

PROJECT AID THE GAMBIA



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

REGISTERED NGO A 57

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	3
CURRENT PROJECTS	4
JAHALY HEALTH CENTRE.....	4
CHARGES FOR PATIENTS IN JAHALY HEALTH CENTRE	4
STATISTICS (Out Patient).....	5
STAFF STRUCTURE UNDER THE CLINIC.....	7
CAPACITY BUILDING.....	7
DELIVERY	8
Number of Deliveries conducted by Jahaly Health Centre from Jan-Dec 2020	8
ADMISSION.....	8
REFERRALS	8
Number of referrals from January to December 2020:	9
REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH/BIRTH CONTROL.....	9
ACTIVITIES	9
LABORATORY REPORT-JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020	13
DENTAL CLINIC 2020.....	14
JAHALY-MADINA KINDERGARTEN	14
STAFF STRUCTURE UNDER THE KINDERGARTEN.....	14
CAPACITY BUILDING:	16
AGRICULTURE.....	16
MORINGA PLANTATION.....	17
SMOKE FREE OVENS.....	17
OVERSEAS MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR SICK GAMBIAN CHILDREN.....	18
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO / RETURNED FROM OVERSEAS TREATMENT FROM 2012 TO 2020	18
Unfortunately not admitted are:	19
BUNIADU HEALTH CENTRE AND KINDERGARTEN.....	20
INTRODUCTION.....	20
BUNIADU HEALTH CENTRE	21
STAFF STRUCTURE UNDER THE CLINIC.....	21
The following data show the number of patients seen by Buniadu Health Centre in the different months of 2020:.....	21
BUNIADU KINDERGARTEN	22
CAPACITY BUILDING:	23

INTRODUCTION

Project Aid The Gambia, is a German / Gambian registered International Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), whose objective is to supplement Governments efforts in providing humanity services to the targeted rural communities. The project has been involved in a series of successful ventures since its inception in 1991, mainly in Education, Health and Agriculture which are the corner stones of any meaningful development; Project Aid therefore strives extensively to excel in these areas. Ultimately Project Aid The Gambia runs two Health Centres and two Kindergartens in Jahaly and Buniadu.

In the education sector, the Kindergarten have been exceptional in terms of both infrastructure and academic excellence. Project Aid is also engaged in supporting four women horticultural gardens in the villages of Jahaly and Madina, Central River Region.

As part of its drive to improve health facilities, Project Aid, in collaboration with German Government, built a Model Health Centre in Njaba Kunda in 2011, which continues to witness a massive improvement of medical services not only for the people of Njaba Kunda, but for the whole of NBR. After being built, the new Njaba Kunda Health Centre was handed over to the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare in 2012.

The project also engages in planting Moringa Olifera trees on a field behind the Jahaly Health Center. The cultivation of the plantation has helped create employments for the people in Jahaly. 4 workers are employed to water the fields during the dry season and also conduct the weeding during the rainy season.

The Administrative Head Office of Project Aid The Gambia is situated in Manjai Kunda, Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC).

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Manager: EBRIMA JOBARTEH

Financial Coordinator: HADDY SILLAH

Local Chairman: ABDOULIE CHARLES MBYE

CURRENT PROJECTS

JAHALY HEALTH CENTRE

As it is known by all Gambian that in the early 1990s Health Delivery services were very limited in the countryside, but the desire of the project management, led by the current Goodwill Ambassador At Large of The Republic of The Gambia, Mr. Matthias Ketteler, was to support the under privileged communities in dire need of help. Propelled by this desire, the project found its way through to Jahaly, with the guardianship of the late M.S.Tambadou.

Jahaly is in CRR West, a few kilometres from Brikamaba. The community of Jahaly consists predominantly of Sarahules with a handful of Fullas and Mandinkas in their midst. The Health Centre was established in March 1991.

Until today, the Health Centre is one of the most famous health facilities in the rural area in terms of infrastructure, cleanliness and quality of services. Jahaly Health Centre provides reasonable tariff that is affordable by all patients in and outside of The Gambia. This tariff has been viewed by many as the lowest in town, when one takes into account the service and free medication accorded every patient that visits the centre.

CHARGES FOR PATIENTS IN JAHALY HEALTH CENTRE

REGISTRATION

Ages	Gambians	Foreigners
Under 5 yrs	D15.00	D30.00
5 yrs - 14 yrs	D25.00	D50.00
15 yrs upwards	D30.00	D60.00

ADMISSION

Admission	Gambians	Foreigners
Discharge fee	D50.00	D100.00

LAB

Tests	Gambians	Foreigners
BF	D25.00	D50.00
HB	D25.00	D50.00
WBC	D25.00	D50.00
URINALYSIS	D25.00	D50.00
VDRL	D25.00	D50.00
HCG	D50.00	D100.00
AFB/TB	Free	Free
HIV	Free	Free
DELIVERY	Free	Free
Blood Sugar	D50,00	D100,00

For weekends, charges are double for both Gambians and Foreigners; except for emergency cases

Children from our kindergarten are also treated free of charge at the clinic.

