



Hattingen/Germany, February 2017

Dear friends and supporters of Project Aid The Gambia,

after the peaceful transition of power in Gambia, it is time for a new newsletter. We would be pleased to inform you about the current developments in our projects.

When did the whole world look to **The Gambia** for the last time? We can't even remember. But in January the breaking news from in the smallest country of Africa "managed" to being covered by the world's leading news programs. Many of you might have followed it and witnessed the first change of power in The Gambia through democratic elections since the Independence Declaration in 1965. On January 21, 2017, ex-President Yahya Jammeh finally conceded defeat after 22 years in power under the pressure of a military intervention by the West African Economic Community ECOWAS and left the country for exile. The new government under **President Adama Barrow** has promised to build a democratic Gambia: „OneGambia -



OneNation - OnePeople“ is their mission statement. The transition of power ended peacefully. There were no uprisings, no injuries, no dead. Tourists who were evacuated in mid-January are returning. The new government has started its work. The first of these was the release of all political prisoners - and the return to the 5-day-week. However, some ministers are still not appointed, including the Minister of Health - an important contact for our work on the ground. Our kindergarten was closed for one week during the unclear situation in January. The Buschlinik remained open - but there were considerably fewer patients than usual.



In an **open letter** at the beginning of January, Project Aid The Gambia had issued a statement appealing to the active politicians in The Gambia to respect the desire of the Gambian people for a peaceful change of power. You can find the full text of the open letter by our chairman Matthias Ketteler [| here |](#)

Due to the by then unsolved political impasse in The Gambia, we canceled the **Humanitarian Convoy 2017** of our Northern Germany team, which was scheduled to depart on January 20, 2017 for driving three mini buses to Jahaly Health Centre, at the very last second for security reasons. The drivers were very disappointed. For three years they had prepared themselves and collected about 25,000 Euro donations for Project Aid, which they wanted to hand over personally in Jahaly. The three mini-buses already purchased for the tour and to be sold in The Gambia in favor of Project Aid are now being taken by ship to The Gambia. There are already buyers for two of the vehicles. The Board of Project Aid is discussing at the moment, whether to keep the third bus, a 26-year-old vehicle bought from German Red



Cross, as a replacement for the ambulance car of Jahaly Health Centre.



The **tour group** from Northern Germany, who actually wanted to be with the tour drivers at their reception in Jahaly, finally flew to Gambia as planned on 28.01.2017. Some to-be drivers of the tour have spontaneously joined the group. On February 1st, 2017, they handed over a symbolic check of over 25,000 Euro to Project Manager Famara Fatty at the Buschklinik in Jahaly. We kept our promise.

Project Aid The Gambia has agreed with the German not-for-profit association "**Riverboat Doctors International e.V.**" (Ganderkesee) on a cooperation for their Health Centre in the village Buniadu at the north bank of the Gambia river. On 01.02.2017, Project Aid The Gambia has taken over management and administration of the **Health Centre Buniadu** - initially for six months.

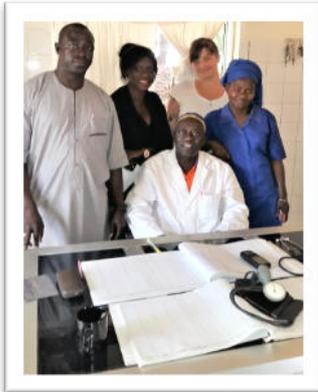


The small health center for outpatient care was closed since November 2016, because the current project management - a committed nurse from Germany and her husband - could not continue work on health reasons. Meanwhile, a Gambian nurse and midwife has been hired, who has taken over the management of the Health Centre Buniadu. The health centre treats approximately one thousand patients a month and has been reopened since 01.02.2017. In the next few weeks the tried-and-tested system of Jahaly Health Centre (i.e. consultation fees, free medication, reporting, etc.) will be implemented there. All expenses for the operation of the Health Centre Buniadu (salaries for a total of ten employees, medication, etc.) as well as our administrative expenses are provided by Riverboat Doctors International e.V. More details of our agreement with Riverboat Doctors International e.V. see [| here |](#)



The patient numbers of **Jahaly Health Centre** were also at a high level last year. In 2016, we treated 44,841 (2015: 46,190) patients. Patients pay a small consultation fee. We give medication free of charge. Following the takeover of the Buniadu Health Centre, Project Aid The Gambia is now responsible for the well-being of nearly 60,000 patients a year. This is a great responsibility.

After half a year of searching, we finally found a **new midwife** for Jahaly Health Centre. Mr. **Omar Njie**, one of the best midwives of Gambia, was redeployed to Jahaly Health Centre at the beginning of 2017 by the state-run Kudang Health Centre.



