



15-Years Bulungi – Help for Children in Uganda We say thank you!

Dear sponsors, dear friends,

In September 2022, Bulungi - Hilfe für Kinder in Uganda e. V. will be 15 years old. That means 15 years of helping children and young people in and around Jinja/Uganda. A long journey that has been worthwhile and we can look back on with pride. Our association was founded in 2007 from a small private sponsor group named "Bethesda Schoolkids", which had set itself the goal of providing needy children not only with a school education, but also with a professional training. This idea we are still following today and we are currently looking after 283 sponsored children on their way into the future.

This success we owe first and foremost to you, our sponsors. With many years of loyalty and reliability, you accompany your sponsored children over the years and thus give them a future. Many of the association's projects would not have been possible without your generous donations. Since the foundation of the association, we have transferred about EUR 1,080,000 in school and education funds and about EUR 150,000 in project donations to Uganda. A great achievement. In addition to the financial aspect, your personal contact with the children and young people is also important and contributes significantly to the success of the sponsored children. Thank you very much for your engagement!

We would also like to thank our former First Chairperson. To you, dear Susanne, for launching the Bulungi project and accompanying us in the early years, and to you, dear Kerstin, for leading and shaping the association with so much commitment over so many years!

We would also like to thank our families in Uganda, who do a great job looking after the children and young people. It is this commitment and the cohesion between the families as well as the good cooperation between the teams in Uganda and Germany that make our work possible.

As Bulungi e. V. we would like to continue to provide help for needy children and young people in the future. For this, we depend on the support of all of you. Please continue to stand at our side in these uncertain and difficult times so that we can be a reliable partner for our families and sponsored children in Uganda.

In this anniversary newsletter, we have compiled reports from different perspectives and personal impressions of our work, and so sponsors, sponsored children and team members have their say.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and thank you again on behalf of the entire Bulungi Team.

Yours

Gabi, Sylvia, Carina, Katharina, Maren und Birgit

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1. Greetings from Reverend James Kivunike

To all our beloved Sponsors,

On behalf of all Forster parents in Uganda and on my own behalf, I send you warm greetings from Uganda. Along with the greetings, kindly, receive our sincere gratitude for the sacrificial giving you offer to the families in great need in Uganda. It's our prayer that no condition should stop you from the joy of giving.

Lots of love

Yours

Ven. Rev. James Kivunike



James und Rose
Called to Care Family

15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15

We are fifteen!



Many thanks to the Huge Heart Family
for this nice anniversary greeting!

It was drawn by Tiago und Shatra.

2. 15 Years of Bulungi e.V. – A look back at our work in Uganda

When we started our work in Uganda 15 years ago, we had little experience with charity work in an African country. We had to learn a lot and make our own experiences. There were both impressive and funny incidents. We would like to share some of them with you in retrospect.

School visits - We had to go through them as well

Especially in the first years of our activity, we visited many schools. However, this proved to be a time-consuming undertaking. After all, we always had to go first to the respective school director for an interview. And of course, the obligatory entry in the guest book was a must. All Ugandans attached great importance to this, as well as to extensive small talk. Only afterwards we were allowed to visit the school and the children in our care. This was always something special for our sponsored children. They showed us everything, their classes, their boarding halls and even their teachers..



Even children who were not sponsored by us found us quite exciting. In one school, a little girl wanted to join me on my arm and not leave again...

No fear of contact

During a visit to a slum area where one of our partners was running a microcredit project at

the time, I suddenly felt I had one or two children on each finger. Due to our unusually light skin, the children wanted to touch us under all circumstances. By the way, this still happens today. In general, people and especially children have little fear of contact. When using public transportation, it sometimes happened that suddenly bags or even babies and toddlers were put on your lap by other passengers - a sign of trust or just a lack of space? Who knows...

Public Transport

By the way, the use of public transport is very much characterized by mutual consideration and helpfulness. Even in the case of small breakdowns, there is immediate active support.



A bus stuck in the mud is pushed back onto the road in no time. Especially when you are sitting in this bus, you are very happy about so much willingness to help.

