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By Fred Searle

Friday 5th July 2019, 10:27 GMT

Blue Skies marks '10 years transforming lives'



The Blue Skies Foundation has been responsible for 42 educational projects and counting

Fresh-cut fruit supplier's foundation has now implemented over 100 projects in Africa, spanning education, sanitation, health and wellbeing

Fresh-cut tropical fruit supplier Blue Skies is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its charitable foundation, releasing a report detailing some of the achievements of its projects in Africa.

A collaboration between Blue Skies, Waitrose & Partners and Dutch retailer Albert Heijn, the Blue Skies Foundation was founded in 2009. Since then it has implemented over 100 projects, which it says have benefited over 100,000 people in Ghana, Egypt, South Africa and Senegal.

These include over 42 educational projects, such as the construction of classroom blocks for schools; 39 water and sanitation projects, such as the provision of toilets and boreholes;

and 10 health and wellbeing projects, such as the building of clinics and sports centres.

The supplier reported that the projects have had many positive impacts. For instance, toilet projects have helped to significantly reduce incidents of water-borne diseases, such as cholera, and classroom blocks have helped to increase attendance levels and academic performance at schools.

To celebrate the anniversary, the Foundation has launched a **10-year impact report** and a **short film**, both of which are entitled: '10 Years Transforming Lives'.

Blue Skies chairman and founder, Anthony Pile, said: "It's phenomenal what we have achieved

in ten years, however we see this as part of our responsibility as members of the local community.

"Our unique cooperation with Waitrose & Partners and Albert Heijn helps us to focus on making sure the projects we fund are worthwhile, that they are carefully costed, and will serve our communities for a long time."

The Foundation, which seeks to support the communities that participate in the production of Blue Skies' fresh-cut fruit products, recently inaugurated a new project in Ghana: a three-classroom block for Nsumia Junior High School, located near the Blue Skies factory, north of the capital city Accra.