



BLUE SKIES FOUNDATION

2019 REVIEW

TOGETHER. FOR GOOD.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



2019 marked ten years since the Blue Skies Foundation started in 2009. In this time we have completed over 100 projects which have transformed the lives of thousands of people in Ghana, South Africa, Egypt and Senegal. In June 2019 we held an event in Ghana to celebrate this important milestone with everyone who has been involved in our journey since

day one. We also produced a special ten year brochure which featured highlights of the last ten years and interviews with some of the people who have benefitted. At the same time we implemented 13 more projects, including 7 in Ghana, 4 in South Africa, 1 in Senegal and 1 in Egypt. All these projects are now up and running for the benefit of many more people involved in the supply of fresh-cut fruit to Waitrose and Albert Heijn.

I am proud of what we have achieved in ten years, but I am also proud of what we have managed to achieve in just one. There will always be difficulties and challenges which serve to test us, but as long as we always seek to do what is right, then ultimately we shall succeed. 2019 was not without its problems, but we never gave up our principles, and in the end the Foundation prevailed.

I am eternally grateful to everyone who has put their heart and soul in to making our Foundation work for the benefit of the many. You are the people behind this incredible joint effort. We do it together. Together for Good.

A UNIQUE COOPERATION

The Blue Skies Foundation is a cooperation between the fresh fruit company Blue Skies, and two retailers, Waitrose & Partners in the UK and Albert Heijn in the Netherlands. Through this unique and progressive cooperation, the Foundation seeks to support the communities which participate in the production of fresh-cut fruit products that are made by Blue Skies.

The Foundation is structured in a way that enables projects to be chosen by the people living within the communities where Blue Skies operates in Ghana, South Africa, Senegal and Egypt. Our Councils, which are made up of representatives of the communities where we work, and our Board of Directors, ensure we follow a democratic process in how projects are prioritised, and take collective responsibility for overseeing the implementation and evaluation of all our initiatives. Funding is provided annually in equal contributions by our founding partners, Waitrose & Partners, Albert Heijn and Blue Skies.

OUR FOUNDATION PARTNERS



ADVISORS



HOW OUR PROJECTS ARE SELECTED

With so many project needs in the areas where Blue Skies operates, it's impossible to be able to support every request. The Foundation's project selection process is therefore vital in order to ensure each request is considered fairly so that the most appropriate decisions are made for how funds are used. Here is a summary of how it works...



1. Community Engagement

The annual selection process starts with the Foundation engaging with local communities to raise awareness of the process and to begin capturing project ideas. These are submitted as 'Concept Notes' and given to committee members who represent different areas. Ideas can also be submitted online at: www.blueskies.com/foundation



2. First Round Filtering

Once concept notes have been received, a committee meeting is held to shortlist the ideas based on the initial information submitted. Projects which don't fit the objectives of the Foundation, are outside budget requirements or aren't feasible are rejected. After this, the remaining project ideas are visited as part of a process of due diligence to establish more information about the proposals and their feasibility.



3. Second Round Shortlisting

Following due diligence, another committee meeting is held to go through the projects again and shortlist ideas further based on any additional information gathered. Again, projects which are deemed to be unfeasible based on the additional information provided are rejected. The remaining projects are then assessed and ranked in order of priority based on a range of criteria, including urgency, value for money, the number of beneficiaries and the intended impacts. Low ranking projects which don't fit the budget will then be rejected.



4. First Draft Submissions

All remaining project ideas are developed in to detailed project applications which include plans, drawings, costings and impact assessments. The first draft applications are submitted for review by the committee and the Foundation coordinator and checked for any outstanding information. Feedback is provided to the applicants so that the final draft applications can be completed.



5. Final Draft submission

The final draft applications are submitted to the Foundation Board of Directors for consideration. Successful projects are approved.

OUR 2019 PROJECTS



Agomeda Community Resource Centre

The construction of a new resource centre with library, internet cafe and wash-rooms for a mango farming community in Ghana.



Siyathemba Primary School

The renovation and improvement of a vandalised toilet block for a primary school in the town of Siyathemba in South Africa.



Nsumia JHS Project

The construction of a new three classroom block with staff common room and office for a village near to the Blue Skies factory in Ghana.



Tegwans Nest School

The installation of a new and upgraded kitchen facility for a Primary school located near the community of Greylingstadt in South Africa.



Pampanso Junction School

The rehabilitation of a dilapidated six classroom block for a Basic School located in a papaya growing region of Ghana.