STATISTICS (Out Patient)

The following data shows the number of patients seen by Jahaly Health Centre in the different months of 2020:

PATIENTS STATISTIC 2020

Month	male	female	Total	FEES	ADMISSION	DISCHARGES	FEES	WARD 1	WARD 2	REFERRALS
January	832	1,509	2,341	56,535	19	14	750	18	0	9
February	938	1,645	2,583	61,180	25	27	1,350	21	0	9
March	1,054	1,770	2,824	66,705	32	25	1,250	21	0	11
April	584	1,075	1,659	40,480	21	19	1,050	18	0	5
May	549	1,118	1,667	40,285	9	7	350	9	0	4
June	900	1,475	2,375	55,420	26	16	750	29	0	3
July	898	1,563	2,461	59,125	13	18	900	14	0	3
August	1,036	1,831	2,867	68,980	11	8	400	15	0	9
September	1,167	2,210	3,377	81,305	21	15	800	17	0	6
October	1,379	2,398	3,777	90,905	52	46	2,450	31	0	6
November	1,480	2,406	3,886	95,850	62	58	3,000	40	0	14
December	620	1,008	2,467	39,600	20	15	750	20	0	4
Total	11,437	20,008	32,284	756,370	311	268	13,800	253	0	83

There are three consultation rooms in Jahaly Health Centre which accommodate patients from the regions of CRR, LRR, URR and some parts of Cassamance in Senegal.

There is one pharmacy where all prescribed drugs are dispensed by the pharmacist assistant. The outpatients can also use a laboratory where investigations are carried out on patients such as blood film for malaria test (BF), haemoglobin estimation (HB), white blood cell count (WBC), HCG, Acid fast bacilli (AFB) for sputum spearing for tuberculosis, sickle cell, and venereal disease (VDRL) to investigate syphilis.

There are two wards, namely one adult ward where all adult male and female patients are admitted, and one children's ward. Three private rooms are attached to the adult ward, with one room for the nurse on duty. Both wards have a capacity of 30 beds in total. Two flush toilets and two showers in each ward ensure a high hygienic standard.

There is also two office spaces within the OPD building. One of which has again been allocated to MRC since March 1st 2015 to conduct a new study of Rotavirus Vaccine Impact & Effectiveness,(after a successful completion of their two year research work on pneumonia, sepsis and meningitis in children less than five years of age as well as PRINOGAM Research in 2013). MRC are currently undergoing a Pneumococcal Vaccines Schedule (PVS) Study. The study aims to evaluate an alternative schedule in administering Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) compared to the current three doses given early in infancy without any booster dose. The study began in May 2018 and will run for 4 years, ending in year 2021.

The other room has been reassigned to a team of nurses from Brikama-Ba of the Infant Welfare Clinic, to conduct procedures at the centre, twice every month as the Ebola threat seems to have dwindled and no case has ever been found in the country.

The electricity supply in the health centre comes from one main source of solar energy which had been re-energized in 2014, with the importation of 24 new solar panels, extra inverter and their accessories from Germany. The project stepped up its efforts to improve the power supply over the years to strengthen the capacity base, due to ever increasing demand of the facility. In February 2019 Jahaly Health Centre and the entire facility had been connected to the power grid, 28 years after Jahaly Health Centre was inaugurated. Furthermore, brand new inverters were also installed along with state-of-the-art solar batteries in November 2019.

As at 2020, a total of **134 solar panels** have been installed, with 51 panels in Manjai Headquarters, and 83 in Jahaly Health Centre. This solar energy source is also responsible for pumping water from two boreholes that supply clean pipe, borne water to the entire facility, as well as to the attached moringa plantation 24/7.

STAFF STRUCTURE UNDER THE CLINIC

There are Twenty Nine staff at Jahaly Health Centre including cleaners and gardeners. Below is a table showing the number of staff and their designation:

STAFF	NUMBER
SEN Midwife	1
State Enrol Nurse -General	2
Nurse Attendants	11
Assistance lab technicians	2
Drivers	1
Watchmen (day & night)	2
Gardeners (clinic & moringa)	7
Cleaners	3
Total	29

2020 was a successful year for the clinic as all our sponsored trained nurses contributed greatly in adequately serving the huge amount of patients the clinic received. This can be seen in the statistics and records provided of treated patients. The number of nurse attendants at the clinic has also increased to cope with the rising demand for services due to the increased number of patients seen at the facility each day.

