



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

**Project Aid The Gambia ships ventilators from Germany to The Gambia**

Manjai Kunda, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 **Project Aid The Gambia, International NGO A57, that operates Jahaly Health Centre, CRR, and Health Centre Bunidau, NBR, launched a humanitarian aid container from Germany to The Gambia, containing 36 ventilators and 18 hospital beds.**

Last week the 20ft container was loaded in Essen, Germany. The donated equipment will be handed over to the Ministry of Health in The Gambia 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 Ruhrland Clinic/University Hospital Essen, that in 2019 and 2020 had already supported the health service of The Gambia through a donation of 39 second hand hospital beds and other medical equipment.

All equipment is second hand, but in good and functional condition. The ventilators are used to prepare the West African country for the expected increase in seriously ill COVID-19 patients. The ventilators have a new value of approx. 11m GMD.

“Our delivery of ventilators will significantly improve the equipment of the Gambian health system,” says Matthias Ketteler, founder and board member of Project Aid The Gambia. “The number of corona infections in Gambia is still increasing slowly. According to health experts from the WHO a possibly uncontrollable outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa in the summer is expected. “We want to use this remaining time to help improve the dilapidated health system in The Gambia.”

Two of the ventilators are to be delivered to the Medicare clinic in Brufut, a well equipped private clinic in The Gambia. In return, the clinic has agreed to instruct staff of the governmental clinics in the operation of the devices, reports Matthias Ketteler.

In another development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the NBR Regional Director of Health, Project Aid The Gambia is about to donate thousands of mouth-nose masks to governmental Health Centers in the North Bank region free of charge. Health Centers will be provided with an amount of 500 reusable masks each, Community Clinics and minor health posts with 250 masks each. In addition, leaflets containing information how to correctly use and wash the face masks will also be provided to each of the health facilities.

The face masks are made of double-layer cotton, being washable and re-usable. The face masks are not meant for sale, but for the use by staff and patients of the health facilities. The face masks are being collected from the patients upon leaving, and afterwards being washed in hot water with OMO, dried the other day and re-issued to patients.

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.



The face masks have been produced in The Gambia during the last weeks. The production was 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 had produced an amount of more than 31,500 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 by the health authorities.

Three weeks ago, the organization has delivered a first batch of 8,000 face masks, free of charge, to 23 health facilities in the Central River Region, identified by the CRR Regional Director of Health.

The health facilities in CRR named below received masks:

Kaur Health Centre	Ballagharr Community Clinic	Nanaba Comm. Clinic
Chamen H/C	Njau Comm. Clinic	Pinai Comm. Clinic
Kuntaur H/C	Jailan Bakadagi Comm. Clinic	Katamina Comm. Clinic
Sami Karantaba H/C	Njoben Comm. Clinic	Gissadi Comm. Clinic
Janjanbureh H/C	Firdowsey Comm. Clinic	Kunting Comm. Clinic
Bansang RCH	Jamally Comm. Clinic	Nanaba Comm. Clinic
Brikamaba H/C	Sami Madina Comm. Clinic	
Kudang H/C	Sareh Soffie Comm. Clinic	
Dankunku H/C	St. Lazaros Private Clinic	

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### **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 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.

Website: [www.buschlinik.de/en](http://www.buschlinik.de/en)

Blog on the work of Project Aid: [www.buschlinik.de/en/blog-2](http://www.buschlinik.de/en/blog-2)

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**Pictures page 3:** Loading the container in Essen/Germany

showing

pic #1 Matthias Ketteler, Chairman Project Aid The Gambia w/donated ventilators

pic #2 Loading the container

pic #3: from left to right

Joerk Deimann, Boergel GmbH, representative of one of the companies, that donated the second hand ventilators

Marcus Blum, Ruhrland Clinic - University Essen, Germany

Thomas Jeck, Ruhrland Clinic - University Essen, Germany

Matthias Ketteler, Chairman Project Aid The Gambia

**Pictures page 4:** Handing over face masks to Health Centers in CRR  
Production of face masks