

Poultry Project

Located in Makoba Village is the SSAAP/GCF-Port Loko Poultry Project. The Poultry Project began with 50 birds in 2014. Now, the number of chickens exceeds 300, and the community has made a shelter to house the birds as well. It is a success story, specifically because the project was functioning throughout the Ebola crisis of 2014/2015.



The project helps the local community of Makoba to eat, as a source of income when birds are sold, and as a way to bring up the community-at-large. There are currently 42 birds inside the shelter, 252 eggs nested, 70 mother hens sitting on their eggs, and 10 birds roaming about that are in the process of being caught and collected to put them back inside the house.



Thanks to Taylor Sorie, GCF-Port Loko for his hard work, as well as the Vet Officer in Port Loko, Mr. Francis Kabba. SSAAP feels honored to have such hard-working people accessible to work together with.



My enthusiasm for SSAAP strengthens due to projects such as these success stories. Taylor and I have a motto: “There is nothing small in Africa.” What we mean by this is that there is nothing too small to use as a resource in Africa. Five dollars can start a chicken project (we have done this in Zambia). People are so appreciative with so little, and are perhaps some of the most resourceful people on the planet. They can do wonders with pocket change, with an

hour of sunlight, with a full stomach. My respect for them is infinite. The poultry project is in need of a new roof (the palm leaf roof is rotting from the last rainy season), chicken wire, cement floor, nails, and wire mesh. As I have been working on sustainability with these communities, and what it means not to depend on someone else for something – that independence is Love – and that they deserve better than to rely on the West to fund their issues, I suggested to them that SSAAP could fund the cement floor and the chicken wire mesh if the community could fund the nails, the local materials (bricks, stones, sand, sticks) and over time, sell some of the chickens to pay for their own roof. With many of these communities, it is a matter of teaching/training them to understand that within their own resources, they have more resources – asking donors to fund them is not a sustainable solution to their problems.

Additionally, Mr. Abbas and Mr. Mohamed of Grace Children’s Foundation (GCF)-Port Loko are also stakeholders in the project, as is Mr. Kabba, Vet Officer. They are townspeople using the project as a way to farm, and are in turn supplying the project with materials from town to help rebuild the poultry structure. The community is donating a section of communal land to the project.

The poultry project in Makoba, in short, is:

- Helping a local vet officer practice his skills
- Providing the vet officer with poultry he can either eat or sell
- Assisting three men from town with poultry they can either eat or sell
- Teaching the community of Makoba sustainability. They are providing internal feed for the birds, and are building a local structure (three men from town will provide nails, SSAAP is providing chicken wire and cement for a floor, and in time the grass roof will be changed to iron sheets, when they sell enough birds to buy the iron sheets)
- Makoba community is providing land and labor for the project



Giving Mr. French Kamara (he speaks French fluently so was given this name) money for the poultry shelter cement and chicken wire. The remaining aspects of the budget (roofing, bricks, fencing) the community will contribute, and will sell chickens to afford the iron roof and the nails for construction of the shelter.

In short, a community of 353 inhabitants, four men from town (Taylor, Abbas, Mohamed, and Francis) are benefitting from this project directly. Indirect beneficiaries include all of their family members, extended families and dependents. SSAAP has funded approximately \$400 for this project. In short, as Taylor says, “There is nothing small in Africa.” Let the Makoba Poultry Project stand testament to that.

Thank you to the Universalist Unitarian Church of Miamisburg, Ohio’s Sunday School group for helping to fund this ongoing endeavor.