

Impact Report 2019



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1 OVERVIEW

1.1 What is BRAVEAURORA and where is it based?

WHAT: Support of vulnerable children and sustainable village development

WHERE: The origin lies in the village Guabuliga in Northern Ghana. However, big success let the organisation expand throughout the Northern Region of Ghana (West Africa)

WHO: Six voluntary board members are working from Austria. 12 local employees are based in Ghana. The association was founded in 2009 by three board members in Austria and increased in 2018 by three further members. In addition, the association is supported by a large network of dedicated volunteers and experts.

MAIN ACTIVITIES: After successful reintegration of 45 orphans in their extended families in Guabuliga and the successful closing of the orphanage in Guabuliga, BRAVEAURORA is supporting the projects in the villages through the principal of „helping people help themselves“ and campaigns actively for the abolishment of illegal orphanages in the entire Northern Region of Ghana.

MISSION: BRAVEAURORA's mission is to become a pioneer in child protection in Northern Ghana. We offer vulnerable children in Ghana and their families new perspectives for their future. Our focus is the abolition of illegal orphanages, the reunification of children with their families and the commitment to community village development.

ACHIEVED MILESTONES:

- Pioneering work in the area of 45reintegration of vulnerable children - 45 children of the Guabuliga orphanage were united with their families - and scaling up the reintegration work within Northern Ghana;
- Closure of the former Guabuliga orphanage and other orphanages in Northern Ghana;
- Opening of the BRAVEAURORA training center with many training opportunities with a recognized state certificate;
- The participants are also trained in economic topics. After completing the training, the trainees are registered to take their “final apprenticeship examination” at the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI). Some entrepreneurs are registered as self-employed

- as cooperatives. These groups are supported with seed capital in the form of microcredit;
- Delivery of several successful projects to the village community: water project, library, health center, green belt (reforestation) & dry-season farming project (year-round agriculture concept), organic garden project - further education and training workshops for these areas;
 - Raising awareness on the subject of “volunteer tourism” in Austria and Ghana; Expansion and scaling of the Young Ambassador project (ambassadors of reintegration) in Northern Ghana; intensive cooperation with the Ghanaian social welfare ("Department of Social Welfare"); active awareness raising about illegal orphanages on the radio in Northern Ghana; Official cooperation partner of UNICEF Ghana (since 2017) and intensive and close cooperation with cooperation partners in Ghana as well as in Austria.

AWARDS: BRAVEAURORA is the winner of 7 renominated awards in development collaboration: Eduard-Ploier-Award 2015, Neptun Water Award 2015, Human Rights Award of the State of Upper Austria 2014, National Energy Globe Award 2014, Golden Sustainability Award of the campaign „Helping helps“ 2013, Upper Austria Club Award 2013, San Marco Award 2012/2013

TRUSTED PARTNERS: BRAVEAURORA has been a long-time carrier of the Austrian Donation Quality Seal and has been supported for several years by the province of Upper Austria with an annual subsidy

COUNTRIES: BRAVEAURORA is registered as an NGO in Austria, Switzerland and in Ghana.

1.2 Our long-term goals

- Abolition of illegal orphanages in Ghana and raising awareness on “sustainable volunteerism”
- Working together to develop solutions to hunger, poverty, education traps and environmental challenges with the local population and local partners
- Pro-active involvement of local women and girls in the projects
- Handing over the projects to the village population
- Transferability of different projects to other villages in Northern Ghana
- Achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the following 14 of the 17 SDGs

1.3 What are the principles of BRAVEAURORA?

1. Help for Self-help

"BRAVEAURORA does **not create any dependencies** with its projects! Through constant mediation and **exchange of knowledge** and experience with the villagers, local experts, local staff and cooperation partners, it enables us to sustainably generate new sources of income for the people of Guabuliga and the surrounding areas. The **active participation** and involvement of the village population - including the youth and children – in our actions and discussions, are the starting point for successful project scaling."



