

LernEinsatz Ghana 2019



Introduction

Looking at it from several perspectives our group seems to be quite diverse:

- students - first and final working years - retirement
- male - female
- South Tyrol - Vorarlberg - Styria - Upper & Lower Austria

But in the end we all had - some already for years - one goal: to attend the LernEinsatz.

After one orientation and two preparation weekends where we got to know the program and each other the dream finally came true.

From 22th July till 20th August 2019 we visited Ghana and got many impressions of people, culture, nature and country. The Ghanian partner organisation of the „Dreikönigsaktion - Hilfswerk

der Katholischen Jungschar“ „Tieloms Institute of Inter-Cultural and Language Studies (TIICLS)“ played a key role in it and were really looking after us and trying their really best to give us an unforgettable stay. Know it's your turn to see what we have experienced in Ghana.

Have fun!

JH

Front Row (from left to right): Mary Mahama, Victoria König, Angela Styblo, Doris Dreier

Back Row: Teresa Theiner, Andrea Truttenberger, Elfriede Anreiter, Jakob Haijes, Theresa Wawerda, Bruno Muxel, Louisa Mahama, Stephen Ali, Guide, Salifu Mahama



Our Way through Ghana

Arrival in Accra	22.07.2019		
		23.07.2019	Talk to WACAM Beach
City Tour in Accra	24.07.2019		
		25.07.2019	Kankum Forest with Canopee Walk & Elmina Castle
Trip from Accra - Koforidua Wacam Community & Cocoa Farm	26.07.2019		
		27.07.2019	Trip from Koforidua - Kumasi Manhyia Palace Museum in Kumasi
Trip from Kumasi - Tamale Kintampo Waterfalls	28.07.2019		
		29.07.2019	Resting Day at TIICLS & Visiting City Center of Tamale
Lectures @TIICLS Visiting a Local Chief	30.07.2019		
		31.07.2019	Lectures @TIICLS Shekinah Clinic
Lectures @TIICLS Shea Butter Production Dinner in Local Home	01.08.2019		
		02.08.2019	Lectures @TIICLS Public & Private School Traditional Dances, Ghanaian Buffet
Young Christian Workers Cultural Center in Tamale	03.08.2019		
		04.08.2019	Holy Mass Free Sunday Afternoon
Lectures @TIICLS Trip Tamale - Damongo	05.08.2019		
		06.08.2019	Trip Damongo - Tuna/Bole Care for Deprived Communities (CDC) and Visit to Community
Trip Bole - Damongo Tie & Dye Batik at DYDI	07.08.2019		
		08.08.2019	Mole Nationalpark - ELEFANTS <3 Trip Damongo - Tamale
Lectures @TIICLS Free Afternoon	09.08.2019		
		10.08.2019	Trip Tamale - Yendi Christians Mothers Association (CMA) Tindang - „Witchcamp“
Holy Mass Trip Yendi - Tamale	11.08.2019		
		12.08.2019	Introduction Village Immersion Drop Off in Villages
Village Immersion	13.08.2019		
		14.08.2019	Village Immersion
Pick up from Villages Diviner	15.08.2019		
		16.08.2019	Debriefing @TIICLS Farewell Party
Trip Tamale - Kumasi	17.08.2019		
		18.08.2019	Trip Kumasi - Accra
Day in the City Saying Goodbye & Leaving Ghana	19.08.2019		
		20.08.2019	Arriving back Home

Maraba Accra - Welcome in Accra

We arrived at the airport of Accra in the evening and dived into the mild temperature of Ghana.

A complete welcome committee from TIICLS was waiting for us and took care of us not only on this first evening but through all the time of our journey.

After our lecture about mining (see „Gold mining in Ghana“) in the morning we were taken on a tour through Accra (2,4 Million residents, 185 square km, 15 % of the Ghanians are living in the capital). Accra is the biggest town of the country and

therefore the administrative and economic center and the capital. It was founded in the 15th century from the Ga tribe. Our first stop was at the memorial of

Nkrumah who became in 1952 the first president of Ghana. There is a little museum totally different in style than what we westerners are used to. In the same park there is also his mausoleum in socialistic style like in the eastern block countries. What was nice that there was a Festival of Panafrika with traditional dances and singing.



