Building bridges between two worlds

Migrants in Germany
Migrants as builders of bridges

On a trip across Germany, we met people from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Their personal backgrounds and experiences are entirely different. Some people had fled from persecution and war while others came in search of better living conditions or to get a better education in Germany. In the meantime, they have been living in Germany for many years, have found employment and have started a family. Most of them came here with the intention of returning after a certain time. However, political, economic, or interpersonal reasons moved their lives in a different direction and they are still here today. Nevertheless, none of them have forgotten their birth country.

In their leisure time, these people actively participate in non-profit associations on the behalf of their countries of origin. They raise money, initiate projects, exchange ideas with local partners and thus improve living conditions there. After several years in Germany, they often regard their country of origin through different eyes and see the needs of the people in their country of origin more clearly. They also regard Germany through different eyes once they have got to know the people and the culture here. We Germans also see the men and women from other parts of the world through different eyes when we talk to them and get to know their stories.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) values these diverse and active contributions that migrant organisations make to the development of their countries of origin. The migrants are just at home with the culture and language of their country of origin as with that in Germany. They know the customs, sensibilities, political and social structures in both countries. This makes it much easier for them to implement non-profit projects in their country of origin. In addition, migrants' goals are often equivalent to those of German development cooperation and the advantages of working together are obvious.

For this reason, BMZ has commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH\(^1\) to support non-profit projects by migrant organisations in the framework of a pilot programme. GIZ has developed sustainable projects with migrant organisations in Germany with additional financial support from the Jacobs Foundation since 2007. GIZ provides support with preparing and submitting applications, contributes project management expertise, attempts to utilise synergies with German development cooperation in the country of origin and offers financial support. The migrants living in Germany implement projects with partners in their countries of origin. This cooperation magnifies the impact of German development cooperation and of engagement by migrants, and thus builds bridges between countries and cultures.

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\(^1\) The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH was formed on 1 January 2011. It brings together the long-standing expertise of DED, GTZ and InWEnt. For further information, go to www.giz.de.
Kabul 1973: A dream comes true for Sabur Achtari. He graduates from German school as one of the best in his class and receives a scholarship to study mechanical engineering in Germany. After six years and with a degree in hand, Achtari is drawn back to his country of origin because, as he puts it, »I wanted to study abroad to give this knowledge back to my country.«

He finds a job that he enjoys at the Afghan Ministry of Water and Energy in Kabul. He and his wife are happy, have three children and everything seems right with the world. But the war escalates in 1984. The family flees to Germany via Pakistan and seeks political asylum. »The first four years in Germany were tough. I was not allowed to work, my wife was unhappy and our future also looked bleak«, says Achtari, looking back. Then relief comes. The German authorities grant the family political asylum.

The father finds employment as an engineer, but he can’t stop worrying about his country of origin. »I was aware of the fact that we could not return to Afghanistan any time soon. But I wanted to do something for our country.« The opportunity arose in 1994. Achtari receives an offer from GIZ to manage an emergency aid programme for Afghanistan from Pakistan and he does not hesitate for even a second. He resettles to Pakistan with his wife and children. After this assignment, they return to Germany, to idyllic Bad Krozingen in southwestern Germany. Starting up is much easier this time, since Germany is no longer so foreign. »In the beginning, everyone stared at the bearded man and the woman with the headscarf. But that quickly changed after the people got to know us better«, says Achtari, smiling.

Achtari, along with German and Afghan friends, founds several associations to help Afghanistan. One of them is the Afghan Bedmosch Solar Center. Bedmosch is a remote village one hundred kilometres from Kabul with poor roads, no bus connection and no electricity. »My parents hail from there and we had a vision of creating a model village powered entirely by renewable energy.« The success of the project in Bedmosch gets around quickly, and more and more people approach Achtari and ask him for support as well. Together with GIZ, Achtari comes up with the idea of transferring the Bedmosch model to some of the surrounding villages. Thus, twelve new energy stations are created. However, this is just the start: »We introduce renewable energy to a village with the pilot programme’s project. We train solar technicians in our own workshop who maintain the systems and later install additional ones«, the engineer explains.

»So far the impetus for modern technology had always come from the cities, but thanks to us, it now also comes from the villages as well. This makes their residents happy and confident. Our local workshop manager is illiterate, but he can teach university graduates how to service and install solar equipment«, says Achtari, satisfied.

