

## Process Report 7 - Planning the Community Health Project in Atsiekpoe

**Date:** 11 September 2015

**Venue:** Community Meeting Ground Atsiekpoe

**Present:** Representatives Atsiekpoe, Stepping Stones for Africa and Jolinaiko Eco Tours

### Purpose of the meeting

The community of Atsiekpoe and Stepping Stones for Africa met to discuss the following two topics:

1. *Building plan of the CHPS-compound.* In the past couple of months, much progress has been made concerning the building plan that consist of the CHPS-centre (clinic), two staff bungalows and a public toilet facility. A final decision on the building method (bricks versus blocks) is yet to be made.
2. *Possible funding streams.* An indication of the total cost of the project and the amount that need to be raised is available irresectively of the building method that is going to be used. Based on this estimation, funding opportunities need to be explored.



### Summary of the meeting

#### **AD 1 - Bricks versus Blocks**

During the past meetings, three possible construction methods were raised and these methods were further discussed during the meeting.

**Justice System** - Mr. Justice Donne, a construction engineer, visited Atsiekpoe earlier this month and introduced an innovative building method; 'the interlocking bricks system'. These bricks offer a few advantages. It's an environmental friendly and affordable way of building as it requires less cement (for blockmaking, laying and plastering) and other building materials (like irons rods and beams). Bricks regulate temperatures keeping the inside cool and buildings constructed of these bricks are earthquake proof. Furthermore, chosing for these bricks brings new skills development to the community and possible job opportunities in the future. The community was very enthusiastic about this interlocking brick system.

However, the feasibilty of applying this method is hampered by the special molds that are needed. These molds are not widely available in Ghana. Buying the equipement in Thailand (roughly 5000 USD) and shipping this to Ghana is not feasible (yet). Other options are renting a workshop in Prampram where the community members could be trained, and from where bricks are transported to Atsiekpoe. The most feasible option is bringing the power-driven equipment of Justice to Atsiekpoe. The only adjustment that need to be made is changing 2-phase power to 3-phase power which cost 800 GHC according to Togbe Akatti who made these inquiries.

**Department of Rural Housing:** The Department of Rural Housing in Accra also introduced a similar interlocking brick system. Apollo Panou got to know about this by chance. The officer in charge, Mrs. Deborah Kuwornu, explained that molds have been distributed to all the regional capitals to encourage this method for building projects. She recommended us to inquire at the district assembly if they are aware of this programme as the district assembly should be able to apply for these molds at regional level. Among the community and foundation board members, there's a preference for this option as it solves the equipment dillema and it ensures that the project is well embedded and responsibility are shared between the community, NGO and local government.

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**Conventional Block Building:** The third option are the conventional concrete blocks. The community fulfilled their promise by making a list of building materials needed for the foundation and walls. In order to compare the cost of convention blocks versus bricks, these figures need to be combined with the available cost of roofing etc. Using conventional blocks will overcome the equipment dilemma, however it doesn't offer the additional benefits, especially the new skill development for construction workers in the community.

### AD 2 - Possible funding Streams

An amount of 200.000 GHC/50.000 Euro was used as a baseline for our brainstorm session on possible funding streams. This amount should cover the cost of the following building stages: (1) preparing of the land for building (2) construction of the sub- and superstructure including windows, doors, tiles and plumbing (3) construction of an eco-friendly toilet facility. This amount does not include the construction of the nursing bungalows (phase 2). Many donors require that 20/25% of the project cost are raised by the community itself. The main purpose of this part of the meeting was to brainstorm on possible funding streams. The outcome is given below but should be reassessed during next meeting.

<b>FUNDRAISING AT COMMUNITY LEVEL (PROPOSED AMOUNT: 50.000 GHC/12.500 Euro)</b>	<b>GHC</b>	<b>Euro</b>
<b>Funds already available</b>		
Amount in community development fund (check figure for next meeting)	3000	750
Amount for this project at SSFA account	5000	1250
20 bags of cement (promised during festival)	660	165
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>8660</b>	<b>2165</b>
<b>Additional funds to be raised at community level</b>		
Cost of purchase land (made available)	2,000	500
100 GHC community tax/per family	1,000	250
Community labor (labor in budget provided on voluntary basis)	5,000	1,250
Festival contributions from outsiders	2,500	625
Festival (contributions, raffles, entrance fees)	7,000	1,750
Funds applied for at district level (M.P's/Common Funds etc.)	10,000	2,500
Sponsorships (discount on cement, paint roofing etc.)	10,000	2,500
Available amount in Tourist Fund 2015	4,000	1,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>10,625</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>50.160</b>	<b>12,540</b>

<b>FUNDRAISING BY STEPPING STONES FOR AFRICA FOUNDATION (PROPOSED AMOUNT: 150.000 GHC/37.500 Euro)</b>	<b>GHC</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Fundraising professional funding institutions (proposal writing)	70,000	17,500
FFF (family, friends and fools)/Facebook/crowdfunding	40,000	10,000
Local Network Ghana (churches/telecom/cooperate bodies)	33,000	8,250
Through exposure in Cashew Village Lodges/Jolinaiko Eco Tours	7,000	1,750
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>150.000</b>	<b>37,500</b>

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### Other matters:

**New faces:** Wisdom Kpegba, who joined us earlier this month, was also present at today's meeting. Wisdom has completed his BA Geography at the University of Legon two months ago. His passion is rural development and he joined SSFA to gain some practical experience next to his university degree. Weezo Wisdom!

**Video:** A couple of videos were shot for fundraising purposes. Some community members were asked to explain the necessity of the project before the camera. However, during analyzing the materials, we discovered that no sounds were recorded and therefore, new video material needs to be shot during the next meeting.

### Actions to be taken before next meeting at 11 September:

#### **AD 1 - Bricks versus Blocks**

- Check and discuss power-driven equipment Justice. (Apollo and Wisdom)
- Follow up with Rural Housing Department and District Assembly on availability of molds (Wisdom, Apollo, Solomon and Samuel Ameko)
- Complete cost of conventional block building method (Wisdom and Ezekiel)
- Compose a list of community laborers and their skills (Sophia and Toglo)

#### **AD 2 – Possible Funding Streams**

- Amount in Tourist Fund, Community Development Fund and SSFA account should be made available (Community and Cindy)
- Write a draft proposal for fundraising before the next meeting (Cindy)

