



Projekthilfe Gambia e.V.

## **Brief Overview on our Projects in The Gambia** (as of May 2021)

### **Jahaly Health Centre (“Buschlinik”)**



The “Jahaly Health Centre”, CRR, serves about 30,000 to 45,000 patients per year – outpatients as well as inpatients – and is considered one of the country’s best rural health facilities. In 2009 it has been recognized by the Gambian government as a “model clinic”.

The clinic has several consultation rooms, two wards, a laboratory, a pharmacy, a maternity ward and an ambulance. The dental unit has been closed since November 2019.

A 20KW solar power system provides clean energy round the clock 24/7. For a health facility up-country this is very special. In 2019 the Health Centre was connected to the recently installed public power grid.

The success of the clinic is based on renovations and maintenance, which are done regularly. All buildings have got new roofs, tiles, sanitary units along with doors and windows made of aluminum, which are easy to be maintained. All floors and walls are tiled. The patient beds are made out of concrete and are tiled. This sounds strange, but thus everything is hygienic and easy to keep clean. Providing hygienic conditions are one of the main challenges of the health sector in The Gambia.

A state registered Gambian nurse is the Head of the clinic. Patients pay a consultancy fee of between 0.25 Euro (children younger than 5 years old) and 0.50 Euro (children from 5 years and adults) as well as a flat medication fee of 1.65 Euro for prescribed drugs. The staff salaries are higher than in comparable state run facilities. Staff and families have free accommodation with access to water and electricity 24/7 in the clinic compound.

### **Health Centre Buniadu**



Since 2017 the Gambian Project Aid The Gambia has also been operating the small Health Centre of Buniadu, NBR. The Health Centre sees about 1,000 patients per month. In 2018 Project Aid constructed a European styled staff quarter for the two nurses in charge as well as for European volunteers. The Health Centre is organized in the same way as Jahaly Health Centre. It was founded and it is still funded by the German NGO “Riverboat Doctors International”.



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### Jahaly/Madina Kindergarten with nursery school



In 2004 Project Aid The Gambia opened the Jahaly/Madina kindergarten with pre-school for 240 children right next to the “Jahaly Health Centre”. The cost for construction and operation of the first three years were financed through a charity fundraising program of RTL German Television.

The requests of parents to provide more seats in kindergarten and pre-school has since increased steadily. In 2014 afternoon classes were introduced. This made it possible to now teach up to 480 children. In the academic year 2020/2021 there are 330 children (2019/2020: 370, 2018/2019: 340, 2017/2018: 280, 2016/2017: 360, 2015/2016: 450, 2014/2015: 410 children).

Children are divided in three grades. There are not more than 40 children per class. Their age range between four and seven years and they learn the basics of reading, writing, counting and are thus prepared to later attend the Primary School. They also learn the English language, which is key for attending the Primary School. The children speak in their local language at home.

Children are given a free lunch every school day. There are six class rooms, a school garden, a playground and a stage for presentations. Additionally the Kindergarten has an own kitchen and store, offices for the teachers, ten toilets and sinks. Great importance is attached to the education on hygiene – for example on washing hands before and after eating.

In benchmarking events with other kindergartens in the Gambia the Jahaly/Madina Kindergarten is gaining regularly top positions. All employees are provided with an apartment placed on the premises of Jahaly Health Centre.

### Buniadu Kindergarten with nursery school



Since 2018 the Gambian Project Aid The Gambia has also been operating the small kindergarten of Buniadu, NBR, which is located next to the Health Center Buniadu. In 2018 Project Aid extended the kindergarten by one classroom. Now around 100 children come to the kindergarten every day. The kindergarten is funded by the German NGO “Riverboat Doctors International”.



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### Gardening projects

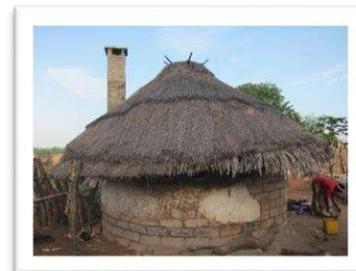
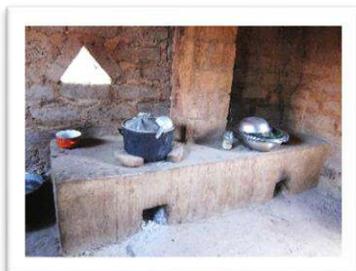


Project Aid The Gambia supports four gardening projects in the villages of Jahaly and neighbouring Madina through fencing and building wells. About 1,000 women cultivate their own beds with a total size of more than 100,000 m<sup>2</sup>. On their plots the women grow green tomatoes, onions, pepper, okra, garden-eggs, salads, cabbage, carrots, sweet potatoes and many more vegetables.