Afterwards we drove to an art-market (Makola market) which looks similar to an oriental bazaar. It's noisy and very narrow and everybody tries to sell something to you. There happened this dialogue to me: Seller „Where are you from?“ Answer: „From Austria.“ Seller „It's a country in Africa, isn't it?“

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Tip: Having lunch in „Osecan“ at the wild rock beach. Great view on the wild ocean!

Like „normal“ tourist we drove the next afternoon to the beach. Very few people are swimming in the Atlantic sea maybe because of the huge waves. So we were walking along the water and had a drink in one of the beach bars, watching the people who were horse riding and making selfies of themselves on the horse.

Having a drink at the beach Osecan Restaurant with a view to the sea



Back in Time



Manhyia palace museum

In Kumasi we've visited the Manhyia palace, which until 1995 it was the resident of some Asanti kings. In 1995 it became a museum. There we heard a lot about the Asanti nation and their history. Till the time of the colonialism the kingdom of the Asanti was big and very powerful. They were one of few nations in Africa, which resisted to the colonialists for a long time. Unfortunately, after four big wars they lost and had to give a lot of their kingdom to the Europeans.

Picture from current Asanti King Osei Tutu II in Manhyia palace museum

Elmina castle

Visiting the Elmina castle was for many of us one of the highlights of the journey. During the walk through the castle our group, normally very talkative and funny, was very quiet and thoughtful and many of us got goose bumps. From 1665 to 1807 the coast of Ghana was also known as "Slave-ry coast", because so many people from Ghana and other African countries were held in Elmina Castle and sent to America as slaves. First the Portuguese and later the Dutch were the owner of Elmina castle and therefore also owner of the slaves. More than half of the people died because of the circumstances in the dungeons. We also had the possibility to stay in the dungeons and to experience the fear of the slaves and the cruelty of the Europeans.



Independence and Pan African festival

After the second world war Ghana became independent. Relevant for the independence was Kwame Nkrumah. In Accra we had also the possibility to visit the museum and the mausoleum. When we went outside a big party took place. It was the Pan African festival, that occurs every two years, to celebrate the peace and the unity among all African people all over the world.

On the Road



★ There are only a few cars that show no sign of Accra's/Ghana's busy and dangerous roads; we would call these cars scrap cars but they are running and that counts for Ghanians

★ Hooting is a common "sport" of drivers. It prevents persons, goats, sheep, cows from being knocked down or just to inform others that they might be overtaken

★ There is plastic and litter everywhere along roads

★ As there are no service areas people use "the bush" as the toilet/washroom

★ Cooking is an outdoor action in towns or villages mostly along the roads where food can also be sold and bought

★ You can buy everything you can think of in the streets of a town or along the roads

★ In the south of Ghana good roads pass through green fertile agricultural land you find cassava, all kinds of tropical fruit like banana, mango, orange, papaya etc. and lots of different kind of nuts like peanuts, coco nuts, cocoa, cashew etc.

★ In the north you will find rice and yam instead of cassava or shea trees and baobab instead of mahogany or other tropical trees Ghana is tropical in the south - this means that it's hot and humid and it is good to have an air-conditioned car or bus – there is a rainy season in the north during the months of July/Aug.

★ Drinking is therefore most necessary – Bottles or bags (most common in Ghana) should always be available (There is big difference in quality of the fresh-water you can buy)

★ When the sun „pours down like honey“ your shirts might get soaked even if you do nothing special



★ In norther Ghana there are fewer roads and fewer of these are asphalted. On non-asphalted roads there is either mud (in the rainy season) or red dust in the dry season. This dust dyes your shoes/feet and creeps up your body, enters your backpack and your car

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★ When traffic comes to a standstill there is immediately someone beside your car trying to sell something he/she usually carries on his/her head

★ Someone is always repairing a car at the side of the road

★ To break the speed of vehicles Ghanaian roads have lots of road rams or "sleeping policemen" as they are called in Africa. These rams might shake you and baffle your privacy or sleep

★ Every busdriver has a front seat passenger who directs him, fills the tank, pays the tolls ...



