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Yaoui e.V.

Schritt für Schritt Entwicklung fördern

Newsletter 69

Hilden, September 2026

Dear friends and supporters of Yaoui e.V.,

with this special newsletter—sent shortly after the summer holidays—we would like to inform you about the latest developments regarding the visit from Benin and the association’s anniversary, as well as provide a brief update on our current projects.

1. 20th Anniversary of the Association

The celebration marking the association's 20th anniversary, originally scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026, will **NOT** take place.

Due to the very low number of registrations, the board has unanimously decided to cancel the anniversary celebration.

At this point, we would also like to share a message from two of our long-standing members—a message that the board was delighted to receive and whose content seems all the more valuable in these times. On behalf of the board, we extend our sincere thanks to Brigitte and Klaus Dieter for their words and their support!

Message of congratulations on the 20th anniversary of Yaoui e.V.:

Dear Board Members of Yaoui e.V.,

Twenty years - that is a long time. Many new organizations, initiatives, projects, and ideas have not possessed such staying power. It all began with a conviction: "We have to do something here; children here need help." From small steps and humble beginnings, a professional and stable aid organization has evolved over time—a flagship project that inspires others to follow suit. You deserve sincere congratulations for this! You can be proud of and grateful for what you have achieved to date for the school and the entire village of Yaoui in Benin!

Especially at a time, when our society is drifting apart in alarming ways, it is important to demonstrate that volunteering for the benefit of others is a task that fosters connection and reflects a sense of responsibility. Effective policy-making in a country is only possible when the majority of its people do not think solely of themselves but also consider the well-being of others - people who do not simply disparage everything or succumb to the contagion of discontent, but who also look beyond their own horizons.

Caring for those who have far less to live on than we do is part of the common good - and this commitment knows no borders! Of course, one might ask: "Why not help people in our own country? There is plenty to be done here, too!"

It is true that there is significant need in Germany, but fostering cross-border understanding among peoples is also vital for everyone. When we help improve educational opportunities for people in less developed countries, our own country benefits as well. While elaborating on this would go beyond the scope of this text, one thing is clear: caring for others frees us from selfishness and a materialistic mindset. Through its commitment to a small group of people living in very modest circumstances, the association Yaoui e.V. is a true blessing for the people of Benin. Every single member of Yaoui e.V. serves as a role model for others. All members contribute to fostering the education and training of children in Yaoui, thereby helping to strengthen freedom and democracy and uphold respect for human dignity.

We personally look back on the 20 years of Yaoui e.V. with gratitude and joy, and extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have planned and supported so many projects and brought them to a successful conclusion. We wish you continued strength, perseverance, and foresight - as well as joy, success, and a spirit of cooperation - in your commitment to the school in Yaoui.

You have our support, now and in the future!

With warmest regards, Brigitte and Klaus-Dieter

4. Visit from Yaoui

We regret to inform you that the visit planned for September 10 – 22, 2026, by our contact person in Yaoui, Leo Adje, will not take place.

Leo was not granted a visa for his stay.

Despite extensive preparation, the timely submission of all required visa documents, and the association's assistance in liaising with the German Embassy in Benin, the visa was not issued. The Embassy stated that his statements, and consequently the details provided in our letter of invitation, lacked credibility. As a result, Leo has cancelled his flights for September of this year. He is making a new attempt to obtain a visa for January 2027.

Perhaps he will be able to attend the 2027 general meeting then. We will keep you updated on further developments.

5. Current Projects in Yaoui

As Leo reported to us, the board of the ARRY association (the partner organization for the school in Yaoui) held its general meeting on August 29th on the school library premises. The meeting was attended by board members as well as a number of students' parents. The aim of the meeting was to review the activities carried out during the current board's two-year term, evaluate the results achieved through various partnerships, and identify priority needs for further improving educational and learning conditions in the community. Here are some excerpts from Leo's report:

In this context, the general meeting also expressed its gratitude to the Yaoui E.V. association for its ongoing commitment to education and for supporting initiatives aimed at improving living conditions in the community.

Special recognition was given to the contribution toward the construction of the **village water tower**. This infrastructure represents a significant improvement for the community, as it facilitates access to drinking water and contributes to better health, social, and general living conditions.

Current status of the fountain's construction

The general meeting expressed the wish that the **library** continue to benefit from the support of the association Yaoui e.V. in future programs as well. To strengthen its educational role and better meet the needs of the students, the following requirements were identified:

Equipping the library with computers, providing tablets for students, purchasing projectors for educational video screenings and learning activities, and supporting the hiring of a library staff member responsible for the library's management and educational activities.

Potential long-term projects were also briefly outlined, initiatives for which it would be wonderful if the Yaoui e.V. association were to pledge its support:

The installation of an electrical system at the Yaoui Secondary School (CEG) and the provision of computer equipment are intended to improve teaching and learning conditions; access to electricity and computers would facilitate the conduct of tutoring sessions, remedial classes, and educational programs for students—particularly those preparing for national exams**.**

We would like to discuss the aforementioned long-term requests for support with you at the next general meeting.
During the general meeting, the ARRY board also presented the **profiles of two new teachers** hired to replace two teachers who had previously worked at the school:
Ms. Emeline T. Salomé Okoumassoun and Ms. Megnisse Silfatou Soka**.**

The meeting participants also welcomed our association's support in **providing school meals for another 50 students.**

In addition, we would like to announce that this year's contribution toward funding **teachers' salaries** will be transferred to Yaoui this September.

6. Redesign of the Yaoui e.V. website

The long-planned redesign of the association's website is taking shape. We would be delighted if you took this opportunity to share your suggestions.

You can view a "preview" at:

test.yaoui.de

Here, you also have the opportunity to share your comments and suggestions. The password is: **Hilden**

7. Pützchen´s Markt 2026

We would like to remind you once again of the major fair taking place in Bonn-Beuel this year from September 11 to 15. As in previous years, members of the association will be volunteering to help the Nommensen Congregation staff the *Frittenwagen*. The congregation and we look forward to your visit.

Matthias Sorsoli, Yanic Sorsoli, Martina Noske und Markus Brinkmann

"I am because we are."

(from the philosophy of Ubuntu)

A proverb, referring to the sense of community in Africa.