

TCCAF Hands Over Community Projects in Swaziland

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Bill Egbe, Chairman of The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF), recently handed over water, health, education and entrepreneurship projects valued at \$2.2 million to His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Thousands of community members and school children braved the scorching sun to witness the handover. Attendees were entertained by community dance troupes, who sang praises to both the King and Coca-Cola, the country's largest taxpayer. Distinguished guests included members of the royal family, the Honorable Prime Minister Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and leaders from the Coca-Cola system.



A community garden, part of the Ildwabangeni project site, is making use of a borehole powered by solar-powered pump technology.

King Mswati, a TCCAF patron, thanked Coca-Cola for contributing to the national development of Swaziland, where 70 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. "I am grateful that Coca-Cola found it in their hearts to spend on projects that support some of the things we are struggling with," he said.

Water projects

Three in every four residents of Swaziland live in a rural area, and only 40 percent of rural residents have access to safe water and sanitation. Swaziland has also experienced declining crop yields during the past decade due to erratic climate conditions.

To help address this challenge, TCCAF worked closely with Swaziland's Ministry of Natural Resources to provide safe drinking water to health clinics, communities, schools and gardening projects by installing or rehabilitating 50 boreholes with solar-powered pumping systems.

Rainwater harvesting facilities were installed to provide a backup water source at health clinics.

The \$3 million, three-year project, which is part of TCCAF's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN), also focuses on training communities, particularly women, to monitor these facilities and to serve as sanitation and water management resource consultants.



Egbe addresses the crowd at the handover event.

To date, eight solar pumps have been installed, benefitting more than 13,000 people and producing nearly 10 million liters of safe water annually.

Health projects

Six 40-foot containers of bio medical equipment valued at more than \$1 million were shipped to four government hospitals in Swaziland in 2009, along with 80 transformers and 30 biomedical maintenance kits. Swaziland's Honorable Minister of Health, Dr. Benedict Xaba, said, "It is the first time ever for us to have some of the equipment received from Coca-Cola, and the equipment is of very high quality. TCCAF's partners at MedShare International will maintain an ongoing relationship with the hospitals. Swaziland has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world, estimated at 39 percent of the adult population.



At the handover event, His majesty King Mswati III was very complimentary of the Company's efforts and contributions to the development agenda of the Swazi government.



The Minister for Natural Resources guides His Majesty and Bill Egbe, Chairman of The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, on their tour of the water site that will serve a community clinic and school.

Education projects

TCCAF donated 90 computers and nine printers to disadvantaged schools that were selected in consultation with the Ministry of Education.

Entrepreneurship projects

TCCAF supported 10 teams of 190 students to implement 29 projects under the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) entrepreneurship program in 2008 and 2009.

"We are particularly proud of the successes we have had with our community partnerships in Swaziland," said Bill, who toured all four project sites with His Majesty. "We are pleased that Coca-Cola's \$2.2 million investment in access to safe water, health and education in Swaziland in 2009 will alleviate the suffering of more than 100,000 people."