Two Flat Screen TVs - one in the main ward and the other in the registration hall - which are connected to satellite disks for national and international news have also been maintained during the year under review.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The two staff who were sponsored and enrolled at the SEN school in Bansang in 2019, continued their studies through 2020 as the program has a duration of 2 years. Delays to their education were present due to the current pandemic and are expected to complete their studies by early 2021.

There were no new nurses sponsored for capacity building in 2020. This was also caused by the recent Covid-19 pandemic that has hindered professional and academic progress. The project fully intends to continue supporting its personnel in their development when such opportunities arise in the future.

Project Aid has also accorded the nursing staff professional training at the hands of Dr Azadeh, a senior gynaecologist and lecturer at the University of The Gambia, who has been serving as medical adviser to the project; who by extension also conducts training programs for the medical staff as well as caring for chronically ill patients in the area, during the year under review.

The labour ward consists of two delivery beds, two baby cots and one post natal bed for observation of post delivery mothers for six hours, and it's equipped with a sterilizer and oxygen concentrator. In 2018 the project got its own experienced midwife for the Jahaly Health Centre. All critical labour cases are referred to Bansang Hospital.

DELIVERY

Jahaly Health Centre is not left behind in terms of conducting proper and quality delivery to women. Fifty-four babies were delivered from Jan-Dec 2020.

Number of Deliveries conducted by Jahaly Health Centre from Jan-Dec 2020

MATERNITY 2020

MONTH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	Healthy	Dead	Referrals
January	2	3	5	3	0	2
February	3	2	5	5	0	0
March	3	5	8	6	2	0
April	2	1	3	3	0	0
May	3	4	7	7	0	0
June	2	3	5	5	0	0
July	3	0	3	1	1	1
August	4	0	4	3	0	1
September	1	0	1	0	1	0
October	2	3	5	4	0	1
November	2	2	4	4	0	0
December	4	3	7	7	0	0
Total	31	26	57	48	4	5

ADMISSION

Conditions that cannot be handled at the outpatient area are admitted to the ward. These include mostly cases of malnutrition, burns, severe malaria, severe diarrhoea, pneumonia, sepsis, dysentery, to name a few. In 2020, 311 patients were admitted on the wards with various illnesses as stated earlier.

REFERRALS

Jahally Health Centre is a minor health centre according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition. The health centre does not treat surgical cases, orthopaedic cases or urological conditions, as these are conditions beyond the limits of the staff and such cases are naturally referred to Bansang Hospital for further attention.

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

Number of referrals from January to December 2020:

NUMBER OF REFERALLS

MONTH	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Out/inpatients	9	9	11	5	4	3	3	9	6	6	14	4	83
maternity	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	6
Total	11	9	11	5	4	3	4	10	7	7	14	4	89

The total number referred for the year amounted to 89 Patients

REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH/BIRTH CONTROL

Healthy children together with a healthy mother make a smiling family. A mother can take good care of her children only when food, shelter, clothing, and other basic human needs are achieved; followed by physical and mental well-being, a minimised economic burden, poverty reduced, and better education. Currently we have enrolled one hundred and sixty clients (160) out of which 34 are men and all the clients are in their active reproductive stages.

ACTIVITIES

General cleaning and environmental sanitation of the health centre still remains a priority to the health staff. The staff, together with the cleaners, engage in general cleaning periodically to make the health centre a good place to live. The project also painted all health centre buildings, both inside and outside, between February and March 2020.

The staff formed a joint football team with the teachers in the kindergarten in order to create a sense of unity and cooperation amongst themselves. Sports, particularly football and general physical exercise, are part of the daily activities of the staff, and football matches are often organised with other teams in the neighbourhood to maintain harmony and fitness for good health.

With the COVID -19 global pandemic, the project has implemented Covid-19 protocols to protect the lives of all patients and staff.

In the Clinics, all patients must be socially distanced and each patient is attended by a nurse one after another, unless in severe cases that a patient must be seen immediately. Sanitizers and soaps are made available at all times. The kindergarten grounds was used for keeping social distancing measures with the patients more effectively during the closure of schools in March.. All patients were directed to the kindergarten compound and tested with the thermometer. From there, patients were seated around the school grounds, either in some classrooms that were properly ventilated, or on the assembly area/stage. Sanitizers and soaps are made available at all times.

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

The project also produced face masks which are provided all health centers and kindergarten at all times. Patients are given face masks upon entry into the health centers, if they do not have one of their own, and the masks are collected when the patient exists. These masks are made from re-usable cotton material which can be washed and dry effectively. When all patients have been seen, all the used face masks will be soaked in warm water, washed, and then dried to be used the next day.

The production of face masks was not just intended for use by the project alone. It was intended for the whole country's use. That is why the project started a **'Masks for Gambia'** Fundraiser in April which was a huge success in generating 25,000 Euros (equivalent to D1.45 million GMD) in donations.

