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The 9th journey to Ghana

4.9.19 – 16.9.19

Final Report

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

The children and learning center „Home for Hope“ - continuous focus on education

A mixture of a sense of habit, but at the same time joyful tension, describes well how it felt to travel to Ghana for the ninth time. Since 2012 no year passes without a project trip to Gomoa Tarkwa, so 2019 was no exception. At the beginning of September we flew over the Sahara again - almost exactly 12 months after our last visit in September 2018.



Meanwhile it is clear: Our project goes each year more in the direction we strive for: To support each child in its strengths and to pave the way for a fair and individual future. We achieve this through good education, i.e. through the constant expansion of our Home for Hope Preparatory School, as well as through the support of our oldest children in their education.

The „Home for Hope Preparatory School“

The school



Through our school we contribute to Sustainable Development Goal number 4

This trip had again the extension and the improvement of the school as a top priority. Opened in its third year, it has become a popular educational institution in the region due to its good reputation, motivated teaching staff and outstanding director. Meanwhile

- Attend almost **200 pupils** our school, of which more than 150 are external pupils from the surrounding villages
- Are classes from **Kindergarten I** up to **Junior High School III** taught
- Employs the school **16 teachers** and a principal, plus a driver
- Are **8 classrooms in use**, 4 more under construction and one more building in planning

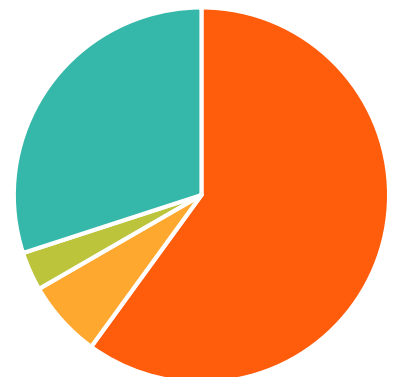
These are the numbers we are very, very proud of. Right at the beginning of this trip it was important to get together with the site manager of the other four classrooms, to discuss the next steps and to pay the first two installments for the construction. In the 12 days that we were on site, so much has already happened on the construction site that we are confident that we will be able to achieve our contractually agreed goal of completing the building by the end of this year.

The four more classrooms are urgently needed to give more room to the classes and to provide a better learning atmosphere.

Our own school bus runs flawlessly and is busy collecting children from the surrounding villages every day.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Total expenses
30.000 Euro
October 2018 -
September 2019



- School building Nr. 3
- School supplies
- Orphanage
- Salaries (October - December 2019)

We were also able to form our own impression of the six new school toilets, which finally provide adequate sanitation.



The Team

We get on very well with the teaching staff and regularly ask for improvement suggestions and opinions from our employees. This time it happened during our annual teachers' conference, where it became clear that the school lacks a lot of sports material and digital resources. We counter this by financing sports equipment and digital teaching materials.



For a more intimate survey we also sent anonymous questionnaires to the staff. One thing became clear during the evaluation: the teachers are very satisfied with their workplace!



We were particularly touched by the farewell gift of the staff to both of us: A real Ghana dress for each of us! A gesture that means a lot to us.

The pupils

According to our school motto "Charity begins at home", which is also emblazoned on our own school logo (see picture) and represents the text of our own school anthem, it is extremely important for us to provide the children of the orphanage with good education. As in the previous year, there was a large purchase of school materials for the children living in the project who attend our school. The result: More than 500 booklets, hundreds of books, pens, erasers, and other materials. At present 35 children from the orphanage attend our school and are distributed among classes 1-8. As usual for the past six years, we support these children 100% financially. The external schoolchildren continue to pay a minimum school fee in order to promote the financial independence of the school.



