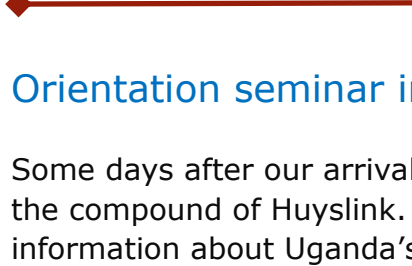


Report project coordinator — by Trina

Dear members, partners and friends of the Vuga community,

I am happy to inform you that all our five volunteers got their work permits. This is normally my happiest moment in the first months. I am always worried before the volunteers get their work permits but I feel so happy when work permits are out. Rehak Emanuel, who is from the old generation, got his special pass for three months and went back to Germany on December 16. Meta went back in July and Julia in August. Theo, Jule, Anna and Jana left Uganda in September. Our partners were so happy and they said they are looking forward to receiving their own volunteers in August next year. At Nayode, the director said he will be calling the volunteers sometimes to do some tasks at their organisation. It's my prayer that they don't give up. All the volunteers went through orientation at their organisations too by their supervisors. All the volunteers are going on with their language lessons as well. The volunteers are now used to their host families and Ugandan food. The host parents are so happy how the volunteers adapted to almost everything in the family though some of them are very poor at house work.

Some of the volunteers have made some trips for example Hye-Seon has travelled to Busia which is in the east bordering Uganda and Kenya for work at the EWAD gold mining project. Jonathan is running a boxing project and his organisation and the turn up is increasing day by day. He is also planning to open up a small gym. He also supports the brass band.



above
At the worlds bellybutton with Trina

left
The partner organisations are very happy and proud to have Amelie, Eva, Jonathan, Hye-Seon and Thea in their team for the upcoming year

In this issue

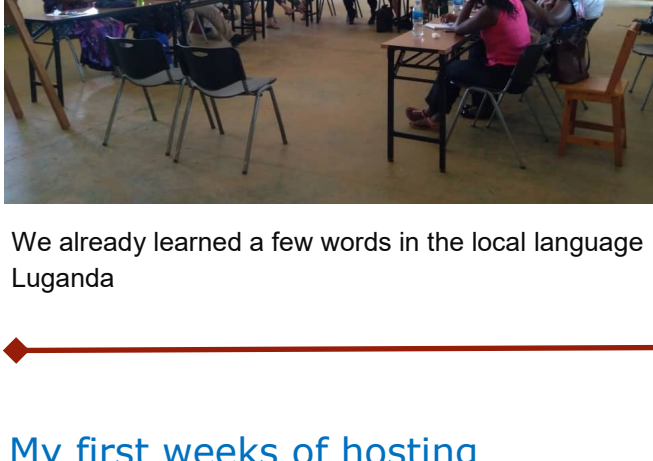
- Report project coordinator
- Orientation seminar Uganda
- Host experience
- Volunteer reports
- Keyhole gardens
- MAMAppendoUganda-shop
- Uganda foto presentation
- Coming back to germany



At Yawe, Amelie concentrated on several projects and supported in the follow up of lost clients in HIV care for the health facilities Yawe is supporting. She also supported in the data entry, bakery project especially in the sales and financial management. Amelie together with other volunteers at Yawe, has been able to counsel, educate, play with the children at the Children's prison. She has been involved in organising the youth project. Eva was involved in the follow up, youth group, business development and information management where she accomplished a number of tasks because of her extraordinary commitment. She has encouraged other volunteers from Israel to record all their activities and events. This improved the organisations interventions.

Orientation seminar in Uganda — by Hye-Seon

Some days after our arrival in Uganda one week of orientation seminar was held at the compound of Huyslink. Representatives of our partner organizations presented information about Uganda's history, culture and politics. The former volunteers conducted exiting sessions to share their experiences, tips and recommendations regarding the work in the partner organizations, life at the host families and daily life in Uganda in general.

