

Project report March / April 2016



Finally back in Uganda!

The familiar feeling of 'being home' flowed through us, as we saw the school from behind, sitting on our boda boda after a very long time. A moment later our heart hopped when we saw all the children and teachers waiting for us outside the school building. Our reunion was full of laughter and dancing and we proceeded to celebrate it with traditional Ugandan dances and songs.

Unfortunately, our stay is temporary and therefore we discussed the plans for the next weeks together with Mike and Madam Namakula in the afternoon. With the help of the charitable donation by the 'Globus-Stiftung' we decided together with the management of the school to focus on the renovation of the school building. The schools' outside, all the classrooms and sleeping rooms should get painted. Furthermore, we decided to get new mattresses and bed sheets for the sleeping room as well as new cooking equipment and new cups and plates for the children a long time ago. Noticing the fact that the number of children increased a lot since the new term started in February we also decided to get new school uniforms for the new students as well. So there was our schedule for the next weeks!

All of us knew that the painting would definitely be really time-consuming and therefore we wanted to start with it as soon as possible. We got the colours and everything else in different shops in Nakiwogo and Kitooro – of course really nerve-stretching...Remembering the fact that everything needed to be done in a few weeks, we contacted our friend Abbas who helped us with building the fence last year. Luckily, he brought two other painters as well and we could finally start! We divided our group so that we could work in different rooms without losing time. It was honestly really amazing to witness the change of the school at first hand. Crazy what a couple of colour cans can cause! All of us are more than satisfied with the result: all the rooms and the plastered walls from the outside as well as the gate are freshly painted and it looks really wonderful!

While we already started the painting we contacted the tailors who already made the school uniforms for us last September and we commissioned 50 new uniforms. The tailors came to the school once again to do the work from there as it was easier to do the measurements and we could have a look at the daily progress. After a few days the new students finally got their uniforms and it was great to see their happiness!

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Concerning the sleeping room, we bought new mattresses and bed sheets. It was actually quite more difficult than we expected it to be since not a single shop around could offer us the needed amount of mattresses and bed sheets. Fortunately, a woman who owns a shop in Nakiwogo said she could get the needed things for us in Kampala and store those for us in her shop where they would be ready to get picked from us. After that we furnished the beds with the new mattresses, bed sheets and blankets. The remaining errands like cups, plates and sauce pans were bought in the next days.

Another great moment was the distribution of the sportswear (120 sets) that we brought with us from Germany and to see the children wearing it while they played. At a local Primary School sports competition in Entebbe / Bugonga the children could wear it for the first 'official' time. They got a lot of compliments for their smart and coherent appearance and could mess with contemporaries in different disciplines.

It is normal that there is never enough time to play with the children and just have fun with them when there is so much to organise around. Like always, the time was running too fast and the saddest part of every stay came closer: the farewell.

Heavy-heartedly we had to say goodbye to the children and the teachers, but one thing makes leaving always easier: knowing that you'll come back as soon as possible, even though leaving the family is never an easy thing to do...

It was an amazing and successful project trip and we've had many memorable experiences with really special people and moreover, we achieved everything we had on our schedule!

See you next time! We can't wait to come back...nkwagala nyo Uganda!!!