

Vuga e.V. Newsletter

Dear Members, Partner and Friends of the Vuga Community,

This month there is a month full of goodbye and new beginnings... Our four current volunteers are about to leave and the new volunteers just arrived to start their volunteer service and to get to know their partner organizations and host families.

This newsletter is meant to update you about all the activities and the progress of our projects. From this month on always two out of our eight volunteers will write a short report about their work and daily life in Uganda. It gives them the opportunity to reflect and think about their global learning process about privilege and global inequalities.

V(v)uga

Maybe some of you don't know what Vuga means... "Vuga means "drive" in Luganda, the primary language of central Uganda. It stands for the motivation and enthusiasm with which we were received in Uganda and it is with this attitude that we endeavor to carry on our work. Together with our Ugandan friends and driven by them."



We wish our new volunteers that they will connect with this "drive" and start motivated and with a high energy level and open mindset in their projects!

Preparation Seminar in Leipzig

by FEE

One month ago we had our preparation seminar in Leipzig and I really enjoyed to get to know each one of our volunteers and to meet with the Vuga members and teamers. Special Thanks to Trina who came all way long from Entebbe to prepare the volunteers and to answer their questions and just welcoming everyone.



We are thankful for all the teamers who came from Berlin-Jonas, Saskia, Merlin and Maria to assist us with their input about structural racism, stereotype, history of development partnership, gender and violence, culturalizations and also for spending time together. The Hostel Garden Eden had a nice garden where we could sit, play frisbee and eat together. It was a pleasure to have Trina around and also to introduce her to our families and friends and to talk about our views and work together.

by FEE

Farewell Uganda

by JENNY

No one of us will leave Uganda as the person we came and we want to thank everyone who took part in our personal developments.

We hope that we can give some of our experience to the new volunteers who are arriving on 18th august, so that they can have a smooth start. The plan for the seminar is ready and now everyone is preparing his/her part. Unfortunately, Lexi will fly 4 days prior to the arrival of the new volunteers, but we will give our level best to represent her.

Our volunteer coordinator Trina was not around during the whole of July because she went to Germany to participate in the preparation seminar for the next volunteers. We missed her a lot, but we are very happy that she could make this trip and meet the volunteers. She came back to us safely on 31st of July. Kulikayo Trina, welcome back! We are so grateful to spend the last time with you who was with us throughout the whole year and whenever we needed help or someone to talk to you were there for us. Thank you for being 'Maama Vuga' and for starting and ending the journey of our lives with us. I can still remember very well how you picked us from the airport that night! This memory shall introduce us into all of our memories concerning July 2017.



EWAD Busia and Red Cross

by LEXI

Right now I am sitting in Busia, it is the end of month July and I am starting to tick off points from my "Last things to-do"-list. It is the second and last time within the year of my volunteer service to accompany my colleagues to Busia, Eastern Uganda, where EWAD runs the "Extending Fairtrade Gold to Africa" Project. The reason that brought me here is an Austrian Film team who will produce a documentary about the improvements in the Gold processing and the impact Fairtrade has had on the Artisanal Small Scale mining sector. The media team called LANGBEIN PARTNER from Vienna is hired by the

Dutch company FAIRPHONE which strives to develop a smartphone which does not contain conflict-minerals (in mobile devices mostly gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten), was produced under fair labour conditions and is repairable by the user. On this account I should mention again that SAMA (one of the Artisanal Small Scale Mining Associations under the EWAD Fairtrade Project) is the first Fairtrade-certified Gold Mine on the whole African continent. So add 'a travel to Busia in Eastern Uganda' + 'my second last week' + 'Austrians' + 'a film team' + 'Fairphone' together and you will get the perfect mix for an Alexandra Rank to dive into.

Moreover in July I could also tick off the "last visit at the Red Cross Entebbe office" as I finally held the last First Aid content for our kit at the School in my hands. I additionally hope I could make a cross at "Last cough". At the office mostly the website texts for the CSP and the EWA N/P School as well as the sketch map to the School kept me busy. Especially the latter was a big project for me (obviously in my eyes only, as I have colleagues that would do that in 30 minutes) since I taught myself with the help of try-and-error, the internet and expert friends how to use Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. I am very proud of the result and the fun during the design process proved me that I am on the right path with my study decision for my future. For pessimists it is a pity that at the end of my year I find out about one of my favourite working areas. For an optimist it was an awesome project.

Update Garden Project

by WIELAND

The mushroom business is still working. We try to water them twice a day. To ensure an improvement in irrigation we try to install a watering system out of bottles. Mister Mbone supported us with many small bottles. We are cutting the bottom of the bottle and fix the bottle with strings or masking tape over the mushroom bags. With a nail we are stinging a small hole in the cap of the bottle. When we full this bottles with water slowly, slowly one after the next drops will go into the mushroom bag and we dont lose too much water. Now we are in a testing stage. If this system is working every bag will get a bottle. The sale of mushrooms is working. Throughout the last days we could harvest. Maria told us that we can harvest three months since the first harvest. It means that we will have time up to the middle of August. Up to this time we will have a good capital to buy new seeds.

The watering system wasnt working proper. Our new idea to fix the bottles with a string is a better method. We cut the bottom from each bottle and prepare them with

two holes. Then we connect the bottle in assistance of a string with the construction. In the cup we also sting a hole. Now we can fill the bottles in the morning and the evening. We save a lot of time and dont loose too much water.

Brass Band

by WIELAND

The boys from the brass band came to me with two requests. Firstly they want to start a live band. With the support from Vuga e.V. they want to buy music instruments and equipment. Especially friends and other connections can engage the band for parties. With the earnings they increase their income and Huyslinci can support the youths and the community too. Secondly, they want to play football as a Huyslinci team in a league system. Before they can register they still need support with equipment like jerseys, shoes etc. I asked my old football team, my favorite club and also friends of me and I hope we will get support.

Last Thoughts

by JELENA

Another month is over. The last month in which all of us four volunteers will be together. Really weird to think about. Continuously we had the German Club. And at my work place I had the sessions with three classes, where I am mainly doing games and Sports. With one class we are doing their classroom decoration. In all the months before I did all these manillas for lower classes. In P6 six class now the students wanted also some for their classroom, so in our sessions they are able to design their own ones, how they want it and are creative.

Throughout the first three weeks of July we had supporters from The US who came regularly to the school. They also wanted to do some voluntary work whenever they were around. For the second week in July Andrew and me planned the Sports Day for this term. I organized the teams and we also involved our visitors who kindly sponsored the Sports Day which concluded one junior and one senior football tournament. We had a great day, it was good fun, and the goal posts from Vuga are still alive and used for the tournaments.



Figure 1: New and Old Volunteers with Trina