westhausen and Sport Schwab in Ellwangen! In the container we also sent



Nutella and finished dumplings along, that was a "German coffee party" on our last afternoon, consisting of a banana-nutella bread for everyone, greased by us personally, and a small piece of dumplings (especially the dumplings arrived super!).

We also tried to give the children some fun through a few little things like games, novels etc. - it worked out well!

Every time we notice how familiar we are with the children and how they take it for granted that we come and go. It is very important to us that they understand that we can help them with everything, but that the shaping of their future is also in their own hands and that we can "only" give them the tools for this shaping. We want to avoid a feeling of dependency on us forming in the children.

Highlights 2018

Our trip to the German institutions in Accra was great. In the run-up to the trip, we had already made appointments with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the German Embassy's Economic Cooperation Officer. We had hoped that this would provide us with information and tips for our project by experts and women. Both dates were, as expected, extremely informative - especially as far as the expansion of the sustainability of the project is concerned, we were able to take a lot with us. Furthermore, it is of course always interesting for us to hear first-hand about the everyday life, life and work of German foreign employees in development cooperation in Ghana.

He is both a visionary, who is on the same wavelength with us in all future plans, and he is also the perfect man for all operational areas due to his extremely good networking in the region and his local knowledge. And, of course, his personality also makes him an asset to the project!

Further education

The 4 biggest will go to senior high school so they can get a good degree and have every option open to them later. All 4 have finished junior high school last year - at the same time as a rather significant event in Ghanaian education policy: the new president has abolished school fees for senior high schools! That's great, of course, but has unfortunately led to the schools bursting at the seams and therefore a new two-shift system was introduced this school year. All Ghanaian children, who are supposed to go to Senior High School this year, were divided into two groups, the first group could start punctually on 11.9, the second has to wait until 8.11, and so it goes on until the Ghanaian government has built enough schools. Elijah and Jessica are already allowed to start at 11.9, Samuel and Benjamin are in the second shift.

Since it concerns boarding schools, we have equipped each of the 4 with 2 large boxes for her personal articles (The accommodations at the schools have strict rules about what to bring as a newcomer - we already know this from Racheal, Desmond and Felicity). Elijah and Jessica have also been provided by us with other materials for life in the boarding school (a list of 25 points). We personally took Jessica to her school near Agona Swedru - and were positively surprised!



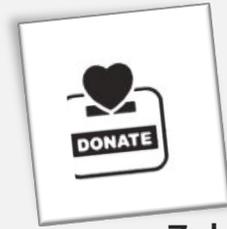
Racheal goes to the Media School and got a laptop from us. For her this is a big step: SHS finished it last year, and now it was all about how she wants to shape her future. She told us a few years ago that she wanted to go in the direction of journalism, and that she was now really accepted at the Media School, where she can do her two-year diploma, which makes us even more happy. Since she is the first of our "squad" whose future we can positively influence fundamentally through the opportunity for education, she is very excited to see how everything will develop over the next two years and everything that comes after that. In total the two years of school will cost 10.000 Cedi, the first year we have already paid.



This time we have drummed up a lot of publicity for the project and distributed lots of stickers. It was impressive to see what an incredible project manager we found in John Essaah.

„My biggest dream for the project is that the children become successful young Ghanaians, for example lawyers, doctors or journalists [...]“.

John Essaah

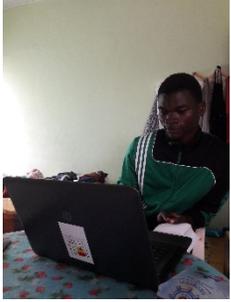


Was ist für die

Zukunft
geplant?

- School bus
- 6 toilets for the school
- Construction of library and ICT building
- Extension of school up to Senior High School
- Secure further education for every child
- Secure sustainability of the project
- Renovation/maintenance of the building

Desmond and Felicity will continue their training as building designers and tailors. Desmond has also received a laptop from us in Germany so that he can draw building plans with it, Felicity had already received a sewing machine last year. Both of them like their school very much, and they have quite a strict daily routine (if you live in a boarding school in Ghana, there are quite strict rules). Nevertheless, they both think what they are taught is great and look positively to the future! Their training will continue for another three years, so they still have enough time to "find each other". We personally brought them to school for the new school year and together with them provided the necessary utensils for the accommodation in the boarding school.



You see: This trip was more than worth it! We could also spend a day at the beautiful beaches of Ghana and meet our friends in

Accra. Coming to Ghana always feels more like coming home. Our annual benefit concert in Aalen is now on the agenda on 22 September. We also want to renew our homepage - so that you can always stay up to date!

You are our biggest support and we should tell you especially from John and the children how grateful they are that you are committed to them.

Yours

Larsa Zell

Carolin Hoff