

Reference No: 417/ 14

Wulugu Project, Koldani Primary School Northern Ghana. Completion report.

We were delighted to receive £32,600, in July 2017, from Fondation Eagle for this life-transforming project to build a 3-room primary school with store/teachers' room at Koldani. The community told us that the school would 'give great relief to teachers and students and open opportunities for generations to come'.

The school was completed on budget. This was surprising as there were some problems.

We were fully aware that the need was great and also that the communities had tried their best in a district of great deprivation. The PTA built a rush-mat structure themselves but it was totally inadequate. The numbers of children attempting to go to school were falling and teachers did not want to teach there. Numbers are now expected to rise considerably above the current 250 and we may need to search for further funding in the future.



The open matting structure that served as 'the school' for the children of Koldani

Although one of our strengths is our ability to make substantial differences in districts that others do not attempt to reach, this project has challenged us more than most. In particular, we were disappointed that the new building took longer than any of our earlier work but we are pleased that it has opened for the start of 2018.

The Ghana team reported:

'The news of the school being built was greeted with joy and unbelievable jubilation by the community. The Chief expressed his unflinching support to see the project through.

Accommodation and food was provided by the chief and community for the workers. The workers enjoyed themselves on this project more than anywhere we have worked.

The community was very supportive and ready to play any role asked of them. They gave at will a goat every two day for the meals of the workers.

The challenges however were daunting.

First of all getting materials to site was almost impossible as the rains had just stopped and the road had swampy areas where it was impossible for normal cargo trucks to ply at that time hence upon crossing the river, we had to use the services of tractors which were also not available because of their inadequate number in catering for the farmers who badly needed them and the passengers who needed to travel to Tamale hence the iron rods took six days to arrive at a 30 km journey from the river.

Due to the nature of the road and lack of trucks we paid exorbitantly for the carting of materials to the site after serious bargaining and pleading.

During the rains it is easy to get sand to mould the blocks and build but the smooth river sand for plastering requires fine river sand which is normally at the base of the river hence when the water levels are high, it is difficult getting the smooth sand for plastering. This has greatly hampered our progress in finishing on schedule.

The interior and unmotorable nature of the road also made the tipper truck drivers who carted the sand and gravel to charge higher than estimated. One of the drivers just ran away.

The harsh harmattan weather eventually dried up the swamps along the road making it accessible for some trucks to move hence our belated ability to secure the smooth river sand for plastering work to commence and bring the whole drama to an end.

It must however be stated that this is where Wulugu Project will always beat everyone else as we get to where the real need is despite the difficulties and great inconvenience. It at the end put smiles of the faces of children who would have otherwise never had such opportunity in life and from this we get a sense of fulfilment and inner satisfaction to have been a part of such a life experience'.



Koldani School Painting just finished.

Now school will be open throughout the year and this will enable more girls to continue their education at least to the end of primary level education. This will provide access to post 14 schooling leading to examinations. These first exams open the door to Senior High then to employment or higher education and training.

The new school has provided a central hub for the many children in Koldani and the scattered nearby villages. It will be crowded, but the teachers are resourceful and those appointed will ensure that the school works well for all pupils. Ghana Education Service appoints and pays the teachers and head-teacher. They will work in partnership with 'Wulugu Project' and the PTA, District Assembly and Chief. Children are mainly Muslim but the school is open to all religions.



Rear of Koldani School just painted and finished.

Budget;

Wulugu Project Completion Budget KOLDANI PRIMARY SCHOOL - 3 CLASSROOMS, OFFICE & STORE		
	Estimated Price	Actual Costs
ITEM	GB POUND	GB POUND
Sand, Cement, Gravel, Aggregate and Water	16130	17950
Windows, Doors, Wood and Other Materials	7089	6688
Paint	518	489
Painters, Carpenters, Masons, Labourers and Supervision	7473	7050
Transport and Fuel	1590	1500
Grand Total	32800	33677

Note:

Increased costs of Sand/Gravel owing to weather and transport

Other costs less as better than expected exchange rate.