

Fondation Eagle/The Wulugu Project
Completion Report Form Vogu Primary School

Fondation Eagle reference: FF0267

Name of charity: The Wulugu Project (Charity Number 106091)

Introduction: We were very pleased to be able to complete the construction of a seven-classroom primary school with office/store in Vogu, North Ghana. This work had been started in 2012 by the PTA.

Type of project: School build in an area that had grossly inadequate provision of places to learn.

Place of project: Northern Ghana:

Size of grant: £29,326

Period of project: April-August 2022

Date accepted: April .04.2022

Details of the project:

Vogu has never had a real school. They had only a make-shift pavilion and held classes under the trees. In 2012 the PTA decided to take the matter in their own hands and began to build 7 classrooms and a teacher/storeroom. Sadly—and predictably, their funds ran out approximately half way into the work. The rooms were part-built and unusable. Vogu is a rice farming community that is extremely neglected. 40% have had no education. Without a school there was little hope of them ever catching up to enable them to move from poverty. The photo below shows the children in their under-the-trees classroom.



The skeleton of PTA built rooms is in the back-ground.



Construction:

Fortunately, most of the work was carried out in the dry season, although this meant that large volumes of water needed to be carried to the site for block moulding. The construction was finished just as the worst of the rains started allowing, the school to be in use from July 1st. Official handing-over on hold until after summer break

All materials were readily available and were supplied promptly. Our suppliers are always pleased to work with us as they know we are working for the benefit of their own communities. They also know that they will be paid and on time!

The communities were more than willing to provide food and accommodation and help the workers in any way they could.eg by carrying rubble.

We built using the improved, strengthened model of our recent schools in order to delay and minimize the weather and termite damage that is a characteristic of this geographical region. There are steel doors and windows for the classrooms and strong aprons and verandas to protect the walls from erosion and give shade during the heat of the day. We used our own trusted team of builders including block makers, masons, carpenters, roofers, plasterers and painters who lived in the village, as needed. The builders were paid the 'going rate for the job'. The village women fetched water, sand and gravel to support the build and guarded the site at night.

Solomon, our project leader, reported:

'The Chief and his elders welcomed us very well into the community. They held a community engagement meeting where they addressed all the young men to do all they can to ensure the work went on well as required.

Every household was tasked to ensure they had a representative on a constituted committee to see to the challenges and resolve them to allow work to be carried out smoothly.

This system by the chief gave us so much liberty to do our work without any hindrance of supply of materials to site. The elders accommodated the workers and took care of their feeding and welfare.

On finishing the work, the builders were treated to a party where two goats were killed for them to make merry in a bid to say thank you to them.

The young men of the village participated heavily in supporting the labourers in construction process by giving blocks to the masons on demand, mixing the mortar and concrete as well filling of the gravels and water the floors for the flooring.

The entire team were very happy with the support of the chief and community'.

Challenges

The most serious challenge was due to unprecedented price rises during the months we were building. These increases are a result of high inflation and the high price increase in fuel and petroleum related products which severely affect all other products and services on the market.

The unexpected and unpredictable major cost increase, particularly of sand, cement and paint have meant that we have a worrying overspend. The charges of the masons and block cutters and other workers also increased. The impact is serious for us, fortunately there was an improvement in exchange rate that slightly ameliorated the overall over-spend.

Once the builders began their work they found problems with the PTA part-built structure that had to be put right before proceeding. Some walls and pillars had to be re-built and more blocks were needed. We also built an apron around the building to fortify it against erosion, more sand, mortar and cement were needed. Our suppliers have been lenient on us in the sense that once we pay for the items and receipts of payments are issued, we pick up the goods paid for at the price paid at the time of the price on the receipt and not the prevailing price. The team in Ghana were so worried about this but felt helpless.

Photos below show new school nearing completion (June 22).and completed July 22. Heavy rains delayed the final painting etc.





Children attending school using 7 new completed classrooms.





Below lining up before the day's lessons begin, no worries about the weather.



Impact:

Vogu primary has its first ever classrooms. We now have a spacious 7-classroom structure that will serve the community for many years. And the overall cost, although substantially larger than expected, is still relatively small for such a magnificent new school.

The whole district has been uplifted by this work and parents are feeling more certain and hopeful about the future for themselves and their children. They know that proper completion of Primary school means that their children can transfer to Junior High where they will be able to study for the examinations that lead to Senior High. They know that this route is a permanent road out of poverty.

Long -term, many thousands will benefit directly, and many more indirectly. The PTA and Ghana Education Service will make sure that buildings are well maintained.

Our work with many similar communities demonstrates that families respond to a 'real' school by regularly sending all their children, including all the girls, to school.

