

Annual report 2009

From

Project Aid The Third World

Registered NGO A 57

Project Aid the Third World runs a Health Center since 1991 and a Kindergarten in 2004. This is to complement government's effort to enhance quality Education, Agriculture and Health care services for the rural population of the Gambia. It has been registered as an international NGO operating in three key priority areas Health, Education and Agriculture. This project is not only maximizing organisation but geared towards helping the communities of the rural poor. The administrative building is situated in Manjai Kunda, KMC.

Jahali is situated in the Central River Division of the Gambia about 280 km from Banjul. It is predominantly inhabited by the Sarahulis. The village is close to the well known Jahali Pacharr Rice Development Project which runs two seasonal cultivations in a year. Stagnant water in the fields provides good breeding ground for mosquitoes, resulting in high a rate of malaria cases in the area.

The Project is wholly and solely sponsored by a group of people in the Federal Republic of Germany, of course the GOTG provides technical support directly or indirectly in the form of workshop/seminars for the nursing and teaching staff of the facility.

A. Health Centre

Jahali Health Centre does not have a defined catchments area, nevertheless we received patients from lower River Region (L.R.R.) Central River Region (C.R.R.) and Upper River Region (U.R.R.) for the year 2009 we have registered **18,224** patients.

The facility offers the following services :

- 1. General outpatient services**
- 2. Inpatients services**
- 3. Reproductive, child health and family planning**
- 4. Laboratory services**
- 5. Dental surgery I A.R. T**
- 6. Tuberculosis and leprosy**
- 7. Accident and emergency units**
- 8. Clinical waste management**
- 9. Building / utility**
- 10. Ambulance service**
- 11. Out reach services**

1. General outpatient services

This unit is the first port of call for all patients coming to the facility. The OPD has three consultation rooms always manned by trained nurses; it opens at 8am each day of the week and closes at 4pm, except on public holidays and weekends. There are services after this time for emergencies. This is supported by an on call trained nurse and an auxiliary nurse. We see patient of all ages and sex.

As at 1st April 2009 the new tariff ticket are as follows:

0-5 years no charge

5-18 years D1,-

18yrs up D5,-

Admission Fee D20 flat

Pregnant woman free of charge

Deliveries free of charge

Foreigners double fee in all cases

We see patients with different conditions notably:

Malaria

Chest Infections

Skin Disorder

Minor Surgical conditions e.g. cuts/abrasions

The following table shows the number of patients seen on monthly bases:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1160	983	583	467	1417	1650	1986	2194	2969	2155	1213	1447

Total: 18,224

2. Inpatients services

This is where patients who are very sick or cannot be treated at outpatient, or are not responding to treatment for the second or third time are kept. This unit consist of two wards, the main ward which is basically for adults regardless of sex, and the children's ward. These units are manned by an Auxiliary Nurse assisted by a trained nurse who acts as the nurse on call.

Jahali health centre has a 27 bed capacity (16 in the adult's ward and 11 in the children's ward.)

In the later part of 2007 we changed all our beds and lockers in the Main ward with the help of our sponsors, in order to achieve a standard medical main ward. Thanks to the sponsors.

Cases admitted are:

Severe malaria
Severe burns
Severe Diarrhoea with or without blood
Malaria in Pregnancy
Anaemia in Pregnancy
Pneumonia

The number of patients depends on the season. More patients are admitted from the month of June to September each year. Below are the monthly distributions of cases admitted from January up to December 2009.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
29	27	35	51	29	38	44	59	80	70	56	47

Total: 565

3. Reproductive and Child Health Clinic(RCH)

Reproductive and child health service previously called MCH is an important element in the health care delivery of the Gambia. As such, Jahally Health Centre does not lose site and have a modern labour ward equipped with two delivery beds, suction machine, stethoscope, BP machine, wash hand basin, drip stand and drugs. All these are provided to enable the midwife or care nurse to respond to any emergency that may arise during or after delivery. Mothers are admitted to monitor progress of labour before discharge. Usually the mother and infant are observed for at least six (6) hours before they are allowed to go home. These observations include checking the mother for excessive bleeding or other complications. The infant is weighed and exclusive breastfeeding explained to the mother.