Family Visits

Often our families come up with a special program for us as guests. In El Shadai, for example, there was a paper chase, we visitors, were each assigned to a group and then it went off merrily. It was entertainment for young and old.



As a reward, there was soda, which everyone really enjoyed.

It was and always is very nice when families sing and dance for us. We would love to join in then, but unfortunately we are not nearly as talented.



Nevertheless, it touches us very much, because it shows the creativity and affection of our families and sponsored children.

Finally done

After completing their professional training, graduates receive their certificates at a graduation ceremony. This is a special event, which is celebrated accordingly. The graduates wear black gowns and caps and mostly they also wear new clothes on this day.



And of course no celebration without cake.



And what cakes (!), as the photo shows.

The graduates are so proud to have made it, and we with them.

Everything is a habit

During our stays in Uganda, we got to know and appreciate many foods that were previously unknown to us. Of course, there are always exceptions. For example, during our visit to Budondo, we saw some children nibbling something.



We were curious and asked what they would eat there and got to answer that it would be roasted and salted ants.

We were also offered some right away. At least they are supposed to be very healthy...

At the first years we travelled, there was no or very little ice cream in Uganda. At some point, our hotel had ice cream as a dessert on the menu. Because I like to eat ice cream, I really wanted to try it.

So I ordered an ice cream, it should consist of three components. And so it was: I got an ice cream decorated with salty crackers and red onion rings. In any case, a very interesting combination.

A food that was also very exotic for us in our early days was the jackfruit. In the meantime, you can find them in German supermarkets as well.



Matoke is a very popular and also for European palates a very tasty side dish in Uganda. We are always amazed how the families can prepare food for such a large number of people. We can still learn a lot there.



Our experiences with animals

We like animals, but breakfast with monkeys was not really our thing. The hotel staff had their hands full to drive the uninvited guests away from the breakfast buffet.



Unimaginable

One of our special concerns was and still is to improve the living situation of the families as much as possible. So we have provided support in building new rooms and equipping them with beds and bedding. An impressive example was the Mwebaza family. There, ten girls slept in a relatively small room on straw mats and blankets. We could not imagine at all how so many children could sleep in that room and had it demonstrated to us.



A bed project was then able to provide improvement very quickly.

Meetings

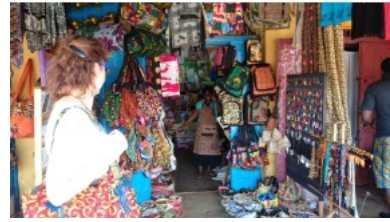
During the trips accompanied by sponsors, the meeting of the sponsors with their children was always a very special moment. This first took place in the respective family and as far as possible, there was a joint visit to the market with a final dinner in our hotel. The hotel has a pool and the children were very happy to swim in it.



However, most of the children could not swim at all! They had fun anyway.

Old acquaintances

For our souvenir purchases, we also found our regular stores over time. It was impressive to stop by after a year and still be greeted by name. One of the merchants is Florence, who was always very happy about our visit.



I am sure she will recognize us even after three years and still know our names. In any case, we are already looking forward to seeing her again (and of course to shopping 😊).

I hope you enjoyed my personal review!

Warm greetings

Yours

Gabriele Hauptenthal

3. A report from our sponsor Maren „My Story with Bulungi“

In 2008, my mother Angelika took on her first training sponsorship with Bulungi. She got to know the association by her friendship with Gabi. Shortly after, with the first letter contact, we got to know Cissy and the Called to Care family of Rose and James Kivunike.



During Cissy's 2.5-year training as a nurse, we kept in touch by letter. A special highlight was that in 2014 I had the opportunity to take part in a trip to Jinja, Uganda, together with other sponsors and we were able to

meet in person.

Cissy was now working in a larger hospital in Kamuli, 65 kilometres away, had married her husband David and had their first son.



To my surprise, she proudly announced that her son's second name was Martin: As a sign of gratitude, she had named him after my brother.

In the meantime, the two of them have had a second child, as well as taking in the orphan girl Patience, who lost her parents at the age of eight. Cissy is still employed and works at the Wakitaka Health Centre in Jinja.