Achtari lectures in schools, towns and organisations, where he speaks about his country of origin. This is an opportunity for both countries to get to know each other better.
Conakry 1960: Thierno Aliou Diallo completes his school-leaving exam as Guinea’s best at the age of 19. He is awarded a scholarship and studies in the former GDR. After one year, his wife Aissatou follows and both elect to study chemistry. »We came from sunny Africa to the cold grey skies of Halle«, they say, looking back.

Even as students, the two Guineans fight against the dictatorship in their country. In 1973, they experience the results of their criticism. »We had to hide from the Embassy in East Berlin and the GDR authorities to avoid being deported«. The talented chemist’s doctoral advisor helps the young family. With the task of conducting scientific research at the Freie Universität in West Berlin, they successfully escape to France via West Berlin. »We had to go to France because we were able to get identification papers there due to Guinea’s colonial past. You don’t exist without those papers in Europe«, says the couple, describing this difficult time. They go to West Germany with these papers since neither of their sons speak a word of French.

After the turbulent years, a calm, happy time commences. The Diallos work as grammar school teachers. The next shock occurs in 1980. They must return their French papers to the French Consulate in Düsseldorf. The couple is now determined to become German citizens. »We submitted an application for naturalisation, which the authorities granted. We have officially been Germans since then.«

They could not travel to their country of origin in all of these years. Dictator Sekou Touré dies in 1984 and the obstacles are gone. »We went to Guinea full of hope, but the new government did not want to have us intellectuals. Since we were not able to directly use our know-how in Guinea, we chose to become involved socially from our base in Germany«, Thierno says, looking back. The couple founds an association called »The Bridge« in 1992. The grammar schools at which both teachers work organise charity races for Guinea and they receive help from friends. In the first phase of the association’s history, the money is spent on crutches, hospital beds, wheelchairs and school materials. Often, German development cooperation and the Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) finance the transportation. The association soon becomes well-known throughout Guinea. »Many national associations and communities ask us for support. We help wherever we can«, says Aissatou.

One of the projects is the village school in Sempetin, Central Guinea. The Haldi Fotti cooperative asks The Bridge for assistance, so that the children no longer have to walk to school for hours. Once the association has set up the financing of the building, the pilot programme supports the expansion of the school by three classrooms. Adults also benefit from this, as the school offers them literacy courses and the government pays the teachers.

»We enjoy living in Germany. But we have succeeded in building a bridge with and between two cultures, with great people from both nations«, the two pensioners say, describing their lives.
Marrakesch 1990: Young Hassan Dihazi, who has a degree in biology, would like to work in science. He explores his options in Morocco and is disappointed. A career as a researcher seems impossible here. Without a moment’s hesitation, he goes to Germany. Once he arrives in Kiel, he has a rude awakening. The university recognises only very few of his classes and he has to start over again. But Hassan does not let himself be discouraged. He studies marine biology and is then awarded a doctorate in Leipzig. At night, he works in a photo lab to make a living and during the day he spends time for his beloved research. »I often asked myself whether I was doing the right thing. All that time, money and effort for this second education cost me a great deal of energy«, he says in retrospect.

Hassan meets a girl from Norway in his hall of residence. They marry and the young man’s life plans change. »I actually wanted to go back to the university in Marrakech to promote research, but fate kept me in Germany.«

In 2003, the young doctor looks for a job. He finds what he is looking for in Göttingen as the head of the research group for nephrology and rheumatology. Hassan is in his element, qualifies as a university lecturer in experimental medicine and does exactly what he had envisioned as a child. The couple now has three children who feel at home in Göttingen.

Then a new wind comes into the scientist’s life. The Moroccan Ambassador appeals to his fellow expatriates to do something for their country of origin. The »Deutsch-Marrokanisches Kompetenznetzwerk« (German-Moroccan Competence Network – DMK) is founded. Hassan takes on the volunteer leadership of the research and education area. »I know the deficits at the University of Marrakech and what the Göttingen University Hospital can do. That’s why I immediately had a university cooperation in mind.« The University Hospital regularly takes medical and research instruments out of service. Hassan would like to bring these instruments to Marrakech. He successfully proposes this project idea to the pilot programme. The sustainable combination of material support, transfer of knowledge and capacity building exactly matches the aims of German development cooperation. Nothing stands in the way of cooperation. Dihazi accompanies every delivery to Morocco. There, he offers intensive courses to train the technical assistants in using the devices in cooperation with other members of the DMK and German professors – a true university cooperation is under way. »It is important to me for everything to work and arrive where it is supposed to go. I am putting a lot of time and money into this project«, says the researcher energetically.

