

Perlenkinder News 22/11/2024 Travel Report of Ute and Hans-Joachim Sahlmann



Ute and Hans-Joachim Sahlmann traveled to Buhoma/Uganda in the last week of October 2024. It was the second visit to the country - and the first since the Perlenkinder-Uganda e.V. association was founded in spring of 2024.



Our time on site was characterized by the warmth and openness of the people. The children in Akansasira's Pearl Children House made a very positive impression. They seemed very cheerful and absolutely life-affirming, just as we had experienced and remembered meeting them a year ago.



The donations enabled us to buy new and/or second-hand clothes for all the children at a nearby market on the day of our arrival and to hand them over to them directly the next day. We were also able to buy food to prepare and enjoy lunch together on Sunday.



On the second day of our stay, on Sunday from 9.30 a.m., with the support of numerous hands, an unusual meal with meat, watermelon and soft drinks was eagerly prepared for all the children (the usual church visit on Sunday morning was cancelled for everyone this time!) It was also possible to buy food from the market the day before - thanks to donations! Thank you for this support - the meal was a unique experience for the children.

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During the following days we visited various private schools that are attended by almost all of the Pearl children. All the schools made a serious and educationally valuable impression. A school career at a private school significantly increases the chances of a self-determined life and is strongly and intensively promoted by Akansasira.

The requirements to enable 20 children to attend a private school are associated with considerable costs, which are made possible by various school sponsorships from all over the world, often former tourists from the region. The children learn with great joy and intensity. They attend school every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday and are also provided with breakfast and lunch.



In the evening from 5 p.m., when the children return to the Perlenkinder House after school, they have some time off work and the opportunity to read, to do schoolwork or to watch TV - the solar system installed in 2022 from donations makes this possible today!

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Further projects to improve the living situation were discussed in numerous talks with Akansasira on site, including

- Replacing the timber in the WC system
- Connecting the water tank to the public water supply
- Installation of running water in the shower room/bathroom

These three projects are planned to be realized in the coming weeks.



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At the end of our trip, a great wish of all the residents of the Perlenkinder House was fulfilled: With the purchase and handover of a “Boda-Boda” motorcycle, Akansasira and its employees will be able to have more mobility, to buy larger quantities of groceries, to visit the doctor with the children and to provide food for themselves by cultivating land outside Buhoma. In Uganda, a boda boda is a motorcycle that can be used to transport people and/or goods.



We were so sad at the end of our journey to go home, but we also felt a great satisfaction having been there on site. And it took us both a few days to “arrive back in Germany”. The trip touched us more than we thought at the beginning - our life in safety, wealth, luxury compared to poverty and the constant worry about what the next day would be like!

Christmas is coming and we would like to try and make it a little nicer for the Pearl children than in previous years. Perhaps with a good meal, perhaps with some presents for everyone, perhaps with an important investment such as the renovation of the shower system, which is also being considered in combination with the above-mentioned water supply. Until now, showering in the Perlenkinder House has meant washing with water from a water bowl in a small room. With a few technical improvements, it may be possible to install a shower head so that you can shower under running water.

Things that are “normal” for us, are the gateway to a better future for these children. A future in which they have the chance to realize their dreams and perhaps one day will have a positive influence on their society.

If you feel like it, please support us - you are giving these children the chance of a life full of hope and perspective.

Thank you very much! Webare Munonga!
Your association Perlenkinder Uganda e.V.