

BLUE SKIES FOUNDATION

2012 Annual Report



Partners:



Albert Heijn
Foundation



Supporters:



Foundation for
Community Inspiration

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INTRODUCTION

The **objective** of the Foundation is to strengthen the trading relations within the supply chain so as to increase the benefit we are able to bring to the communities where we operate. We aim to achieve this not only by funding more projects but also by continuing to trade ethically so that we can provide employment and stimulate sustainable economic growth.

In 2012 we completed our eighteenth project which included our biggest project to date; the construction of a Centre of Excellence for a group of mango farmers in Ghana. We also completed four projects designed to improve sanitation within their communities, and we continued our support for smaller initiatives such as the provision of solar power kits for households in Ghana and the donation of a photocopier for a school in South Africa.

Each of the projects in 2012 has demonstrated the importance of community action to their success. Whilst the Foundation has assisted by providing funds and expertise, none of this year's projects would have been successful without contributions from the beneficiary communities, as well as the continued commitment from everyone involved in the Foundation from the farmers and staff, to the Council Members and the Board.

In April we said farewell to Mary Vizoso who retired after serving as the Foundation Director for Waitrose since 2009. Mary has been instrumental in guiding the Foundation and putting in place the structures within which we are now able to effectively identify and manage projects. In Mary's place we welcomed David Croft who joins the Foundation as Director of Food Technology at Waitrose. David comes with a wealth of experience having fulfilled senior technical and marketing roles for a number of leading food companies including Kraft and the Cooperative Group.

And in November we said farewell to Gloria Awunyo-Akaba. Gloria was our Ghana Advisory Director for three years and has provided invaluable support and advice to the Foundation.

We are greatly indebted to Mary and Gloria for all that they have brought to the Foundation. We wish them both well for the future, and we look to our current and new members to continue to drive the Foundation forwards.

Thanks to everyone who has given their time, energy, money and commitment to the Blue Skies Foundation.

The Board of Directors

PARTNERS

Funding Parties

Waitrose is a UK Supermarket Company which is part of the John Lewis Partnership. The company has 197 stores and focuses on selling high quality food and offering exceptional customer service.

The logo for Waitrose, featuring the word "Waitrose" in a green, sans-serif font.

Albert Heijn is Dutch Supermarket Company and has 750 stores in the Netherlands. Like Waitrose, Albert Heijn also focuses on selling quality food and offering a high level of customer service.



Blue Skies is a fresh-cut fruit company with factories in Ghana, South Africa, Egypt and Brazil. The company prepares fruit at its factories which it sells to shops in Europe, South Africa and Brazil, including Waitrose and Albert Heijn.

The logo for Blue Skies Foundation, featuring the words "BLUE SKIES" in white on a blue rectangular background, with the word "Foundation" in black below it.

Supporters

Our supporters are an important part of the Foundation and provide donations which help us to achieve our objectives.

The Foundation for Community Inspiration is a UK registered charity aimed at reducing poverty. Working toward the Millennium Development Goals it uses historically proven solutions for ending poverty.



Advisors

ICCO are an independent advisory body who provide advice on projects on behalf of the Albert Heijn Foundation. ICCO offer advice on the development of project applications as well as project implementation, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gloria Awunyo-Akaba

Foundation Advisory Director

Gloria graduated from the University of Ghana Legon with a Bachelor of Science in Banking & Finance. She started her career with various work placements with Marks and Spencer Plc and Barclays Bank. Gloria currently works with Zenith Bank Ghana Ltd where she has held positions as Head of Customer Service, Head of Third Party Relationship Management and Head of Client Services. Gloria enjoys working with the youth and carrying out community work. She also likes reading, baking and being with friends and family.



David Croft

Foundation Director, Waitrose

David Croft is Director of Food Technology at Waitrose. David previously worked for Kraft Foods, Cadbury and the Co-operative Group, where his senior roles included leading technical and marketing activity, and tackling a diverse agenda across food safety & quality, health & safety, environmental management, ethical trading and sustainability. David is currently a member of the Food Ethics Council and the Environmental Knowledge Transfer Board, and has served as a director of the Ethical Trading Initiative and as a council member at the Campden & Chorleywood Food Research Association.



