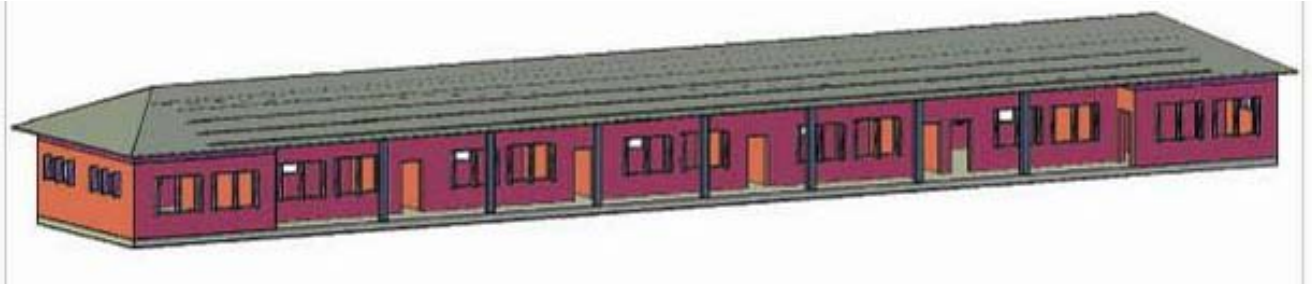


PREPARATIONS FOR THE ROBONKA SCHOOL



The land for the school building has been cleared and the Sierra Leonean engineers have approved the drawings.



Our block-making press is new to Sierra Leoneans but they have mastered the job. To make blocks, a mixture of soil and cement is placed into the block-press machine.



The long lever is pulled downward to compress the mixture into a strong block.



The press makes inexpensive blocks that are sturdier and more water resistant than the hand-made soil blocks usually used in Sierra Leone.



Over 15,000 blocks have been made for the school. The blocks set up best if kept somewhat moist and shaded, first by a tarp, and then by palm fronds.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROBONKA SCHOOL

20 April 2010

The rains are approaching once again. The villagers and construction workers are determined to get the roof over the walls before the rains begin.



The foundation.



Beginning of the walls made out of the pressed and dried soil cement blocks.





These openings will become windows.



This looks like another wall to us, but Stephen and the others who have worked every day are very proud of this first completed wall!



Desks and more desks waiting to be sanded, painted, and studied upon!