The production of face masks continued and the project was able to donate a total of 23,000 face masks to 51 health centers and community clinics in the Gambia. It started in May 2020, were 8,000 facemasks were donated to 22 health centers and community clinics in the Central River Region (CRR) as well as Bansang Hospital.

An additional 4,000 face masks were donated to the largest hospital in The Gambia, the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital (EFSTH), and a further 11,000 face masks to two hospitals (Essau District Hospital and Farafenni Hospital), 12 health centers and 13 community clinics in the North Bank province Region (NBR).

A ceremony was held at Buniadu HC on July 15th for an official handing over of the face masks to the Regional Health Directorate (represented by the Regional Principal Nursing Officer). Our project Manager was on hand and provided a brief description of using the face masks. Also in attendance were two newspaper outlets (the Point Newspaper and Standard Newspaper), two TV Stations (QTV and Star TV), as well as the projects spokesperson Malick Jones. These face masks were personally distributed, as the project was fully committed to getting these much needed masks to the various places as soon as possible.

The project also donated 34 ventilators, 18 hospital beds, and other medical accessories to the Gambia government to help fight the global pandemic. These items had a domestic value of over 11 million GMD and were loaded into containers and shipped to the country.

The items were provided by our donors in Germany. Special mention is given to Timo Loewenstein from Loewenstein Medical, Germany, Heiko Hannemann, Managing Director of Boergel Company in Germany as top donors to the project. Furthermore, the German Embassy in The Gambia, with the assistance of Janine Hölischer, Political Attaché of the German Embassy Office, donated extra accessories for the ventilators worth D400, 000 GMD.

These medical equipment were handed over during a ceremony held at the projects headquarters in Manjai Kunda on August 20th, 2020. The project Manager Ebrima Jobarteh, spokesperson Malick Mendy, Janine Holscher of the German Embassy, and Local Chairman Charles Mbye were in attendance. The items were handed over to the Ministry of Health, represented by the Senior Logistics Officer Musa Saine. The ceremony was covered by The Point, Foroyaa and Standard Newspapers along with TV outlets; QTV, Star TV and Paradise TV.

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

Containers of Medical items shipped to The Gambia in 2020:

March 2020 - 20ft container

1)	18	pcs	Hospital beds
2)	8	pcs	Mattresses

August 2020 - 20ft container

Handing over Ceremony – August 20th at Manjai HQ

1)	5	pcs	Respirator PLV 100
2)	6	pcs	Respirator VS 3
3)	10	pcs	Single use hose systems
4)	12	pcs	double use hose systems
5)	100	pcs	Tubus Adapter
6)	100	pcs	HME Filter
7)	25	pcs	Respirator Ventimotion 2
8)	40	pcs	Hose systems Fur Ventimotion 2
9)	60	pcs	Filter for Ventimotion 2
10)	107	pcs	Nose - Mouth masks for Ventilation
11)	15	pcs	Hospital beds

November 2020 - 40ft container

Handed-Over – November 12th

Package 1	30	pieces	Mask valve
	40	pieces	Tube adapter
	10	pieces	Spiral hose
	75	pieces	Coarse dust filter
Package 2			
	1	pieces	Hose system set
	10	pieces	Hose system
	40	pieces	Tube adapter
	20	pieces	Spiral hose
Package 3			
	20	pieces	Hose system
	16	pieces	Hose system set
Package 4			
	20	pieces	Hose system
	17	pieces	Hose system set
Package 5			
	20	pieces	Hose system
	8	pieces	Hose system set

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

Package 6			
	20	pieces	Hose system
	7	pieces	Hose system set
Package 7			
	20	pieces	Hose system
	7	pieces	Hose system set
Package 8			
	250	pieces	Air conditioning filter
	250	pieces	Air conditioning filter
Package 9			
	20	pieces	Hose system
	6	pieces	Hose system set
Package 10			
	25	pieces	Air conditioning filter
Package 11			
	25	pieces	Air conditioning filter
Package 12			
	20	pieces	Hose system
	20	pieces	Tube adapter
Package 13			
		pieces	Humidifier for ventilators
Package 14			
		pieces	Oxygen connectors for ventilators
Package 15			
		pieces	different second hand items for ventilators
Package 16			
		pieces	different second hand items for ventilators
Package 17			
		pieces	Plaster, compresses, gloves for theatre, surgical caps
Package 18			
	2	pieces	examination couches
Package 19			
	29	pieces	hospital beds
Package 20			
	14	pieces	matrasses for hospital beds
		pieces	Humidifier for ventilators
		pieces	Oxygen connectors for ventilators

LABORATORY REPORT-JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020

The information below shows the number of patients tested at the lab for malaria, white blood cell count, haemoglobin HCG for pregnancy, AFB for TB, urinalysis and blood sugar. The charges for each of these tests are tabulated above on the clinic's tariff.