She and her family are well and we are still in contact via Facebook and email. During our visit to Uganda, more children were taken in for placement. One of them was little Shahidu, for whom I took over the sponsorship.

Three more sponsorships followed for my mother as well. Brenda and Catherine have

meanwhile successfully completed their nurse training. Caleb will complete his nurse training in half a year.

We are very happy to be able to support such a transparent, honest and sympathetic association and to gain new friendships and insights into the lives of our sponsored children.

Thank you for your great work and all the best for your 15th anniversary!

With best regards
Maren Schiller

4. A letter from Racheale

Since we also want our children to have their say in our anniversary newsletter, we asked for letters from their everyday life. Racheale complied with our request and wrote a letter to her sponsor. She is 14 years old and attends St. Florence Secondary School. She was accepted into our program a year ago and is cared for by Called to Care Family. We thank Racheale for her assistance with our anniversary newsletter.

Dear Sponsor,



It is nice to write you. I hope you are fine. For us here we are somehow alright. I have written this letter with a purpose of thanking you for paying my school fees and the extra money you offer for my requirements at school.

The school treats and feeds us well. It also teaches us skills like making liquid soap and yoghurt. My best subjects at school are: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, English and Entrepreneurship. I love them because my dream of becoming a doctor is based on them.

During the term at school, I enjoyed school life with friends as well as my teachers. I got enough time to concentrate in my books because I was not disturbed to go home as a fees defaulter to pick school fees. I am so grateful with your effort.

Many activities took place at school including the Music Dance and Drama, Scripture Union's Party, among others. In all, I enjoyed the scripture Union's party most because I love praising and serving God, the Almighty.

I have returned from school for holidays of second term which has ended. I am at Mummy's home and cherished to help with the house chores as I also revise my books during these holidays.

However, we are experiencing dry season in Uganda where by the sun shines daily with no rain. The fuel prices were highly raised hence high costs of commodities like soap, water and clothes. Besides, there is scarcity of food

because people grew crops but they did not yield well. Electricity bills were also raised.

We are living in a country where in order you get what you need, you have to spend a lot of money to acquire it. So, we need your prayers to overcome this situation.

I am so happy that you have supported my studies at St. Florence Secondary School. They

are going on well and I promise to work hard and perform well.

May the Almighty God bless the work of your hands more and more.

Your loving daughter
Racheale

5. A big THANK YOU to our Team in Uganda

Dear Uganda-Team, dear friends,

We would like to thank you, our partner families, for your tireless efforts for the benefit of the sponsored children.



"BULUNGI KINDER UGANDA Ltd.", in which our Ugandan partner families are represented.

We are looking forward to hopefully many more years of successful cooperation!

Yours Bulungi Team Germany
*Gabriele, Sylvia, Carina, Katharina,
Maren und Birgit*



Our special thanks go to the directors of our non-profit partner organization



f.l.t.r. Jane Nakyalo, Dickson Wesonga, Phionah Kisakye,
Deborah Nabeta, Anthony Woira

6. Uganda then and now

Since 15 years we travel (interrupted by Corona) every year to Uganda. During these years, a lot has changed there as well. But some things have stayed the same...



Traffic

The traffic in the cities of Uganda is more than chaotic. Cars, boda-bodas, trucks, pedestrians - all fight their way through the congested streets, especially Kampala consists of what feels like a single traffic jam. We always feel this during our arrival and departure, when we go from the airport via Kampala to Jinja and back again. The drive is an adventure. Over the years, asphalt bypass roads have been built, but traffic has also increased significantly. Thus, (as good as) nothing has changed.



Sylvia driving a Boda-Boda



Transportation

In the early years, there were still many bicycle cabs and we rode one on our very first visit. Over the years they were mostly replaced by motorcycles.

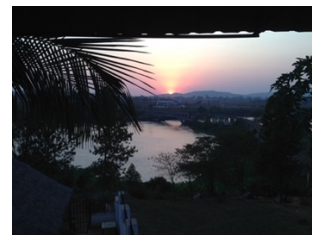


The remaining bicycle cabs mainly transport goods, but unfortunately the drivers are paid much less, even though they have to work harder. If that is fair...