Every time we meet our "big children" in Ghana, it becomes exciting for us. This means the children from the orphanage who are already "fledged" and no longer live in

the project. These include (in descending order of age): Racheal, Desmond, Felicity, Elijah, Benjamin, Samuel and Jessica. These seven are the pilot projects for the implementation of our vision to pave the way for a fair future for every child from the orphanage by providing the desired educational opportunities. With our seven, this is already working very well, and we are incredibly proud of them:

Racheal continues her training as a nurse in the capital Accra and is very happy about it. Desmond and Felicity are in their second year of training as builders and dressmakers, both of which are very positive. The other four are in their final year at Senior High School Nsaba, about 45 minutes from Gomoa Tarkwa - so next year these four will be in full swing, with decisions to be made about their future careers. All four are incredibly intelligent, and at least two of them want to study medicine at Accra University. We will do everything we can, with your help, to make this dream possible for them from autumn 2020. on.

The Orphanage

Excursion to the biggest tree in West Africa

It's been a long time since we went on a trip with all the children. So it was time again, and we decided on a destination that was very special, especially for the botanically versed children: We visited the "Big Tree", the largest tree in West Africa!



Apart from the interesting facts that our tour guide told us (66 meters high, first discovered in year 1606), it was simply nice for everyone to spend a whole afternoon together. We are already looking forward to the next excursion next year - it is planned to visit the Kakum National Park.

The Team

Of course, employees are not only needed in the school. Besides Ma, who has been there since the beginning and cooks for the children, we also employ two women who wash the children's clothes and a nurse who checks the children at regular intervals.

And then, of course, there is John, the best manager there is.

We are all on the same wavelength, and this time too we had many productive conversations with him - John is a man with visions, always with people's well-being in mind.

He is called Isaac, lives and sleeps permanently in the project and takes care of the 35 children, similar to a caregiver in German boarding schools.

The children and their home

Each time we notice how much happier and healthier the children seem compared to before. This is certainly due to the constant improvement of the living conditions in the orphanage: the television with which the children can watch their programmes from time to time, the football pitch, clean water, balanced food...

Otherwise the house is a really colorful heap, to which also the 4 cats, 3 partridges and some chickens with brood belong. In addition, the plants on the property grow better and better: Kassava, Plantain, Yam and Papaya are already successfully cultivated and harvested and can partially supply the orphanage. For a financial dependence of the orphanage the harvests are still not enough, but we are on a good way.



The independence of the project

Together with John, we have been thinking for a long time about how we can ensure that the project becomes more self-sustaining, i.e. financially less dependent on German donations. At school this is already beginning to work: The school bus pays for itself, and the income from the low school fees helps to cover some of the school's running costs. For the



orphanage we go in the direction of "farming": The project already owns a small orange plantation, which literally bears fruit. John also had the idea to buy a small piece of land for a coconut plantation. Coconuts are in great demand on the market, and you can make a good profit with little effort. Coconut seedlings are already being bred from our already existing few palm trees..

The Future

In addition to the expansion of self-sufficiency, many concrete plans have already been made for the immediate future:

In order to improve the quality of education in our school even further, we have decided together with the director, John and the college to build an **ICT center** with **library**.

We also met with a water plumber during our trip. On John's advice to supply the project with **running water**, we met with the Ghanaian expert and asked him for an assessment of the feasibility of our plan. It is feasible in any case, but of course it also involves costs. However, given the urgency of this measure to improve hygiene, especially in the sanitary facilities, we want to implement this plan as soon as possible.

And then there are our plans, which concern the "**Daily Business**" and which run continuously: Education of children, self-sufficiency, salaries...

So we are still asking for your support. Also, if you have any ideas for funding applications, fundraising campaigns or other means to generate donations and sponsors - please let us know!

Now we would like to thank you again, our biggest supporters! We are looking forward to everything that will come in the near future.

Yours

Larisa Bill

Carolin Hoff

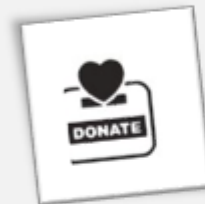
Through creating a total of 25 jobs we contribute to Sustainable Development Goal number 1

1 NO POVERTY



„The strength of a palm tree lies in its branches“

Ghanaian saying



What are the plans for the future?

- School bus
- 6 new school toilets
- **ICT center and library**
- Installation of **running water** in the project
- Expansion of the school up to **Senior High School**
- Securing **the careers** (apprenticeship/ university) of every single child
- Expansion of the **self sufficiency / financial independence**