



BAM STEFANUTTI STOCKS JOINT VENTURE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Making a change in Sierra Leone

12/09/2014

The World Servants Organization was recently in Sierra Leone to construct a 3 classroom school to relieve some of the educational challenges facing the country.

by Mfundo Vezi

The Bam International and Stefanutti Stocks joint venture was proud to donate a sum of 8000 euros to the World Servants Organization to help in the construction of a 3 classroom school in the village of Bamoi Luma – Magbema Chiefdom, Sierra Leone. The Organization is an international development organization that assists in developing countries in building basic services such as schools and clinics. This is done by sending a team of voluntary Netherlands youth for a short term period of 3 weeks.

The team arrived on the 13th July 2014, in the middle of the wet rainy season in Sierra Leone. They were accommodated in the local school, where they settled in and accustomed themselves to the village way of life.

On the 2nd week of their stay the team was visited by representatives from the joint venture to handover the donations and visit the construction site. The group was welcomed with lunch, followed by a handover ceremony. The ceremony commenced with local upbeat music performed by local drummers outside the construction site. The project manager was

honoured by being outfitted in a flamboyant local attire. The handing over of the donations was followed by an inspirational motivational speech from Eric Jan Bergsma, highlighting the importance of education and infrastructure in uplifting a nation.



Figure 1: (left) Project Manager Eric Jan Bergsma and Paul (right) being dressed in local attire as part of a donation ceremony.

On the 12th July the group departed from the Rokuprr Wharf on a boat trip down the Little Scarcies River. The servants were able to capture the breathtaking views of the mangrove forests and the cultivated rice lands which are the flagship landmarks of the

country. The trip stopped at Mambolo Wharf, where a home cooked lunch and sodas were enjoyed in the ambience of a goods market and the mangrove wetlands.



Figure 2: Boat ride down the Little Scarcies River.

The Sunday morning began with an early morning church service, which involved joyful dancing and singing of worship songs. The service was a good platform to meet and greet the Christian community of the Kambia region.

Hereafter, the group was challenged to a Sunday afternoon match against the locals from the village. The game took place on the local soccer pitch, where the two teams battled it out in end to end action filled

game. The match was finally won 3-2 by the World Servants, with an epic comeback to clinch the game in the dying moments.



Figure 3 : Soccer match against the local community.

At the start of each week the team carried out their daily construction work and outreach events. The team woke up each morning and travelled between the village housing sites to the project site. The construction work went smoothly in all aspects (formwork, mixing concrete, fixing steel and laying blocks) owing to the help from the community members, and the enthusiasm of the team.



Figure 4: World servants and community members helping to build the school.

Outreach events such as 'Kinder Werk' and Life Skills were carried out on a daily basis. This constituted of a group going to local schools to teach the kids about the Dutch culture, life skills, and the bible.

At the end of the short term stay (3 weeks) the group had achieved their goals, by completing the structural aspects of the school, and building strong relationships with the community through the outreach. The community was uplifted by this great service. The visit benefited the group to understand the culture and seeing the appreciation from the community inspired the group to do more volunteering.