Accommodation

The hotel initially had only a small breakfast room, which was quite adequate. There was always an African buffet in the evening and few additional dishes on the menu.



View from the terrace of our hotel

Over the years, the terrace, pool, larger kitchen, restaurant area and large meeting room were built. The cuisine became more international, unfortunately at the expense of the African buffet. In addition to traditional dishes, there is now pasta, pizza, burgers and Indian dishes. Even cocktails are offered these days. But one thing has fortunately remained, our favourite beer Nile Special!



Phone

Cell phones were still something special in the early years and landline phones were also rare. For phone calls there were small tables in the main shopping street with a, mostly red, telephone that could be used for a fee. In the meantime, most people have a cell phone or smartphone and the red phones have disappeared...



Internet

Communicate online with home? In the first years there were only two possibilities: The computer in the hotel's "business center" or a visit to the Internet café, if there was no power failure at the time and the Internet was not down. Today, the hotel has WLAN, so communication is usually possible without any problems.



Geld

Be a millionaire once!



In Uganda, all it takes is a trip to the ATM and the use of about EUR 260, depending on the exchange rate. Accordingly, the denomination of the banknotes, ejected by ATM, is large. UGX 50,000 (about EUR 13) are usual. However, you can hardly do anything with that in everyday life. A trip by bus costs UGX 500, by motorcycle cab UGX 1,500, and change is scarce. So change management became something of a science during our stays. Today, you can change at the hotel cashier. Some things just get easier in life.



Fashion

Fashion in Uganda has also changed. In the past it was common for women and girls to wear only dresses and skirts, but today leggings and jeans are

popular as well in Uganda. Practical things always prevail.



Esther quite casual in jeans



Health

At the beginning of our work, AIDS and HIV infections were a big topic. Many parents were ill or had died and the children were raised by grandparents or other relatives. Most of our families at that time took in AIDS orphans from their community. A good and free education and treatment concept caused the number of cases and the death rate to drop significantly. A really positive development!

What has changed since our last trip? We are looking forward to finding out, hopefully soon.

Yours
Sylvia Alpers

7. Mama Jane's Comfort Family introduces itself

In our last newsletter we introduced Mama Jane's Comfort Family as our new family. We have a long relationship with Jane and we are glad that she decided to realize her project of helping needy children together with us. In the meantime Jane cares for 22 children. For our newsletter she presents her motivation and the goals of her project.

Greetings to you all,



Jane Nakyalo

After my husband and I got married, we moved from town to a rural area in the district of Iganga/Uganda where we saw many children who were not attending school.

In 2018 we were concerned and we thought these vulnerable children have potential that is

hidden but needed support physically, morally and spiritually. We felt that these children needed a Father/Mother figure above them until they are big enough to make informed decisions. This was in a bid to make available a secure place where they could run to get Comfort! A source of love to the hated, unloved. An avenue to provide motherly care and counseling to the children who were exposed to child labour and early marriages in the community.

Education is central to all in ensuring growth and development to especially women in the fight against corruption and discrimination and so we had it in mind that through sponsorships

we would sustain the opportunities of the "girl child" and other children who were perceived and treated as helpless victims.

Hence the birth of Mama Jane Comfort Family as a long term alternative living arrangement for the future of the children in the community. We thank Bulungi Kinder Uganda Ltd. and Bulungi - Hilfe für Kinder in Uganda e. V. for the great love and support.

Yours

Jane Nakiyalo

Mama Jane's Comfort Family

8. A report from our sponsor Jacky

When I started my dual studies at the end of 2009, when I was just 20 years old, I decided that I wanted to donate part of my salary and thus make a social contribution. I thought about sponsoring a child at school, but I didn't want to be part of a big charity organization, that was somehow too anonymous for me.

So one evening I started researching on the internet and came across the lovingly designed website of Bulungi e.V. I was quickly enthusiastic because the organization made a clear and familiar impression on me. When I saw the pictures of Kerstin, Sylvia and Gabi, there was no doubt in my mind that this was a serious organization. Anyone who looks so authentic and likeable must be serious. And that's how it is.

