

Vuga e.V. Newsletter

Dear Members, Partner and Friends of the Vuga Community,

We are glad to report about the progress of our young but seriously growing program. This month our first volunteers got their certificates at a very nice farewell party, where all our partners had the chance to say goodbye. At the same time our new generation is joining their projects in Uganda, having their preparation seminars with our partners and much more. Have fun reading and get back to us with all remarks.

Greetings from Entebbe

by TRINA

Greetings to you from Uganda the pearl of Africa. We have come to the end of our first volunteers time in Uganda. These volunteers arrived in august last year and their volunteership services have ended this september.

Thank you so much for all your efforts towards the volunteer program. It has been a great year where I believe the volunteers have learned a lot as they will share with you on their arrival in Germany.



I also take this opportunity to inform and let you know that the second group of volunteers arrived this august and already went through a one weeks seminar to prepare them for their year of volunteership in Uganda. They are working at their respective organizations. So far they are doing well in their organizations and host families. we have also had our farewell and welcome party to both the going and new volunteers respectively.

Thank you so much once again for all that you do for the volunteer program.

First days in Entebbe

by LEXI

On the first Thursday, Trina took us three around in the car to have a first glance at our new home town Entebbe as well as for purchasing internet (phone and laptop) and a photocopy of our passport. In our first weeks here, we checked out the daily routine of the people around us, found out about the differences of life style in our regions of Uganda, maybe on the one hand started to appreciate old luxury features of life (f.e. bathrooms, constant power) but on the other hand also began to see the advantages of f.e. a shower just consisting of a bucket with a sponge (lesser shower time, smaller wastage of water) or the powerful thunderstorm sessions (leaving home later for work).

After one month, we all are now able to properly use the public transport to different destinations, to tell where exactly we live (regarding the counties and sub-counties) and we got to know how to interact with the Ugandans we meet in daily life.

From the 29th of August until the 2nd of September, the VUGA-Seminar together with Trina and representatives of the partner organization took place at the St.





Mark's church in Entebbe. The schedule included visiting the different work places, meeting the contact persons and moreover also information and discussion sessions concerning different topics like life and nature in Uganda or the Luganda-language.

You can read the whole report from Lexi in our new blog section on our website:

<http://verein-vuga.org/en/news/blog/>

What is a volunteer?

by JENNY

In fact, there are many roles a volunteer can play. When you always want to experience adventures, when you can't stop taking photos, when you don't participate in activities of your organization or within your host family, when you always observe and evaluate the people around you and your environment out of distance, then you are a tourist. In case you have the knowledge, or you think that you have the knowledge, to lead projects within your organization towards 'help to self-help' independently, than you are a development aider.

Between these two extreme cases there are many stages. Sometimes the volunteer decides himself to play a specific role, but mostly the roles are played unconsciously and they can change. The role VUGA e.V. expects us

to play is the mid of the two extremes. We tried to give this role a term during the seminar. This role includes features such as the ability to work in a team, the ability and the will to communicate. Let's call it team member, a member of the organization, a member of the host family and so on.

If you want to read more from Jenny, please visit her blog on:

<https://jennyinugandablog.wordpress.com/>



Language Courses

by JOHANNES

Our volunteers are currently visiting a language course at the Entebbe Language institute. We are glad they have the opportunity to do so and learn to communicate in Luganda.

Nevertheless the language Courses at the institute are quite expensive and it might be worth spending a thought into consideration if partner organization can organize such a course by themselves.



Our aim is to have volunteers familiar with the local language. If you can achieve that within our own resources, that would be even better than the language institute. If you have any

ideas about that, please talk to Trina and we see how to realize that in the future.

Budget of 2016

by JOHANNES

We are still in the learning process for the best organization of the volunteer program. Last year we had the problem that too many funds were left at the end of 2015 and we were actually forced to put them in project. We tried to change that in shifting more of the budget into the second year of the volunteer service. And as an example, we already paid all our insurance bills at once instead of paying them every month. However it is never perfect, and we are now facing a situation, where our funds for 2016 are running low.

That is not a problem for the realization of the program, because all running costs are covered for, but we don't have much resources to put into projects in 2016. Please don't stop to write proposals, but have in mind that it is possible that the transaction of funds might be postponed to 2017.

We will have a partner meeting in December, where we will discuss the whole budget and how to spend it best. If you have any ideas for that meeting please contact me or Trina.



Figure 1: Its all about finding new friends! Good luck Wieland