What I learned about Ghana

1. Ghanians are not focused on business but on social interaction. Social interaction is most important. Ghanians have a specific greeting habit. Ghanians bow down and follow the greeting procedure when they meet so. above in age or status.
4. Ghanians have eyes - but they sometimes don't see. They don't see your mistakes when you are a foreigner and they don't see the rubbish around themselves or their own littering.



2. Every Ghanaian wants to be your friend. Many of them want your phone number. Ghanians have no level of friendship and they share it. "The more people you know the better your chances to get something" Ghanians are not worried if they have no money but if extremely worried if they have no friends.
3. Ghanians always think of their group/family your brothers/sisters children are treated like your own ones. If a Ghanaian does something wrong the shame is on the family.
5. Ghanians don't think in figures. They can't tell the number of their children/inhabitants of their village, the money they earn ...
6. In Ghana there is a chief everywhere. Every Ghanaian wants to be a boss/a manager somehow.
7. In Ghana everything is more important than work. Development is culture specific - development in Ghana is only slowly going ahead. Ghanians are not as creative as they should be (esp. in using things)
8. The knowledge is in the old ones - Ghanians show deep respect to older ones. The chief's consultants are elderly men, in Ashanti areas it's the Mothers.



9. Ghanians have an ambivalent measuring of time. Time is always about, around, almost, approximately . . . patience !
10. Religion/Spirituality is essential in a Ghanaian's life. There are thousands of churches and mosks; cars are decorated with religious symbols; Sermons/ceremonies/healings are broadcasted the whole day. Deviners and medicine men are contacted to predict/heal and explain happenings. Ghanians want to be in peace/harmony with themselves + family (in a large sense) + universe.

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Visiting a Chief

When visiting a village, it is crucial to visit its Chief. First of all, you have to wait until the Chief has found the time to greet you. Then you enter the room and wait until the Chief has been escorted inside. On your knees and with your head lowered, you clap your hands and repeat the word „Naaa“ to greet him. Then you introduce yourself, your name and your country of origin and potentially give a short reason for your visit. The Chief commands respect and sits elevated. You can ask questions and he will answer everything, but not directly to you. Next to him, he has an advocate to whom he answers. This advocate then talks for him and answers your questions. Traditionally, you gift the Chief Kola-Nuts, that are then tasted together. The bitter-tasting nuts aren't for everyone, though.



Local Chief and Elders near TIICLS

The Chief's duty is to maintain peace and order. When there are disagreements or conflicts, they are sorted out by the Chief and the elders. The Chief has a traditionally very important role in every village.

TW



Gifts from the Chief to us



Poverty

„Ghana is rich, Austria is poor!“
Ghana is a rich country with cocoa, gold, diamonds, bauxite, oil, cocoa, shea butter...

- *Why does it stay poor?*
- *What can Ghana do, to reduce poverty?*

We were told by Mister Felix from the university of Tamale:

First there has to be a mentality change: „We have to change our way of thinking!“ And he gave a very good example:

„If there is a problem, let's say no water, in Africa we would pray all day. In Europe you would pray AND work, dig for water. There is still a number of people, they say, Africa is no good and then they migrate. In Africa we have the mentality of HERE and NOW, we don't think of past times and we would not think what comes tomorrow. For any problem we would blame either god or witches.“

Second step - systems have to work: There is the ministry of education, so in every village should be a school, but it isn't. When timber is cut, for every cut tree, there should be a new tree planted. Chinese cut rosewood illegally. That's not o.k.

As a **third** step he asked for servant, selfless leadership – NO corruption!

There is a lack of data: how many people, how many kids, no house numbers...

He described the difference between rural and urban poverty:

- In **rural** areas poor people would still be able to grow some food, and get social support.
- In **towns** there are temporal structures, slums are called ZONGOS. People should not be there, everyone is on his own, no one knows how many?

In these areas is

- NO water,
- NO sanitation,
- NO school,
- NO clinic,
- NO security,
- NO possibility to grow food.

