

FINAL REPORT – VAVROUŠEK SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: Lucie Podhorná

YEAR OF STUDY: 1st (Master program IDES)

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP: Volunteering in a local Ghanaian NGO and research for master's thesis

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: 22 000 CZK

COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Ghana

PERIOD: 18/02/2022 - 10/05/2021

- **Brief description of the internship:**

I spent three months volunteering in a community-based organisation Rural Literacy Solution in Tamale, Northern part of Ghana. This organization is a practical response to the diagnosed high rate of illiteracy in Ghana especially in the rural areas of the Northern parts. The main goal of RLS is to help rural students to develop literacy skills in reading, writing and numeracy.

Currently RLS is setting up libraries to help rural students gain adequate literacy skills and to increase the opportunity to learn. Our main task was to identify a suitable location for those mini libraries and equip them. I was also supposed to collect materials for fundraising campaign to be able to finance this project.

The first weeks of my stay I was planning my research activities, meeting with all LRS teachers and trying to catch on their curriculum. Last month I spent on preparing questionnaires and interviewing LRS teachers and their students to do an evaluation for my master's thesis.

- **Description of the activities:**

- Assisting during project proposal writing to get financial support for mini libraries project in rural areas.
- Visiting schools that could potentially join LRS program and identifying the needs of each school.
- Organizing teachers training to share their experience and get their feedback of the LRS curriculum.
- Monitoring teachers' approaches to students during class.
- Data gathering process in form of over a hundred interviews with LRS students and 8 teachers for the conducted research.
- Collecting materials (photos, videos, stories) for fundraising campaign

- **Benefit of the internship for student and partner organization:**

During my stay with LRS, I was able to experience how African NGO works. I gained practical experience with field research and learned basic research methods for my master's thesis. Through the research and interviews with locals I had the chance to get a deeper insight into the social reality of a rural part in Northern Ghana.

Living with the local community, I experienced very basic life conditions of rural Ghanaians. This helped me to better imagine all the challenges of everyday life that the locals have to deal with.

RLS was benefiting from my volunteering job. Through the fundraising campaign we have gained enough support to set up multiple libraries.

For RLS I was the first foreigner they had ever worked with, so I guess our cooperation, discussions and different background have been enriching for both of us.

- **Presentation of the outcomes of the internship:**

- The research will be part of my master's thesis.
- Materials from my stay were used for LRS promotion and other campaigns.
- Other international volunteers are willing to help in the community.

FINAL BUDGET:

Budget	Price per unit	Number of unites	Total	Contribution from Vavroušek Scholarship
Personal costs				
International transport	23 600 CZK	1	23 600 CZK	22 000 CZK
3 months visa	3 000 CZK	1	3 000 CZK	
Local transport			500 CZK	
Accommodation	400 CZK	3	*paid by RLS	
Food			5 000 CZK	
Vaccination	1 200 CZK	1	1 200 CZK	
Insurance	1 100 CZK	3	3 300 CZK	
Total			36 600CZK	22 000 CZK