The Dihazis are a German academic family – with strong ties to Morocco and Norway. Their multicultural family ties have given Hassan the understanding he needs to continue the good cooperation between Germans and Moroccans.
Kabul 1982: Rahima Ebrahimzada has her hands full at the Kabul hospital. The young doctor is married, has two children and really enjoys her job. She hasn’t felt safe since the invasion of the Russians in 1979. But she holds out for four more years. »Then I could no longer do it. The secret service searched our apartment, every party member ran around with a gun. My husband and I were afraid for our children«, says the dark-haired woman, looking back.

With fake papers, posing as the caretaker of her sick daughter, the family successfully escapes to Hamburg. »We thought that the situation in Afghanistan would get better soon, but we were wrong«, Rahima says sadly. She and her husband apply for political asylum. The doctor does not feel happy at all without a work permit and is embarrassed by going to the social security office. School is difficult for the children, since they hardly speak any German and they are homesick. After this first difficult year, the family’s application for asylum is granted. This is the starting signal for the Afghan woman to find a job. She starts working at the Hamburg Elbek Hospital as a guest student and begins to work there as a doctor in 1986. A routine slowly returns to the family’s life and everyone gradually finds their place in the new country.

Taliban rule ends in 2002. Rahima resumes contact with her country for the first time in twenty years. She desperately wants to do something for the children in her country of origin and founds the »Kaussar« association with seven friends, all women, in Germany.

In 2003, she flies to Herat with her husband and is devastated. »Nothing was the way it was in my memories. The people used to be proud and begging was considered a shame. Now beggars and street children loiter everywhere.« Shocked by the conditions, the doctor wants to build an orphanage for girls. However, the road is full of obstacles: »The girls’ distant relatives marry them off at eight years of age. They simply do not get put into an orphanage.«

From 2002 to 2005, the association thus builds a nursery and an orphanage for boys. A friend in Herat monitors the construction, equipment and employees. The project runs well. Then Rahima’s mother gives the association a small plot of land in Herat as a gift. The association immediately raises money to build a school for girls. Rahima also applies for support from the pilot programme in 2007. The allocated amount allows the construction of a larger school, provides for good equipment and creates space for a total of 500 children. Through this cooperation, the school successfully starts operating in 2008. This is an entirely new experience for the children since during Taliban rule, learning was not on the agenda.

Rahima has been a grandmother for several years now. Working in the association is important to her, not just because of the people in Afghanistan. »When my generation dies out, Afghanistan will be forgotten by our descendants in Germany. But through my work they will stay in touch with their roots.«
Richard Nawezi

Lubumbashi 1982: After his school-leaving exam, Richard Nawezi wants to study geology in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, his political activities wipe out his plans – the university does not accept him. Some of his relatives live in Belgium and Richard thus decides to study there. He speaks French and quickly finds friends, as well as a job to finance his studies. However, three years later, the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) takes away his passport and he is told that he has to return to the DRC.

Three friends help Richard escape across the border to Germany, where he seeks asylum in Münster in 1985. Four tense years pass before the application is approved. In the meantime, Richard learns German and enrolls in the mineralogy programme at the University of Münster. During his studies, Richard earns money by teaching dance classes and acting.

In 1997, dictator Mobuto’s regime comes to an end in the DRC. This is an opportunity for Richard to see his country of origin again. »I arrived in Lubumbashi with high hopes and could not believe my eyes. The situation was even worse than in 1982.« Richard returns to Germany and develops a concept for the Mutoto association, which he founds in 2000. It is his goal to help street children in the DRC. »When I left the Congo, there were no street children. Sixteen years and a few wars later, there was an infinite number of them.«

Initially, Mutoto supports three homes, raises money and sends it to the DRC so that the teachers can buy food, school materials and furnishings. Later, the association built its own Mutoto Village, a centre with a boarding school, a school, a small bakery and a radio station. As an artist, Richard works directly with the children. »Our association sent professional acrobats to the children to work with them. We now have a really good group in Mutoto Chaud.« Children from the DRC visit Germany and German students go to the DRC. The young people get to know each other, live and work together for some time and experience each others’ culture. During the years of cooperation, Richard repeatedly runs into the issue of HIV/AIDS. He approaches the pilot programme with the request to address this taboo topic in the DRC in a public play. The former street children and artists tell the true story of an HIV-positive family. The group performs the play in Swahili, passes on tips for people affected and pregnant women and discusses prevention. GIZ employees visit the theatre group twice and incorporate their own experiences from prevention work in joint discussions.