The government tries to reduce poverty in four steps:

- Establishment of a ministry for the development of ZONGOS.
- Flagship policy: National Corps should provide 100.000 new jobs.
- Extension of electricity in rural communities, so people for example could buy a fridge and sell cold water.
- The government does not build houses, that's too expensive, but puts effort in planning cities and towns

EA



Ressources ★ GOLD

Ghana has a long history for mining especially for gold. Gold is a precious metal of high monetary value. Gold is a major export commodity for Ghana, bringing nearly 48% of the country's revenue. Gold even gave the name to the country for a long time – gold coast. Originally gold could be found all over Ghana and could be just picked up from the floor. Now heavy machinery was introduced to extract more and more gold from the soil. Not only the working conditions in the mines are terrible, harming the health of workers (lung problems because of dust), but also the whole environment around the mines is destroyed and the ground water is polluted of mercury. And all profit goes to international mining companies. The government does not support the miners.

On our second day in Ghana (at 8 in the morning!) we met Madam Hannah, the leader of the NGO WACAM, supported by DKA, who does advocacy work for communities affected by mining.

WACAM means in the local language Twi „You are biting us“.

WACAM is meanwhile highly respected, mining companies are afraid of WACAM!

WACAM teaches the people their rights and privileges, the rules and regulations of mining. Getting to know the value of their property, to resist.

WACAM informs about rights, writes records, informs the press, encourages protests, goes for testing evaluations of toxic water pollution.

WACAM empowers the people in the villages, who can often not read or write, teaches them, what kind of rights they have, gives tools to make the right decision and enables communities to speak up for themselves.

Two days later we visited a village affected by a mine close to their community.

Unfortunately it is forbidden by Ghanaian law to see gold mines, but we were invited to a meeting with local people. Mining creates conflicts and disputes in the communities, it has a negative impact on soil and society.



We have benefit of 1% and 99% problems: our land is destroyed, 90% of the water is polluted with cadmium and lead (water is food for the communities), loss of health and livelihoods, biodiversity and forests destroyed, blasting destroys roads, kids do not go to school, women follow the miners, prostitution...

What is the benefit of being a member of WACAM?

Empowerment, getting to know our rights, getting help, when we have to go to court...

„We are not against mining, but - ... We are against illegal/non responsible mining!!!“

What we want:

We have the licenses. We allow our land to be mined. But we want better compensations. If you want to do mining, you come to our community and speak to us about your plans. We are free, proud and informed! Let's communicate!

EA



COCOA ★ Ressources

Colourful cocoa: The leaves of the plant are green, the ripe fruit can be bright yellow, red or orange, the sweet cocoa flesh is white and the bean itself is red-brown.

The stop was near Koforidua: We visited an organic cocoa farm,



its owner and helpers. First we got the chance to ask questions, then we went from the warehouse to the farm and saw the cocoa plants by ourselves. The farmer we visited chose to do organic farming since 2006.

Reasons to do so are the following: Good soil, human health, helps our environment. But the number of organic cocoa farms in Ghana is not increasing as the main problem is called insects, which harm a lot of plants. The majority of the cocoa beans produced in Ghana is determined for export, only a very small percentage of the beans are processed into chocolate in Ghana. We got taught that a cocoa tree starts fruiting after three years. During September and October the farmer and his helpers harvest the ripe cocoa fruits. They break the fruit, take out the beans and the fermentation process begins: They cover them with cocoa leaves, dry for two days, take out the placenta, dry for another two days. On the 6th day they take them to the drying mat. After drying in Africa's sun, they get packed in sacks marked organic and are ready to ship.



In Ghana the government sets the price, organic cocoa farmers therefore get a premium price, but if for example a family has a 2.5 acre farm the money they get for the beans is not enough, so they plant other crops like cassava or bananas. AS

Left: The proud organic cocoa farmer on his field; Below: Cocoa beans on the drying mat







Women



Helping small business to grow and expand Christian Mothers' Associations (CMA)

The Christian Mothers' Association of Ghana (CMA) is a National Women's Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) under the umbrella of the Catholic Church. CMA was formed in the early 1940s and have nowadays groups in all Parishes. Their main purpose is a spiritual one and they go into villages to support families and women. Out of that they support productive poor women to install small business and development.