An additional benefit, thanks to Fondation Eagle, is that the school now has clean water thanks to the village bore hole.

Project Beneficiaries:

Alongside the 233 pupils and 8 teachers who are now enjoying their first 'real' school, the whole community will benefit for the foreseeable future. Educating children is the most effective instrument to tackle poverty.

Expenditure Summary:

At the time that we were purchasing materials there were substantial price increases due to current problems across the world. Transport costs increased considerably—an important factor, as the place of operation is far from the port and difficult to reach,

A major factor was the increase in cement cost from 58 GHS to 75 GHC.

Although exchange rate changed in our favour, there was still an overspend.

VOGU KUSHEBU - SEVEN CLASSROOM UNIT, OFFICE & STORE				
ESTIMATE		ACTUAL		
ITEM	GH CEDI	GB POUND	GH CEDI	GB POUND
SAND	39,000	4,588	65,440	7,237
CEMENT	46,400	5,459	67,200	7,431
IRON RODS	16,200	1,906	15,480	1,712
WAWA BOARD	12,000	1,412	12,000	1,327
NAILS & WIRE	4,382	516	4,382	485
METAL DOORS	7,840	922	7,280	805
METAL WINDOWS	14,056	1,654	13,636	1,508
TRANSPORTATION	7,000	824	4,000	442
FUEL	5,000	588	4,500	498
WATER	5,000	588	5,000	553
ROOFING SHEETS	14,760	1,736	10,920	1,208
WOOD	32,912	3,872	32,912	3,640
PAINT	5840	687	9559	1,057
FELT	480	56	480	53
LABOUR				
PAINTER	5,800	682	6,000	664
CARPENTERS	12,000	1,412	16,400	1,814
MASONS	13,000	1,529	18,800	2,079
LABOURERS	7,600	894	12,500	1,382
TOTAL	249,270	29,326	306,489	33,894

Estimate Exchange Rate 8.5

Actual Average Exchange Rate 9.0426

Overspend £4,568

This is partly due to significant and sudden increases in fuel, transport and consequently all materials, but also because some of the costings of the two projects we carried out simultaneously are difficult to separate. Our faith in our Ghana team has been more than proven by their tremendous ability to make better than expected use of funding.

Details of Exchange Rates

We received from Eagle £64,809 on 13th April for 2 projects.

Transfers were:

£20k 28/4 @ 9.00

£20k 6/5 @ 8.89

£20k 25/5 @ 9.2

£4,890 21/6 @ 9.2

Average Exchange Rate 9.0426

The work at Vogu shows an overspend of £4,568 In reality it has been difficult for the team in Ghana to separate out the spending on this and Zanzugu school and toilets. Zanzugu had small underspend of £655.

Results and Conclusion

Yet another transformational project. Fondation Eagle have already provided the first ever borehole for the people of Vogu. These two interventions have offered an incredible improvement to lives both immediately and for the foreseeable future. The new school is providing stability and status to the community, vastly increasing hope for the future. Education, particularly for girls is the key to overcoming the seemingly inescapable results of poverty. The formal handover to Ghana Education Services (GES) is planned for the start of the new term in September. GES appoint and pay staff, enrol pupils, keep records and provide some equipment. Wulugu Project will continue to visit the finished school to check how they are running, pupil numbers and progress and the state of the building, and encourage local repairs by the PTA.

Signature and Date L. Symonds. 29.8.2022



OFFICE OF PARLIAMENT

HON. DR. HAMZA ADAM
MP KUMBUNGU



13/07/2022

Office Address: Office of Parliament, Parliament House, Accra - Ghana

My Ref:

Your Ref:

13/07/2022

The country Director
Wulugu Project
Ghana

Dear sir,

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

I write on behalf of the chiefs, stakeholders, people of vaggu-Kushibo Community and on my own behalf as the member of parliament of the area to express our sincere gratitude to Wulugu project for the intervention by supporting to complete a six-unit classroom block and an office space, which had been abandoned due to lack of funds for almost a decade. The building was in a very bad state to the extent that some of the walls were getting deteriorated. A further delay in working on the building could have led to a total collapse of it.

The completion of the facility has gone a long way to provide relief for the entire community and school management, which had serious infrastructural deficits, compelling it to accommodate almost half of the students under trees. The facility will also go a long way to enhance quality teaching and learning.

The school management as well as the chiefs and the good people of Vaggu-Kushibo community is very much appreciative of your intervention, and hereby assuring the organization of its total commitment to taking good care of the beautiful edifice.

Thank you,

Yours Truly

Dr. Hamza Adam
Member of Parliament
Kumbungu Constituency

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