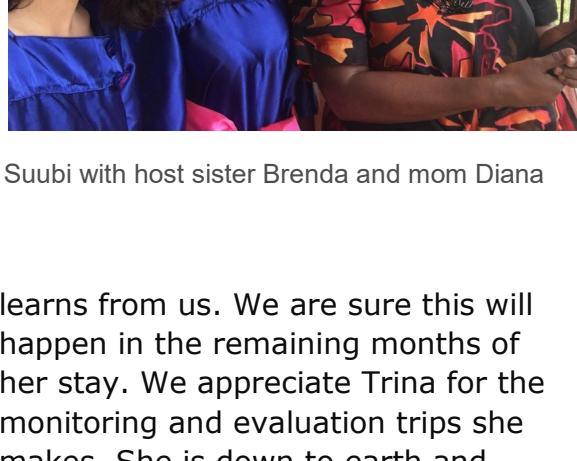


We already learned a few words in the local language Luganda

We even got a short class in Luganda. One of my personal highlights was the lunch, which was provided by the catering service of Trina's mother and which made us become acquainted with the delicious Ugandan cuisine. During the seminar we, the volunteers, were all accommodated at Trina's place, which gave us the chance to speak about the insights we gained and to share our excitement about our upcoming year in Uganda.

My first weeks of hosting experience — by host mom Diana

We spent a whole month preparing Hye-Seon's room and she loved it. It was a shock to all of us when she got some bed bug bites during the first days of her stay because everything in the room was new! Luckily, we got a Hotel Fumigator who solved the bed bug problem. This experience was the biggest challenge, shock and embarrassment for us as family. I would like to applaud Hye-Seon because she never showed any signs of discouragement or stress like me. She is now used to everything and takes herself wherever she feels like. Hye-Seon (new Lugandan name: *Suubi* - meaning *Hope*) is already cultured to our village environment. Our intention as family was to learn her language and culture as she too



Suubi with host sister Brenda and mom Diana

learns from us. We are sure this will happen in the remaining months of her stay. We appreciate Trina for the monitoring and evaluation trips she makes. She is down to earth and makes hosting a normal and easy adventure.

First Reports by the new volunteers

Ameli

In the month of November we had a lot to do with the preparation for our 6th KUSA (Kaberole Unique Stars Association) youth conference. KUSA is an organization led by and for young people living with HIV. I was supporting the conference by collecting the list of ART-Treatment clients at the hospitals and health facilities around Kaberole district. These clients were invited to attend the conference to learn more about their illness and how to live with it in a responsible way. We had around 200 young people attending the conference and it was very successful and well regarded.

In addition to this I went to our partner organizations Baylor-Uganda and RFPJ (Rwensori Forum for Peace and Justice) to ask for financial support for the Youth-Conference. I also drew attention to our Candle Light Memorial in a radio talking show in Nov. Once a week I am visiting the youth prison Kicumba Remand Home for minor offenders (12-18) to do a few exercises with them, so that they have the chance to get out of their dormitories.

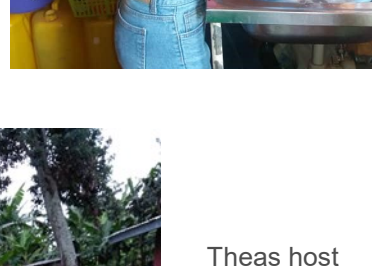
Eva

In the beginning of November all the Vuga volunteers went on a trip to Fort Portal after our second seminar in Entebbe. First we went to Jinja to see the Itanda falls and the source of the Nile, then we continued to Kasese and Fort Portal where we visited Queen Elizabeth National Park. During the trip I had also to work on a business plan for the women group at Little Light, which turned out to be challenging while sitting in a car and trying to find Wifi. After I came back from the trip I fell sick for a few days and made my first experience with an Ugandan hospital, but after taking some antibiotics I recovered quickly. In the middle of the month Amelie came for three days to Little Light and helped us a lot with some work in the projects. I went a few times to meet the Israeli volunteers for dinner or a movie night. Also we still had a lot of challenges with our Youth Group, because they were not coming to our meetings. We could just solve that problem by shifting the meetings to a later time. This made it sometimes a bit hard to still find some time to spend with my family.

