

# Baobab School Foundation

Positive Footsteps

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# Everyone CAN make a difference!



All people are earning different skills and experiences in life; together we have the power to create a positive change.

Our desire is to increase to our associates an understanding of what life is like in poor countries and to give them an easy way to help.

For people in western countries - food, home, water, education, sanitation, medical care and security is often taken for granted by most people. This is not the case for many people and children living in underdeveloped countries all over the world.

We built a bridge between Africa and the creative population in Europe. Now we want to continue building bridges, from dedicated creative entrepreneurs to companies, governments and instances that can help us to help!

# First meeting with West Africa



not in the path of charity, but in order to explore the rich culture of music and arts. However, living together with this beautiful family - sharing everything – food, bed, illnesses, happiness, joy etc, made me deeply connected and I felt as one in the family. Every 6 months though, I would travel back to Europe, living off the music and culture I had been learning in West Africa.

Coming back to the “high society” in Europe I could hear everywhere people talking about their good economy, their boat, their beautiful car, and at the same time talking about the worlds poor countries and that they would help “if they could” yet they didnt have enough money..

For me it was such a strong contradiction, and I decided that at least I would do something.

# The Baobab Festival



With the rich learnings from Guinea, me and some friends started a band, and together we decided to organise a small concert where all income would be saved for higher reasons in Guinea. We invited fellow artists and 3 weeks later we held a concert called "Baobab Festival". In this night, apart from enjoying a beautiful event, we managed to save 1400 euro, and with this money in my shoes I travelled back to Africa in order to do something with this.

# Baobab School



Arriving in Guinea I realised that almost all the children in the village was without education, there where plenty of educated teachers but without work, and a small local was available. Speaking with one of the teachers we decided that we wanted to change the situation together, thus we rented the local, started to make school benches, buying schoolmaterial, and a couple of months later we could open the doors for 20 students in our first classroom. Even many of the parents came and wanted to take part of the education, so we decided to hold classes for children in the daytime and for adults in the afternoons.

# More education needed

Yet still we would realise we had only begun, and there was and is still a huge need for education, very well illustrated on this photo, where everyone tries to take part in the classes.



# Project is growing



Coming back to Europe showing friends and surroundings what we had started got BIG positive reaction. Artist, volunteers, companies started to call and offering their service, and soon we would see the Baobab Festival be growing bigger and bigger. All with voluntary time and effort.

At this point today the organisation Positive Footsteps are now 28 in numbers and increasing, all with different qualities, background, ethnicity, contacts, but with one great vision connecting us.

# The situation today



In the same pace, the Baobab School is also growing, and the latest calculated number of students was 150, divided by 6 classes and 7 teachers.

As the interest of external parties also has been growing we can now say that Baobab School is looking to be self-sufficient soon. Thus we are now opening the door for projects in more countries, looking at both Gambia and Ghana.



# What can YOU do?

- Positive Footsteps is a nonprofit organization, we are all volunteers most of us with no significant economical background. We have no rents and no middle hands in the way of our development work. We are just simple persons but with a great will to make a change in the world
- Now our question is:
  - If we can do a positive change, what can YOU do?

Sincerely,

Rico Persson

Positive Footsteps

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[www.baobabschool.org](http://www.baobabschool.org)