Since we don't work in isolation, the TBAs sometimes escort mothers from the village to the facility for supervised care by a trained nurse. This has helped us a lot in dealing with most of the cases.

All complicated cases are referred to Bansang Hospital for expert care, at no costs to the patient by our ambulance service.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	8	11	9	7	3	6	10	5	5	4	9

Total: 85

Child Health Service is provided by a team from our sister clinic in Brikamaba which is 5kms away. They trek twice a month to attend to antenatal mothers and conduct infant welfare clinic. Our support to this is the provision of manpower, rooms for screening and examination of mothers.

Our lab serves the routine lab investigation of antenatal mothers, which relief them from travelling to Bansang. On the same token we liaise with the Regional Health Team (RHT) for any health issues.

4. Laboratory services

To make correct diagnosis and select the right drug to treat a patient, the lab plays a key role in that direction and has the standard of a health centre's. It has very good laboratory equipments, and provides quality services. It is manned by two lab assistants who received 4 months training from Ahmadiya Hospital in Talinding. During the year under review, the laboratory benefited a brand new microscope from a German couple.

The lab produces reliable results and conducts the following tests:

- Malaria parasitological
- Haemoglobin
- WBC
- Urinalysis
- Stool analysis
- AFB
- Rapid test for pregnancy
- VDRL
- Sickle cell test

5. Dental surgery / A.R.T.

The ART (Dental Unit) was in co-operated into the health facility in 1998 with the view of promoting oral health particularly in the rural areas and since then the unit has been known for it excellent dental/oral health care.

For the fact that oral related diseases represent a major social problem but could endanger ones life when ignored. It is important to know that oral cancers can be life threatening.

CATCHMENT AREA

As far as dental/oral health care is concerned Jahali Dental Unit has an undefined catchments area. Patients come from all over the country and even from our sister country Cassamance region in Senegal .

ACHIEVEMENT

Despite the unit being under-staffed, there had been tremendous achievement in the delivery of dental/oral health care services over the years

From January to December 2009, the unit registered a total number of **1222** patients of different ages and sex. These patients normally have numerous visits within the year for various treatments ranging from ART filling, surgical extraction, trauma-accident and emergency (A/E) cases, periodontal (Gum disease) management and oral health consultation.

In year 2009, a total number of **121** teeth have been restored from dental caries (filled sealed) and a total number of **1426** teeth have been extracted as a result of dental caries, periodontal diseases and trauma cases.

The chart below, represent the statistic of patients attendance in 2009

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	total
125	121	146	111	94	123	64	88	76	120	114	40	1222

The temporal denture program attracted many patients therefore raised the flag of the unit higher. Patients who benefited from the denture program expressed the dentures as a service of high quality in the Gambia

1. Clinic survey (Intra-Oral Examination) has revealed that the spreading of dental caries is so rapid that nearly every patient has about three or more teeth in his/her mouth affected by dental caries. In statistic, approximately eighty percent of the patients visiting the clinic are between the ages 5 - 40yrs. This seem so tragic, hence a great concern as the group at high risk represent the growing and the working population.

2. Although it has been a fact for the previous years since 2005 but become increasingly challenging that the number of restored teeth is always very low as compared to the number of teeth lost every year.

Dental fees for different ages are as follow

0-14 years D15,-

15yrs up D25,-

Double the charges for non Gambians

STAFF

The facility is manned by a well co-operated staff body, one-community Oral Health worker and two dental assistants all through from January to the early part of December, when the only trained COHW left and now left with no option but to close tentatively.

For the year 2010, the project intends hiring a dentist to train high school graduates, preferably from the rural area, in order to solve problems arising from staff shortage.

6. Tuberculosis and Leprosy

The TB/LEP services were introduced to the health centre in November 1998 through the Department of State for Health. Our lab assistants were trained to do sputum smear.