Number of patients tested at the lab for malaria, white blood cell count, and haemoglobin, HCG for pregnancy, AFB for TB, urinalysis and blood sugar.

2020

	AFB/TB	BF	WBC	HB	HIV	VDRL	URINALYSIS	HCG	BLOOD SUGAR	FEES
January	0	105	91	338	0	19	245	84	44	26,000
February	0	78	56	252	0	12	209	102	51	23,025
March	0	185	289	344	0	23	215	90	24	32,625
April	0	74	190	321	0	11	134	95	17	23850
May	0	45	151	248	0	6	101	94	21	19,225
June	0	19	35	347	0	4	134	105	29	20,150
July	0	16	32	368	0	6	128	105	47	21,075
August	0	37	14	433	0	0	135	126	0	20,900
September	0	12	2	508	0	0	143	129	61	26,020
October	0	122	66	591	0	8	141	131	81	33,725
November	0	566	184	429	0	6	136	144	62	42,400
December	0	280	12	44	0	0	104	72	30	14,700
TOTAL	0	1,539	1,122	4,223	0	95	1,825	1,277	467	303,695

DENTAL CLINIC 2020

The dental unit has remained closed throughout 2020 as finding trained Oral health care personnel has proven difficult.

The dental clinic was incorporated into the Jahaly Health Centre in 1998 with the view of promoting oral health care in the area and was fully operational in 2003 after an intensive 12 weeks course which was conducted at the Jahally health centre through the project in cooperation with the University of Witten/Herdecke in collaboration with WHO (prof. J. Frencken). During this period, five (5) of our project staff were trained and eventually took charge of our dental unit. Since this period, the dental unit had been operating smoothly until the beginning of 2012 when the unit was temporarily closed owing to lack of trained staff, as the trained ones had either left the country or quit for one reason or the other.

In 2017 we were able to reopen the dental unit; a former COHW (community oral health worker) was convinced to come back to the project. However, it was again closed in November 2019.

Prior to this, patients with dental problems didn't need to travel long distances to receive professional care.

JAHALY-MADINA KINDERGARTEN

The project has successfully gone through another year. As always the Kindergarten has made tremendous strides and continues to enjoy a good reputation. During the year under review lot of achievements have been registered, prominent among being the increase in enrolment, human resource development, continuous supply of food, uniforms and medical services etc... All of which are more or less customary of the institutional since the beginning.

STAFF STRUCTURE UNDER THE KINDERGARTEN

There are nineteen staff in Jahaly-Medina Kindergarten including cleaners, Cooks, gardeners and a Watchman. Below is a table showing the number of staff and their designation:

STAFF	NUMBER
Head Master	1
Deputy Head Master	1
Qualified Teachers	4
Unqualified	6
Quranic Teacher	1
Cooks	3
Cleaners	2
Gardener	1
Total	19

Unlike other provincial kindergartens, the enrolment figures in Jahaly-Madina Kindergarten still continues to overwhelm the project despite the two existing 'Madarassas' (Quranic Schools) of

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

Jahally and Madina. From October 28, 2020, 132 new students were enrolled, of which 72 were girls and 60 were boys. This huge number further compelled the project management to start a double shift system (morning and afternoon classes). Below is a brief overview:

	Level	students	Boys	Girls	Shift
Level 1	Giraffe	30	13	17	MORNING
Level 1	Hippo	30	16	14	MORNING
Level 1	Lion	30	9	21	MORNING
Level 2	Elephant	29	13	16	MORNING
Level 2	Zebra	29	18	11	MORNING
Level 2	Hippo	29	12	17	AFTERNOON
Level 2	Crocodile	30	19	11	MORNING
Level 3	Elephant	30	15	15	AFTERNOON
Level 3	Zebra	30	17	13	AFTERNOON
Level 3	Crocodile	30	20	10	AFTERNOON
Level 3	lion	30	17	13	AFTERNOON
		327	169	158	

As of December 2020 the kindergarten population stands at **327 students**, of which 158 are girls and 169 are boys. Audio-visual classes are still an integral component of our educational strategy, as children learn faster through seeing. The satellite disks and the DVD player are still in good condition, as the students and staffs continue to make use of the facility as and when necessary. It is important to note that the kindergarten had to be closed in 18th March 2020 due to the current pandemic. The project continued to support the kindergarten staff by paying salaries during the schools closure.

In the area of infrastructural development the school is well equipped with good quality chairs and tables to create a conducive and comfortable learning environment for children. Furthermore, all kindergarten building were completely painted inside giving it a fresh outlook.