Anthony Pile

Foundation Director, Blue Skies

Anthony Pile is the Founder and Chairman of Blue Skies, which he setup in 1997. He was a soldier in the British Army for 13 years and saw active service in the Middle East, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. He has been a magistrate, attended the post graduate Sloan Fellowship Programme at the London Business School and was the Managing Director of Orchard House Foods. In 2011 Anthony received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Cranfield in recognition of his achievements with Blue Skies.



Henri Zondag

Foundation Director, Albert Heijn

Henri is a graduate from Nijenrode Business University in the Netherlands. After active military service as an Infantry Officer in the Dutch Army, he joined Procter & Gamble in 1982 where he spent much of his career in customer development, marketing, organizational development and general management. In 2007, he was invited by Ahold to become involved in the development of their Sustainable Business Development model. Henri currently oversees community development projects in cooperation with several African suppliers in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mali and Ghana.

FOUNDATION STAFF



Simon Derrick

Blue Skies Foundation Coordinator

Simon graduated with a media degree from the University of Salford in 2000 and completed a Masters in Sustainable Development at Middlesex University in 2011. He has worked in television for the BBC and as a web developer for a market research agency before joining Blue Skies in 2005. Simon is currently Communications and Sustainability Manager at Blue Skies and has responsibility for developing the company's brand.



Alistair Djimtey

Blue Skies Foundation Manager

Alistair Derby Djimatey joined Blue Skies in 2002 as a quality Assurance Officer. He progressed to the position of Audit Controller in charge of ensuring compliance with BRC, GlobalGAP and organic standards. He was also responsible for internal auditing of the quality management system and training of newly employed staff as well as refresher training for regular staff. Alistair has high affinity for community service and advocacy. He was the chairman of the local Union for over two years.



Waydu Matlala

Blue Skies Foundation Officer, South Africa

Waydu Matlala was born in Siyathemba and is married with two daughters. She is a graduate from Vanderbiljpack Collage. Waydu joined Blue Skies in 2004 and was elected as Welfare chairperson. She was appointed as a Quality Assurance Officer in 2005 and was later made a team leader. Waydu enjoys working closely with people and devoting time and effort where her help is needed. In 2006 Waydu was promoted to the position of Human Resource Manager and currently remains employed in this capacity. She took on the additional responsibility as Foundation Officer in 2009.

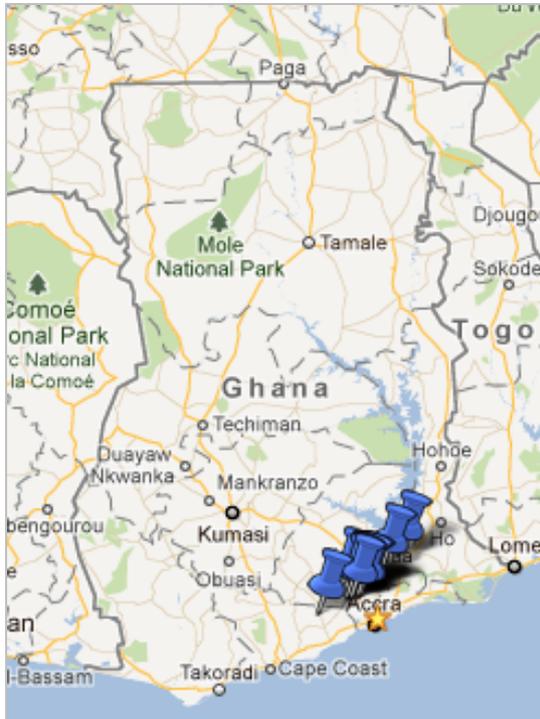
FOUNDATION COUNCIL

Our Foundation Council is made up of elected and appointed representatives of Blue Skies and the areas where Blue Skies sources its fruit. The following people voluntarily served on our Council in 2012: Godfred Alimo, Sampson Annor, Reginald Ashiteym, Kwabena Adu Darko, Frank Essel, Moses Gameti, Lemuel C. Mantey, Peter Mausuo, Peter Osamau Sackey and Martin Owusu.

