

## ANNUAL REPORT

### SSFA ACTIVITIES, 2020

#### Introduction

Stepping Stones for Africa (SSFA) was registered in 2015 with the Registrar General's Department and with the Department of Social Welfare in 2016 as a non-governmental organization focused on grassroots development in Ghana. The organization works together with rural communities to achieve their development objectives.

#### 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 2020, is still based on the SSFA strategy for 2016-19. The main focus of activities are Battor-Atsiekpoe in the North Tongu District and Liati Wote in the Afadzato South District. The two communities are in the Volta region. For Atsiekpoe, the focus was to finish the plastering works, painting, plumbing, electricals and construct a toilet facility. For Liati Wote, we started implementing the phase two of the plastic waste recycling project.

Due to Covid19, the development of a new strategy plan has been postponed to 2021 due to the immense impact on tourism affecting all our projects. The focus is on maintaining as much as possible and strategize mid-year 2021.

## Projects

### **The Atsiekpoe Green Clinic - Completing the brickworks and finishing of the building.**

The focus for 2020 is to complete all the work on the building. These works include plastering, brickworks, terrazzo works, the final phases of plumbing and electrical works. However, we were unable to meet all the goals. We were able to complete the plastering of the entire facility, completed the brick and terrazzo work. The District Health Director and her team also visited the facility on two occasions for inspection. These visits were also followed by a visit from the Honorable Member of Parliament (MP) for North Tongu, Honourable Ablakwa, to access at first-hand progress made so far on the project.



*Picture of the Atsiekpoe clinic after plastering and brick works.*

## Fundraising

SSFA engaged in three-pronged tactics to raise funds for its activities: Firstly, the organization, through its partners in the Netherlands, involved in funding through their network. It also used its

website and social media (Facebook) to solicit funds from philanthropists and voluntary organizations in conjunction with its affiliate partner, Jolinaiko Eco Tours. Thirdly, SSFA worked closely with and encouraged the Atsiekpoe community to raise their funds towards the project besides doing community labor. This year, the Honorable Member of Parliament for the Noth Tongu constituency, Honorable Ablakwa, donated GHc 20000 to the clinic. The amount of which GHc 18,000 has been paid to the foundation to support our project. However, this year has been tough raising funds for projects because of the impact of COVID 19.

## **Impact of COVID on the Green Clinic**

2020 has generally been tough for raising funds for all our projects because of COVID 19. At the beginning of the year, there were many funding prospects for our projects. However, with the outbreak of COVID 19, everything came to a halt. Our leading partner, Joliniako Eco Tours, was severely impacted by COVID 19 because they are into eco-tourism. Funding from other donors has also stopped because of COVID 19. The situation has severely affected the management of the foundation and our projects. The Project Manager of the foundation was temporary laid off because of funding issues. In the past month, we had some donations to continue work on the clinic.

## **Community Engagement\_ Atsiekpoe**

As the main project site currently, SSFA engages with the Atsiekpoe community to monitor, evaluate, resolve project related conflicts and re-strategize on how to accomplish our goals. In May 2020, we had an engagement with the community to educate them on COVID 19. We also discussed how to move forward with the clinic project, especially in this season of COVID 19.

## **Other projects; Toilet Facility and Potable Water.**

Besides completing the clinic, there are other projects to execute. These projects include getting water to the community and using it at the clinic and constructing a toilet facility to support its operations. These projects came to a halt because of COVID 19. However, we are currently working to secure funding to start.

## **Liati Wote Plastic Recycling Project**

In 2019, we started a plastic waste recycling project at Liati Wote after many community engagement activities. This comprehensive project aims to manage the plastic waste phenomenon in Liati Wote, a significant tourism community. We implemented phase 1 of the projects last year: mounting 20 waste bins in the community and along the trails leading to the community's tourist sites. The waste bins were also inscribed with stickers to ensure correct use. This year, we continued the project with wall paintings to create awareness among community members and tourists on the plastic problem. In January, we received a donation of Ghs 7780.00 from the Netherlands in support of the project. At the moment, we have plans to add four more waste bins to the ones we mounted earlier.

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*Pictures of the waste bins with inscriptions to create awareness.*



*Pictures of the wall paintings to create awareness.*

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## Other Activities - Green Club Activities

In 2019, we started a social group in the basic school in Liati Wote to create awareness among the pupils on plastic waste called the Green Club. The Green Club was officially launched in the last quarter of 2019, and we had two volunteers from the Netherlands who spent two months with the pupils and teachers. During their stay, they organized activities and educated the pupils on plastic waste, the environment, and general sanitation. SSFA donated art supplies, including pencils, glue guns, art papers, and scissors, to support the club activities.



*Pictures of the volunteers meeting the pupils.*



*Club Activities with the Volunteers.*

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*Teachers being trained on the Green Club Concept.*



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