We travelled to a group of them in Yendi, a town in the Northern Region of north Ghana with a population of 52,000 people. To recognize them they wear uniforms. In the introduction we noticed that several christian mothers who welcomed us were teachers at primary schools, business schools or colleges.

Money they need to support poor families comes from the bishop and they have a social welfare fund for poor members and families. The knowledge who needs their help they get through the CMA members and the decision comes through the committee where they vote. Sometimes they cannot help, because the distances are too big. Since they work in the villages, more girls can visit school.

„The moon is slowly moving,
even so he is crossing the
whole town“
Asanti proverb

„Der Mond bewegt sich
langsam, und doch überquert
er die ganze Stadt.“
Sprichwort der Asanti

Leave no one behind NORSAAC

NORSAAC is an empowerment for change organization committed to women and young people in Ghana's Northern Region. This part of Ghana has a high rate of unemployment especially under young people. The NGO was founded in 2002 from two young people who felt the need for educational work against diseases and illnesses. They started with „clubs“ at highschools.

They work with peer groups to empower individuals in asserting their rights through increasing their knowledge-base. Because a lot of women in the northern countryside are under the control of their husbands they started also to work especially with them. Their main campaigns are on gender, sexuality, education of the children.... NORSAAC works on the communal, regional and national level. Their goal: A society in which every person enjoys their rights and lives a life of dignity.

DD

Together with members of CMA in Diocese of Yendi

At NORSAAC with its founder Alhassan Awal



Gender Roles

For the topic of Gender Roles and Relations, Cynthia a professor from university in Tamale came to our lecture hall at Tieloms Institute of Inter-Cultural and Language Studies. She talked about the situation in her country. Like in a real discussion we also shared with her some gender topics from Austria.

The Ghanaian population is dominated by females! Unfortunately men and women do not have the same opportunities.

Cynthia gave us an example: Women who try to attend university are disadvantaged, but rules have been made to improve this fact. So it's becoming more equal.

Relations

In Ghanaian families there are certain rules what husbands and wives should do. For usual women do the household, nearly everything is on them. Men have more time for meeting friends or to study. The husband is the leader and the decision maker. But: the more educated you are, the more equal it is - even in Ghana.

Impressions

As we drove through the streets, I noticed that a lot of women work. For example they sell food, vegetables and fruit like yam and banana. Personally, I perceived the women in Ghana as very strong and self-confident personalities.

VK

Factors influencing gender roles in Ghana

- ★ history
- ★ culture
- ★ religion
- ★ ...

Ghanian Population

- ★ 52% female
- ★ 48% male



Religion

„We all have the same father with just different mothers, so he is a brother from another mother – so we are all brothers and sisters.“

Even though there's a vast array of different religions and confessions in Ghana – mostly Christians, Moslems and Traditionists – live next to each other in harmony. That's because the way you live your beliefs doesn't affect the sense of community within the villages.

You can also see the variety of beliefs on the streets of Ghana. On our way from Accra to Tamale we notice various Christian chapels, that turn into mosques the farther we travel into the north. But the attitude stays the same: No matter what the other they believe, my counterpart is accepted, respected and loved. We are told that Muslims still celebrate Christian weddings with their friends, that people cook for everyone and not only fellow Christians during Easter or Christmas, and that on the other hand Christians also get invited to Muslim festivities.

In Ghana, every kind of prayer is accepted. None of the Christians seem to mind being awoken by the Muhezin in the early morning. This freedom of religion is distinctly noticeable and we noticed very fast that we can learn a lot from the Ghanaian people for our own situation in Austria.

It was also lovely to see that all religious symbols have their own place in Ghana. Religion isn't excluded, but included equally. And nearly every Christian or Muslim believes in the traditional religions of the country as well.