In the area of health and feeding, the kindergarten still continues to provide free medical services and feeding to the 328 registered children, despite the fact of being phased out of the WFP'S school feeding programme under the Department of State for Education. It is however worth mentioning, at this juncture, that feeding such a huge number of children on a daily bases has not being plain sailing for the project, due to the sky rocketing commodity prices; and unfortunately all our efforts to lure WFP back has so far proven unsuccessful. To support the existing needs of feeding the students of the kindergarten on a daily basis, Project Aid has created another vegetable garden just opposite of the kindergarten compound with a dimension of 70 by 100m. Six (6) wells – with a size of 6m deep and a square meter of 1m by 1m each - were installed in the garden. Four (4) local women have been employed by the Project to water the plants on a daily basis.

The project also adopted a new policy to help with the feeding of the children. All students registered will pay a fee of D100.00 GMD for each school term. These fees are used to purchase the necessary food items for all kindergarten children. This policy has not been without its challenges as a large number of students fail to pay the fee required, even though the project still allows them to continue going to school and receive an education. Therefore, parents are now

required to make payment for the current school year, and also pay any outstanding fees, before their child/children can resume school.

Not only does the kindergarten provide free medical services and feeding to its young stars, but also supplies all 328, including the new intakes, with one new school uniform free as is customary of the institution. As the uniform material is not available locally, the project buys and sews uniforms in Kombo and then transports them to Jahaly every year for easy access.

The kindergarten has not also lost sight of its agricultural obligation. Maintaining a school garden is part of its activities, and during the year under review, it has served not only as an elementary agricultural lesson for the pupils but also its products are used to supplement the school canteen in order to provide adequate balanced meals for the children. Bananas and pawpaws also continue to play a pivotal role in boosting the nutritional status of these children for adequate growth.

In the Kindergarten, just like the health centres, protocols had to be put in place for all students and staff to protect them from Covid-19. Securities are in place at the school gate with thermometers to test all who enter. Upon successful testing, students and teachers will wash their hands with soap and proceed to their classes. All classes have a maximum of 30 students and no class exceeds this amount, as stated in the school guidelines by the Ministry of Education. Furthermore, the students and their desks are spaced out to implement a social distance protocol with the students. Hand sanitizers are available in classroom and students, as well as, teachers must sanitize before entering the class.

It is indeed an understatement to assert that the year under review has been truly eventful especially, when one takes stock of the high enrolment, capacity building, free medical service, free feeding, free supply of uniforms and the admirable academic standard.

CAPACITY BUILDING:

The kindergarten teachers still continue to avail themselves of training opportunities offered by the project through Mrs Patricia Ceesay, the Project's Educational Adviser. Mrs Ceesay in her training concentrates on all areas of the teaching and learning of young children, with particular emphasis on material production as well as other valuable teaching techniques.

AGRICULTURE

As the project operates in three intervention areas namely Health, Education and Agriculture it is important to shed light on the developments that took place in this sector over the year under review. It's already established that the project is supporting the operation of four vegetable gardens in the two communities, Jahaly and Madina to be precise for many years now.

However there was not much activity from the side of the project, in respect of these gardens, due to the fact that much of its job had been done over the past years. Therefore 2020 was a largely uneventful year for the project, allowing the women to get the best out of the gardens.

Not only does the project give support to the people of the community in horticulture but also provided them with a tractor, with all its accessories, to support them in all their agricultural ventures, at a very minimal cost if any at all. The tractor can be hired by the villagers at a very

minimal cost if any at all. The proceeds collected is used by the project for diesel and maintenance purposes.

The tractor suffered a breakdown in 2019 and the project is doing everything it can to make the vehicle available to the people again.

MORINGA PLANTATION

It is common knowledge that all the activities of the Project are being financed by our overseas donors mainly from Germany.

It is however worth noting that these donors may not stay with us forever and as such the project needs to put plans in place to finance its activities in the event of donors withdrawing for whatever reason. As a consequence of this fear the German sponsors conceived the idea of developing a moringa plantation whose products can be sold to further finance the project activities e.g. procurement of drugs ect. This idea was implemented in 2012 in Jahaly, next to the Health Centre, and at present around 8,000 trees have been planted. Five (5) gardeners are employed to work exclusively on the plantation since its inception: watering, weeding and applying natural fertiliser to the plants, mainly animal dung & groundnut shells.

These plants were found to possess huge medicinal values of incredible effect on human beings and animals and as such the idea was borne to powder leaves for sale in Europe. As a result of the problems encountered in maintaining the expected hygienic standard, this idea was ultimately abandoned.

In 2020 the project concentrated on expressing oil from the Moringa seeds. This oil is mostly used to produce a body soap of a very high standard.

In December, 5th 2018, the Moringa field caught fire and 3 ½ plots were burnt down, and part of the wooden fence was also burnt. In 2020, the Moringa field was quite progressive. New plants have been transplanted in the affected area in the field and the plants are growing amazingly.