So I became the sponsor of a little girl who visited nursery school. Contact and information were transparent at all times, so everyone knew what was going on in Uganda. The regular mail from Uganda also touched my heart and I was happy that I had found an association that not only provides financial support on site, but also attaches great importance to an interpersonal relationship between sponsor and sponsored child. I also knew that there were sponsorship trips every

two years, which made the whole thing much more tangible for me.

Years later, I became sponsor of Timothy, who was just 16 at the time. We wrote many letters and emails and a friendly relationship quickly developed. At some point I decided to take part in a sponsorship trip. I no longer wanted to just make a financial contribution, but to get to know the people in Uganda, and of course the Bulungi Aunties personally. In 2018, the time had finally come.

On the sponsorship trip, I was finally able to meet my sponsored child (who is much taller than me, by the way) in person, which deeply affected me. It was also great to get to know the other sponsors and to sit together with them and Gabi, Sylvia and Kerstin for a cold drink in the evening. We visited the different families and got to know everyone. There was a lot of talking, playing, laughing and organizational work. The hospitality of the people in Uganda was overwhelming. The people were very friendly and hugs were exchanged immediately.

In the meantime, my partner Christian has also become a member of Bulungi e.V. and we are still in contact with the founders and

participants of the sponsorship trip 2018. The shared experience makes us come together again and again.

Bulungi e.V. has given me exactly what I was looking for: A way to support people financially AND to build a direct relationship with them.

I take my hat off to what Gabi, Sylvia and Kerstin and of course the other members have

done on a voluntary basis over the last 15 years and hope that the association will continue to exist for a long time.

Best regards
Yours
Jacky Klur

9. A letter from Bridget

Another letter has reached us from Bridget. Bridget is 15 years old and attends Mother Kevin Senior Secondary School. She was also accepted into our program just over a year ago and is cared for by Mama Jane's Comfort Family. Thank you also, dear Bridget, for your letter!

Dear Aunt, dear Uncle,



How are you all doing? Praying and believing that you are all fine.

I am now in the second grade of Kevin Secondary School. I love my school because I participate in co-curricular activities like football which I love so much. The teaching standards are good as the teachers make sure we understand well what is taught especially my favorite subject History.

My hobbies are travelling to different places playing football, leadership as I am the sports prefect at our school and reading books.

Second term was very good as we had a history field trip that took place on end of May at the National Uganda Railway. I also participated in the Regional Volleyball and Netball competition in Iganga and my school emerged the fifth. I was awarded a certificate of participation .

I appreciate so much you sincere support towards my study at school and I pray God blesses you abundantly. I love you all; I am thankful to God for having you as part of my life.

Yours faithfully
Bridget

10. Loss and Hope – A poem by Phionah Kisakye

What a sponsorship and with it the chance for a self-determined future means for a child or a young person, we can often not even imagine. Phionah has expressed her feelings in a very affecting poem. After a difficult start in life, she is now successful in her career and has her own small family with two children. As a thank you for the help she received, she now cares for needy children herself in her Huge Heart Family. We thank her very much for her very personal contribution to our anniversary newsletter.



Loss and Hope

Upon losing both parents
I cast my eyes round me again and again
In hope of someone to protect me
Alas! But the search was in vain
For none had compassion on me.

They hit me, hurt me, yet I feel no pain
I know tomorrow they will do the same
I thank God, he filled my heart with belief that
I would be somebody someday no matter what
I knew the sun will shine for me.

God sent rain in a foreign language
Oh! Germany spirit, Germany spirit,
Where did you originate from?
You have made me survive, a tough childhood.

A total orphan... pauperized as I was made,
You gave me an aid
which the Ugandan spirit couldn't afford.
You stretched your hand in times of bleak
And helped me make a new life
You thus keep a special spot in my heart
A friend I can now call in reference to you
Oh German spirit you showed me a bright future
and for that I am so ... everything.
I am striving very hard to use it profitably

My gratitude expands beyond words
For your companionship on this journey
May you know you are
A precious light both in our life and the world.
I have nothing to show my happiness.
Dear I beg you to enrich this Germany spirit.
With their heart desires.