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Larabanga Mosque - the oldest mosque in Ghana - near Mole National Park



Accused People ★ „Witchcamp“

There was a lot of discussion in our group before we went to the witch camp, an old name for a village of 1000 people, where accused people of Ghana can live a happy and safe life. Those who come here are accused of having witchcraft, a special heavy power that can harm other people. They are blamed for droughts or fires in their villages, causing sickness or death or even just appearing in someone's dreams. Then they are no longer wanted in society. If they are accused of having witchcraft, they live very unsafe faced with discrimination or even death in their communities. People are banished from the village and have to leave with absolutely nothing and sometimes with wounds because they have been beaten. People come here with their whole families. We went to see the local chief to get the permission to visit the village.



Together with the chief of Tindan

He explained: „We give support to accused people. Those who are here, are here by choice. Here is no suffering. All we give is love, help and respect. We encourage them to feel free people. They go to the market. They live a normal life. Children go to school. Here is happiness and joy.“

The place we visited in Ghana is called Tindan, has mud huts with thatched roofs. Tindan looks like any other village we have seen before, the compounds are even cleaner. And it is not fenced in.

EA



SHEKHINAH CLINIC FOR THE POOR AND DESTITUTE

Shekhinah Clinic - Tamale

The hospital provides free care for the poorest of the poor. Nobody has to pay for medical care. The hospital is not supported by the government. Everybody who works here does voluntary work. Most of them work from Monday to Friday and most of them also have an other job to earn money. There are also voluntary workers from abroad. And as there is no money paid for the employees, the hospital always seeks for voluntary workers. It only runs on donations. The motivations for all the voluntary workers is the happiness to help somebody else.

The Shekinah Clinic was founded by a poor man. His name was Dr. David Abdulai. He was out of a family of 11 siblings. Born in 1951. All of them died in the age of under one year. Except him. So the family sent him to school, but he dropped. He had the motivation to help poor

people so he went back and he also did the medical school. Afterwards his dream became true to build a clinic for everybody. The ground was gifted by the chief of the area. Dr. Abdulai died a couple of years ago in 2016. The hospital is now run by his wife. The main field of work is with clients who are suffering of hernia. Operations are done at the hospital. It also offers a place to stay for long-term mentally ill people. But there is not much room. For people who get an operation done, there are no beds for overstay, if it is possible, they get send home, if not the clinic supports the clients a overstay in an other hospital and they also pay for it. During one day there are about 60 to 70 clients who come to the clinic. About 7 operations are done everyday.



The hospital also provides food for the clients and also for poor people in Tamale town. At Christmas the hospital cooks an especial meal for more then 3000 poor people. On Saturdays dead bodys in town get collected and buried. These are only a few things the clinics does extra.

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Left: Some medical products to support the work of Shekhinah Clinic
Below: Group Picture on Areal of the Clinic



Local Industry

Shea Butter

One afternoon we visited a shea butter production around Tamale where mainly women work there together since about 20 years. To make shea butter it needs time and several steps: From boiling the nuts to be able to break them, drying, roasting, shredding, mixing, separating the fat, boiling, separating to the final step which is storing in a cool room. The end product should be white. Some shea butters are yellow. This colour comes from a dried yellow flower which is added in the whole producing process. AS

Different stages of She Butter Production - From the Shea Nut to the yellow coloured Shea Butter



Three young ladies who lern sewing and made our clothes

Sewing

The Young Christians Worker (YCW) in Tamale have different initiatives to support people on their way to earn a living for themselves. One of it is also funded by DKA and gives young women and men the opportunity to learn sewing. After finishing their training they get an own sewing machine to start their own business. At one of that places all the women of our group orderer some nice new clothes. JH

Tie & Dye Batik

In Damongo we ourself had the chance to get active. At a training center for batik work we got instructed to design our own two yards of cotton sheets. Equipped with stamps and hot wax we started the creative process which took almost the whole day. JH



School

On our trip through Ghana we saw a lot of schools. Perhaps they were all empty, because of summer holidays. Thanks to our greatest organizer Salifu we had the chance to visit a public school anyway, even hundreds of children were there! During the schoolyear 600 children are going to school, but there are only 14 teachers. Therefore, in one class are up to 80 pupils! Yet the classrooms are very small and many of the students don't even have a table to write on and have to share books and school materials.

