



BLUE SKIES FOUNDATION

2021 REVIEW

STRONGER TOGETHER



TOGETHER, FOR GOOD



2021 was another tough year for Blue Skies and for the Foundation. With spiralling inflation and continued supply chain disruption, finances were even more constrained than in 2020. But while the business suffered, so did staff, farmers and their communities that rely on us. In all the

countries we operate, COVID-19 had affected health care, employment, education and wellbeing. Blue Skies profits had taken a hit but so had our people. As was the case in 2020, in 2021 the role of the Foundation in supporting people in our local communities was more important than ever.

Looking back, it's amazing to see what we have achieved. We had to do more but with less, but somehow we managed it. Eleven projects were approved and almost all of them have now been successfully implemented with two set to be completed within the next few months. Projects have helped to improve access to vocational skills, education, water and sanitation and health and wellbeing. Our Foundation has continued to demonstrate what can be achieved when we work together with our partners. Together, for good.

Anthony Pile, Chairman

OUR 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, Egypt and Brazil. 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



CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT TO ADDRESS COVID-19



Following the support provided in 2022, the Foundation continued to assist communities directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Continued lockdowns and business disruption caused hardship among many of the rural communities where Blue Skies sourced its fruit. Thanks to the Waitrose & Partners Global Fund, the Foundation was able to support by funding vocational training for people who had lost their jobs and providing solar lights to communities affected by rising energy costs. Funds were also provided to offer financial support to staff and smallholder farmers and develop an 'agritech lab' to help growers access new technologies to help them improve their farms. Hygiene kits including sanitation stations temperature scanners and oxygen cylinders were also provided to help local communities as they continued to fight new waves of the the pandemic.



CASE STUDY: Providing Safe and Hygienic Bathroom Facilities for Girls

The Kpong Technical Institute trains young people in technical courses such as farming, dress making, masonry and catering. Girls made up 92 of the total 387 students, yet lacked adequate bathroom facilities. The Foundation sponsored the construction of five toilets and a new bathroom facility, which provides a safe and secure environment for the girls to use. The new facilities led to increased confidence amongst the girls and the number of female students has more than doubled from 92 to 195.



*I can now go to bed to sleep knowing very well that my girls are safe from both intruders, scary rodents and snakes that have always threatened the ladies".
Mrs. Hannah Owusu, Principal*

OUR 2021 FOUNDATION PROJECTS



Kpong Tech Vocational Institute, Ghana
Provision of a toilet and bathroom facility to improve health, safety and security for the Girls dormitory of a school



Chinto Bio Toilet
The construction of a six-seater biogas toilet facility for a Junior High School in Ghana to improve sanitation and access to clean energy for the staff and students.



Tikobo Teacher Accommodation, Ghana
Construction of a two bedroom self contained accommodation facility for the teachers of the Tikobo Community basic school



Notto Secondary School Computer Classroom
The construction of a fully furnished and equipped computer classroom for Notto Secondary School in Senegal.



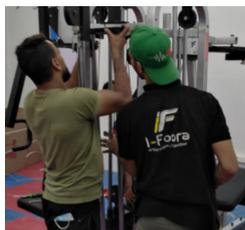
2021 School Farm of the Year Competition
The sixth year of our competition to reinvigorate interest in agriculture among young people in Ghana



Laptops for Adult Education
The provision of four laptops and sports equipment to support staff in accessing adult education courses and local sports activities.



Diapsora Girls Water Project, Ghana
The provision of two 25,000 litre water storage tanks to improve access to potable water for a girls school in Ghana.



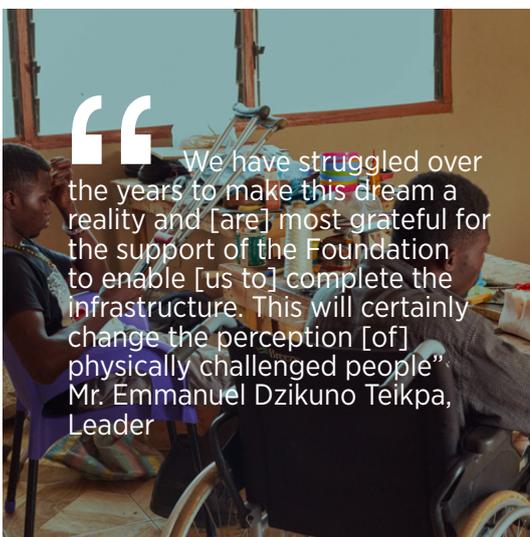
Gym for Blue Skies Egypt
The installation of equipment and tools to create a gym facility inside the factory to improve the health and wellbeing of staff and improve access for women.