Co-Founder and President Christin

2. Transparency

"BRAVEAURORA guarantees that every donation that is received on our donations account (in Austria and Switzerland) is used **1: 1 for direct project work**. Our **financial report** is checked annually by an independent auditor. We have been carrying the **Austrian donation seal of quality** since 2013 - and donations to BRAVEAURORA are tax deductible - here, too, an annual audit is carried out according to strict criteria."



Co-Founder and Treasurer Julia

3. Sustainability

"BRAVEAURORA wants to empower the villagers themselves to adopt **new methods and knowledge** and thus make them independent from us in the long term. In the long term, what we aim for with our projects is, to achieve the best possible social impact within the population. We **do not want to leave any traces**, but gradually handing over projects to the population. "



Co-Founder and Secretary Sarah

1.4 Team Austria

Dr. Christin ter Braak-Forstinger
President, Co-Founder and Board Member

Sarah Kotopulos M.A.
Secretary, Co-Founder and Board Member

Julia Obereder M.A.
Treasurer, Co-Founder and Board Member



Alea Pleiner, MSc
Deputy Secretary and Board Member

Simone Blümel
Deputy Cashier and Board Member

Susanne Gahleitner, BA
Deputy President and Board Member



1.5 Team Ghana



Alidu Mahamdu – Night watchman

Shahadu Kasim – Gardener

Faiza Mohammed, B.A. – Social worker

Zenabu Saaka – Housekeeper

Scholastica Azure – Assistant in the field of education

Simon Yaan Subuk, M.B.A. – Financial and administrative coordinator

Abdul-Rahman Gbana Iddrisu, M.A. – Executive Director

Susana Agana, Dipl. – Graduated social worker

Abubakari Alhassan, MA – Deputy managing director and livelihood coordinator

Eklimatu Ali-Nuh, Dipl. – Graduated social worker

Baba Seidu, M.B.A. – President Braveaurora Ghana

Adam Mohamed Halisu, B.A. – Education coordinator (until September 2019)

2 PROJECTS 2019

FROM A STUDENTS PROJECT TO THE SUCCESS STORY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

The projects in Northern Ghana started in 2008, when the two former students of Social Work Julia and Sarah completed their internship in an orphanage in Ghana. Shocked about the circumstances, the association BRAVEAURORA was founded in 2009.

Our goals today:

- Abolition of illegal orphanages
- Reintegration of vulnerable children
- Perspectives through education & job opportunities

2.1 REINTEGRATION

BECAUSE EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT FOR A FAMILY!

In Ghana, more than 3000 children live in orphanages. Within a few years, the number of orphanages in Ghana has risen from **5 to 148**.



But why is it that so many children are orphaned in Ghana?

The answer is sad: It is **poverty and social tourism**.

9 out of 10 children living in an orphanage are **not orphans**.

Their family is still alive but in need of help and often unable to care for their children. This is when their children become social orphans.

More and more **volunteers** want to do something good on their vacation and are willing to pay a lot of money for it. The **bestseller of social tourism**: caring for orphans. However, **demand exceeds supply**. Therefore, children are taken out of poverty-stricken families and put into illegal orphanages, that are created for short-term volunteers.



It is well known that having a **family** that provides safety and security to a child is the **best place for a child to grow up** and its ideal development. Still, even today 8 million children worldwide live in orphanages and other facilities. 90% of these children are not orphans but were **separated from their families because of poverty**. Children in such facilities often lack security, comfort and well-being. BRAVEAURORA is clearly against this trend, fighting against illegal orphanages and for the reintegration of vulnerable people.



Our goal: to return children to their families and to eliminate appealing factors of deporting children to such institutions. BRAVEAURORA is considered a pioneer throughout Ghana with this approach.

