

Reportage Ghana: Rashid brings news from Sawla

Rashid returned to Barcelona in early March, after almost a couple of months in Ghana and here are some of the exciting news he brings back!

During the first weeks of Rashid's trip, Peter Donaldson and Maria Muñoz accompanied Rashid to support the brainstorming of future possibilities for the farm of CEHDA. The aim: inspiring others into sustainable agriculture grounded in local needs and resources.

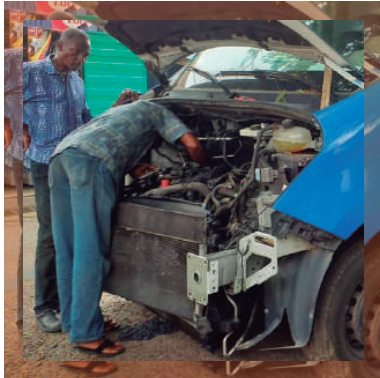


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Peter is a Masters student in the Online Graduate Programs in Human Rights Practice at The University of Arizona as well as an established international agriculture consultant. Maria also carries a wealth of experience growing vineyards over many years. Currently, CEHDA is discussing with them several exciting possibilities of collaborations for the development of Peter's capstone project in Ghana. More news to come soon in this regard.

In addition, Peter and Maria, together with their colleagues and friends, are pulling together resources, time and efforts to support several other CEHDA initiatives. One of them, in which you can also join, is the reparations and conditioning of the service van we purchased in Spain with the support of **Ajuntament de Sant Vicenç dels Horts**.

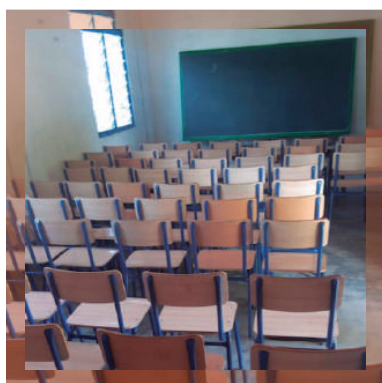
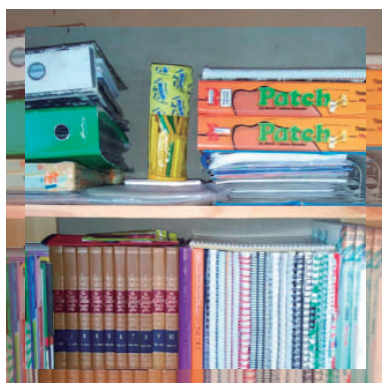


We are converting it into a passenger van (a tro-tro, as we say in Ghana) to serve the community of Sawla and their surroundings. Windows need to be installed in the van as well as comfortable seating for travelers. If you want to be one of the sponsors that help transform this service van into a passenger van, send your donation today. Click [here](#) now, specify the amount in the box you'll see and indicate in the notes: "CEHDA passenger van". With your donation you are contributing to improve local livelihoods in the north of Ghana.



Rashid not only travelled to Sawla to oversee the state of our projects there but also visited Tema, Accra, Kumasi and Tamale to coordinate the arrival of the container with the donations received via the **Fundació Banc de Recursos of Barcelona**, as well as donations from many individuals.

We admit it wasn't easy to sort out all of the bureaucracy hoops and loops to import those materials to Ghana. But, with the support of many volunteers in Ghana, Catalunya as well as with the leadership of Rashid, the container arrived at Sawla on March 18th.



The educational materials and furniture are now in the premises of the “Children’s Project” ready to be used as soon as we resume classes. We highlight the books donated by the **BCN Languages School**. The classroom chairs donated by the **Benjamin Franklin International School** and **La Poderosa** theatre and dance company. The black board, cork board, and clothes donated by **INS Santa Eulàlia** from Terrassa. As well as the office furniture offered by **Sembra**. And the school materials received from **Escola Iris** at Sant Vicenç dels Horts. In addition, we received donations from friends and collaborators in Catalunya that are contributing to enrich the opportunities and the lives of many: thank you all for the sewing machines, clothes, printers, and more! They all have been sorted and will be put into good use. We will keep you posted.

As for the vehicles donated, we have them at the mechanic shop and they are being tuned up or repaired. The nine motorbikes donated by **B:SM** will be employed, together with the passenger van mentioned above, for the transportation of children to CEHDA’s compound as well as to serve the community of Sawla and surroundings as a local tro-tro. These vehicles will enable more people in Sawla to reach local markets where to sell their produce, do cultural visits for the children in CEHDA’s project and coordinate multiple tasks of CEHDA in Ghana. More details about the projects that will be developed with these vehicles will be shared on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. Start following us today! So, stay tuned! And once again, if you want to contribute for the repairs of the van send us a donation with the subject “**CEHDA passenger van**” through **our bank account** that you will find on our **website** or via direct donation through Paypal.

During this trip, Rashid and Mette Brogden, a cultural and medical anthropologist and assistant professor from the **University of Arizona**, have also been working under the newly created Ghanaian organization **The World Institute for African Culture and Traditions (WIACT)** to support the revitalization of indigenous traditions in the area. Among other activities, Rashid met with the Traditional Council of the recently created **Savannah region in Ghana** to propose a project that will rebuild the Gonja Traditional Palace at Nyanɔɛ.

For more information about this project and how to support it, visit their website at <https://www.wiactghana.org/palaceproject> and watch his TV interview aired on STV on March 21st in gonja.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic many services in Ghana and in Spain are shutting down. We are uncertain of what the consequences will be yet, but we are taking this time to rethink ourselves, reorganize ourselves and prioritize what is important. It often comes down to relationships and care- So, for the past few weeks, and for the time being, this is what we are focussing on:

1



El Bon Cistell

We have put all of our activities to a halt except for essential services. Note that we continue to deliver safely organic vegetables to our common locations via El Bon Cistell, to ensure people have nourishing vegetables at home. We follow recommended social distancing protocols and employ protective equipment.

2



We keep offering free consulting services on legal advice about immigration matters in collaboration with Noves Vies. These days we do it over the phone. If you need advice in this regard send us an email to arrange a meeting over the phone: cehdaghana@cehdaghana.org

3



We have been offering support to CEHDA's beneficiaries in Catalunya and their networks in the form of regular online communications and by delivering safely food to their homes, as needed thanks to the support of our team of volunteers and staff.

4



We have been encouraging our communities in Sawla and beyond to follow protocols as advised by the WHO (in several other languages [here](#)).

5



Finally, we are taking this time to focus on informing and thanking our loyal and dedicated donors, volunteers and collaborators. Thank you all, and be well.

Note that CEHDA's team is these days **working from home** and are **available for any questions or suggestions** you may have. **We always welcome volunteers and donors.** Just send us an email and we will inform you of the various opportunities there are to support CEHDA. We are also open to your proposals for volunteer work in CEHDA.

CEHDA team.



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