Our Committee in South Africa performs a similar function to our Foundation Council. The following people served on this Committee in 2012: Andres Bodibe, Philisiwe Dhlamini, Lucky Mabaso, Mavis Motlou, Vusi Ndlovu, Oupa Njobe, Andre Veldsman and Justice Vilakazi.

WHERE WE OPERATE

Ghana



Ghana situated in West Africa, and bordering the Ivory Coast and Togo has a land area close to that of the UK's, encompassing 240,000 km² of land with over 24 million people living there. The capital, Accra, is home to over 3.5 million people and is reported to be one of the fastest growing cities in the world.

There are more than 100 ethnic groups in Ghana using over fifty languages with hundreds of dialects with English being the official language. Culturally Ghanaians have a strong regard for communal values such as family, respect for the elderly and honouring traditional leaders, and particular importance is placed on dignified social conduct and observing established local customs. It became the first

country in Sub Saharan Africa to receive independence from the United Kingdom, and it has a strong constitution which has ensured political stability for the past sixteen years.

Rich in natural resources, Ghana is one of the world's top gold producers, the second biggest exporter of cocoa and has also recently discovered oil. It is home to Lake Volta, the largest artificial lake in the world by surface area. This abundant wealth of natural resource combined with Ghana's beauty, stability, and warm, hospitable people, make it the perfect country from which to produce much of our harvest-fresh, prepared fruit salads.

Despite its numerous assets, Ghana is not without its major challenges. Ghana has seen tremendous economic growth over recent years; however poverty still has a firm grip in rural areas which are home to over half the country's population. In many rural villages there is high unemployment and people have limited access to basic services such as potable water, proper sanitation, suitable schools and a decent standard of health care. Education in particular is seen as a priority among Ghanaians who see it as a source of hope for a brighter future. Many children will make every effort to dress smartly and attend school every day, even if it means having to study in poor, unsafe conditions. Proper sanitation is also an urgent need in many communities where there is a lack of hygienic facilities such as clean water and public latrines.

WHERE WE OPERATE

South Africa

South Africa, situated at the southern tip of Africa is the most industrialized nation of the African continent. Divided into 9 provinces with around 50 million people, South Africa is a multilingual society with 11 official languages.

The country's first non-racial elections were held in April 1994. South Africa is a multiparty parliamentary democracy in which constitutional power is shared between the President and the Parliament. South Africa's post-apartheid government has made remarkable progress in consolidating the nation's peaceful transition to democracy. Programmes to improve the delivery of essential social services to the vast population are underway. Access to better opportunities in education and business is becoming more widespread. Nevertheless, transforming South Africa's society to remove the legacy of apartheid will be a long-term process requiring the sustained commitment of the leaders and people of the nation's disparate groups.



The 1997 constitution's bill of rights provides extensive guarantees, including equality before the law and prohibitions against discrimination; the right to life, privacy, property, and freedom and security of the person; prohibition against slavery and forced labour; and freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and association. The constitution provides for an independent and impartial judiciary, and, in practice, these provisions are respected.

Although South Africa's society is undergoing a rapid transformation, some discrimination against women continues, and discrimination against those living with HIV/AIDS remains. South Africa has one of the highest rates of HIV prevalence in the world, with more than 5 million HIV-infected individuals.

South Africa has a two-tiered economy; one rivaling other developed countries and the other with only the most basic infrastructure. South Africa is the world's largest producer and exporter of platinum; is a significant producer of gold, manganese, chrome, vanadium, and titanium; and also exports a significant amount of coal. Primary agriculture accounts for about 2.5% of the gross domestic product. Major crops include citrus, deciduous fruits and wheat.

OUR STRUCTURE

The Foundation structure is made up of a two layer structure; the Foundation Council and its sub committees, and the Foundation Board. The key function of the Foundation Council is to prioritise and shortlist projects and review progress. The Council is made up of elected representatives of staff and farming regions. The Foundation Manager or a Foundation Representative also sits on the Council.