Love and hugs
Phionah

Verlust und Hoffnung

Nachdem ich beide Eltern verloren hatte,
ließ ich meine Augen um mich schweifen, wieder und wieder,
in der Hoffnung auf jemanden, der mich beschützt.
Doch ach! Die Suche war vergeblich,
denn niemand hatte Mitleid mit mir.

Sie schlugen mich, taten mir weh, doch ich fühlte keinen Schmerz
Ich wusste, morgen würden sie es wieder tun.
Ich danke Gott, er erfüllte mein Herz mit dem Glauben,
dass ich jemand sein würde, eines Tages, ganz gleich was da käme.
Ich wusste, die Sonne wird für mich scheinen.

Gott schickte Hoffnung in einer fremden Sprache.
Oh! Deutscher Geist, deutscher Geist,
wo ist dein Ursprung?
Durch dich überlebte ich eine harte Kindheit.

Ein Waisenkind, arm, dazu wurde ich gemacht.
Du gabst mir eine Hilfe,
die sich der ugandische Geist nicht leisten konnte.
Du reichtest mir die Hand in Zeiten der Not,
und halfst mir, ein neues Leben zu beginnen.
So erhältst du einen besonderen Platz in meinem Herzen,
einen Freund, kann ich dich nennen.
Oh deutscher Geist, du zeigtest mir eine strahlende Zukunft
und dafür bin ich so ... alles einfach.
Mit meiner ganzen Kraft strebe ich danach, das Beste
daraus zu machen.

Meine Dankbarkeit übersteigt alle Worte
für deine Begleitung auf dieser Reise.
Mögest du wissen, dass du
ein kostbares Licht bist in unserem Leben und in der Welt.
Ich kann mein Glück nicht in Worte fassen.
Meine Lieben, ich bitte Euch, bereichert diesen deutschen Geist
mit Euren Herzenswünschen.

Alles Liebe, ich umarme Euch
Phionah

11. Greeting from our former first Chairwoman Susanne Danielzig

After 15 years we would like to look back to the beginnings of our association. And we thought that no one can do better than the woman who virtually "launched" Bulungi. We thank you, Susanne, for taking the time to write a greeting. And it is more than just a greeting, because you make clear very vividly how important our help is. And we can only do this together!

Dear Bulungi e. V.,



congratulations on your 15th birthday or: "the baby has grown up"!

As a "woman of the first hour" I was pleased to be asked by my former and, in contrast to me, still acting fellow "Aunties", if I would like to write a greeting for the 15th anniversary of the association. With pleasure!

Even though I completely withdrew from active involvement in the association at the end of 2011 due to family reasons, I have always followed with excitement and interest from afar as a regular member and taken part in the development that has taken place in Uganda and in the association's activities. I am happy to see that Bulungi e. V. is still being run with such great commitment and that especially the problem of successors seems to have been solved for the time being, since the team has been enriched by several more committed members.

Furthermore, I am also the sponsor of a boy in Deborah's Family - a family whose contagious joy, curiosity, liveliness and enthusiasm are still vivid in my memory from my last visit there. What could be more wonderful than drumming, dancing and singing together on a Sunday afternoon in the pouring rain which felt like fifty people crammed into a small indoor space?!

Uganda is simply a country that one does not forget, as it digs deep into one's heart and anchors there irrevocably. All of you, sponsors, friends and supporters of the association who have already traveled to Uganda can probably confirm this. Once you have been captivated by the country and its people, you can't let go of them and you honestly don't want to let go of them - at least that's how I feel.

Uganda actually came into my life much earlier, long before there was the thought of being a member of an organization, namely when I was about 10 or 11 years old. Only at that time I did not know that it was Uganda.

As a child, I always wanted to help other children who were not doing so well, and in my childish imagination I had an inner picture in front of my eyes, which I often embellished more and more before going to sleep, until it became a real little scene, which finally became my vision. In this scene, I was flying to Africa in a small plane - with many trays of crumble cake, my absolute favorite, in my luggage. The plane landed on a dusty runway of red earth in the middle of a lush green landscape. I got off the plane and was immediately surrounded by many happy and excited children, to whom I distributed the delicious crumble cake so that they would no longer be hungry.

