

Dear Vuga e. V. family,

Easter season always means new life. Currently, the nature in Germany is awakening after winter, that means we have so many spring flowers and the trees are blooming and getting leaves. According to this, you can read about how the **two new projects** at **EWAD** and **Jese** have started to grow in this newsletter. Furthermore, both current and former ugandan host parents are talking about the stay with their host children from Germany, among other updates. I hope the Easter energy can give us all the motivation to do what we are aiming at.

Yours, Jenny



Uptdate project coordinator — by Trina

We had our in between seminar where volunteers shared their experiences. Some partners attended and presented topics such as: girl child and women rights, stress management and work in Uganda, sustainable agriculture, youth and climate adaption, and NGOs work in Uganda.

I visited all partner organisations in March having meetings with supervisors and volunteers discussing their work. I met all volunteer host parents—they were not complaining about the volunteers, so everything was fine.

The majority of the volunteers went to the fields and outreaches, Hye-Seon networked in Fort portal at Amani Rwenzori. All volunteers engaged in the administration work like filing, facebook page updating and other assignments given to them.

Jonathan is still carrying on the boxing lessons as well as the German lessons. Jonathan and Huyslink staff went to different

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villages mobilising and looking for new students for their vocational school. Amelie went for outreaches especially for the HIV patients.

In-between seminar in Uganda — by Eva



Our in-between seminar took place from March 25 through 29 at Trina's home

It was great that we could see each other again as we haven't seen each other since the end of January. This time another german weltwärts volunteer joined us, and it was very interesting to hear her experiences. We started with presentations from the different Vuga e.V. partner organisations about challenges in NGO work, climate change and other topics. In the afternoon we listened to presentations from Johannes and Jonas from Vuga and discussed about stereotypes, racism, how to report and talk about Uganda and exchanged experiences. After all, it was a very interesting and rewarding time.

Our daughter Thea akiiki —

by Sue Bagonza

Our daughter Thea akiiki (akiiki= discoverer) is a very outgoing person. She gets along well with our family, especially the kids. She has taught them different interesting games, and during Halloween time she cut faces into pumpkins. We all got excited by this. In December she surprised us with so many great things, such as an advent calendar, that we opened every morning. She is so special to us because she and Noble, our son, are sharing their birthday. We are glad that our ways crossed and she enjoys her stay. Thea akiiki has been to various sites in our district and beyond, and we are happy that she has made many friends in markets, boda stages and others.

Luckily, she did not find trouble with our food, however she got sick after Christmas but was treated, and she got better.

Great thanks to Trina for always being in touch with both of us, meetings and sharing anything about our lives with her. Keep it up Trina.



Thea's Ugandan parents Sue and Ken Bagonza



Thea and her siblings are baking german Christmas cookies

EWAD Skills Development Centre — by Hye-Seon



The new Skills Development Centre aims at providing market relevant skills for underprivileged women. Hye-Seon enjoys learning to sew her first selfmade skirt

With the beginning of the year 2019, EWAD initiated a new project called EWAD Skills Development Centre. With this project, the NGO aims at providing market relevant skills for underprivileged women, so that they can overcome unemployment and poverty sustainably and earn an independent living. For a start, the project focuses on training in sewing and tailoring, but other skills such as hair-dressing are planned to be taught as well.

I have been involved in the project from its initiation on until now, whereby it is somewhere in between its development and execution phase. To facilitate a good performance of the project, I regularly take part in the training sessions to monitor the implementation and to evaluate the progress.

But above all, I especially enjoy given the chance to learn myself some sewing and tailoring, which already enabled me to make my first handmade skirt.

Boxing project at Huyslink — by Jonathan

Since the beginning of November our boxing project is running at Huyslink. We offer a boxing workout three times a week from 16.00 to 18.00 o'clock. During these months there were a lot of changes and a huge fluctuation of students. At the moment there are just two boxers who continued training from the beginning of the project.

Often the background situation of the students and their responsibilities make it difficult for them to come constantly. Furthermore, for some youths it is unusual to come regularly and commit themselves for a free time activity. Therefore it is not easy to establish the boxing training as an ongoing activity.

The same for myself as a coach. It was difficult the last four weeks to guarantee the weekly training. Therefore another person is missing that can lead and take responsibility of the practice when I am not there. However, I did not find yet an appropriate, that means especially reliable and constant person who can take over. This is also im-



Currently two boxers are training regularly at Huyslink. Jonathan hopes for the stability of the project after his year in Uganda

portant concerning the sustainability of the project after I will have finished my volunteer year.

Nevertheless, the training together with motivated youths is highly enjoyable and for me personal one of my highlights in Uganda.

New project at Jese: Green Colleges Initiative —

by George Kaihura and Thea

In January the new project "Green Colleges Initiative" has started and will be running for the next three years. It is going to be implemented by Jese, Kiima Foods (also a partner organization of Vuga) and another NGO called SATNET.



George Kaihura about the aim of the Green Colleges project: through discussing environmental issues such as minimum wastage and emissions rural youth are hoped to become "ecopreneurs" who will doing business in green production.

George Kaihura, project coordinator at Jese, about the project:

Green Colleges are institutions at community level that offer services. That means, we are not creating new colleges, but work together with existing insti-

tutions. The project is about empowering youth, also rural youth out of school, to acquire life skills especially in green trades and to start environmental conservations with them.

Environment protection is necessary especially in the Rwenzori region because we highly rely on nature. Anything to do with minimum wastage, minimum emissions is good health for both, humans and plants. If we can minimize our bad impact on the environment it would be great, knowing there is a lot of trade in nature, like tourism. If the environment is destroyed, we miss out the tourism sector as well.

As Uganda is an agriculture invested economy, we are aiming at sustainable agriculture and agro-processing, for example processing fruits with the sun or solar drying. We are looking at agroforestry, recycling and green energy. To motivate the youths for green jobs, you must show them something that is going to bring some shillings into their pockets. We don't have factories to employ all the youth, but we have land. You can grow vegetable in two to three months, and it is renewable. The expected outcome are "ecopreneurs", people who are doing business that is related to green production. There is limited processing, so if we have got people who are going to do processing, it would be a big contribution to the well-being of everybody.

Soon you can read the full interview with George Kaihura on <https://weltwaerts-uganda.org>

Ensisinkano nate! Family reunion in southern Germany

In March, Elvis and Dora visited the former Vuga e.V. volunteer Jelena. They were Jelena's host parents during her year in Entebbe in 2016/17. We are very happy that such friendships can arise and bring us together. And what did Dora and Elvis say about their trip to Germany?

"It has been nice visiting the family of Jelena, our host daughter. Thank you for the warm welcome and being such amazing hosts while in Germany. Blessings" — Dora

"It is a great opportunity to reunite with our host daughter Jelena and a privilege to meet her entire family. We had a very good experience in Germany. Cheers!" — Elvis



Uganda-Germany exchange — by Thea

Welcome to the germanya.home.blog in Uganda. "Germanya" is the combination of "Germany" and "kumanya", which means "to know" in the Rutooro language. germanya.home.blog is a website that will help you to get to know Germany better. How? You ask questions and I will send them to a person in Germany I know and who will answer your questions directly. Afterwards, the answers are posted on this page, so the knowledge can be shared with other people. <https://germanya.home.blog/>