»We perform in market places and in schools. Now, the Ministry of Education wants us to perform in the entire province, not just in Lubumbashi«, says the artist, pleased with the group’s success.

His family and many friends fully support Richard in his involvement. The German and Congolese culture meet in his family and circle of friends just as in his work for the association. »I would like to show the German children the strengths Congolese youth have and vice versa. This creates a network that spans borders«, says the artist confidently.
Saigon 1971: She wants to study abroad after her school-leaving qualification, of that Nguyen thi-My Hanh is certain. Her brother already lives in Germany, his stories also lure his petite sister to the far-away country. »I wanted to study chemistry at the Aachen University of Applied Sciences to quickly come home with knowledge for my country« Nguyen says, recalling those times.

Her father pays for her living expenses in the first months and then she takes on several jobs. The young student Nguyen has few Vietnamese connections. »Most Vietnamese families only send their sons abroad. But I also wanted to have girlfriends.« Thus, she seeks contact with German women and establishes a circle of friends. She is overwhelmed by homesickness again and again, in addition to unsettling news about the war in her country of origin. The anti-war movement of the student groups does not go unnoticed by Nguyen either. »I suddenly thought, oh my God, all of these people are taking to the streets for my country and I am just sitting here doing nothing.« She starts to participate in the protests together with other Vietnamese.

In 1976, Germany and Viet Nam resume diplomatic relations and the first ambassador comes to Bonn. The students from Aachen work together with the embassy and in 1978, Nguyen is permitted to visit Viet Nam for the first time since the war. »The poverty hit me hard. I had the feeling that this was the first time that I had really got to know my country.«

Back in Germany, she meets her Vietnamese husband, gets married and has two children. The lively woman, however, is not satisfied. »I didn’t study to just sit around at home!« She uses her energy in the following years to raise money for Viet Nam, joins the association for Vietnamese expatriates and completes training as a geriatric nurse. In 1995, Nguyen founds the »Vietnamese Intercultural Women’s Initiative«. She has good connections and has a good local partner in the Vietnamese expatriates’ association and overflows with ideas. The women begin to build nurseries and schools in Viet Nam with money from donations and organise the appointment of doctors.

The experienced woman approaches German development cooperation with the idea of introducing geriatric nursing training in Viet Nam. Together with the Binh Thuan Medical College, she establishes additional training in geriatric nursing for women with previous medical skills. Nguyen herself participates directly in training future teachers at the college. Thus, more and more women have the opportunity to learn this profession and the knowledge is passed on by the school itself. »We have a high regard for the elderly in Viet Nam. However, so far the know-how required to properly care for them was missing«, explains Nguyen. The geriatric nurses can earn a living with this service and make life easier for elderly people.

Nguyen could not realise her girlhood plan of working in Viet Nam for Viet Nam. »But through the close cooperation between Germany and Viet Nam, I am achieving exactly what I had always wished for as a child – conveying knowledge and bringing together the best of both cultures.«
Soumare Idrissa

Waoundé 1989: Soumare Idrissa is 17 years old, has no education and no work. Like many people in Senegal, he decides to take the plunge of going to Europe. His father already lives in France and sends money to his country of origin. Idrissa follows him. »I wanted to get training and find a job, but all that didn’t work out.«

One of Idrissa’s uncles lives in Munich and tells him there are better work opportunities here than in France. Idrissa does not hesitate for long and resettles to Germany and in fact finds temporary work at a restaurant. Without any knowledge of German, his time there is not easy. He finds support in the community of other Senegalese migrants from Waoundé. »It does not matter where we are in the world, we support each other and our people at home.«

During a visit to his hometown, Idrissa meets his wife in 1996 and they get married. They do not dare think of a joint life in Germany since the new husband has no steady employment and his income is meagre. Idrissa’s wife remains in Senegal and he returns to Germany alone. Despite his friends from his country of origin, Idrissa is often lonely. »I spoke the language in France, but I could hardly communicate in German.« He thus takes a German course and hopes to also find better work with his improved knowledge of German. It works out in 2001: »I found a proper, steady job as an assembly assistant at a company in Munich. That was the turning point in my life.« With his better, secure income, he has his wife join him in Germany. The couple furnishes their own apartment and they have two daughters. After five years, the family finally lives together.