SMOKE FREE OVENS

The smoke free oven project has not been very active the last years, since the last construction of 150 ovens in Jahaly and Madina, jointly funded by Project Aid and Sheck Farage Foundation in 2013-2014. However plans are in place to improve these ovens in 2020 as this initiative is quite meaningful for the project, having surely reduced the incidences of innocent children falling into the fire as the case frequently was.

+ The consumption of firewood will also be greatly reduced saving the forest from deforestation.

+ Smoke related illnesses affecting the cooks (women) will also be a thing of the past.

+ With the danger of all the above odds eliminated the ultimate out come will be economic sustainability for the beneficiaries which is the primary aim and the objective of the project management.

OVERSEAS MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR SICK GAMBIAN CHILDREN

In 2012 Project Aid went into a co-operation with a German NGO called Peace Village/ Friedensdorf International to airlift sick Gambian children, who cannot be treated locally to Germany for better medical attention.

In June, 2012, the first batch of three (3) sick Gambian children left for Germany where they received first class medical attention for their different illnesses. Eleven months later they all returned home, completely cured of their life threatening illnesses, which became a ground breaking moment for the parents and the Government of the Republic of The Gambia on one hand, and Peace Village and Project Aid on the other hand.

In 2019, six (6) Gambian children were taken to Germany for overseas treatment. Nine children (9) returned after undergoing successful treatment and one (1) after undergoing further diagnosis.

In 2020, 2 children have been returned after successful treatment. However, no children were taken for treatment due to the Covid-19 pandemic that halted operations and restricted travel. Peace Village and the project hope to resume its collaborative activities in the coming year.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO / RETURNED FROM OVERSEAS TREATMENT FROM 2012 TO 2020

Year	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020
	A*	R*	A*	R*	A*	R*	A*	R*	A*	R*	A*	R*	A*	R	A*	R*	R*
patients	3	0	8	4	12	7	7	10	13	13	13	14	9	10	5	9	2

A* = admitted to Germany R* = returned to The Gambia

In total Seventy- Six (76) Gambian Children have so far benefited from our overseas treatment. The efforts of every party involved have been life changing for many families, and the project is receiving applications for other children. As stated, overseas treatment has been difficult to do with the current global pandemic but efforts are being made to restart the endeavour in the coming year. It is important to highlight, at this juncture, that this treatment program is absolutely free of charge for the children and their parents as Project Aid and Peace Village foot the entire bill from start to finish.

Not only does Peace Village help The Gambia in the treatment of sick children, but it also supports the medical facilities with hospital materials and equipment through Project Aid. This was amply demonstrated in 2017 when some containers were sent in loaded with 5 tons of mentioned materials and equipment through the project for onward transmission to the Government.

Below are the criteria for selection in to this program, as well as information about Friedensdorf/Peace Village.

In Friedensdorf [English - Peace Village] program admits children for medical treatment under the following conditions:

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

- Social indication: parents are financially not in the position to arrange overseas treatment
- Necessity: the child suffers an illness or injury that is life-threatening or means a serious limitation of function; treatment is not available/affordable in Gambia/Senegal, as taking a child from its family and natural surroundings is always the very last resort!!!
- Parents/guardians must guarantee they will accept the child back into the family without any discussion and make no effort for the child to remain in Germany
- Treatment is possible in Europe and has a good prospective for success

Experience has shown that the following causes are likely to be accepted if the needed operation is not available at home:

- Osteomyelitis (infection of the bone or bone marrow)
- Conditions after burns, for example with fire, gas or any explosion. Usually with scar contracture that limits function of hands/leg or closing of eyes/nose/mouth
- congenital disorder/malformation such as analatresia (malformation of rectum), urogenital malformation (e.g. hypospadias or bladder extrophy) but also of orthopedic kind such as club foot)
- Cleft palates or ankylosis [stiffness] of jaw

Unfortunately not admitted are:

- any neurological or cardiology problems or any form of cancer, as treatment cannot be arranged for free in Germany and as the success rate is not always high, Children that suffer a problem due to cerebral palsy or Spina bifida cannot be accepted. The problem might look like an orthopedic one at first, but usually no easy improvement can be achieved by simple surgery

Further framework:

- Children must be eleven (11) years old or younger. They must not be breast feeding by the time of admission
- Parents must agree that child travels without parents/guardian and that guardianship will be transferred to Peace Village during the entire time in Germany. Guardianship automatically ends upon the child's return to the home country
- Parents must guarantee that the family will not undertake any initiative for the child to stay in Germany or have any private contacts, for example with family/friends living in Europe. Since every child in the program will be treated equally, unfortunately no such contacts can be allowed
- Peace Village is never "obliged" to admit a child. Even if all formal requirements are met, last decision is solely their decision
- The Gambia guarantees to admit every child back home in the country. Under no circumstances will any child remain in Germany

Upon return, every child is given some small financial aid for reintegration and a bag with clothing and personal belongings.

