

ANNUAL REPORT

SSFA ACTIVITIES, 2019

Introduction

Established as a foundation in the Netherlands in 2006, Stepping Stones for Africa (SSFA) is a charity organization focused on grassroots development in West Africa. We work together with community-based associations to achieve their development objectives. To be more effective in the Ghanaian context, in August 2016 Stepping Stones for Africa was formally registered as an NGO in Ghana.

Our vision: empowering communities

In West Africa, we see many communities lacking necessities like healthcare, clean water or sustainable ways of making a living. Despite being mostly well organized socially; these communities are often not capable of making significant changes by themselves to improve the quality of life.

Our vision is to empower these communities to lead their development and improve the living conditions of their inhabitants, through small-scale projects that are initiated and sustained by the community itself or its leaders, and not imposed by others. SSFA wants to provide capacity building to fuel these community-initiated projects and make them a success.

Our mission: providing stepping stones

Our mission is to provide stepping stones such as guidance, expertise, inspiration and funding for development initiatives by communities in West Africa. We want to empower communities to lead their development and reach their goals through participatory approaches, and thereby significantly improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, while respecting the environment.

Administration

The priorities for 2019, is based on the SSFA midterm strategy of 2016-19. The main focus of activities was Battor_Atziekpoe in the North Tongu District and Liati Wote in the Afadzato South District. The two communities are in the Volta region. For Atziekpoe, the focus was to roof the clinic and finish with things like wiring, plastering and painting works. For Liati Wote, after completing the needs assessment and prioritization process in 2018, a plastic recycling project was initiated and implementation has started.

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The governing board of the foundation also welcomed a new board member, Mr. Rob Handgraaf in January 2019. Mr. Handgraaf will replace Petra Van Liere-Addo, who served on the board for several years and now moving on to other assignments. Mr. Handgraaf also doubles as Chief of Sanitation in Liati Wote community and he is very passionate about sanitation and the environment.

Projects

The Atsiekpoe Green Clinic _ Roofing of the clinic

The focus for 2019 is to roof the clinic, do the wiring, plaster the inside and tile the floors. The roofing was the number one priority therefore, the people of Atsiekpoe and Stepping Stones for Africa (SSFA) raised funds through different channels to roof the clinic. On the 8th of February 2019, roofing of the clinic started and was completed by the 11th of February 2019. A total of GHs 46,640.64 was spent on the roofing.



Pictures of the roofing



INSPIRING STEPS TO MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

Fundraising

- SSFA used internet crowdfunding in The Netherlands. It also used its website and social media (Facebook) solicited funds from philanthropists and voluntary organizations.
- SSFA raised funds among travellers of our affiliate partner, Jolinaiko Eco Tours, locally.
- SSFA worked closely with and encouraged the Atsiekpoe community to raise their own funds towards the project besides doing community labour. Currently, SSFA is working on raising additional funding to finish the plastering, wiring and tiling of the clinic.

Community Engagement

Atsiekpoe Community

As the main project site currently, SSFA engages with the Atsiekpoe community on a continuous basis to monitor, evaluate, resolve project related conflicts and re-strategize on how to accomplish our goals. We spearheaded the reconstitution of the project committee as most of the previous committee had either travelled or relocated elsewhere.

Other projects; solar mechanised borehole and water storage systems.

As part of efforts to get potable drinking water to the community and for use in the clinic, owing to the fact that, the people in Atsiekpoe rely solely on the contaminated water from the Volta River, SSFA submitted a proposal for funding for a solar mechanised borehole from the North American Women Association (NAWA). This GHs 25000 funds will be used to fund part of this project which is estimated at GHs 60000. The remaining GHs 35000 we hope to raise through other fundraising activities here in Ghana and the Netherlands.

Liati Wote

In 2017, 2018, Stepping Stones for Africa (SSFA) conducted many community engagement activities in Liati Wote. During these meetings, the community identified sanitation, tourism development, deforestation, and unemployment as key priority areas of concern. In response to these concerns, the community initiated the Liati Wote Plastic Waste Recovery and Recycling Project. This project is a comprehensive and sustainable approach to plastic waste management which will combine awareness creation on plastic use and empower the community members to collect and recycle plastic waste generated into useful products for sale.

On the 16th of February 2019, the project was formally announced to all stakeholders during a community meeting in Liati Wote. For the first phase of the project, the following are the activities;

1. Plastic waste recovery
2. Plastic waste shredding
3. Awareness creation and behavior change



Picture from the community meeting in Liati Wote to introduce the Plastic Recovery and Recycling Project to all stakeholders.

Implementation of the first activity; Plastic Waste Recovery

On the 15th of August 2019, 15 segregation waste bins were mounted in the community and along the trails to the two tourist sites (Afadzato & the Tagbo Falls) to recover plastic waste. These bins will be used to segregate plastic bottles and sachets and other types of waste. The bins have also been inscribed with messages to educate the public about sanitation.

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Pictures of the community mounting the waste binds

After mounting the bins, a short training session was held for the tour guides on waste segregation and how to educate tourists to ensure the bins are properly used.



Pictures from the training session at the tourism reception in Liati Wote.

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Funding for this activity

A total of GHs 7000.00 was spent on this activity and the funding was sourced from our partner Jolinaiko Eco Tours which provided the funds as part of their CSR contributions to the project.

Other Activities; the Green Club

To create awareness among school pupils on plastic use, sanitation and the environment, plans have been put in place to establish a Green Club to train school pupils to become ambassadors of sanitation and the environment. On that note, SSFA has submitted letters to the Ghana Education Service to officially inform and seek their approval to form the club.

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