A few years earlier, Senegalese nationals from Waoundé founded the »Bürger Waoundés« (»Citizens of Waoundé«) association because, »The children in our village should have it better one day than we did. We came to Europe with no education and we had nothing. This should not repeat itself«, says Idrissa with conviction. With German support, the association is building a vocational training school in the village in Eastern Senegal. There, young people are trained in wood and metal-working, as electricians, tailors or barbers. After numerous application forms and donation campaigns, the first contact with the pilot programme is established. With its help, the school can expand its equipment so that it meets the government’s requirements as a training centre. 160 students now attend the school in Waoundé and the first class will graduate in 2009 – with government-recognised training under their belt. Some graduates would like to work independently, while others find a job at construction sites in the area.

»We live in both cultures and are Senegalese and a little German«, says Idrissa, laughing. The German lifestyle isn’t lost on Waoundé, either. »We have initiated street cleaning and built a kindergarten.« In Germany, the association works on school projects on Africa and participates in public events.
Belgrad 1972: Radmila Ninic's parents had only intended to earn money as guest workers in Germany for a few years. Then, however, they notice that they feel at home in Bielefeld and send for their children. The 15-year-old girl is assigned to the ninth class and does not speak a word of German. »I missed my friends terribly at first and did not understand anything at school«, Radmila says, looking back. But on closer inspection, her teachers and fellow students are very nice. She meets new friends and receives a great deal of support from her teachers. Then the young woman completes her school-leaving exam and goes on to complete training as an interpreter and translator. »We usually spent our time with Germans since there weren't many Yugoslavs in our neighbourhood. I am still very close friends with two of my classmates«, says Radmila.

Radmila meets her husband in Yugoslavia during a holiday in 1974. Upon completion of his studies in 1977, he comes to Bielefeld in 1984. The two get married, have three children and settle down in Germany.

In the early 1990s, the war in former Yugoslavia escalates. More and more bad news from friends and relatives makes its way into the cosy terraced house in Bielefeld. The family takes in relatives as refugees. Radmila is mainly in touch with Serbian families through her job. In view of the alarming situation in Serbia, she approaches the pastor and asks for addresses of fellow Serbs. »I could not simply sit in front of the TV and relax while people in Serbia are suffering«, Radmila gets to know Serbian families through the community, with whom she founded the »Nemenja« association in 1991. In the chaos of war, humanitarian help is of utmost importance. The members of the association put together packages with groceries and hygiene products, get involved in donation appeals, portray the difficult situation for the people in their country of origin in the media and establish contact with other Serbian organisations.

After the end of the war, the focus of the work shifts. Now, Nemenja focuses on developing Serbia. Radmila approaches the pilot programme with the idea of building a centre for renewable energy in the scenically located town of Žline. The Serbian Government would like to open this area to tourism. This is impossible without an energy supply. A knowledge centre that provides ideas as well as know-how and is a venue for conferences and meetings for the region also matches the objectives of German development cooperation in Serbia – support for the project becomes possible. GIZ energy efficiency experts from Serbia provide Nemenja with valuable advice on the choice of information offered by the knowledge centre. A fruitful cooperation begins.

After many years of cooperation, the association has established a good network in Serbia. Radmila is quite sure that »From compatriot to compatriot, there is immediately a basis of trust, so that we can get down to work straight away. This applies to Germany as well as Serbia, since we are at home here as well as there.«
Kinshasa 1984: Even as a child, Catherine Nzimbu Mpanu-Mpanu-Plato wanted to take over her father’s business. In order to be well prepared, she goes to Germany and studies business. »That was a lovely time. I was 20 and believed that I could do anything«, the confident woman says, looking back. She meets her husband during her studies. Even though he is German, he can also imagine living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The couple resettles to Africa in 1989, works in her father’s business and has their first child.