After visiting the public school, we went to a private school. For many of us it was a cultural shock because it was totally different. The pupils in the private school were celebrating their last day of school with music and dancing. All pupils wore beautiful dresses and we saw a lot of gambling machines on the schoolyard. The headmistress told us that there are at most 18 students in one class. Moreover, they have a computer lab and what shocked us most: all classes are monitored by video!

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Public School - Students are here for our visit during holidays

Empty school class due to holidays



Care for Deprived Communities

In Tuna in the northwest of Ghana we met John Kanyiti the manager of Care for Deprived Communities (CDC) and his team. CDC is a DKA supported NGO specialized to fight human trafficking. It also just runs by voluntary workers. The organization was formed in 1999. Due to HIV a lot of people and children died in Tuna and the surrounding area. The young generation left because there was no work. The care of elderly people was a problem. Families were not able to feed the children – this was the main reason why young girls were not attending school and soon got married or sold – e.g. in the age of 13.

The organization goes to the rural communities of the area in

Tuna and tells the people to stay and why and give them support. Earlier the NGO got also support from other sponsors like the United Nations. From 2008 to 2010 the UN supported 500 kids and their mothers. They got money for food and for going to school or spare time clubs where the kids learn how to keep their own area tidy and clean.

Dr. Salifu Mahama was so impressed by the work CDC does, so he introduced the project to the DKA about 7 years ago.

After meeting John Kanyiti and his team, it was the plan to visit one of the communities to talk to some woman who get supported by the CDC and DKA. When we arrived in Sola

at the community, we first had to greet the chief - you always have to do this when you visit a village. He was not around so we had to greet traditionally the eldest and another eldest. After this the whole group of us and also Mary and Stephen did not expect to join a big welcoming feast with traditional dancing and all the chiefs. The dancing to welcome us was about 1,5 hours but it felt like it would never end. People smiled at us, sang a lot and loudly to show us their thankfulness. I think nobody of us ever experienced something like that before. Afterwards we had the chance to talk to three of the women who had been supported. They were absolutely thankful. AT

Group Picture in CDC supported community Sola



Village Immersion



In our last full week in Ghana our village life started: In pairs we went to four different villages (Nwodua, Napaiyili, Gumo and Yapalsi) near Tamale. We lived in compounds with the family from Monday afternoon to Thursday morning and therefore had more than enough time to use our new language skills! We got to see, hear, smell and taste a lot which was really great as we learned throughout the whole time here in the villages (actually the whole LernEinsatz) by doing so. Early in the morning

we were woken up by the sound of the cock and/or muezzin. People usually get up with the sun and start to work in the household. This work is usually done by women: They do the dishes, wash the dirty laundry by hand, cook and prepare all meals for the whole family. Men are in charge of the fields and animals. We were able to see so many different kinds of plants like cassava, okra, yam, teak and many more. But our favourite one is the Baobab tree which can grow really tall and therefore just

looks really impressive. Some of us were also able to work in the shea butter production, visited the daily church service or even learned how to weave. After some time in our village, everyone was wondering how the others are doing. So we started to visit each other – we went by foot and some of us even took an adventurous ride on the motorbike. To put it all in a nutshell: We had a really good time filled with a lot of precious moments, good talks, laughs and much more. AS



Let's learn Dagbanli!

„Daßiba!“	Good morning!	
„Antire!“	Good afternoon!	→ Response: „Naaaa!“
„Aniwula!“	Good evening!	
„Kadibewula?“	How are you?	→ Response: „Naaa!“ or „Alaffi“ (same meaning)
“Ai yuli?”	What's your name?	→ „N'yuli (your name)“ My name is...
„M'paya“ (Sg.) / „Ti'paya“ (Pl.)	Thank you!	

Tip: Respond with „Naa“ until they laugh! ;-)

What's left to say...



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This report gives insights in experiences made by the group of „LernEinsatz Ghana 2019“ through word and picture from the group members. Arrangement by Haijes Jakob.