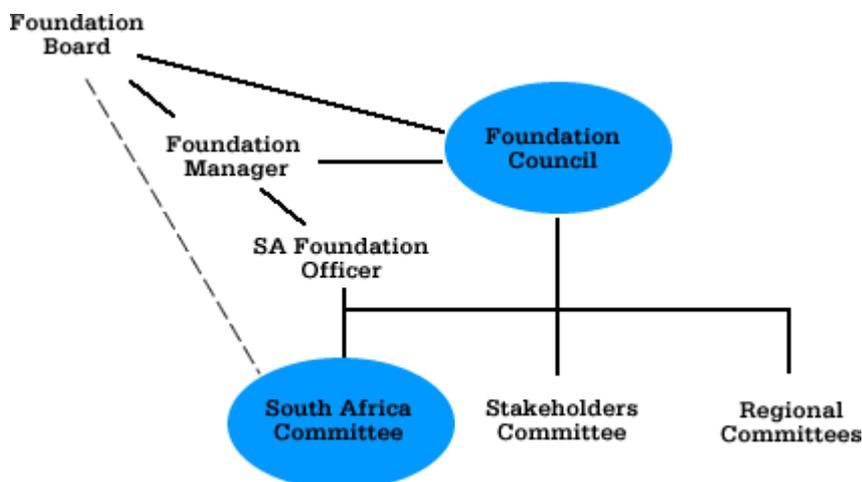
Council members representing farming regions act as Chair Persons of Regional Committees. Regional Committees are made up of supplying farmers who belong to a particular geographic grouping. Each farmer chairs a Sub Committee for their respective community. By exception a community member may be elected on to Regional Sub Committees in the case where a farmer is not considered to be effectively fulfilling his/her role as a community representative.

b) The **Foundation Board** comprises of four members as follows:

- 1- Albert Heijn
- 1- Waitrose
- 1- Blue Skies
- 1- Ghanaian Advisory Director
- And
- 1- Foundation for Community Inspiration (non officio)

A Foundation Manager is appointed by the Board and reviewed on an annual basis. The day to day management of the Foundation is carried out by the Foundation Manager with support from a UK based coordinator and a designated Blue Skies Manager. The Foundation Manager is responsible for the efficient running of the Foundation and all the projects.

Governance Structure Diagram



2012 PROJECT OVERVIEW



Akotuakrom KVIP

This project involved the construction of a 10-seater compost toilet called a KVIP (Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit) for the village of Akotuakrom in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Akotuakrom is home to over 1000 people and is close to some papaya farmers. The community previously had no public toilet and for the past three years there have been outbreaks of diarrhea and cholera during the raining seasons.



Asante Ekura Nsawam WC

The objective of this project was to construct a public WC for the town of Nsawam in Ghana. The population of Nsawam is about 6000 and there are currently no public toilet facilities. As a result cholera has become a frequent problem and has recently claimed the lives of three people. This project involved the construction of a 20-seater toilet facility, and capacity building to train the local community to manage and maintain the facility.



Somanya Agricultural Resource Centre

This project involved the construction of a training centre for the Yilo Krobo Mango Farmers Association of Ghana. The building will also be used by the nearby high school for teaching agricultural studies, and by the local community for local events and functions. It will include an internet café, a library, a kitchen and washroom facilities.



Vusumuzi Primary School WC renovation

This project involved the renovation of a WC block at a primary school in Siyathemba in South Africa. The WC had previously been in a very bad condition with broken basins, pipes, toilet seats, windows and doors. The renovation work has transformed the buildings so that they are fit for purpose and can once again be used.



Qhalabocha Primary School WC renovation

This project also involved the renovation of a WC block at a primary school in Siyathemba in South Africa. Like with Vusumuzi, the WC at Qhalabocha had also been in a very bad condition. The renovation work has transformed the buildings so that they are fit for purpose and can once again be used.



Other projects

Other projects completed in 2012 include the donation of a photocopier for Tshepeha Secondary School in South Africa, the provision of furniture for a medical training centre at Nsawam in Ghana, and the provision of solar power kits for households in three communities in Ghana. We also facilitated donations of various learning resources for schools through the Foundation's School Partnership Programme.

