



Press Release Project Aid The Gambia, International NGO A57
--for immediate release--

Project Aid The Gambia donates 15,000 face masks to EFSTH and health facilities in NBR

Buniadu, July 15th, 2020 **Project Aid The Gambia, International NGO A57, that operates Jahaly Health Centre, CRR, and Health Centre Buniadu, NBR, provides 15,000 face masks free of charge to 2 Hospitals, 12 Health Centers and 13 Community Clinics in North Bank Region and to the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital , in a move to stop the spread of the COVID-19 disease.**

Today, at its Health Center Buniadu, NBR, Project Aid The Gambia, represented by Project Coordinator Ebrima Jobarteh, symbolically handed over to the Regional Health Directorate in NBR West, the first of 11,000 face masks, which are due to be provided by the organization to the 27 health facilities in the days to follow. Hospitals receive 1,000 resp. 750 masks each, Major Health Centers receive 500 face masks each, minor facilities receive 250 face masks each. In addition, an amount of 2,000+ leaflets containing information how to correctly use and wash the face masks will also be provided to each of the health facilities. See example attached.

The health facilities in NBR named below will receive masks:

NBR West

Essau District Hospital	Fass Njaka Choi Community Clinic	Tubo Kolong Comm. Clinic
Kuntair Health Centre	Ndunku Kebbeh Comm. Clinic	Bakindik Comm. Clinic
Kerr Chernon H/C	Giniki Comm. Clinic	Bakang Comm. Clinic
Nena Kunku H/C	Macca Balla Manneh Comm. Clinic	
Albreda H/C	Juruku Comm. Clinic	

NBR East

Farafenni Hospital	Njaba Kunda H/C	Saaba Community Clinic
Farafenni RCH	Salikene H/C	Daru Comm. Clinic
Sara Kunda H/C	Kerewan H/C	Nawleru Comm. Clinic
Ngain Sanjal H/C	Njawara H/C	Noo Kunda Comm. Clinic
Illiasa H/C		Bambali Comm. Clinic

The face masks are made of double-layer cotton, being washable and re-usable. The face masks are not meant for sale, Project Coordinator Jobarteh said, but for the use by staff and patients of the health facilities. The Project Coordinator, who is a trained nurse himself, reported, that the face masks will be collected from the patients upon leaving, and afterwards being washed in hot water with OMO, dried the other day and re-issued to patients. A handout with a protocol how to correctly wash and re-use the masks, has also been provided to the staff of the health facilities. The Project Coordinator stressed the very importance of patients wearing a face mask during a visit to a health facility and demonstrated, how to correctly put on/off a face mask.

Mr. Ousman Sarjo, Regional Principal Nursing Officer, representing the Regional Health Director of NBR West, appreciated the donation of the face masks to the health facilities, as they urgently need protective equipment like this. He also welcomed the idea of how to use and wash the masks before re-using them. All health facilities had been ordered to follow the protocol of handling the masks provided by Project Aid The Gambia.

Project Aid's Project Coordinator Ebrima Jobarteh said, that the protocol of using, cleaning and re-using the face masks by staff and patients - following the WHO guidelines - have been implemented in both health centers run by the organization (Jahaly Health Centre, CRR, and Health Center Buniadu,



NBR) since the beginning of April. In May Project Aid The Gambia had provided 8,000 masks to 23 Health Centers and Community Clinics in the CRR region, he added.

The face masks have been produced in The Gambia during the last months. The production has been funded by the German partner organization of Project Aid The Gambia, which had successfully run a fundraiser in Germany. Up to date Project Aid The Gambia has produced an amount of more than 31,000 face masks, some of which were sold to different NGOs and companies at cost price. The production of the face masks is still ongoing. More masks will be delivered to more health facilities, as soon as those facilities will have been identified to receive masks by the health authorities.

The NGO also informed the public on another development: at the end of June, Project Aid The Gambia, Germany, shipped an 20ft aid container to The Gambia, containing 36 ventilators and 18 hospital beds, **worth more than 11m GMD** (new value). The donated equipment will be handed over to the Ministry of Health upon arrival, which is scheduled for late July/mid August.

The 36 ventilators are donations from two medical supplier companies in Germany. Additional medical accessories for the ventilators were also loaded, provided by Project Aid The Gambia, Germany. The 18 hospital beds are a donation from the German University Hospital Essen, that in 2019 and 2020 had already supported the health services of The Gambia through a donation of 39 hospital beds and other medical equipment.

All equipment is second hand, but in good and functional condition. The ventilators are used to prepare the health system in The Gambia for the expected increase in seriously ill COVID-19 patients. "Our delivery of ventilators will significantly improve the equipment of the Gambian health system," said Ebrima Jobarteh. "The number of corona infections in Gambia is increasing." According to health experts from the WHO a possibly uncontrollable outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa in the summer is expected", the Project Coordinator added.

Two of the ventilators are to be delivered to the Medicare Clinic, a well equipped private clinic in Brufut. In return, the clinic has agreed to train staff of the governmental clinics in the operation of the devices, the NGO reported.

On Friday, July 17th, the 4,000 masks for EFSTH will be handed over to Kebba Sanneh, PRO of EFSTH in Banjul. There will be a short ceremony with photo opportunity for the media at 11am.

For additional information please email to projectaid@work.gm

Ebrima Jobarteh

Project Coordinator, Project Aid The Gambia

Background information on Project Aid The Gambia - International NGO A57

Since 1986 Project Aid The Gambia - International NGO A57 has been running several projects in The Gambia. The focus of the activities lies on the sister villages Jahaly and Madina located in CRR, South Bank in a 270 kilometer´s distance from the Kombo region. A small Gambian management team is organizing the projects on the ground. The German sister NGO, also called Project Aid The Gambia, is funding the Gambian Project Aid. The organization in Germany has got about 50 members and about 350 friends and supporters, who are donating for the projects and doing fundraising events. The administration costs of the German organization are extremely low, i.e. 0.98 % of the incoming donations in 2019. That means: from every single Euro that is being donated, about 99 Euro cents directly go to the people of Jahaly and Madina. The projects are: Jahaly Health Centre in Jahaly (since 1991), Jahaly/Madina Kindergarten with nursery school (since 2004), four women´s gardening projects (since 2003), the construction of eco-friendly smoke-free ovens (since 2010), the plantation of Moringa trees (since 2012), the construction of the model clinic Njaba Kunda Health Centre in the village Njaba Kunda (2011/12) located at the North Bank, the support and surgery of Gambian kids (since 2012), who can't be treated in The Gambia - a cooperation with the German NGO Friedensdorf (Peace Village) International. In February 2017 Project Aid The Gambia took over the management and administration of the Health Center Buniadu, NBR, in cooperation with the German NGO Riverboat Doctors International.