

The year 2021 & The 10th Ghana journey

19.10.2021 – 29.10.2021

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

FACTS AND FIGURES

The children and learning centre “Home for Hope” - education still number one priority

After we could not travel to Ghana last year due to Corona, the anticipation for this trip was even greater on all sides. As you know, it is important and amazing for us to be there for two reasons:



Gomoa Tarkwa, the people there, our staff, the children - these are all relationships that we value and can best nurture when we are on the ground. And then, of course, there are some project-related activities that we can best initiate and carry out in direct consultation with John - you will learn more about them in this newsletter.

What can already be revealed now:

Our project, which started 10 years ago as an orphanage with quite humble sustainable goals, has become a really big

educational project, the best in the Gomoa West region, and has a great impact on so many people on so many levels.

We are glad that we made the decision a few years ago to focus 100% on education - for us this is and remains the most sustainable lever to enable children and young people an independent future.

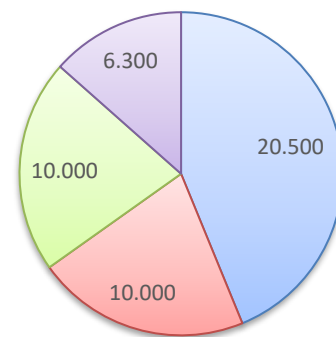


Of course, equality, health, etc. make this lever a whole and our vision can only be achieved by considering all those aspects.

Before getting to the interesting projects news from Ghana here great news from the accounting department in Germany: The tax office has again certified to our foundation for the last two years that we have spent donations only for charitable purposes.

Now to the news from the project:

Total expenses
46.800 €



- ICT Centre building
- Salaries of employees in Ghana
- Costs for education
- Other

The „Home for Hope Preparatory School“

The school has become extremely professionalized and enlarged. This is largely due to our director, who has shared with us from the beginning the vision of making our school into something very special. Mr. Mensah, in addition to his professional and organizational empathic leadership, is a great guide to the young teachers. He maintains a good and appreciative relationship with all staff members as well as with parents and children. So we are proud to announce that....

... the school now has **275 students**
 ... we employ **20 teachers**
 ... the school is considered one of the **best in the region**
 ... the installation of a big water tank has improved the **hygienic conditions** in the school extremely.

As usual, we sought a meeting with the teachers at the very beginning of our journey to find out if our teachers are happy and satisfied with their work and what potential areas of improvement they see.



In order to give all teachers the chance to really express themselves freely, we distributed anonymous questionnaires after the meeting - the evaluation of these shows that all teachers are extremely satisfied with their work and working conditions but many would like that more emphasis is placed on the use of digital teaching tools and the use of English language also between the lessons.

The first is a good segue into the second major topic of our journey: The construction of the ICT Centre and the library

The ICT Centre & library

About a year ago, we decided to implement this larger project within our project. We want to improve the digital skills of our students and the villagers by providing a computer lab with 10-12 computers.

This is important, as there is no such facility in our region.

The digital offering will be supplemented by the establishment of a small library, where we can offer users a safe and quiet space where they can browse technical and entertainment literature as the mood takes them.

The books will be a mix of English-speaking international and African and Ghanaian literature, and, if possible books in the local Ghanaian languages.



A few months ago, after we had received the confirmation of financial support from "Ein Herz für Kinder - BILD hilft e.V". for the building, our building company in Ghana was able to get started right away. The construction site is therefore already quite far, and the forecast is that by December this year we will have

the premises ready to be used!

The equipment like computers, furniture, books etc. will be financed by your donations.

In addition, there will be a staff member who will supervise the use of the computers, provide assistance in case of problems, and hold courses and trainings on a regular basis.

We are so excited to get started with this project!

In addition to everything that concerns the school, the second major focus of our project is the support of the 35 socially disadvantaged children and young people who live permanently in the project. In the next section, you can read about what's new here.



By creating more than 25 jobs throughout the project, we are contributing to Sustainable Development Goal number 1.



Through the high quality of teaching at our school, we contribute to Sustainable Development Goal number 4.



By providing running water, we are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goal number 6.

The support of the 35 socially disadvantaged children and young people

As you know, 35 children and young people from socially disadvantaged families live permanently in the project.

These are mostly the children and young people we have known for 10 years. Back then we had already planned to support each of them 100% on their educational path.



Three of these young people are already almost finished with their further education, and one has recently started his apprenticeship. In September, a new batch of four young people graduated from high school and each of them has different plans for their future - which is always exciting for us to see.

On our trip, we took time to talk to them, and some other young people who are also slowly approaching high school graduation, about their future plans. As you might expect, many different wishes and ideas came up in the area of further education. What they all have in common: They can rely on us. Some time ago, we decided to finance larger construction projects, which involve immense costs, only through grant applications. We keep a large part of your donations as a buffer, so that we can really provide each and every young person with the desired and meaningful further education.

Fun Fact: One of the young people who graduated from high school in September is currently doing an internship at the local radio station - who knows, maybe this will be the foundation for a great career in radio and TV?

The future

The next big step for us will be the completion of the ICT Center and library building in December and the successive installation of the same. We want to have the center up and running professionally by the next school year, which starts in September 2022, at the latest.

That brings us to the next point:

Next year is the school's 6th anniversary, and such an occasion is always celebrated in Ghana with great excitement. So we will start our Ghana trip in 2022 in great anticipation of a huge party!

In order to bring even more children safely from the surrounding villages to school every day and back home, we will need a second school bus in the long run.

Here we are researching what kind of bus would be the best for us, and we are planning to ask Ghanaian car dealers for financial or material support.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions for this, please feel free to contact us.

The next and last big idea for a building project is the construction of a hospital room and a dormitory wing. Just now the existing school buildings are so well utilized that children who become ill during the school day are accommodated in the teachers' room.

Our nurse has told us that it would be much better to have one or two separate rooms for these children. Therefore we are planning the construction of a small building in which one to two rooms for ill students and one or two bedrooms for the children who live permanently in the project are located

And those who know us, know what is still to come: In the long term, of course, we want to continue to the self-sufficiency of the project.

This means that at some point the project should be no longer dependent on German donations. With the school, we are well on the way, but the support for the 35 disadvantaged children will continue to be funded by your donations. Good things take time!

We would like to thank you for this great year.

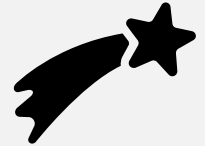
On the graph of the total expenditures 2021 it shows that we had a lot of money at our disposal this year.

We appreciate it very much that you support us in spite of the the corona-conditioned difficult situation incessantly through your donations and actions, for example through this year's great action "David läuft". We will continue to do our best to use your money for the best purposes!

Yours,
Carolyn & Larissa

"If you want to climb a tree, start at the bottom, not at the top".

Ghanaian proverb



What comes next?

- Establishment and use of the **ICT Center and the library**
- Celebrating the **6th anniversary** of the school next year
- Purchase of a second **school bus**
- Construction of a **hospital and dormitory building**
- Expansion of the **self-sufficiency** of the project
- **Continuous support** for the 35 socially disadvantaged children and young people

