

Dear members, partners and friends of Vuga—by the board

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. First of all, Vuga had to undergo the QUIFD recertification in March, so that we can continue to send volunteers. Thereby it was checked if we fulfill the quality requirements of weltwaerts during the implementation of the volunteer services, e.g. concerning safety and pedagogical support of the volunteers. For the audit, we had to submit all concepts, reports and receipts for the year of Pia, Finja and Philipp and explain these in an audit afterwards, in which Jule, Hye-Seon and Jana participated. To cut a long story short, the auditors were very fond of Vuga, especially because we are run on an entirely voluntary basis, and they even gave us a few tips. So nothing stands in the way of the next volunteer round!

Due to Corona, the requests came hesitantly this year as well. We did have some interviews, but unfortunately some applicants dropped out due to the uncertain situation.

But in fact, we now have two firm commitments for the volunteer service in 2021/22 and are looking forward to the preparation seminar in July!

Some of our partners have also not been slowed down by Corona and have started interesting projects or the expansion of the organization, such as Nayode's Bambus project or Yawe's new workshop building.

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Greetings from Maama Vuga — by project coordinator Trina

I thank God that we are still alive. Our partners resumed their work despite the Covid pandemic. Am glad to inform you all that the first installment of almost 20 million for the bamboo project was paid to Nayode and the project is in high gear. The 2nd and 3rd installments will follow later. I take this opportunity to thank Nayode for the project which aims at preventing floods in Kasese which have destroyed properties, livestock and human lives. We hope for the best when the bamboo trees are planted.

Covid cases are increasingly rising everyday which is a very big threat to many because it may call for another lockdown which is not good. It is unfortunate that some people still think and believe that Covid is not real.

Report on developments in Uganda — by Jana

Recently, I had the chance of travelling to Uganda for personal reason. By the time I was in Uganda, the situation in regards to Covid was relatively ease; so I decided to visit some of our parnters to represent our German Board and to learn about the latest happenings. Further it gave us the chance to discuss the topics of Covid and its impacts on the organizational work, same as the situation with regards to incoming volunteers 2021/22.

Many things have happened since I had last been to Uganda during my voluntary service in 2017/18:

Wake up Ugandan Children Foundation (WUO) works in a small fisher-community close to Entebbe and established the Atztek soccer academy in 2018, which is very successful both in training boys and girls. The aim of the academy is commit children to sports in order to fight issues like early pregnancies, the spread of HIV, alcoholism and poverty. This is achieved firstly, by teaching the youth about values like discipline and team spirit, fairness. Secondly, children learn to build self-confidence by interacting in a sports setting with other peers. And thirdly, and probably most importantly, the youth get the chance of sports scholarships for a better education. So far, five boys and 18 girl players have been enabled to join high quality primary and secondary schools – something that would have otherwise not been possible.

In Fort Portal, **Joint Effort to Safe the Environment (Jese)** has made a steady progress as well. Working in the fields of agriculture, environmental protection and Wash, her operations have not been as impaired as for other organizations. Due to the essence of these topics to sustainable development, Jese could expand her work to Northern Uganda. Furthermore, Green Colleges have been founded that train youth in environmentally friendly professions in cooperation with the German Welthungerhilfe. Furthermore, the number of staff could be expanded to 60 staff members. Also, news that made me - as a former volunteer of Jese - particularly happy: the concept of Keyhole gardens that I had introduced to my supervisor in 2018 is still successfully used by the women group we had introduced it to, who uses it to produce vegetables for home consumption.

I also had the chance to visit **Youth And Women Empowerment (Yawe)** in Fort Portal. Since 2018, Yawe has grown in several aspects. Besides having founded her own radio station (www.yawefoundation.org/en/node/49), the organization has also started the construction of new premises that encompass display rooms and workshops for the different vocational training courses that Yawe offers to youth. On a personal note, George (Manager of Yawe) and I had a very interesting talk about his personal intercultural experience in Germany and with German volunteers who had come to Yawe for their service.

Being engaged in the field of organic agriculture and environmentally friendly development, **Kiima Foods** in Kasese has had similar successes as Jese. Also Kiima Foods is working in the Green Colleges Initiative and further has started fair trade and organic certification with cooperating coffee farmers under Fairtrade International and Naturland. For this, the organization is currently looking for qualified interns (in case you know someone who knows someone ;)).



Nayodes director Yasin (left) and project manager Ronald (right) are leading the project. Jana (middle) visited Nayode because the project gets financial support from Vuga and the German Ministry for Cooperation and Development. It's also part of our partner network, which means that Nayode is eager to share experiences with other partners.

At the beginning of March, our partner Nayode started a new project. It's about planting bamboo trees nearby the three Ugandan rivers Nyamwamba, Sebwe and Mubuku. Next to reforestation, it's the objective to strengthen the river banks for sustainable control of river flooding. 1500 seedlings from a community nursery have already been planted. The project also encompasses the creation of an own nursery on the organization's land to continue seed production, train Youths and to raise awareness about topics like reforestation and climate change.

1500 seedlings from a community nursery have been planted



Last but not least, the trip also gave me the chance to visit the implementation sites of the Bamboo project that has recently been launched by our partner **National Youth Development Organization (Nayode)** in Kasese and that is co-founded by Vuga. Yasin, the manager of NAYODE, and Ronald, the project manager, took their time to show me around. It was great to see the progress of the planting of bamboo to stabilize the rapins of the three rivers Nyamwamba, Sebwe and Mubuku; same as the established nursery, the branding of the project, and the enthusiasm that both Yasin and Ronald have.

Snippets from Ugandan press (15.06.2021)

Covid Update

Caused by the increasing infections with Covid-19, the government imposed a 42 day travel ban. At the beginning of March the ugandan goverment recieved 964.000 doses of AstraZeneca. (www.monitor.co.ug/uganda).

Athletics

Leni Shida (sprinter) ran at the World Athletics Continental tour a new personal season record, keeps on working towards the olympic standard. (www.instagram.com) (kawowo.com)

Education

„According to Ministry of Education and Sports, radio lessons for middle grades of primary schools will resume today (14.06.2021).“ „The lessons will be aired for P4 and P5 classes through 15 radio stations, and the date for other grades will be communicated.“ (www.monitor.co.ug/uganda)