*With this approach, **BRAVEAURORA** is considered a **pioneer in Ghana.***

2.1.1 Successful Cooperation with UNICEF-Ghana – for 3 years

For 70 years, UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, has been fighting in 190 countries and territories for the rights of children. UNICEF is one of the biggest and most important players in this field. In **Northern Ghana**, BRAVEAURORA is **pioneering the reintegration of orphans** into their extended families and fighting illegal orphanages, which in **2017 led to a cooperation between UNICEF Ghana and BRAVEAURORA.**



Goals of the UNICEF cooperation are:

- **Locating vulnerable children in remote areas and closure of illegal orphanages**

Current UNICEF figures at the end of November 2019 show 139 active orphanages in Ghana with a total of 3,530 children who are being cared for there. This would mean an increase of 21 orphanages since last year. This once again emphasizes the importance of the work of BRAVEAURORA and UNICEF. In the northern regions and thus the BRAVEAURORA area of application, the number of institutions has remained the same since 2018, with 17 orphanages. We work intensively together with social welfare to reintegrate the remaining children.



- **Support by the Ghanaian Social Welfare in the reintegration of children**

From **2017-2019** a total of 59 children were successfully reunited **with their families** with the help of our social workers.

Tailor-made reintegration packages were designed for the reunited children, which provided them with the essentials for their first time in families.



- **Reintegration support and family review**

In 2018-2019, Ghanaian social assistance was supported by our social workers to accompany and provide technical support for 474 children and their families who are in difficult living situations. In 2019, our social workers regularly visited the various locations of social assistance with our managing director in order to support them with technical expertise or other resources in the event of difficulties. Together they visited families with reintegrated children to ensure the well-being and safety of the children.



- **Build a foster family system**

For children who, for various reasons, cannot live in their families, foster families that can enable the children to live a protected life in a family atmosphere are the best option. The foster family system is still in its infancy in Ghana. A **foster family committee** for the northern regions of Ghana was created in 2019 in order to promote the implementation better and to enable many children to live in a family away from orphanages. This committee consists of the director of Ghanaian social welfare, a department head for children's rights, a female chief, a clinical psychologist and, to our pride, as a **representative of the NGOs, our managing director Abdul**.



2.1.2 Orphans as Ambassadors for Reintegration

The YAP project (Young Ambassadors Program = ambassadors of reintegration) is a successor project to successful reintegration. **Former orphans and their family members, together with our social workers, visit villages in the northern regions**, discuss the topic of **reintegration** into the family association and the topic of "**volunteerism**" and educate the population about support options. The adolescents were trained as so-called **peers** (multipliers = disseminators) and report from their own experience how negative orphanages can be for children and the advantages of growing up in a family structure. This **training was refreshed** this year and expanded with new methods to ensure that the program was adapted to the latest developments in child protection.



In 2019, we were able to reach a total of **2,040 people in 23 villages** with the workshops, including more than **1,300 adults** and **600 young people**. The gender ratio was very balanced with around 51% female and 49% male participants. The discussions are usually very interactive and participants report on their own experiences and concerns and ask questions about the topics.

An example of the success of these awareness programs is this quote from the chief of the Sangua village.

////////////////////////////////////
"I took part in a YAP program some time ago. From the information I received, I forbid my daughter to go south and work there when my sister wanted to get her. She is still in school now. I am very thankful for that."
////////////////////////////////////

YAP-Team on Air

In addition to the awareness work in the villages, we did this again on the radio. Here, the YAP team, together with important partners in child protection, such as the Ghanaian social welfare service, provides information via radio on a wide range of topics related to the well-being of children. At the end of each program, listeners can call and ask questions or share experiences. The **radio broadcasts** took place **three times in 2019** at the local radio station Eagle FM in Walewale. The range thus extends over the entire North East region with approx. 576,000 inhabitants.

Through all these interventions, BRAVEAURORA is raising awareness of the dangers of illegal orphanages. The villagers are empowered to protect their children and to dock on possible support systems that can help them out of the poverty trap.

2.1.3 Programs to support young people and their families

To ensure that families never get into a situation where they see no other way but to send their child to an orphanage, the BRAVEAURORA social work team undertakes a series of interventions that strengthen the young people and their families in Guabuliga .