GHANA PROJECTS

Akotuakrom KVIP

Akotuakrom is a developing Community in the Akwapim South District of the Eastern region in Ghana and has a population of about 1000 inhabitants. It is a rural community of poor farmers and is also home to some major suppliers of papaya to Blue Skies.

The community previously had no public place of convenience except for a few holes which had been dug indiscriminately by local residents. The health directorate indicated that as a result diarrhea and cholera had become a problem within this area during the raining seasons, particularly affecting women and children who make up approximately 50% of the population.

The objective of this project was therefore to construct a six-seater KVIP with the aim to significantly improve sanitation and health in this community. KVIP stands for 'Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit' and is a pit latrine commonly used in Ghana usually constructed with hand-washing stations that collect rain water. This type of latrine is designed to control odour and the presence of houseflies.

Work on this project commenced during the first quarter of 2012 and was completed in October. A committee has been formed to manage the facility. They will charge a small fee to people who use the KVIP which will be used for maintenance and cleaning.



Above: The Akotuakrom KVIP during the opening ceremony in October 2012

GHANA PROJECTS

Asante Ekura Nsawam WC

Asante Ekura is a suburb of the town of Nsawam in Ghana and has a population of over six thousand people. It is also the home to over three hundred Blue Skies staff. The community previously had only one public toilet which was constructed in 1982. This structure had however deteriorated and later collapsed due to intensified use by a significantly increased population. With no other facility available many residents were either forced to use the collapsed structure despite the dangers, or made use of bushes within the community. As result of the lack of sanitation within the area cholera had become a problem and recently claimed the lives of three people during an outbreak.

The provision of a WC for Asante Akura is therefore intended to promote good hygiene, minimise contamination and reduce communicable disease. It is also hoped that this will eradicate cholera and reduce spend on medical treatment by residents and the local health authorities.

Work to construct the WC commenced during the first quarter of 2012 and was completed in November. Training has been carried out to ensure the effective use and management of the facility. As with similar projects of this nature a fee will be charged to users which will be used for maintenance and cleaning.



Above: The Asante Ekura WC at Nsawam during the opening ceremony

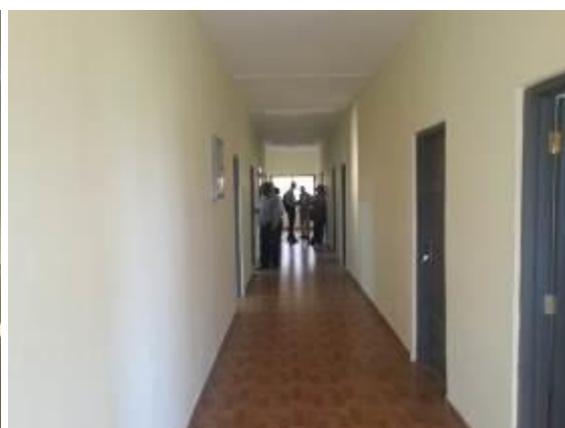
GHANA PROJECTS

Somanya Agricultural Resource Centre

This project involved the construction of a Resource Centre for the Yilo Krobo Mango Farmers Association at Somanya in Ghana. The centre includes a 250-seater conference hall, an exhibition centre, an internet café, offices and toilet facilities. Work commenced in January 2012 and it was officially opened during a ceremony on the 31st of October by the Ghana Minister for Food and Agriculture Hon Kwesi Ahwoi, and the CEO of Blue Skies, Anthony Pile.

Mr Ahwoi said “I must admit that this is a well thought out project. Not only is the facility going to benefit farmers, but more importantly the students, the youth who are our future.”

As well as being a facility for the mango growers, the facility, named the “Centre of Excellence” will also be used by the Yilo-Krobo Secondary School for Agricultural Science which was recently added to the curriculum following the completion of the Centre. It will also be available for hire by the general public with permission from the managing authority.



Above: Scenes from the Somanya Resource Centre

SOUTH AFRICA PROJECTS

Ohalabocha and Vusumusi Primary Schools - WC renovations



These two projects were both intended to provide renovation work to the existing WC blocks at Qhalabocha and Vusumusi Primary Schools in the community of Siyathemba in South Africa. Siyathemba is a township which is located near to the Blue Skies factory in South Africa and is home to many of its staff and their families.

