

Blue Skies Newsletter | April 2023 | Issue 199 | www.blueskies.com



### GHANA LAUNCH "GET IN, GET FIT!" CAMPAIGN

HEALTH & FITNESS

GHANA

The committee responsible for organising the 25th Anniversary celebrations in Ghana have announced a 6 week Health and Fitness Challenge as part of the anniversary celebrations. Nearly 70 people have registered to partake in the challenge which started on the 15th April and will complete on the 22nd May 2023. The goal is to encourage staff to commit to exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

Winners of the challenge will be announced during the Anniversary Games on the 5th of June 2023. Get fit, earn prizes and feel good!



# MELON SEASON IN EGYPT

EGYPT HARVEST

MELON SEASON



The team in Egypt are preparing for the Melon season, and Mohamed Bahgat recently visited the melon and watermelon farms to assess the quality. The feedback so far is looking good, and we are looking forward a great melon season similar to last year.

# IN SEARCH OF PINEAPPLE IN BENIN

#### BENIN

The Benin Pineapple Safari. 25th -30th April 2023.

Our Chairman Anthony Pile, Procurement Director Guy Murfitt and Business Development & Innovation Manager Lana Mo recently took a trip to Benin to assess pineapple quality. There they were looked after by General Manager Elisee Gbemetonou and the team at Blue Skies Benin. Alongside them on the trip was the West Africa team, Glora Asare, Ernest Abloh and Ruth Adjei.

Lots of potential and positivity from the trip. Below are just a few photos from their visit.







The safari team and the farmers of the co-operative Ana-Aveti.



Smooth Cayenne to the left, sugar loaf to the right.

# BENIN CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WOMEN'S DAY BENIN

These photos are from 8th March celebrating International Women's Day at Blue Skies Benin.

There was a theme debated between women, and a friendly football match played that day between Blue Skies Benin team (BLUE SKIES AMAZONES FC) and a local team at city of Allada, where Blue Skies Benin factory is located.









### DISCOVERING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Tejinder Riyat and Simon Northcott from the UK Commercial team recenly visited the team in the Netherlands to learn more about the market and discover new opportunities. Pictured here with Gerald, Dierdrick, Louise, Paul, and Robin on a evening meal after long days visiting stores in Belgium and Holland.



# **FOUNDATION PROJECTS UPDATE**

GHANA FOUNDATION

At the end of 2022 we announced that 15 projects had been approved for this year, including 8 projects in Ghana. We are pleased to update that many of these projects are underway and there have been some developments. Below are some short updates to learn more about just some of the projects.

Damang JHS School Project: The site clearing and foundation work has been completed with 150m wall and reinforcement pillars raised. Most materials like stones, sand, woods and blocks have been supplied to the site with work going on with speed to have the facility completed within schedule.

Day Care Centre for the Nsawam Prison Service:

Due to significant rises in materials to help complete this project, the Prison Service have worked with the Foundation to partner with a group called Women Rediscovery to support in completing the project. The three-classroom facility, three offices, staff room, washrooms and bathrooms is currently at the lintel level.







## GREAT GREEN GAMES TO LAUNCH ON MAY 22ND

FUNDRAISER

TREE AID

Look out for the Great Green Games which will be launching next month. The Great Green Games follows on from the success of 'The Great Green Walk' aimed at helping to raise awareness of the importance of protecting biodiversity, and to support Tree Aid in their mission to grow millions of trees and protect huge areas of natural habitats across the drylands of Africa.

People across our Blue Skies sites in Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Benin, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Brazil, France, the Netherlands and the UK will embark on a challenge to collectively walk, run, cycle or swim 30,000 km in 8 weeks - the entire distance between all Blue Skies sites!

# LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS



HR

MEANINGFUL WORK CAMPAIGNS

### EGYPT LAUNCH HAPPIER HEALTHIER CAMPAIGN

As part of our Healthier initiative, a campaign was launched for women in the factory to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and periodic examination of breast cancer. We invited Dr Sanaa, from Al Rashad association to present awareness about Breast cancer to the ladies.





In addition, Blue Skies Egypt has worked with central laboratories of the Blood Bank to carry out a blood donation campaign for the benefit of the injured in the country and also to provide it for anyone who needed it from our company.





#### EMPLOYEE WELLBEING

## **WELLBEING SUPPORT IN GHANA**

As part of our employee wellbeing activity, there is a planned monthly health education program that is conducted either by the local health officers or where necessary appropriate external expertise is brought in to support. The topic for April is Malaria: Symptoms, treatment and Prevention. The occasion has also been used to educate the staff on the newly discovered breed of mosquito; the Anopheles stephensi discovered in Dansoman in the greater Accra Region. This new breed produces the more dangerous Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax parasites. The talks have been held in the buses, Departments, Groups, canteen with malaria screening done every Thursday for staff for which free insecticide treated mosquito nets are given out.







### LOCAL COMMUNITY UPDATES IN BENIN



FOOD DONATIONS

Benin: Surplus fruit was distributed to two orphanages, DIEU POUVOIRA' and 'CLAUDIA MIGNECO', in the local community of Allada in addition to being donated to mosques in Allada and Cotonou.

## **GIVING CLOTHES A NEW LIFE IN BRAZIL**

Blue Skies Brazil have donated various clothing items including trousers and shirts from uniform sets that were not suitable for use. The institution will receive these clothes to create crafts or other clothes.









CLOTHING DONATIONS

# WINNERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

ABOVE & BEYOND

BLUEPRINT

During a visit to Ghana in March, the team below gathered to award Prince Gokah with his certificate for his Above & Beyond Award in Blueprint and Sustainability. Prince Gokah was announced as the 2022 winner in Benin for improving the water recycling plant and introducing measures to reduce water and plastic use. Congratulations to Prince!





### HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAWULI!

Best wishes to Mawuli, Site Technical Manager for Ghana who celebrated his 50th birthday on 22nd of April.

## ETHICAL AUDIT

Earlier in April, the team supported a customer ethical audit in Corby. Congratulations to all involved on this successful achievement, with a special thanks to Hella and Paul.



## **TACKLING THE HUNGER CRISIS TOGETHER**



#### THE FELIX PROJECT

FOOD BANK

Each month, we support The Felix Project through donations of surplus fresh fruit. Whilst we continue to work towards minimising our waste, often there is surplus fruit which is donated to projects through The Felix Project. In March, our monthly contributions have been 1,901 Kgs which has contributed to approximately 4,527 meals. Demand for food donations and funding remains very high, and The Felix Project is calling on farmers, food manufacturers and caterers to donate additional surplus food so they can meet the demand. For more details, visit thefelixproject.org.