Workshops for children and parents

Every quarter, our social workers organize workshops on topics related to the well-being of children and health for children / adolescents and for parents. In 2019, an average of 20 adults and 70 children took part in the activities. The topics this year were "Responsibility and Rights

of Children and Parents", "Future Opportunities / Career Opportunities for Young People", "Malaria" and "Cholera".



Girls-Empowerment – Girls Club

Giving young women and girls a voice is a leading motive for BRAVEAURORA. That's why we organize a special activity every three months to help 20 middle school girls get information on certain topics and increase their self-confidence. In this way, they should become role models for their peers and influence them positively. The topics included 2019 "Rights and Responsibility as Children", a general knowledge quiz and a workshop on menstruation, which was designed by the girl education manager of the Ghana Education Service in Walewale - Madam Sawdatu.



Psychosocial counseling

The office of our social workers is a contact point for people who are in particularly challenging life situations. The most common issues the team deals with are early school leaving, teenage pregnancies, child marriage and family conflicts. The aim of any intervention is to give people in crisis situations a hold and to enable them to lead a free and independent life again. In 2019,

a total of 25 people were cared for, 10 of whom are no longer dependent on our support and 15 are still receiving the necessary specialist attention.

2.1.4 Cooperation programs

"Together we are stronger ..." - we are aware that together with cooperation partners we can take even bigger steps towards our common goal of child protection. For this reason, our team on site again took part in various network meetings in 2019 to exchange technical information and to further expand the circle of partners. In 2019 we networked with: CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education), GirlsNotBrides and various organizations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

A highlight of 2019 was the donation of **materials for awareness-raising work on child and youth protection issues from UNICEF** and the associated five-day training course on how to use them.



Film shoot about the reintegration program

In September 2019, a documentary with a film team from UNICEF Ghana was shot for three days about BRAVEAURORA's work in the reintegration of children with their families.



BRAVEAURORA has a pioneering role in the unification of families in Ghana and was therefore used as a best practice example in the documentation. The documentary is shown on Ghanaian television and raises awareness among the population about deinstitutionalization and the importance of the family for growing up children. Both clients, our social workers, our managing director and the Chief of Guabuliga have their say to tell about our work and success.



Success story: From orphanage operator to lawyer for family reunification

Pastor Timothy Silas Wumbei is the founder of the "Tiyumba Children and Widows Support Center" in Tamale and currently supports 25 women, most of whom are in difficult living conditions due to the death of their husbands. Training programs and other support measures empower women to take care of themselves and their families bit by bit.

If today you see the commitment with which Mr. Silas works to strengthen the families in his village, it is hard to imagine that he was also the one who founded an orphanage ten years ago. It took a lot of discussions and a lot of educational work by the Ghanaian welfare and BRAVEAURORA until Mr. Silas understood that an orphanage is not the right way to support the children in his village. For years he was convinced that he was doing the right thing. Today he is happy to support the children and women. "I now know that the family is the best place for children." There are currently eight children living in his orphanage, which he would like to reintegrate into their families as soon as possible. The orphanage will serve as a training center in the future. Today Mr. Silas puts all his energy into supporting the women and children in his village and has registered as a future foster parent.

2.2 LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION

Agriculture has always been a big issue in Guabuliga. About **90% of the inhabitants depend solely on agriculture for their foods and income**. The yields depend on the weather each year and so do the food rations for the family. Due to global climatic changes the dry season is getting longer and there are months in which there is no income, with no items to sell, or with no food for themselves. In this time **poverty** and **hunger** increase. Still a big problem in the North of Ghana is the **phenomenon of "Kayaye"**. These are people (often young women)

who are leaving their home villages to seek work in the South of the country. Mostly they find work around markets that are neither lucrative nor safe. The Kayaye are often confronted with serious problems, because often these women find themselves in prostitution and exploitation.