Hye-Seon

In November, EWAD did its last Busia field trip for this quarter of the year. I got to know all four Mining Organizations, which are supported by EWAD. We conducted training workshops about financial management at each organization and held another workshop about corruption management. On the last day all four communities were brought together. The people in Busia are very welcoming and also very eager to learn necessary skills to improve their working environment and businesses. I like the open discussions and the general exchange between EWAD and the miners. At the end of the month was the graduation of the students at the EWA Nursery School. I loved how much dancing was part of the ceremony. Another big event was the wedding of two of my work colleagues. It was rather a small, but all the more lovely wedding. I found a tandem partner, whom I meet regularly to practice my Luganda. She is currently learning German at Huys Link and a very good Luganda teacher herself.

Hye-Seon is getting used to the village life



Theas host mom lent her a traditional dress of Batooro for the introduction to the family

Jonathan

The first three months have passed and I have developed a lot of daily routines. My week is organized by some events like boxing or church meetings. In Huyslink I wrote my first proposal for our boxing class. We are in need of more equipment, so I went with Emanuel to Kampala to buy different boxing gears. Now we can guarantee a high training standard as well as a necessary health fundament. Next week will be the introduction of my guest parents and I am excited to see after all their preparation in advanced how it will be the final celebration. The lowlight of this month was a muscle injury of my upper leg and a flu which made me laid down for some days. One highlight was a concert at Water Front where Jimmy (the leader of the brass band from Huyslink) performed with his live band. I went there with two guys which never experienced live music before. The enthusiasm in their eyes during the songs showed me the beautifulness of music.

Thea

After I have arrived in Uganda end of October, three months later than the other volunteers, almost two months have passed and I can't believe how fast time goes by. Besides many new and unusual impressions in my first weeks, I already really feel at home in Fort Portal. During the orientation seminar Trina repeated all the information, that I needed to have a smooth start in Uganda and which the others already had gone through on their first seminar. We visited the organizations Yawe and JESE, where I am going to work in the future, and I was also introduced to my host family and I felt at home fast. The following weeks I accompanied my supervisor to the field work and I was able to see and experience in practice what I have been only reading before. I enjoyed being on the road, because every day was different and full of surprises. Our lessons in Rutooro have already started, so that with a few greeting words I was able to weaken a bit the feeling of being out of place. The best way to practice greeting in Rutooro is to go jogging. I got feedback very quickly when I accidentally said good evening instead of good morning.

Keyhole garden project in Fort Portal

Interview with Fred Kugonza, supervisor of Jese

What are keyhole gardens?

A keyhole garden is a small round bed with a keyhole-shaped spare that allows the gardener to reach the compost basket in the centre. The soil is piled around the basket so that the nutrition for the vegetables can gently get to the roots.

Which benefits do they have compared to usual gardens?

A keyhole garden is located beside the house, so the families have access and supply of vegetables. The gardens produce vegetables constantly. Other gardens require establishing every season.

Who had the idea of the project?

The idea was conceived, developed and implemented by the Vuga volunteer, starting with a demonstration at JESE head office and then training in the field.

How many gardens have been built so far?

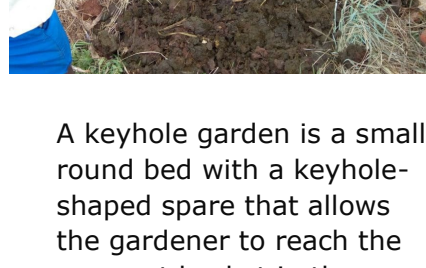
With support from JESE field staff and the participation of the volunteer we have six gardens uptill now.

What are the outcomes of the project?