Group Members

Anreiter Elfriede • Dreier Doris • Haijes Jakob • König Victoria • Muxel Bruno • Styblo Angela • Theiner Teresa • Truttenberger Andrea • Wawerda Theresa

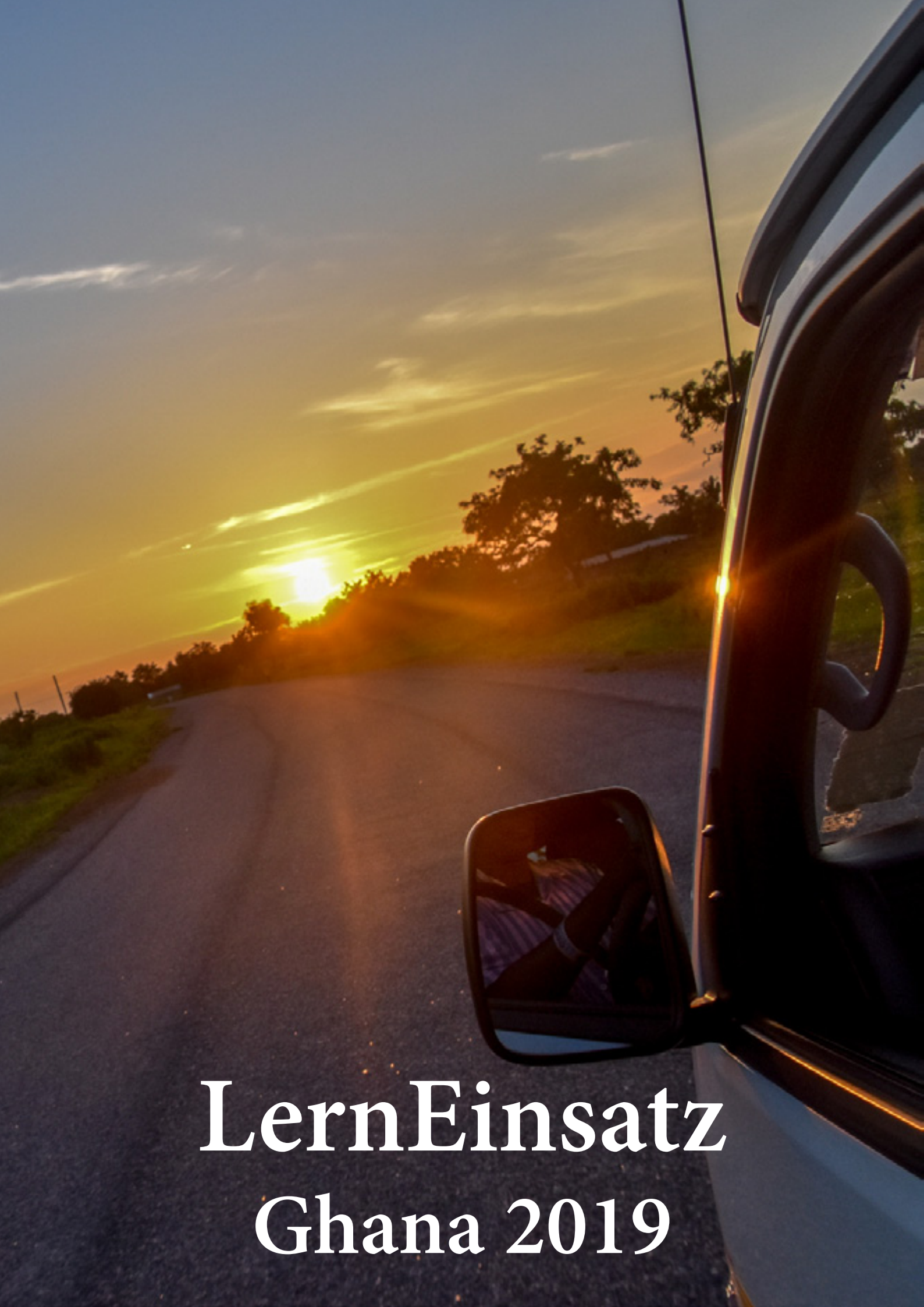
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