2.2.1 Training Center

The BRAVEAURORA training center empowers people to independently find ways out of poverty and to be able to sustainably care for themselves and their families. Together with the village population, an approach was developed **to open economic branches** in addition to agriculture.



The training center offers a **variety of courses and trainings**. The selection of these courses is always based on intensive surveys and the resulting needs and desires of the villagers. To combat poverty, these courses and trainings also strengthen the **village entrepreneurship**.



In 2019, a total of **87 trainees** were trained in the following areas:

- 20 people in soap making 10 people processing soy
- 17 beekeepers
- 10 people weaving baskets
- 10 people in yogurt production
- 20 smock tailors (smocks are traditional clothing)



It is important to us to promote sustainable and networked thinking. For example, in the training course for soap production, we demonstrated how you can reuse used water-plastic bags as packaging material. This is one of the ways to promote **upcycling** in Guabuliga. In addition, the trained trainees are taught **financing and**



costing. Calculations such as the cost of materials, production, etc. are carried out in order to enable the participants to set reasonable sales prices and to be profit-oriented.

2.2.2 Monitoring and mentoring visits to prospective entrepreneurs

The BRAVEAURORA poverty reduction concept takes a holistic approach. This means that prospective entrepreneurs are accompanied even after their training in the BRAVEAURORA training center. Together with our partner organizations ASIRIBISI and CAMA from Walewale, our project coordinator for poverty reduction visits the trained trainees to develop what knowledge from the training the entrepreneurs have already put into practice, what works well and where there are still difficulties on the job market . As part of these mentoring visits, solutions to these challenges are developed. Six days are spent each month on these visits.



Monitoring and mentoring visits provide a good basis for finding suitable people for the **microcredit program**. Promising, creditworthy entrepreneurs receive a start-up microcredit in groups as support in the initial phase. In 2019, a total of **67 entrepreneurs were accompanied**, 54 in Guabuliga, 13 in the neighboring villages of Tinguri (12) and Dimia (1).

2.2.3 Standardization of products in the training center

Our goal is to market, **package and standardize the products** manufactured in the BRAVEAURORA training center so that they can then be sold on the market. As a first step, Abu, our project coordinator for poverty reduction, attended a training course for packaging and marketing in order to deepen his knowledge in this area. Local companies were also contacted to help us find the design for our product marketing. First attempts with the new

design were tested on the market in Guabuliga. In addition, there was contact with the Ghanaian authorities to exchange information about the typical process for standardizing products. The process of shea butter production in Guabuliga has already been assessed and the first samples of the shea butter produced have been brought to a laboratory in the capital Accra.



2.2.4 New market in Guabuliga

BRAVEAURORA supports Guabuliga's economy - a new market has emerged!

The village community and the chief of Guabuliga agree: **a functioning market** is of central importance for **entrepreneurship and growth in the region!**

BRAVEAURORA has therefore decided to build a **market place for the community** together with the architect and our long-time supporter Baerbel Mueller! **Baerbel Mueller and six students from the University of Applied Arts Vienna** researched the necessity and general conditions on site and created the design for Guabuliga's future market together with the village community and the chief. They also managed the various construction phases on site and oversaw the development of the market. The special thing about the project was the joint design with the local population from the start, resource-oriented work with local craftsmen and the benefits of local partners and networks. After months of planning and working, our market is now open and is used regularly.

The new market thus represents a **hub in the center of the village**, where people come together, offer and sell their products and can



Credit: Baerbel Mueller



Credit: Magda Gorecka



Credit: Baerbel Mueller

therefore also look after themselves and their families in the long term. Now there is finally a place where local entrepreneurs can sell their products.



Market opening and graduation ceremony

In August 2019, hundreds of guests and villagers came together to celebrate the **opening of the market** and the economic growth in the region. At the same time as the market opening, there was a big **celebration for the 91 trainees** who had successfully passed their "final apprenticeship examination" at the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI).



Initial feedback shows that the market in Guabuliga is used briskly. Traders and visitors from near and far visit the market to buy and sell products. The market is so well attended that the local market committee is already working on initial ideas for additional stand spaces.