In 1991, shadows fall on the young family’s happiness. The unrest in the country increases and they no longer feel safe. Cathy’s husband returns to Germany, finds a job and a home for his wife and daughter. However, the young mother can no longer get out of her country. The civil war reaches Kinshasa and she has to flee. Even today, she can remember that day. »Entrepreneurs and whites were the preferred targets of the rebels. My daughter is very light-skinned and my father is a businessman. I hid and wanted to get out of the Congo.« She was able to escape with the help of Belgian soldiers. Two years later, her son is born in Germany and normality and safety return to their daily lives.

After three years, Cathy receives a letter from her mother, who has established a school in a suburb of Kinshasa with two friends and has founded an association. The school situation in the DRC is miserable and there is a lack of equipment, teachers and materials. Cathy supports the non-profit project with her own money. »However, I wanted to achieve more and founded the »Ndwenga« association in 1996. We are a mixed group of all ages.« The members of the association do fundraising, organise African story-telling afternoon events for children and readings of works by female African authors to raise money for the school.

Cathy is also on the advisory board for migration and development cooperation at the Forum der Kulturen, e.V. (Stuttgart forum of cultures, registered association) the umbrella association of the migrant associations in Stuttgart. There, the Congolese woman gets to know the pilot programme in 2009 and introduces her school project. She works with GIZ to refine her project idea, which the association in Kinshasa can use to renovate the school building and improve the children’s education. »350 children come from normal homes, but 50 are orphans. They have experienced bad things and they often cannot keep up in a typical class. We now offer these children practical training to become farmers and seamstresses«, Cathy says, explaining the project. An important aspect for her is also health education. »People from the Ministry of Health train the teachers to talk to the children about HIV, hygiene and health.«

Her own children are at home in Germany. She herself says: »I need the African side of my life and to stay in touch with my culture. That’s why I work in African projects, I’m on the foreigner and migration advisory council, provide consultation for the city of Fellbach and pass on some of myself and my way of thinking.«
Teshie 1984: During a holiday in England, Rose Sekoh meets a German. She follows him to Kiel and learns German. A new chapter in her life begins. Life had not been easy for the young woman from Ghana so far. »I lost my husband early and was alone with my children. That was a very bad time for me.« Rose leaves her children with her parents in Ghana since she first wants to get to know her new world.

As a trained nurse, she finds a job in home health care. She pays for the children’s boarding school in Ghana with the money she earns and she misses them dearly. »Being separated from my children was tough. I talked to them on the phone every week and visited them as often as I could.« However, Rose does not want to return to her country of origin, since she would have to start all over again. After ten years of marriage, her marriage falls apart. Their son remains with Rose, two of her daughters come to Germany from Ghana and she also provides for an additional three adopted children. The focus of her life is the children and her work. After a few years, she meets her new partner at friends’ – another German. »We are very happy and I hope that we will never lose each other.«

When her mother dies, Rose goes to Ghana to bury her in her village in her country of origin. It has been a long time since she last travelled through the countryside. Rose is horrified. »The town has no water, no electricity, no toilets, nothing! That was the challenge of my lifetime.« Back in Germany, she founds the German-Ghanaian development association in 1994. »There is an association of older people in Teshie that takes care of the needs of the village. We work together with them.« The first item on the agenda is a clinic. Rose raises money and the clinic actually becomes reality. She trains the nurses and sends applications to the Ghanaian Ministry of Health, since she has a goal: »I wanted to have a recognised clinic with paid doctors and nursing staff.« She has achieved this goal – today the clinic is run by the Ministry of Health.

After this success, Rose gets to know the pilot programme for projects of migrant associations at an event she attends. A new idea has taken shape for a long time; she wants a children’s centre for her village. »Corruption and crime are normal in Ghana and honesty is often a foreign concept. We need to instil other values in the children.« She is developing this project together with GIZ and together with the association from Teshie, a children’s centre is being created. Young mothers find care for their children here. Rose trains the teachers and mothers at regular intervals on issues such as child nutrition, HIV and health.

Rose would like to live in Ghana again with her husband in a few years and build up something together with the people there. »I want to live with the people in Teshie, develop ideas together and turn our dreams into reality.«