

Atsiekpoe Du Nenyoo Graphic

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Community Development	2
A CHPS Compound	2
The Green Clinic Concept	2
Community's Proactivity	3
What YOU can do	3
Join our Community	3
The Building Plan	4

"When you are inspired, you inspire others. When others are inspired, what is impossible becomes possible".

Woezo!

Woezo! We are proud to share with you the first edition of our two-monthly village newspaper.

An initiative of the people of Atsiekpoe and their partners Jolinaiko Eco Tours, a Ghana-based travel company, and Stepping Stones for Africa, a Ghana-based NGO.

These three partners have been working fruitfully together for many years on community-tourism and community development.

This year, we are working hard to bring development in Atsiekpoe and the Vome electoral area at large to a higher level.

Through this graphic we hope to inform you, inspire you and get you involved in one way or another to make our dream come through, namely 'The Green Clinic Concept'.

A multiple stakeholder and integrated approach to bringing primary health care to the doorsteps of the people of this area.

Atsiekpoe and Tourism

It's almost 10 years ago that Apollo and Cindy Panou, the founders and owners of Jolinaiko Eco Tours visited Atsiekpoe for the first time. They were delighted by the tranquil atmosphere, the view of the river and the friendliness of the people. They motivated the community to develop infrastructure for community-based tourism. Since then, Atsiekpoe has received approximately 1800 tourists and visitors from all over the world.

Locally trained guides are available for people who want to experience the authenticity of the community, the handicrafts and other livelihood activities providing a real sense of African rural village life. The Cashew Village Lodge and camping site at the riverbank is the place where guests are being hosted and cared for with true Ghanaian hospitality.

Over the years, tourism brought dialogue, exposure



and international friendships as well as significant revenue for community development. Read more at Page 2.

The Community Development Initiative



The Atsiekpoe Community Development Initiative is spearheaded by Stepping Stones for Africa Foundation (SSFA) who works in partnership with Jolinaiko Eco Tours on bringing development and community welfare to eco-tourism destinations in Ghana.

Initiatives are community-driven and communities play a major role in decision making during each phase of the project.

SSFA is active since 2006, but decided to rejuvenate the organization in 2014 by attracting new board members, who are living and working in Ghana and therefore more connected to the West-African context, and by adapting a new strategy whereby they operate in a public-private partnership with Jolinaiko Eco Tours.

The mission of this partnership is to provide stepping stones-like guidance,

expertise, inspiration and funding for community-initiated development initiatives in eco-tourism destinations in West Africa.

SSFA has been working with Atsiekpoe for many years and together they realized household latrines, eco-tourism infrastructure and a KVIP for the Vome Methodist Primary School. Based on these positive experiences, Atsiekpoe was selected as their first partner community under their new strategy for community development.

“Even though all the other topics we prioritized are important for us, the absence of a clinic imposes the biggest challenge. The nearest hospital is in Battor which is far and the journey by canoe is extremely worrisome for especially the expecting mothers. We also know that the water we drink and use for bathing is of poor quality, it causes ‘black urine’. Malaria is also very common as well”.

Resident Atsiekpoe

Atsiekpoe’s Ambition: A CHPS-Compound

Poor accessibility to health care was identified and prioritized as the main development challenge by people in Atsiekpoe. Their wish to establish a health center was supported by other stakeholders in the district such as the Ghana Health Services (GHS) and other health care facilities.

Since improving accessibility to primary health care is also the main objective of GHS, the decision was made to combine strengths and establish a CHPS-compound which stands for Community-based Health and Planning Services. This is a basic clinic staffed and managed by government in collaboration with the community

under the condition that construction of the building is the responsibility of the community itself. Apart from the ambition to establish a basic clinic, the community also anticipates health educational programs and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) solutions and these three aspects are part of the health project we have designed together.

What is the ‘Green Clinic Concept’

What makes this project so special? Well, it’s much more than only a CHPS-compound that improves access to primary health care for roughly 3200 people in the Vome electoral area.

The innovative ‘inter-locking’ compressed bricks we would like to use for the building will bring new skills development and a sustainable economic activity to this area where

unemployment is rural-urban migration is high.

Also, with the assistance of environmental experts we want to make this project ‘green’ in response to alarming environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources and global rise of temperatures.

We want to make this project ‘climate-smart’ by using more environmental friendly building

methods, solar energy, compost- or biogas toilets and significant tree planting for shading and landscaping.

Furthermore, SSFA’s broad network will fuel partnerships for health service delivery, health education and WASH solutions once the clinic is established.