With our good performance in screening, record keeping and efficient laboratory service, we have been mandated to register and provide treatment to all smear positive case and subsequent follow up.

7. Accidents and Emergency unit

This unit is part of the expansion program of 1998 and is equipped to take care of emergencies and accidents. Since the beginning of 1998, serious traffic accidents took place some of which were fatal.

The accidents and emergency units are equipped to offer first aid treatment to victims within the shortest possible time.

8. Clinical waste management

Following an invitation by National Environmental Agency (N.E.A) and World Health Organization (WHO), for a workshop on clinical waste management, a staff of the facility was among participants at Kairaba Beach Hotel for four days.

Recommendations from the workshop were implemented by the health centre to comply with the standards of clinical waste management.

Sharp boxes are located to all areas where sharps are generated. In consultation with the Main office in Manjai Kunda a waste disposal site has been constructed. Staff members have been sensitized on proper management of sharps. Improvements have been registered in the management of sharps and other wastes in the clinic.

9. Buildings and utility

Jahali Health Center has the following buildings:

- **Waiting hall (for 120 people)**
- **Consultation area (3 consultation rooms, 1 laboratory, 1 pharmacy)**
- **Main wards (3 rooms for infected or elderly patients, 1 duty room for nurses, 2 showers, 2 toilets)**
- **Septic dressing room**
- **Consultation area with 3 rooms for additional consultations within the rainy season and regular visits from the W.H.O. (Reproductive Child Health Care)**
- **Maternity ward (for 2 deliveries, 1 shower, 1 toilet, 1 mother- child room)**
Children's ward (2 showers and 2 toilets)
- **1 Accident /emergency room**
- **1 office with internet access**
- **Dental area with 2 consultation rooms**
- **Dental classroom with residence**
- **1 Drugstore, 1 general store**

- **1 Solar area (12 kw) with a battery store**
- **1 Reproductive and child health services room**
- **1 Watchman's house**
- **1 Generator house**
- **1 water tank**
- **3 Public toilets.**

Thanks to the efforts of the sponsors in Germany, by providing the facility with a new solar system. In that vein, the staff have 24hrs access to water and electricity supply.

All patients' areas are tiled and all consultation rooms have water supply and examination beds.

At the beginning of this year, a major renovation took place in Jahally which consist of painting and sign writing, plumbing, masoner works and carpentry. The most important aspect of this renovation is the plastering of red stones on the entire fence and part of the buildings. The aim of this is to avoid constant painting of these areas.

10. Ambulance

This service has been introduced since the establishment of the facility. This was necessitated by the fact that we refer some of our cases to Bansang Hospital for expert management or other investigations that are not within our scope. Since then we have changed ambulances three times and the recent one came early this year. Thanks to the sponsors for their timely provision of this new ambulance.

The following are the number of referrals during the year under review.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec.	TOTAL
5	3	2	3	6	4	4	6	5	5	6	3	52

11. Out reach service

The staff do visit patients at home as part of follow-up to certain cases like TB & terminal cases who cannot be admitted for their health condition.

The Oral Health Workers also go on trek to primary schools and Kindergarten. They also visits school children in Jahali primary and Kindergarten and the Arabic School.

STAFF STRUCTURE

The facility is manned by a well co-operated staff body. The following is the staff distribution:

2 SRN
1 SEN
3 SNAs
5 NAs
2 Lab Assistants
1 Driver
1 Watchman
2 Health labourers
3 Orderlies
1 field coordinator

Out of these 21 staff members, 11 are housed in the health facility to have access to their work place without delay.

CONCLUSION

The health centre has achieved a lot in the recent past, nonetheless there have been some constrains. For the past one year we were unable to secure the service of a midwife, which is a requirement to keep the labour ward functional more professionally.

In July this year, we negotiated with the Ministry of Health in provision of 4 trained nurses, 2 of which are to be provided this year but unfortunately they were able to provide only 1 SEN so far.

During the year that ended, we had an uncompleted discussion with CRS to deliver care programme on HIV/AIDS, which hopefully will be implemented early part of next year.