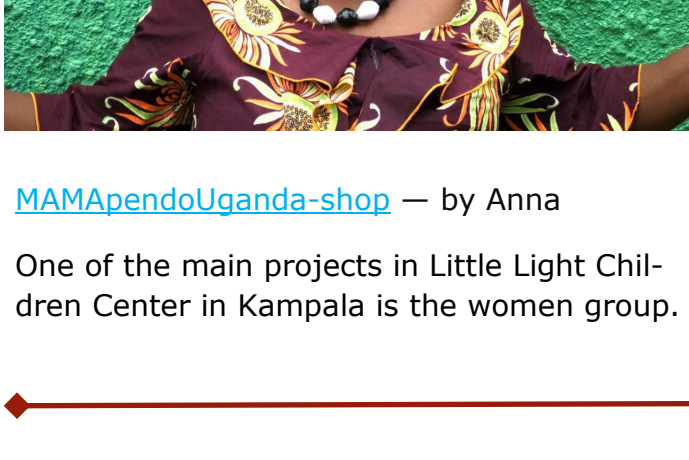
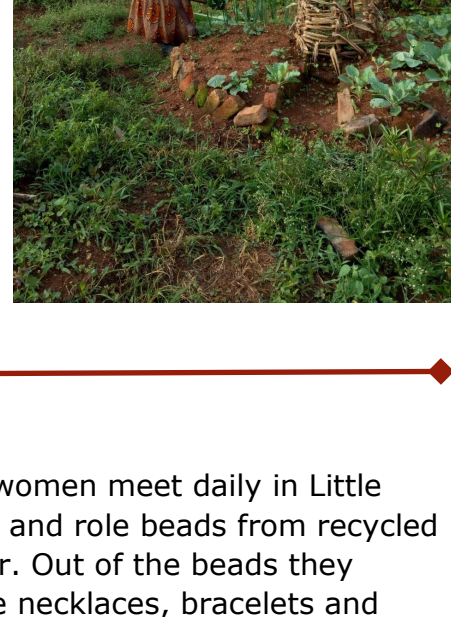
The first outcome is the knowledge gained both by the Jese staff and the farmers. Secondly, the gardens are serving as a source of vegetables for families.

Are you planning to build more keyhole gardens?

All established gardens are going on well and we plan to continue KHG as one of the methods of kitchen gardening in our projects.



A keyhole garden is a small round bed with a keyhole-shaped spare that allows the gardener to reach the compost basket in the centre - it supplies the families with fresh vegetables during all seasons



MAMAppendoUganda-shop — by Anna

One of the main projects in Little Light Children Center in Kampala is the women group.

The women meet daily in Little Light and role beads from recycled paper. Out of the beads they make necklaces, bracelets and keychains. Together with the volunteers they choose the colors and the design of the jewelry. When people travel from Uganda to Germany they take some of them and they end up with a former volunteer who is selling the jewelry together with bags and sandals from Uganda in a internet shop called "MAMAppendoUganda". The earning are going back to Little Light. Little Light is using it for the women and other daily needs like school fees, food or salary.

Uganda Foto presentation — by Jenny

As a former volunteer it was my wish to spread information about Uganda among other people in my region. This is why I organised three presentations in the past two months. The audiences were teachers from my vocational training school, members of the "Volkssolidarität" (an association of elder people) and inhabitants of my village from age 10 up to age 85. I showed them photos about infrastructure, food and drinks, history and many other aspects of life in Uganda. The intention was to show the visitors other perspectives of "life in Africa" than they know from the German mainstream media.

Coming back to germany — by Jule

The last five days I attended my last seminar about being a Vuga volunteer. It was found in Leipzig same as the first seminar last year before we left. Garten Eden is a nice hostel; we had good food and great discussions about different things. Everyone is bringing different input to the group and discussions, which is really cool! It was really nice to be back with the other people from my generation (except from Manu who's still in Uganda) sharing the experience of coming home after 13 months in Uganda, what the past year did to us and what plans we have for the future. I think we are a great group therefore I'm really looking forward to realize some of our new plans for Vuga. If everything works out 2020 Vuga might have two Ugandan volunteers in Germany ...



Volunteers ...
come and go ...

