



Projekthilfe Gambia e. V. – Project Aid The Gambia

Projekthilfe Gambia e.V. is a non-profit association based in Hattingen, Germany, and a regional group in Lower Saxony.

Our association was founded in 1985 by committed nurses and doctors and has 45 members and 320 sponsors and godparents.

Our main projects are the Jahaly Health Centre and a kindergarten in the villages of Jahaly and Madina in The Gambia, West Africa.

Your donations arrive!

For years, our administrative costs have amounted to between one and two percent. Therefore, more than 98 cents of every euro donated goes to our project work.

What we do

Creating prospects for life and combating the causes of flight. The Gambia is the smallest country in Africa and one of the twenty poorest countries in the world.

Our projects are located in rural areas of the Gambia, where the need is greater than in the catchment area of the capital. We are working to stop the rural exodus: more and more people are moving from the countryside to the cities.

Our projects in the areas of health, education and environmental protection help to combat the causes of flight and prevent people from making the dangerous journey to Europe as refugees.

The project work in The Gambia is carried out by our partner organisation Project Aid The Gambia, a non-governmental organisation (International NGO A57). In The Gambia, 61 local staff work - including nurses, teachers, educators, gardeners and cleaning staff - work under the direction of a Gambian management.



Health - the Jahaly Health Centre

Since 1991, we have been running the Jahaly Health Centre in the village of Jahaly. The village is located south of the river Gambia - 270 kilometres away from the capital Banjul. The approximately 2,000 inhabitants of Jahaly are mainly farmers who cultivate their fields and maintain small herds of cattle.

The Jahaly Health Centre has treated more than one million patients since its foundation. Since 2015, between 20,000 and more than 40,000 patients have been treated each year. Many people come to the Jahaly Health Centre because medicines are not available at all or not sufficiently available in the state health centres. The patients have to buy the drugs in - mostly - private pharmacies at highly inflated prices. In the Jahaly Health Centre, on the other hand, there are always enough medicines available.

There are departments for obstetrics, infections, internal diseases and children - as well as a small laboratory. There are 27 beds for seriously ill patients. The project's own ambulance takes surgical patients to a government hospital forty kilometres away.

The construction and maintenance of the paediatric and maternity ward in the Georg Gottlob House was made possible by the Georg Gottlob Foundation. Georg, son of the foundation's founder Hildegard Gottlob, died of multiple sclerosis (MS) as a young man.

We renovate the Jahaly Health Centre regularly. Therefore, 30 years after its opening, the clinic still looks as clean as on the first day. In 2009, the clinic was awarded "model clinic" status by the Gambian government.

A 20-kW solar power system with modern storage batteries provides round-the-clock electricity for lights, electrical equipment and a water pump.



Education - the Jahaly/Madina Kindergarten

Education is the foundation for a better future - the only way out of poverty and misery. We want to help children in Jahaly and Madina to lead a life with good prospects.

Right next to the Jahaly Health Centre, we run a pre-school kindergarten for up to 480 children between the ages of four and six. In September 2004, Markus Lanz, a famous German TV host, opened the kindergarten, which had been built for 240 children, in a ceremonial act. Construction and operation for the first three years were funded by the RTL German TV fundraising program "Spendenmarathon".

Since then, the need for more places has steadily increased. The expansion to up to 480 children was made possible by the introduction of afternoon classes. Attendance at the kindergarten is free of charge - for school meals, parents pay a small monthly fee of just under 50 euro cents. Each child receives a school uniform and a daily lunch.

In three grades, each consisting of up to four classes, the children learn English, reading, writing and arithmetic, among other things, and are optimally prepared for primary school.

There are six classrooms, a school garden, a large playground with playground equipment and a stage for performances; supplemented by a kitchen, a store, three offices, ten toilets and ten hand-washing sinks. Great importance is attached to hygiene education - e.g. washing hands before and after meals.

The teaching and educating staff of the kindergarten who do not live in Jahaly - as well as the staff of the health centre next door - are provided with a flat on the project premises.



Garden projects - Tractor - Moringa plantation

Real help for self-help are the four gardening projects we have been supporting in the villages of Jahaly and Madina since 2002. 1000 women in a kind of cooperative cultivate an area of more than ten hectares. We have built sixty wells, provided seeds and fertiliser.

The very committed women provide their families with fresh vegetables and sell them at the local markets. The income the women earn through this means a bit of financial independence for them.

To cultivate their fields before the rainy season, the farmers can rent a tractor from us. They pay for diesel and a share of the driver's labour costs. We take care of the maintenance and repair of the tractor.

Since 2012, we have been managing a 1.5 hectare plantation with ten thousand moringa trees in Jahaly. After two bush fires in 2018 and 2020, which caused great damage, the plantation has been reforested to 2,200 trees. Moringa Oleifera is the most nutritious plant in the world. We sell the products of the plantation - Moringa oil and Moringa soap - in Germany as "The Gambia Moringa". One hundred percent of the proceeds go back into the projects. The idea is that one day our projects in Jahaly will be able to finance themselves through the proceeds from the moringa plantation.

The cultivation of the plantation also creates jobs in Jahaly. Five gardeners water the trees and weed them.



Environmental protection

Since 2010, we have built 150 environmentally friendly cookers to gradually replace traditional open fireplaces. The cookers save scarce and expensive firewood and reduce eye and respiratory diseases among women and serious burn injuries among children. Since the construction worked poorly, we have since stopped pursuing the idea. We also make mistakes.

Help for sick children

Together with the aid organisation Friedensdorf (Peace Village) International, we organise urgent and often life-saving overseas treatment in Germany for seriously ill and injured Gambian children. The children come to Germany without their parents and are treated free of charge by clinics in Germany. Until their full recovery and return to The Gambia, the children live in the Peace Village in Oberhausen. From 2012 to 2020, more than 70 children from The Gambia have been treated in Germany.

Aid containers for The Gambia

Several times a year we send containers with aid supplies for clinics, schools and hospitals to The Gambia to improve education and healthcare. In 2020, we had 50,000 double-layer cotton mouth-nose masks produced and distributed in The Gambia. We gave 23,000 free of charge to over 50 government clinics and hospitals. In cooperation with the German Embassy, we sent 36 used respirators with accessories to The Gambia.



Essen University Hospital helps. Markus Lanz helps.

You can help too!

"Since 2019, we have been working together with Projekthilfe Gambia e.V., which is supported by great personal commitment but works equally professionally and efficiently. At the beginning of our partnership, we provided used clinic and intensive care beds as well as medical equipment. This enables us to provide concrete, on-site help to many patients in The Gambia and improve the quality of healthcare," says Thorsten Kaatze, Commercial Director and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board of University Medicine Essen. With its approximately 10,000 employees, Essen University Medicine is the leading healthcare provider for one of Germany's major metropolitan regions. In this role, the company not only assumes responsibility for its patients and employees. Essen University Medicine is also involved in projects and initiatives that are in line with its mission - to help people.

You too can help us in the fight against diseases and the causes of flight - and for better education in The Gambia.

Support Projekthilfe Gambia e.V. / Project Aid The Gambia with a regular sponsorship.

"I am also a sponsor of Project Aid The Gambia. I had the opportunity to see for myself on site in Jahaly how important these projects are for the people. We must all be committed to ensuring that every child receives an education, does not suffer from hunger, has access to clean drinking water and receives medical care whenever it is needed."

Markus Lanz

Please visit our website for more
details about our work:



www.buschlinik.de

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