Al Rashad Hospital

A lab analyser for a clinic near to the Blue Skies factory in Egypt. The unit can analyse 40 samples every 100 minutes and test for a range of conditions.



Thilane Elementary School

The construction of a new classroom and perimeter wall for an Elementary School located near to the Blue Skies mango packing facility in Senegal.



School Water Projects

Water storage tanks to provide increased reliability of water supply for three schools in Ghana including Akuse Sectech, Anyakpo and Agokpo Schools.



Zizameleni Educare Centre

The provision and installation of new kitchen for a preschool in Greylingstadt, near the Blue Skies factory in South Africa.



2019 School Farm Project

The 2019 School Farm project was one of the most competitive to date. With sixty schools competing in the finals to establish and run their own school farm. Over 1,000 students and teachers attended the awards ceremony in December where awards including computer equipment were presented in twenty categories.



Setseng Secondary School

The provision and installation of new food preparation facilities for a secondary school in Siyathemba in South Africa,

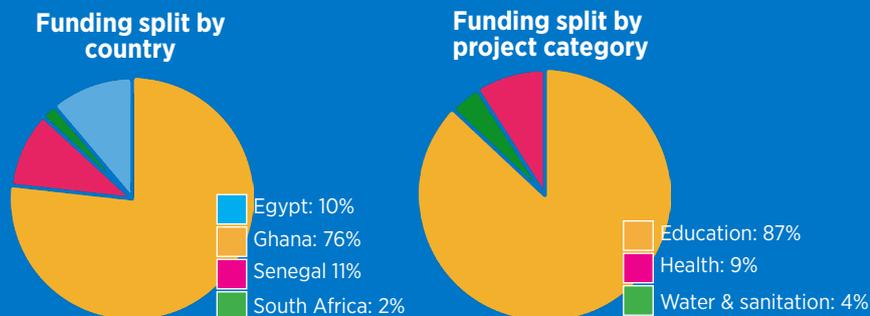
10 YEARS TRANSFORMING LIVES

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Blue Skies Foundation, the Blue Skies Foundation commissioned Dr Linda Kleemann of the Kiel Institute for World Economy in Germany, to highlight the impact of the Foundation through the perspective of some of the people who have benefited from it over the last ten years. You can download the full report at: www.blueskies.com/foundation10.pdf



HOW OUR FUNDS WERE SPENT

In 2019, the Blue Skies Foundation collectively raised over GHc 1.5m. This was made up of contributions from the funding parties of Waitrose & Partners, Albert Heijn and Blue Skies. The charts below show how these funds were spent by country and project category. Funding is proportioned based on a number of factors, including sales turnover from each country, fruit origin, local needs and macro social and economic indicators.



OUR IMPACT

Each year the Foundation carries out a comprehensive evaluation of its projects in order to understand how they are performing and how far they are meeting their intended objectives. This is an important task as it helps us to understand what is working well and where there is a need for improvement. We can then apply these learnings to our selection process to maximise impact and strengthen the sustainability of future projects.

Some highlights from our most recent evaluation:

200%

Increase in enrollment at Asikabew School since the Foundation provided a new classroom block

500

The number of patients treated at Nawule Clinic since it was opened by the Foundation

70%

Decrease in instances of water-bourne diseases as a result of our water project in East Dobro

12.3k

The number of people living in communities benefiting from our 2019 projects

LOOKING AHEAD....

12 projects have been approved for 2020 and at the time of writing, most of these projects are under way or are very close to starting. We know however that 2020 will be a very different year to usual. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities in every country we operate have been affected in some way. Whether that's due to strained health services unable to cope with rising infections or lock down restrictions causing economic hardship, the challenges we face in 2020 will have a long term impact on us all. The Foundation therefore will continue to play a vital role in doing what it can to support those communities where we operate and continuing to sustainably develop the trade that so many people have come to rely on and benefit from.

FOUNDATION TEAM

The people who make it work



Abena Antwi
Advisory Director
Independent



Robert Arhinful
Finance
Blue Skies



Victoria Asamoah
Foundation Assistant, Ghan



Gloria Asare
Foundation Rep
Senegal



Mohamed Bahgat
Foundation Rep
Egypt



Nyika Brain
Director
Waitrose & Partners



Simon Derrick
Coordinator
Blue Skies



Alistair Djimatey
Foundation Manager, Ghana



Flavia Mometti
Foundation Rep
Brazil



Waydu Nhlapo
Foundation Rep
South Africa



Anthony Pile
Foundation Chairman
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