In other words, a sustainable and multiple-stakeholder approach.

Don’t miss the chance to be part of it!



What the community has done so far!

It's thanks to the people of Atsiekoe that some development has come to their area. They have created the friendly environment for tourism to develop and their proactivity, financial contributions and community labor made projects with SSFA simply work.

Long before the involvement of Jolinaiko and SSFA, the community raised funds through their annual fundraising festival. In that way, they funded their electricity poles in 2010.

Today, they run a 'Tourism Fund' and a 'Youth Fund' and this money

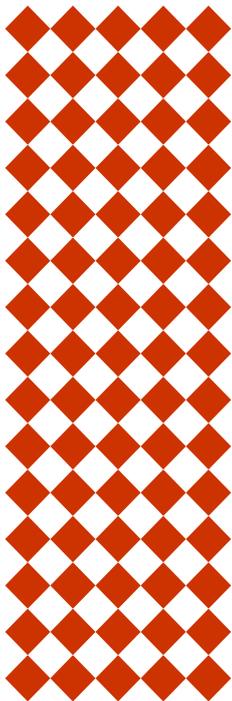
is used for development in the community. So far, these funds were used to purchase an out-board motor for their community canoe and contributed towards the tourism reception and museum and household latrines. The Du Neny Festival celebrated every last Saturday is still an important fundraising event.

The current project is much bigger and the estimated total amount is 200.000 GHC. The community decided to raise 20% and to date they have already been able to raise 11.000 GHC for the CHPS-compound.

In addition, they are providing land and community labor for this project. This month they already collected river sand for block making. They are ready!



“There is no passion to be found playing small in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living” Nelson Mandela



What is the role YOU can play?

Atsiekoe's dream for their community and the constituency at large is ambitious. We need approximately 200.000 GHC to realize this project. This sounds like a lot of money, but if you visualize the impact, it's not that much. 20% has been raised through different channels. But this project started with dream, and all the work done so far by all the partners

involved has been voluntary. SSFA as it is right now, is a voluntary organization where dedicated people invest their time to let the dreams at community level come through. Jolinaiko Eco Tours, a small scale Ghanaian company, has financed the cost made so far. At the moment we are finishing the proposals, a comprehensive document. This will be available early November,

but the side-plan is ready. What we need is YOUR support. In terms of financial support, we cherish both the 5 or 10 GHC donated by somebody from his own pocket, and the larger sums of money obtained from government funds and corporate donations. We need technical assistance, advise, and your network. **We need YOU to be part of our 'Green Clinic Concept Community'.**

Join the Community!



stepping stones for africa



North Tongu Health Directorate

Space for more individuals, organization and government bodies to add their logo next time.

stepping stones for africa

Stepping Stones for Africa Foundation

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Attn. Stichting Stepping Stones for Africa, Den Haag, The Netherlands

IBAN: NL85 RABO 0121 7094 69

BIC: RABONL2U

Bank details Community Tourism Funds

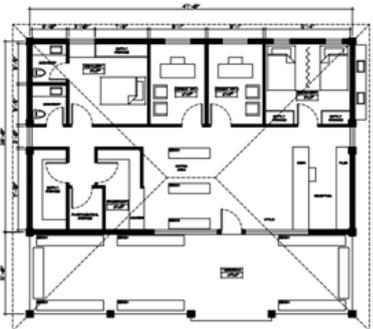
Account number: 5031110000040781

Account name: Jonaliko eco tour

Bank: Amugah Rural Bank, Battor

Bank details SSFA in Ghana: We are in the process of registering SSFA in Ghana and bank details will be available in November.

The Building Plan



Thanks to Rhonda de Jong, an architect from Canada who visited Atsiekpoe in April and May 2015. She made the initial drawing of the clinic that was inspired by the

CHPS-compound being built in Nyatikpo in the North-Tongu District. The drawing was modified based on feedback from Naa Ashley Vanderpuye, a medical doctor and founder IHCC/WAAF. The District Health Director and Planning Officer also favored the design.

The community made some recommendation such as adding a separate entrance to the delivery ward to guarantee privacy for expecting mothers. Since the CHPS-compound is going to be a public facility serving at least nine

surrounding communities, district engineers will be involved to authorize the building plan and inspect the building procedures during the construction period.

We are currently discussing with the Regional Department of Rural Housing to assist us with the molds for interlocking compressed bricks.

The building plan for the Nursing Bungalow is also available but to realize this is the next step, after the clinic funds have been raised.