B. Agriculture support/Tractor services

Following the Government's declaration of year 2002 farming season as a total crop failure and the subsequent appeal from the women society in Jahali for the provision of a vegetable garden, our project welcomed the idea and henceforth provided them with twenty concrete wells as well as fencing costs.

For the year 2004, we made the similar provision for the women 'Kafo' in Medina.

In 2007 we provided fencing material and labour cost to Medina women garden. But again in 2009, we decided to change our fencing plan by planting flower trunks at the edge of the second Jahally garden.

Further to this garden project, we have started renovating 10 of the 20 wells in Jahally-1, whilst 10 new well are currently been dug in Jahally-2 and one of the four existing wells is undergoing some maintenance work.

In Madina-1, though there are 21 existing wells but 11 of these are in a very bad shape and are therefore currently undergoing some serious maintenance work. And three other new wells will be added by the virtue of its size, whilst in Madina-2, there are 8 wells but one is in the verge of being replace with a new one as a result of the extent of the damage where as the other is to undergo some maintenance work. Arrangements are also at an advance stage to provide and everlasting fence for all the four gardens. This plus the cost of wells has gone in hundreds of thousands of dalasis which the project is prepared to shoulder all in the name of empowering the people of the community and given them a chance of a decent life.

In addition to this support, since 2005, the project also allows the villagers of Jahali & Medina the usage of its tractor to till their farms. The project provides the maintenance of this tractor, and just recently a complete set of tyres have been bought for the tractor and its trailer

The tractor and a driver are provided by the project and fuel is provided by the community.

In early 2009, the project introduced a solar cooking device, but due to climatic condition could not be used on daily basis, and it is In this vain that the project came up with the idea to build improved cooking stoves for every compound in Jahally and madina respectively .

The aim of this is to cut down the expenditure and consumption of firewood, and more so to improve the speed in cooking. These stoves will be provided at no cost to the two communities.

C. Kindergarten

Jahali - Medina Kindergarten is a Kindergarten wholly and surely run by The Project Aid the Third World.

It was officially commissioned on Monday 19th September 2004.

The school continues to provide regular breakfast and lunch free of charge for all the children despite the phasing out of the school from the W.F.P. Feeding programme since the beginning of this new academic year. It also continues to supply the children with free uniforms, free medical services and any other incidental expenses that the child may incur in school.

There was a discussion between the Project Aid The Third World, WFP and the Regional Director of Education in CRR for the continuation of the feeding programme.

As ever the kindergarten has made a tremendous strives to claim its rightful position in the carder of nursery education in the country since its inception 2004 especially the year under review. A lot of developments have taken place during 2009, prominent among which is the increase enrolment, achievement at the expansion of the audio visual hall, human resource, development, continues supply of food, uniform and medical services, the development at the school garden and the introduction of graduation gowns to name but a few.

The enrolment figure continue to grow from strength to strength despite the stiff competition with the madarassas(Quranic school) in Jahally and Madina. One hundred and three pupils (103) were enrolled during this particular academic year and out of these, sixty (60) were girls and forty-three were boys as opposed to ninety-four pupils in the previous academic year. This has highlighted a significant increase in enrolment surging the general student population to 240 as the maximum the kindergarten can take so far leaving 14 other names on the waiting list.

In June of 2009, kindergarten was invited to competition at kindergarten Linden a sister kindergarten in Jabang, Kombo north with seven other kindergartens around that end. Despite being the provincial kindergarten in the competition, we how ever manage to mesmerised the audiences as we came out third to the amazement of many who attended this auspicious occasion. The project footed the bill and never relented in supporting the 15 young stars from our

school who stole the show and eventually brought pride to region 5 for the first time in her history.

The school audiovisual hall which was initially built to accommodate just under 180 pupils has now been expanded to meet the demand of increase enrolment, which also happened during the year under review. Now all the children can gather at the hall/ stage for any function with their seats without congestion of any sort. Thanks to the sponsors for their foresight.