While in Germany the child will either be admitted in hospital or live with the other children in peace village. The children will not stay with any private family.

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

Around 240 children, going and coming from hospitals all over Germany, stay together with all other small patients, attend rehabilitation programs such as physiotherapy, water gyms etc. Peace Village pays attention that the cultural values of all children are respected (e.g. there is no pork at their meals etc.)

Children are luckily very fast to pick up a new language if needed. After few weeks many children can speak basic German. If needed to explain treatment etc. Peace Village usually manages to find interpreters. If several children come from the same country, they are often able to translate for one another due to different durations of stay. Funnily enough, after some months children do not only learn to speak German, but also other languages spoken at Peace village. (Peace Village even has some Afghan kids who can speak Portuguese, because their new friend is from Angola and vice versa!)

Before Peace Village decides to admit a child, it is best to have as much medical material available as possible, ideally a recent x-ray a recent x-ray along with a medical report.

BUNIADU HEALTH CENTRE AND KINDERGARTEN

INTRODUCTION

The non-profit association Riverboat Doctors International (RDI) e.V. was founded in 2004 and is based in Ganderkesee, Germany. Since 2007, the association has been running "Buniadu Health Centre", an outpatient Health Centre in the village of Buniadu (NRR) on the north bank of the river Gambia. The Health Centre employs twelve local staff, including two trained nurses. Regular on-the-spot staffing is provided by volunteers (doctors, nurses and carers, as well as craftsmen) from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The project also implemented Covid-19 protocols to prevent the spread of the virus. Just like in Jahaly Health Centre, Face masks were provided to all patients and staff, washing areas were made available and hand sanitizers places in all needed areas. The kindergarten was also used as a social distancing area during the closure of the school.

About 85 outpatients show up for treatment every day, most of whom are children. Infectious diseases: malaria, worm diseases, burns and accidents of all kinds are treated. Increasingly, also chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. In addition, education courses in nutrition and hygiene are offered in cooperation with local experts. Since 2012 the Health Centre Buniadu has been equipped with water supply and a small solar system which was enhanced with new solar batteries in 2019. The board members and all members of the association in Germany work voluntarily.

Buniadu health centre and its kindergarten were officially handed over to Project Aid The Gambia with effect from February 1st 2017

BUNIADU HEALTH CENTRE

STAFF STRUCTURE UNDER THE CLINIC

There Ten (10) staff in Buniadu Health Centre including Watchmen. Below is a table showing the number of staff and their designation:

STAFF	NUMBER
CHN Ophthalmic	1
CHN	1
Nurse Attendants	4
Watchmen (day & night)	3
Cleaner	1
Total	10

The following data show the number of patients seen by Buniadu Health Centre in the different months of 2020:

2020	male	Female	fees	patients free of charge
January	354	567	27950	36
February	308	490	23620	40
March	382	527	27490	37
April	298	385	21300	23
May	324	490	25010	22
June	529	765	40320	16
July	521	711	39020	19
August	539	845	43420	19
September	699	905	51510	29
October	637	897	49860	14
November	570	815	45560	34
December	342	533	28640	13
Total	5503	7930	423700	302

Annual Report 2020 - Project Aid The Gambia, NGO A 57

Number of patients tested at the lab for haemoglobin, HCG for pregnancy and blood sugar.

	Urine test	HCG test 40 GMD	Blood sugar test 40 GMD	Hb test	Malaria test
January	1	13	32	0	0
February	5	13	11	0	0
March	0	17	15	0	0
April	0	14	22	0	0
May	0	18	11	0	0
June	0	19	14	16	0
July	0	15	19	28	0
August	0	27	19	4	0
September	0	19	36	54	0
October	0	14	53	50	0
November	0	23	38	65	0
December	0	18	27	23	0
Total	6	210	297	240	0

BUNIADU KINDERGARTEN

There four staff in Buniadu Kindergarten including Cleaner. Below is a table showing the number of staff and their designation:

STAFF	NUMBER
Head Teacher	1
Junior Teachers	2
Cleaner	1
Total	4

The kindergarten had to be closed in March due to the pandemic and was to resume in October 28th and the project continued to pay staff salaries during the closure period. The kindergarten was unable to open at the scheduled date of 28th October due to a certain issue. An agreement was made between the project and the Buniadu community in which the community will be responsible for making sure the kindergarten is cleared of all bushes after the rainy season. This task was not completed in time which caused a delay in school reopening. The kindergarten was reopened 9th November 2020, with 25 new students enrolled, of which 17 were girls and 19 were boys.

The kindergarten population stands at 75 students, 47 of which are girls and 28 are boys.

CAPACITY BUILDING:

Currently the project is sponsoring one student in the ECD Course at Gambia College School of Education.

Manjai, January 2021

Haddy Sillah (Financial Coordinator)