Credit: Juergen Strohmayer

Market committee

A market committee was founded together with the chief and his “elders” (council of elders). The committee consists of a total of twelve people: One member each from the seven districts in Guabuliga, as well as five additional members who have been selling their products on the market for many years and thus have a lot of practical experience. Nine of the twelve market committee members are women, since the majority of them buy and sell products on the market.

Among other things, the market committee has the following **tasks**: Maintaining and managing the marketplaces in Guabuliga, cleaning the market, registering the market sellers, allocating space for future traders and arbitrating any disagreements between buyers and sellers so that successful operation on market days can be guaranteed.

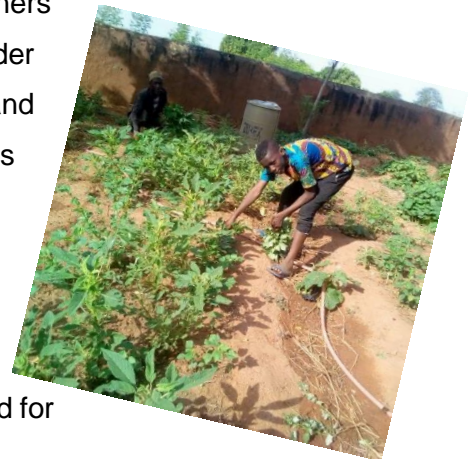
2.2.5 Organic Gardening Project

Overuse of the country, monocultures and a high proportion of chemically synthesized pesticides are beginning to show their disadvantages worldwide. The BRAVEAURORA project team is taking action to address these issues and their negative impacts, **since agriculture in Northern Ghana is the primary basis for money and natural income.**

Consequences of erosion and sterile soils cannot be solved on a long-term basis with a higher use of chemicals, neither ecologically nor financially.



BRAVEAURORA is currently in contact with potential partners who share their expertise in organic agriculture with us in order to avoid nutrient-poor soils through proper plant cultivation and to learn more about fertilizers based on organic substances and cross-breeding (mixed culture) for successful harvests. Part of our garden was damaged by heavy rain and is now being rebuilt. The focus is now on the transfer of knowledge to young people in order to guarantee sustainable agriculture in the future. Further training in this area is planned for our gardener.



2.3 EDUCATION

Education is the key to a better future. The possibility to receive education must not depend on where a person was born or how large their parents' income is. We are convinced, that many problems can be solved by receiving a good education. Education helps **to increase the economic position** and makes **democratic participation** as well as a **self-determined life** possible. Therefore, the BRAVEAURORA curriculum targets various levels with the goal to enable children in northern Ghana to fully develop their talents and abilities.

3 Schools ins Guabuliga:

Kindergarden: 187 students and 5 teachers

Primary school: 420 students and 16 teachers

St. Michael Junior High School: 324 students and 13 teachers

A good cooperation with the involved stakeholders of the educational system is of great importance for BRAVEAURORA. This includes **cooperations with teachers, headmasters, parents' representatives** and **the Chief in Guabuliga**, as well as the **Ghana Education Service** and other relevant NGOs in Ghana.

2.3.1 Sensitization-workshop „Importance of formal education “

Despite there is compulsory schooling for all children in Ghana, there is still a large number of school aged children not attending school. Therefore, BRAVEAURORA initiated **sensitization-workshops** for parents and children in Guabuliga, to point out the importance of formal education. Furthermore, BRAVEAURORA supports parents and children with application processes and interactions with teaching staff. By regularly visiting school classes BRAVEAURORA checks if children attend the classes on a regular basis. By doing so, **14 children** could already be **brought (back) to school**.