Human resource development has been a forgotten domain during the year under review but rather a top priority for the project management who are cognisant to the fact that a well informed staff are bound to be more productive. To this drive, a three-day school based workshop was organised for the staff from April 30th to 2nd of May to be trained on the thematic approach of lesson planning and the newly designed nursery curriculum of the department of state for education which was conducted by the staff of Gambia college. A couple of months later three tickets including the headmaster were sent to Tranquil for week training workshop on design art curriculum and other relevant areas of teaching (August 31st to 4th September 2009). These teachers also conducted a school based workshop for the rest of the kindergarten staff upon their arrival from Tranquil to share their experience.

In the area of feeding and health, the kindergarten still continues to provide free medical services and feeding to all the children despite the fact of being faced out of WFP's school feeding programme through the department of state for education. It is however worth noting that feeding over 240 children on a daily basis has not been very easy for the institution due to high commodity prices and sadly all our efforts to lure WFP back has so far proven futile. Nonetheless we have been managing over the year under review as we are determined for a holistic programming in ECD and we will continue to manage until some form of help comes our way.

Not only do the kindergarten provide free medical services and feeding to the young stars but also supplied the 103 new intakes with one new uniform each as usual and made conditions conducive for the acquisition of the second by the parents.

The school vegetable garden has also been placed on a high premium during the year under review as it serves not only as an elementary agricultural class for the pupils but also its produce are used to supplement the school canteen in order to provide an adequate balanced diet for the children. The fruits continue to play an important role in boosting the nutritional needs of the children for adequate growth.

The introduction of the graduated gowns, which started with 64 students who graduated to the lower basic school in the year under review July to be

precise. These gowns were procured and sewn by the project to add more impetus to the annual graduation of the kindergarten. Highlighting the desire for perfection by the project in terms of education.

It is indeed an understatement to assert that the year under review has been an eventful one especially when one takes stock of the increase in the enrolment, capacity building, free feeding, medical services, uniforms, academic excellence and introduction of graduation gowns. The year under review has been one of success that will be remembered for years to come.

Buildings/Classrooms (Kindergarten)

The school has modern structures with six classrooms, three offices, ten toilets, ten wash-hand basins, a stage, a kitchen, a store and a garden.

Also has a playing ground in which gaming facilities such as a Mary-go-round, two see-saws and a slide etc.

Recently a satellite TV has been added for the recreation of resident staff.

There are forty (40) students in each of the six classes, two classes for each level.

Namely level one **Giraffe** and **Hippopotamus**,

Level two **Lion** and **Crocodile**,

Level three **Zebra** and **Elephant**.

Also in each of these classes are two teachers- one qualified and one unqualified, seven tables including the one used by the teachers, forty-two chairs also including the two used by the teachers, some cupboards and a host of learning resources..

Like queen kindergartens, this Kindergarten has also got an authorized syllabus (Lehrplan) out of which the lesson plans are drawn for use in the various levels.

Following is a comprehensive tabulation of the classroom situation in terms of human and material resources

Generals:

Office:

The office is situated in Manjai Kunda. It is computerized (3 computers in a network system) and equipped with modern communication systems (Phone: 4461187 / Fax: 4461162 / Email projectaid@gamtel.gm).

Office hours:

Mondays till Thursdays 08:30 – 16:30, Fridays 08:30 – 13:30.

The office is always staffed on office hours.

STAFF STRUCTURE

Two Project managers
One Driver
One Orderly
One Carpenter

Staff quarters in Jahali

1 house with 6 bedrooms

1 house with 6 bedrooms

1 house with 4 bedrooms

1 house with three bedrooms

1 guesthouse with 4 bedrooms

2 kitchens

1 staff garden

1 Bantaba

Most of the houses have toilets and showers. There are also two outside showers and toilet areas.

Further statistics

Health Centre

Number of patients in 2009:	18,224
Since opening:	386,393
Number of deliveries in 2009:	85
Since opening:	1689

Dental Unit

Number of patients in 2009:	1,222
Since opening:	13,079

Kindergarten:

Number of pupils (permanent):	240
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Aliou Banda / Project Manager