

Dear members, partners and friends of the Vuga community,

I hope all of you could start full of enthusiasm into 2020. We as Vuga e.V. did. On January 1st, the 2018/19 volunteers met in Leipzig for a five days returnee seminar concluded by the Vuga e.V. General Assembly on January 4th. On this day, we elected our Board members. You can find their photos on the Vuga e.V. website soon. Jelena, Johannes and Jana were reelected. We say goodbye to Merlin, one of the founders of Vuga e.V. On his position we now welcome Anna, Vuga 2017/18 volunteer.

Furthermore, Jonas was replaced by Thea, 2018/19 volunteer who just returned from Uganda. However, Jonas chose a new task for himself: He is now in charge of the newsletter. This is why this will be the last newsletter under my responsibility as I want to focus on my task of accountancy. I want to thank all readers and all supervisors, hostfamilies, volunteers and others who contributed to the Vuga e.V. newsletters in the past years. It was a pleasure communicating to you.

Jenny

In this issue

- Report by Jenny
- End of year 2019 report
- News from JESE
- Host experience
- Phillip at Twekembe Development Association
- Returnee seminar

End of year 2019 — by Trina

I am happy to inform you that the volunteers Pia-Lara and Finja got their work permits on 19th November while Eva and Thea also got their special passes. This time the process seemed to take too long due to some changes in policies at immigration, but surprisingly the volunteers got their work permits the same date the former volunteers got their work permits too, so it was not a big challenge. Unfortunately, one of the volunteers Philipp did not get his work permit although his application was approved. He said he had challenges with his family back in Germany and wanted to go back to take care of his mother. However, TDA is grateful for the time he has been working with them. He was committed to his work and well behaved according to TDA and the family.

The other volunteers are doing fine at their work places. Thea and Eva of the 2018/19 volunteer generation left Uganda in December. These two volunteers accomplished their projects during her last months, Eva was busy with the restaurant project at Celak. Finja and Thea have worked on the paper bag project



Trina — Maama Vuga — is happy

and water filter project and the reports are already out. Pia-Lara has been working on the gardening project which was left by Jonathan. Finja and Pia-Lara are winding up with their language courses.

On 21st December we had our end of year meeting that was attended by our partner organisations, volunteers and host families.

News from JESE — by Finja



Thea introduces Finja to her new surrounding

After four months of working at JESE, I can say that I learned a lot. At first, I had to find my place in the organization. My supervisor and Thea, who is a volunteer from the last generation and extended her stay until December, showed me around, introduced me to people and explained everything.

After this period of settling-in Thea and I started to plan two projects together: On the one side, we organized a paper bag workshop in which a group of people was taught how to fold paper bags to create income and to reduce the amount of plastic used for packaging. On the other side, we wanted to minimize the need for plastic bottles or boiled water at the office by purchasing two water filters. Furthermore, we purchased two trash bins to separate organic and general waste, so that e.g. the first can be used as manure. As we had to write the reports for these projects, we had the idea of creating a template together with Jana, a former Vuga volunteer. The template can now be used by all Vuga-volunteers for their project closure reports.

All in all, the time we spent together was very productive, but of course I did not just work with Thea. I also went to field among others with my supervisor and helped my colleagues at the office e.g. by writing proposals and reports with them, so that in conclusion I got to know my organization better and understood the work they're doing.

Host experience — by Sam Ssembajwe

I must say hosting Pia-Lala Nakyingi was God's plan. I hadn't known Vuga before. Trina visited our home requesting us to host Pia, the idea we (my wife and me) both welcomed. I have to confess to you, I have never seen a wonderful, behaved girl like Pia. In Africa our culture, food, everything is different from what is German, but Pia-Lala has never complained, whatever food you put on the table my beautiful Lala appreciates and welcomes. For Vuga thanks for accepting Trina because she is very understanding, she is of great integrity, we as host families, especially my family I say long live Vuga relationship with Uganda, because we learn a lot from each other as brotherhood and sisterhood. I must say I don't want to see my daughter Lala departing my family, we love her so much, we wonder always whether we shall ever see her German family who brought her up, who nutured her because she so unique, God bless Vuga and Uganda.



God bless Vuga and Uganda

Phillip at Twekembe Development Association — by Jamila K Nakisanze

Phillip spent all his time at the organisation and didn't work outside the premises, besides when we visited the field. He reported to the office five days a week at 8:30am and left between 5:00 and 6:00pm in the evening. He missed a total of 10 days for the whole three months, which he was able to work at TDA.

What the volunteer concentrated on:

We had an event for one of our on-going projects in his 1st week of work, since he is a trained mechanic, we agreed for him to look at the machines and test them in order to have them ready for the event on the 5th of September 2019. He worked well on this task.

He also did most of administrative work at the organisation. These tasks included: Designing forms, preparing checklists, file arrangements and records keeping. He also had to write detailed reports on different activities that took place at TDA. Operating the organisation social media pages and field visits to different events, where Twekembe performers went to perform.

I have no complaints about the three months that I worked with Phillip. He worked well considering his general behaviour with other members, code of conduct, communication skills and he was also extremely flexible given the environment and other circumstances.

Returnee Seminar 01.—05.01.2020 — by Thea

Vuga started the new year with a reunion of the generation 2018/19 for their returnee seminar from 01.01. to 05.01.2020. Therefore Eva, Philipp, Hye-Seon and Thea travelled from all over Germany to Leipzig to reflect on the past year under the supervision of Jana and Johannes. The two informed us about how we could engage in the work of Vuga and other areas which are connected to our volunteer service. Besides, we shared and reflected about our experience in Uganda and coming back to Germany. Jana introduced us to two topics: sustainability and development. We discussed how we can improve in this area in our daily lives and within Vuga. On Saturday two trainers in the field of racism worked with us on the question „How to be an ally?“. We learned how to act adequately in situations in which people experience racism. Furthermore, we attended the annual general assembly of Vuga, where we learned about the past and ongoing activities and new board members were elected. All in all, we were very happy to meet each other again as well as to get input for the new year.