SUCCESS STORY: The story of Lativ's way to school

Lativ is 10 years old and together with his parents and three brothers he lives in Guabuliga. Lativ was not attending school, until September of this year. He spent his days mostly helping his father on the farm or with other tasks around the house. His father considered teaching his children farm work more important than formal education, because this might be of better use to them. Therefore, he did not allow Lativ, nor his two brothers Hakeem and Prosper, to attend school. After Lativ participated in a sensitization-workshop of BRAVEAURORA on the “importance of formal education”, he felt assured in his wish to attend school and turned to his older cousin for help. Together with him and BRAVEAURORA he and his two brothers fought their way to school. Since his first school day, he is attending classes each day and says:



Lativ (left) together with his brother Prosper and two classmates, receiving donated notebooks, pens, and toiletries.

„My life has changed, since I started attending school. It is nice to learn together with other children and I want to become a teacher myself.”

As his father saw how big the desire to learn of his sons were and how much they bloomed, already after a few weeks at school, he also actively supported their education.

2.3.2 Further-training-workshop for teachers

By passing on innovative teaching methods, BRAVEAURORA tries to initiate the implementation of more effective methods for learning reading and writing and to encourage spelling abilities. Therefore, BRAVEAURORA organized a two-day further-training-workshop for primary school and kindergarten teachers. It was implemented by „Graymic Literacy International“ and the 27 participants were able to receive the **latest knowledge and playful teaching methods for teaching reading and writing classes**. For the first time, next to teachers of Guabuliga, also teachers of the nearby villages Manga and Namiyala could participate.



2.3.3 Support for teachers

The **Teachers Incentive Program** contributes to the improvement and supply of high-quality education and to increasing the educational standards, by setting impulses for teachers. It is the goal, to increase the attendance, motivation, and performance of teachers through a reward system. Depending on the performance of the teacher (checked on a random basis by controlling attendances, preparations of teaching classes as well as pupils' performances), teachers can qualify for certain incentives.

Within tutoring lessons and learning clubs, teachers show voluntary engagement and can monthly qualify for a small financial incentive. In 2019, 33 teachers were part of this incentive package.

There is voluntarily assisting teaching staff in the kindergarten and the primary school in Guabuliga. Each trimester parents of pupils are asked for a small contribution for this assisting staff as a sign of appreciation. The amount is then doubled by BRAVEAUROR, as a compliment to their worthwhile efforts.



Due to a lack of trained teaching staff, BRAVEAURORA started eight years ago the **Academic Ambassadors Program**. In this program, chosen assisting teaching staff receive a scholarship for their teachers' qualification. So far, 9 teachers were able to finish their educational training through this program. Two Academic Ambassadors are still in busy with their educational training.

2.3.4 Support and scholarships for pupils

Also, in 2019 especially talented pupils qualified for the „**Termly Scholarship Program**“, in which they receive notebooks, pens, a backpack and a school uniform for their efforts.

In primary school, pupils receive tutoring to support their learning progress. To support children in the best possible way with their educational progress, the kindergarten also became part of this program in 2019.

In the learning clubs of the Junior High School there is additional training provided to prepare pupils for the BECE, the final exams of the Junior High School. Those groups provide space for a maximum of 25 pupils per teacher, so teachers can fulfil the individual learning needs of the pupils.

2.3.5 Sexual Education

On several days each week our social workers, in cooperation with teaching staff and other partners, classes on sexual education are held in schools. Here, a total of 520 pupils between 6 and 16 years of age were sexually educated in 2019 on various topics about physical and psycho-social well-being. Topics span from pregnancy, contraception, puberty to discrimination and human rights. The main goal of those classes is to provide young people with important information as well as a platform where they can receive orientation, are encouraged to think critically and ask questions that matter to them and thereby strengthen their self-confidence.



2.3.6 Education at university level

In cooperation with the re-integration-package, children living in Guabuliga's orphanage, continue to receive support for their education. We are delighted to announce, that Mariam Bukari, as the second „ex-orphan“ supported by BRAVEAURORA, started her university education in „tourism and hotel management“ at the University of Bolgatanga in 2019.



3 FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS FROM QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS 2019

From 2009 until the end of 2019 a total of **56 voluntary services** were conducted for BRAVEAURORA. We want to thank all volunteers of 2019, who provided their time and energy voluntarily and for free to advocate for children at risk in Ghana.

QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS IN 2018:

Anna-Lisa Freylinger – October 2018 until January 2019

Laura Littringer – May until September 2019

Andreas Hric – June until September 2019

Cornelia Greimel – September 2019 until March 2020

„My voluntary service with BRAVEAURORA in the area of social work began in September 2019. Now, six months later, it is unbelievable how enriching and instructive this time was for me. As a trained social worker, I had the possibility to support the social-working-team on-site. Together, we were able to initiate steps to reach BRAVEAURORAS vision to enable children to live protected within their family's homes, by exchanging our different expertise and experiences. Besides various challenges during my time in Guabuliga, I am fulfilled with two main things: admiration



and gratefulness. Admiration for the hard work of the whole team on-site and the board in Austria – you can feel their passion and lifeblood for their work each day. Gratefulness that I was able to feel, within a very short period, as a part of the team, learn a lot, professionally and privately find a second home in Guabuliga and Ghana, including important friends and family – Thank you!“

Cornelia Greimel

BRAVEAURORA is constantly looking for qualified volunteers who want to contribute to the project work on-site in Guabuliga. A duration of at least 6 months should be maintained as it was shown that longer presences on-site were most effective and helpful for the people – short “aid-vacations” are considered out of place. We clearly distance ourselves from so called “voluntourism”! (for more details see → „BECOME ACTIVE“)

For inters studying „social work”, the standard criteria for international internships apply, which sets the duration of an internship to 4 months.

At this point, we gladly call attention to our **cooperation partner WeltWegWeiser**. WeltWegWeiser is an independent advisory service for people looking for meaningful and sustainable international projects to volunteer in. Together with other partner organizations, quality criteria for those volunteering projects are developed. Because we distance ourselves from voluntourism and we care for meaningful engagement, we are delighted for this cooperation (www.weltwegweiser.at)!

4 THANK YOU

Again, we are looking back to a successful year! We owe this success to YOU – each donator, our interns, and volunteers! We are thankful to the roughly 250 donators and companies, who supported us in 2019 – MPUSIAM PAM – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

As a small association, each donation counts for us! According to our motto, small contributions of many people, can change the world’s face!

Nonetheless we want to especially highlight and thank some people and sponsors for their generous support!

The **Strobl)Advertising Group** has been supporting us for many years voluntarily in many areas of marketing, such as with the generation of the yearly marketing concept and diverse forms of printing – we can always count on you, thank you!

„I support BRAVEAURORA, because of the exemplary and transparent work of the association. Regardless of that, I consider it most important to help where people fight for survival. The sustainability aspect of projects is also reason for me to engage in them.”

Clemens Strobl, Strobl)Advertising Group

Clemens and Martina Strobl as well as **Marion Weinheimer** started a donation call for BRAVEAURORA for their **birthdays**. A total of 7.130 Euros was raised and we want to thank the initiators and guests for their support! Special thanks also applies to **family Gangl**, who asked for the funeral of the dear late Marianne Gangl for donations for BRAVEAURORA instead of funeral wreaths.

The majority of BRAVEAURORA'S income consists of small and larger donations of private donors from Austria and Switzerland. According to BRAVEAURORA'S motto „small moves – big change“, each donation counts and supports our projects 1:1.

Roughly one hundred **members** support BRAVEAURORA'S work each year through their membership fees.

Become a member as well! With a yearly contribution of 40 Euros (or 20 Euros for students, apprentices, pupils, and people with low income) you can take part in the sustainable development cooperation in northern Ghana! We are looking forward to personally meeting and talking to you at our general meeting!

We sincerely thank all our donors and sponsor for their trust!



With wholehearted gratitude
and respectful trust!



The BRAVEAURORA Board

Christa, Ina, Beate, Franziska, Sarah, Katja, Julia, Claudia

Susanne Gahleitner, Alena Pleiner, Simone Blümel