The WC blocks at both these schools had previously been in a very bad condition with broken basins, pipes, toilet seats, windows and doors. The toilets were so run down that it became a health and safety hazard for the learners and a potential source of infectious diseases. At Qhalabocha the education authorities had even threatened the closure of the school due to the condition of the toilets.

The renovation work has transformed the buildings so that they are fit for purpose and can once again be used. New toilets and sinks have been installed, the plumbing has been repaired and new ceilings, floors, windows and doors have been fixed. Steps have also been taken to ensure the schools will be able to maintain the toilets so that they will not become run down again.



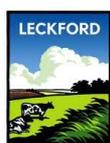
Above: One of the toilet blocks at Qhalabocha Primary School before and after the renovation work.

OTHER PROJECTS



As well as our main projects, we also supported some smaller initiatives. Some of the highlights this year include the donation of a photocopier for a secondary school in South Africa (pictured) and the provision of chairs for a medical training centre at a clinic in Ghana.

We also facilitated the donation of stationary, blankets, sports kits and playground equipment from a number of organisations including Leckford Farms, the Waitrose Foundation, Pens for Kids and the Blue Skies UK freight forwarders Eclipse Worldwide. These were all donated to schools and community groups in Ghana and South Africa.



The Waitrose farm



Pens For Kids UK

SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

This year we embarked upon a trial to partner a school that the Foundation has supported in Ghana with a school near to the Blue Skies head office in the UK. We therefore linked Akraman Primary School in Ghana with Harlestone and Brington Primary Schools in Northamptonshire.

The partnership took the form of each school holding their own 'Foundation Day' during which they engaged pupils in activities designed to raise awareness and celebrate the people, culture and history of the country where their partner school is located. Pupils also put together 'scrapbooks' about their school which they exchanged with their partner school, therefore allowing the pupils to share work with each other, and learn about how people from different cultures live.

The Schools Partnership is currently being evaluated to assess its cost effectiveness and learning outcomes. The results of this evaluation will be used to help the Foundation decide whether to continue and expand the initiative. In addition to the partnership, a number of schools in the UK have supported the Foundation by donating learning aids and uniforms to schools in Ghana. Some of these schools are shown below.



Brington Primary School



PAST PROJECTS REVISITED



Abortia School classroom block construction

Completed: 2011. **Location:** Abortia, Ghana
Details: New classroom block construction for Primary School



Daniel Safo Sports Complex

Completed: 2011. **Location:** Nsawam, Ghana
Details: New multi-use games area for Blue Skies and surrounding community



Training Centre for Nsawam Old Hospital

Completed: 2011. **Location:** Nsawam, Ghana
Details: Renovation of medical training centre for a clinic



Computer Equipment for I M Manchu IT Centre

Completed: 2011. **Location:** Balfour, South Africa
Details: Provision of computer equipment for I M Manchu Secondary School



Fence for Tegwan's Nest Primary School

Completed: 2011. **Location:** Greylingstad, South Africa
Details: Provision of perimeter fence for Tegwan's Nest Primary School



Computer Equipment for Kutlwano's orphanage

Completed: 2011. **Location:** Greylingstad, South Africa
Details: Provision of computers for an orphanage



Sekykrom Kindergarten renovation

Completed: 2010. **Location:** Sekykrom, Ghana
Details: Renovation of a Kindergarten and construction of a WC and Kitchen



Fotobi School Classroom block construction

Completed: 2010. **Location:** Fotobi, Ghana
Details: New classroom block construction for Fotobi Junior High School



Amanfrom KVIP construction

Completed: 2010. **Location:** Amanfrom, Ghana
Details: Construction of compost toilet system for Amanfrom village



Akraman Primary School renovation

Completed: 2010. **Location:** Akraman, Ghana
Details: Renovation of classroom block for Akraman Primary School



Canaan Corn mill

Completed: 2010. **Location:** Canaan Farm, Ghana
Details: Provision of corn mill and construction of service centre for Canaan Farms

The Blue Sky Foundation
PO Box C 3506, Accra, Ghana

www.bsfoundation.tumblr.com

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Albert Heijn
Foundation



Supporters:



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