When I landed on Ugandan soil for the first time in summer of 2004 to visit my sponsored child Nicholas at the "Shalom Home", I realized that Uganda was exactly the country of my childhood vision and that I was now actually there. It looked exactly the same: the red earth, the lush green all around - only the crumble cake was missing in my luggage. Instead, my wonderful companion Kirsten and I had a large portion of enthusiasm with us and the sincere

desire to give hope to children who had little hope in life. Above all, we wanted to provide them with a reasonable education - measured by local conditions - in order to turn the new glimmer of hope into a real perspective for the future. It took some time until all this turned to concrete shape and finally became the association Bulungi e. V., but even in retrospect I still find it amazing how everything was found and realized, according to the motto: "Where there's a will, there's a way".

Without the committed founding members of the association, some of whom have now been running the association for 15 years, and without your support, often during many years, none of this would have been possible. Therefore, at this point from me, so to speak as the spiritual "mama" of the Bulungi project, a very heartfelt, huge thanks to you all. For every single child and every single family that can benefit from the support from far away Germany, there is a significant difference, which is not limited to the fact that money has flowed from here to there, but includes much more. In short, it opens our eyes to a new world - not only for the beneficiaries in Uganda, but also for us here, as we come in contact with life in Uganda and the fate of the people there, and perhaps even pass on one or two impressions to those around us who are receptive to them. So it is not a drop that evaporates on a hot stone, but a drop that falls into the water and draws circles - sometimes small, sometimes large.

The life of the people in Uganda, especially the children and young people supported by Bulungi, have been able to experience first hand, has a lasting impact and puts into perspective many smaller and larger problems that we have to deal with in our privileged world. I can only recommend a trip to Uganda to everyone.

Uganda continues to play a role in my everyday life. In my spare time e.g. I give host families who have taken in an au pair from Uganda (and sometimes also Ugandan au pairs) tips on

mutual cultural understanding and support them in building a bridge between the two worlds. This is not always easy and in some cases it does not work because our worlds are really very different and you have to show great motivation to approach each other so that living together in Germany can work. With the background knowledge about Uganda, it is nevertheless great fun for me to work as a "cultural mediator".

Since I was recently gripped by the longing to have more direct contact with Uganda again, I have also had a pen pal from Uganda for a few months now. Biira is a 49-year-old smallholder farmer who lives with her family on the edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park, where she often goes to collect firewood. She is proud to be able to send her three children to school, which has finally started again after protracted teacher strikes. Recently, however, she was quite upset because overnight thieves had stolen all the corn she had laboriously harvested and piled up next to the house, and she was now missing an important source of income and food.

With such news, one becomes humble and grateful for the comparatively carefree life here, where there are good alternatives or a financial cushion for such cases. People in Uganda often have neither. Especially the children are dependent on help from adults or help from outside, even in the new, young generation that is now starting in Mama Jane's and Phiona's families.

I therefore hope that, regardless of all the crises around us, there will always be enough committed people who are willing to lend a hand as school sponsors and friends to the children in Uganda who are dependent on help. Are you with us?

Sincerely,
Yours
Susanne Danielzig

12. More Things to Know

Donation Campaign Anniversary T-Shirts

For the 15th anniversary of our association we would like to give every child and young person a T-shirt with the Bulungi logo. Everyone is most happy about T-shirts, because new clothes are always in short supply. We continue to collect donations for this purpose and hope to have raised the necessary funds by the end of the year. About half of the required money (EUR 940) has already been donated. For this we say a big thank you to all donors!

Uganda Trip

As already communicated, there will be no joint sponsorship trip in 2023. The overall situation does not seem to be secure enough for this. However, we have planned to travel to Uganda with part of our team at the end of January 2023 to get an idea of the situation on the ground and to clarify organizational issues. We would be happy to take letters and small gifts for the sponsored children, smartphones and laptops are also welcome at any time. We will send you more information about this as soon as the trip is finalized.

15-Years Bulungi - Hilfe für Kinder in Uganda e. V.

We say thank you!



Yours Bulungi-Team