

Blue Sands Foundation – Gambia drilling boreholes project

Blue Sands Foundation is a non-profit organisation that is committed in driving out poverty across the world. The Blue Sands Foundation is registered in the UK but we are trying to register it in the Gambia as well. The aims and objectives of the foundation are to help vulnerable communities and in doing so, the foundation wants to take on these directions which are:

- Finance drilling boreholes for vulnerable communities short of clean drinking water.
- Finance a 3-year mosquito surveillance program to provide a baseline for mosquito control programmes to work from.
- Provide advice and support to vulnerable communities to help them cultivate their land and produce food.
- To focus on supporting women to play a leading role in these activities.

The foundation intervened in the Gambia to help vulnerable communities to have access to clean and hygienic drinking water by drilling boreholes.

The first community to benefit from this project is Kitty Fula Kunda. Kitty Fula Kunda is a village in the New Bojang Kunda community in the Brikama Administrative Area. The village is about 150 compounds and 2100 residences. The residences in this village were finding it difficult to access clean drinking water as they travel some distance with wheelbarrows to fetch water from nearby communities and some will draw water from an uncovered well.

Mostly the women are the ones that go through this struggle, and they also work in the gardens to grow crops which they sell to make ends meet. They used open wells for other domestic uses like laundering and cleaning utensils and also to water their gardens.



Kitty Fula Kunda entrance.



Broken lift pump.



Open well in the women garden.



Area women.

After consultation with the village committee through their ward councillor Mr Ismaila Jallow, a zoom meeting was held between the foundation executives and the village committee to discuss an MOU.

Among these include:

- The Blue Sands Foundation will bear all the cost to drill a borehole with 4 solar panels, a 4000 litre water tank, 2 tap heads, 400 watts water pump.
- The position of the borehole and to have a written agreement for the location.
- To select a committee to be responsible for operating the tap.
- The fair distribution and usage of the water by all.
- The sustainability of the project.



Cherno Ismaila Jallow - Ward councillor.



Water tanks.



Solar panels.



Completed tap.



Al Zubaidi Abeer Family representative.



First water cleaning.

Drilling company

Ndimbal Charity Borehole Drilling was contacted to do a survey of the location and give a quotation. After all the consultations which started in December 2023, the drilling started on January 7th 2024 and was completed on the 18th January when people started using the water. Besides the borehole, an ablution trough was also built by the foundation for the mosque.

The inauguration was held on the 4th February 2024 attended by the representative of the family that supported the borehole, village elders, women and youths, family members and the representatives of the area councillors.

Speeches

Demba Bayo Imam



I thank Allah for making the event possible and thank you the donors for this good gesture in providing water for this community.

Aliou Sarjo - Council of elders

Greetings to all of you here present. Today both the men and women of this community are very happy and grateful to Blue Sands Foundation for making our dreams come true. This mosque you see here at the back is not cement but built with mud by the community members themselves. We are seeking more help from the foundation to help us fence the mosque and also for a mortuary. A mortuary is our big concern as we transport our deceased to a far place to keep, so help from any donor would be highly appreciated.

Buba Ceesay - Council of elders



The community is very happy to receive this gesture. We would like to thank the Blue Sands Foundation for this magnificent favour. We are appealing to extend

the tap to other parts of the village as the pressure is very good and can serve the whole village.

Cherno Ismaila Jallow - Ward Councillor/Vice Chairman

I made a promise here during the campaign when you cried of water shortage that I will look for donors to help you with a borehole and fortunately today we are gathered to inaugurate one. A friend of mine by the name Ebrima who is currently working in Saudi Arabia contacted me to say that their foundation wants to help vulnerable communities with clean hygienic drinking water by drilling boreholes. I was very happy and nominated Kitty Fula Kunda because you are the most vulnerable when it comes to access to clean drinking water. I talked to the village head and the VDC and linked them with Ebrima and his partners to discuss the plans. Eventually the two parties agreed on an MOU which was signed and the foundation paid all the cost to start the drilling.

I have facilitated the drilling and seen many boreholes being dug in my ward but this one is the best as it has a very high pressure that can be able to supply the whole village. I am super happy about this gesture from Blue Sands Foundation and sincerely thank them and wish they can help more communities to access to clean drinking water.

Ebrima Jawara - CEO Blue Sands Foundation Gambia



On behalf of the board of the Blue Sands foundation - UK, I would like to welcome you to this inauguration ceremony of the first borehole to be dug in Gambia by the

foundation. It is our pleasure to see what clean and hygienic water can do to the quality of life of this community.

Blue Sands foundation is committed to open six boreholes in Gambia in 2024 with more in 2025. Our objective is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable communities and support community initiatives in agriculture and education. We would like to help communities which want to help themselves.

While the foundation has Russell IPM as a corporate sponsor, it aims to encourage families to sponsor more boreholes to be dug in memory of their loved ones (Sadaka jaria). The success of this and other communities will be vital to encourage more families.

Today we are pleased to have the representative of the family which supported this project. We hope she will take with her a message of hope and pride to see the name of her grandfather will be remembered by the community in their prayer.

I hope this community will be committed to make a good use of this borehole for its sustainability. I have really seen that in them during my first visit here. They have showed commitment to take good care of it and judiciously and fairly utilise the water for all to benefit.

The foundation did not only support the borehole but also helped the nearby mosque with an ablution trough and kettles to ease their worshipping.

This borehole you see here is not only supporting the mosque and the households in the village but helping the women in the nearby garden to water their crops. Before, they used to draw water from an uncovered well to water their crops but after the completion of this borehole they have extended a tap head inside the garden which they are utilising to water their crops at ease. My director, Dr Shakir Al Zaidi is very impressed about that move and he is thinking of expanding the project to support the women in their gardens.

I would like to sincerely thank the man behind all this, Dr Shakir Al Zaidi and his family for providing this noble gesture to the people of this community. This would go a long way in changing the lives of this community and others.



Ablution trough.



Presenting ablution kettles to mosque committee.

Interview

Fatou Sanneh – Women’s leader



We are very happy to receive this project and we sincerely thank the donors and the councillor for this gesture. We no longer struggle for water; we have it to our doorstep, and we now use the same water to water our gardens. I called on my fellow women to take good care and make best use of this project so that it can be sustainable. We are still appealing to the donors for any help that they can help us with.

**Musa Jawara -
Board member**



I am very happy to stand before you here to inaugurate this borehole that is dedicated to the father of the sponsors. The councillor promised to help his people a borehole but wasn't certain which hands it would come from. Luckily the Blue Sands Foundation came to the rescue of the councillor Cherno Jallow. I urge my colleagues to work hand in glove to make sure the trust the director has in us is maintained.

**AL Zubaidi Abeer -
Donor representative**



On behalf of the family of Mohmood Alzaidi, it is our pleasure to support this project in memory of grandfather who devoted his life for his family. I hope you will remember him in your (Dua'a). InshaAllah, this is going to be the first of many projects to benefit vulnerable communities in Gambia. Thank you for inviting me to be with you today.

Ebrima Jawara

CEO Blue Sands Foundation Gambia



Blue Sands Foundation Ltd is UK based non- profit foundation with interest in supporting communities against the impact of climate change.

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