His basic salary is still paid by the Gambian Ministry of Health. In return, in Jahaly, we now look after pregnant women far beyond the original entry area of the Buschlinik. - A sad news reached us at the end of November: **Mariama Dobasim**, an untrained nurse employed at Jahaly Health Centre since 2014, died unexpectedly, at the age of 24.



As of January 2017, we increased the **salaries** of our employees in the Buschlinik. To thank and acknowledge their work - and to prevent our well-trained and committed staff from applying elsewhere.

The new toys for the playground of the **Jahaly/Madina Kindergarten** have now been transported to and installed in Jahaly. The swings and climbing frames were supported by RTL German TV that in 2003 initially has funded the building of the kindergarten. **Michael Kobsa**, a German locksmith, had constructed the devices in The Gambia together with our metal builder Pap.



Project Manager



Famara Fatty in person tested the resilience of the playground devices at the kindergarten ;-)



We have just moved the start of our planned new large project due to the still upheaval situation in The Gambia and to the yet lack of contacts to the new appointed government: the new construction of the "**Jahaly Girl Friendly Basic Cycle School**". In order to meanwhile further improve the school's poor equipment, a second load of 12 used school tables and 70 chairs will soon be on the way to Jahaly - a donation from the primary school Brachbach in Germany. Thank you very much.

For the construction of the new school we continue to collect donations. We ask you to donate too! Don't hesitate to do it right now, online: [here](#) (just click here). Thank you very much ☺

**More:**

In November 2016, a group of activists of Project Aid's German "family & friends" loaded an aid container in Hattingen/Germany to be shipped to The Gambia: 162 mattresses, ultrasound equipment, blood pressure and sugar meters, dozens of cartons with dressing material, massecs, gloves, oxygen masks, infusion sets and stands, tack plasters, venules kits, saline solution and other medical and sanitary equipment - a donation from the German city of Hattingen, which had before closed down its shelter for refugees. In the Gambia such materials are urgently



needed in hospitals and health centres. On 28.12.2016 the container reached our project office in Manjai Kunda. In mid-January 2017 the first bunch of mattresses were picked up by the Gambian Ministry of Health. The nursing school in Bansang has got 15 mattresses, the Pirang Health Center nine. The others are still waiting for pick-up.



Just before Christmas our friends and partners of the German NGO "Friedensdorf (Peace Village) International" brought back another two Gambian children back home after successful medical treatment in Germany. These two children were also operated free of charge by clinics in Germany. Overall, Project Aid and Peace Village have now made it possible for more than 40 children to have an often life-saving overseas treatment in Germany.



Our booth at the German **Christmas market** in the city of Wuppertal on 03./04. and 10/11. December 2016 was a great success. There was a great deal of interest from visitors to get information about our projects and on our Moringa products (soap and oil) from Jahaly, which we sold for the first time in Germany. We earned approx. 3,000 Euro. This money goes back to our projects. Many thanks to **Christel and Nora Wiegemann**, who on the four days on the Christmas market caught quite cold feet.

More than 3,000 Euro donations have also come together from an event of **charity-flights** over the German cities Essen and Muelheim on 17.12.2016 – organized and supported by **Christian and Florian Kaeufer** and their team of TFC. Awesome!





We also express our gratitude to our **volunteers** and **interns**, who regularly spend several weeks or even months in Jahaly and actively participate in the daily work of Jahaly Health Centre and Kindergarten. Many thanks to **Johanna** (September to November 2016) and **Nina** (end of November 2016 to end of January 2017) ☺

We are asked again and again: **where do we find Jahaly** on the map? Where is this Jahaly Health Centre located? The location is not so easy to find on international maps. This is due to the fact that there are different spellings: Jahaly, Jahally, Jakhaly or Jakhally. Just click on the picture on the right or on the following link to find "Jakhaly" on Google Maps: <http://bit.ly/2k2XFao>. On the left you see Jahaly Health Centre, on the right the Kindergarten, below of the compound there is the Moringa plantation.



Dear friends and supporters: please keep informed about our work for the people of The Gambia. Please also encourage your families and friends to become sponsors or supporters of Project Aid The Gambia. Please ask them to support our work with a one-time or regular donation or by taking over a sponsorship for one of our kindergarten seats.

We promise: your donations reach our projects directly, with a minimal deduction only. Since many years the administrative and advertising costs of Project Aid The Gambia only has amounted to just over or under one percent (!! ) of the revenues.

With best regards,

Yours **Projekthilfe Gambia e.V.**

The Board

Matthias Ketteler, Frank Heuer, Dieter Lieken,  
Ulfert Engelkes, Thomas Wiegemann

Website: <http://buschlinik.de/en>

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