Adafour Water Project
The provision of polytanks and construction of a concrete platform to improve access to water for a rural community in Ghana.



Instituto Maria Mãe do Divino Amô
The construction of a borehole and the installation of an effluent treatment station for a childrens charity in Brazil.



“ We have struggled over the years to make this dream a reality and [are] most grateful for the support of the Foundation to enable [us to] complete the infrastructure. This will certainly change the perception [of] physically challenged people”
Mr. Emmanuel Dzikuno Teikpa, Leader

Hebron Future for Disability Project

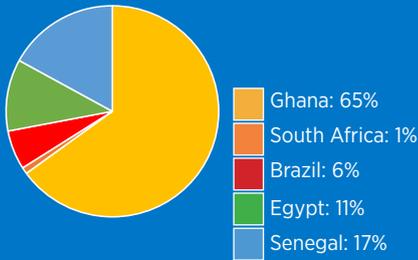
Providing opportunities for people with disabilities

The Future for Disability Project provided a welcome opportunity for people living with disabilities in Ghana. The Blue Skies Foundation were able to renovate a training site, which required plastering, replacing doors and windows, installing bathrooms and electrical maintenance. The newly refurbished site provides a safe and vibrant learning environment for disabled people to learn trades such as dressmaking, shoemaking and breadmaking. The facility now trains over 150 people with disabilities and has recently been certified for National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

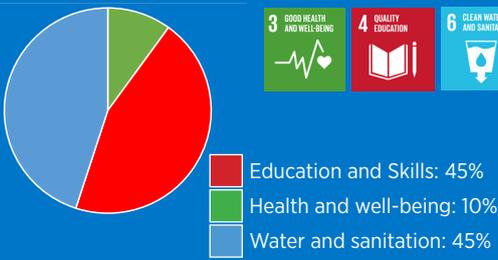
HOW OUR FUNDS WERE SPENT

In 2021, the Blue Skies Foundation collectively raised over GHc 1.37m. This was made up of contributions from the funding parties of Waitrose & Partners and Albert Heijn. In-kind support was provided by 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.

Funding split by country



Funding split by project category



Alignment to the UN SDGs:



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:

22

The number of babies delivered at Nkoranza Timiabu since the Foundation provided nurses accommodation in 2020

60%

The increase in enrolment at Pampasno Junction School which was rehabilitated by the Foundation in 2019

ZERO

Reports of communicable diseases at Pakro School since the Foundation provided a new toilet in 2015

8.4k

The number of people living in communities benefiting from our 2021 projects

LOOKING AHEAD....

Our businesses and communities continue to face challenges in 2022 as we emerge from the pandemic and face unprecedented levels of inflation. The need for the Foundation to provide support where it is needed most is now more stark than even in the previous two years.

Twelve more projects have been approved for 2022. They include a new 'Bio' toilet block for a school in Ghana, a borehole and effluent treatment station for a children's educational charity in Brazil, IT equipment for an adult learning initiative in South Africa, a fully equipped computer classroom in Senegal and a gym for staff at Blue Skies Egypt.

We also welcome a new member of our Board. Jemima Jewell is the Agriculture and Responsible Sourcing Lead at Waitrose & Partners and joins our Board of Directors after we said farewell to Nyika Brain in 2021. Welcome Jemima!

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



Simon Derrick
Coordinator
Blue Skies
Foundation



Alistair Djimatey
Foundation
Manager, Ghana



Jemima Jewell
Director
Waitrose &
Partners



Flavia Mometti
Foundation Rep
Brazil



Waydu Nhlapo
Foundation Rep
South Africa



Anthony Pile
Foundation
Chairman
Blue Skies



Justice Vilakazi
Foundation
Assistant, South
Africa



Henri Zondag
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