The women are very committed and they are able to enrich their families diets a lot with the fresh vegetables. Items they do not use for themselves the women sell on the local markets. This own income means to the women a piece of financial independence. The money the women invest especially in health and in their children's education.

Since 2005 there is also a tractor available equipped with basic tools like a disk harrow and a trailer. The tractor is parked within the campus and may be lent by the local farmers. They only pay for the Diesel and the driver. Maintenance costs are covered by Project Aid.

### Eco-friendly smoke-free ovens



In 2010 Project Aid started to develop eco-friendly ovens, which are meant to replace the traditional open fires people use to cook in the villages. The ovens save a lot of fire wood and make cooking more comfortable as the smoke does not longer cause diseases of eyes or irritations of the respiratory path. They also decrease the risk of burn injuries among children. The village population is purchasing the necessary sand for the construction of the oven and send a worker. The construction of one stove inc. building material and labor costs for the Project Aid's mason costs about 25 Euro. The women of the villages are very excited about the ovens. For the first time since the existence of Jahaly Health Centre in 2014 the clinic had no longer to treat burns, especially small children have suffered from falling into the open fire places. By now about 150 such ovens have been built in Jahaly and Madina. Since the construction worked poorly, the idea is no longer being pursued.



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### Moringa tree plantation



Since 2013 a Moringa tree plantation with 10,000 trees is being built on a site behind Jahaly Health Centre and kindergarten. Moringa Oleifera is the most nutritious plant in the world. The production and sale of "The Gambia Moringa" products (currently oil and soap) in Europe is creating jobs in Jahaly and is intended to put the projects on a sustainable financial basis in the long term. All proceeds from the sale flow directly back into the projects. Two bush fires that spread to the plantation in 2018 and 2020 destroyed most of the trees. The plantation is currently being reforested.

### Overseas treatment for severely ill Gambian children



Project Aid The Gambia – in cooperation with the German charity “Friedensdorf (Peace Village) International” is organizing overseas treatment inc. often life-saving surgeries for severely sick and injured Gambian children up to a maximum age of 11 years in Germany. The little patients undergo a strict selection process in The Gambia. Children from areas of war or crises can only be admitted into the programme if they are so seriously ill that there is no hope for treatment in their home country.

Children travel to Germany without their parents. Project Aid advises and supports the parents in The Gambia by preparing their children’s trip, organizes passports and visa and also flight tickets. While the children are in Germany, Project Aid facilitates the communication between Peace Village and the parents. Children with e.g. congenital malformations, severe burns or chronic inflammation, which can’t be cured in The Gambia are treated mostly free of charge in hospitals throughout Germany.

Upon successful treatment children return to their home countries after some time of rehabilitation in Peace Village’s own campus, where children meet age mates from other countries but similar stories.

By end of 2020 a total of 76 children have been flown to Germany for urgent medical treatment since 2012.



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## Cooperation with the Government of The Gambia - Outlook



For years, there has been cooperation between Project Aid The Gambia and the Gambian government. Project Aid supports the work of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education - directly or through or with the help of partners in Germany and The Gambia. Project Aid regularly ships aid containers to The Gambia with medical equipment and/or medicines for the Ministry of Health or individual hospitals. During the Corona pandemic in 2020, Projekthilfe sent a total of four aid containers to The Gambia. Over 13,500 euros were incurred for transport costs alone. The containers between June 2020 and December 2020 contained, among other things, a total of 83 hospital beds, including six intensive care beds, and 36 ventilators. The beds were donated by Essen University Hospital, the ventilators were provided by the German companies Loewenstein Medical and Boergel. The Office of the German Embassy in Gambia also financed the purchase of accessories for the ventilators to the tune of 7,000 euros. The majority of the hospital beds went to the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital EFSTH, the largest hospital in The Gambia. Project Aid itself brought 19 beds to the hospital in Bansang in November 2020 - 310 kilometres from the coast, 40 kilometres east of Jahaly.

Six hospital beds and two wheelchairs went to the police hospital in Banjul, three hospital beds and two wheelchairs to the medical department of the "Live Your Dreams Football Academy". One bed and two wheelchairs were given to teacher Lamin Koopmans for his disabled pupils at Tanji Lower Basic School. The wheelchairs are donations from the German company Luttermann.

In 2020, Project Aide had mouth-nose masks produced in The Gambia and distributed 23,000 of them free of charge to 51 government health facilities.

The governmental Jahaly Basic Cycle School in Jahaly has received hundreds of chairs and desks for its classrooms in recent years.



In 2011/2012 Project Aid The Gambia built a model clinic in the village Njaba Kunda, NBR. The clinic was handed over to the Gambian government in April 2012. The construction of the new Health Centre was funded through donations by Project Aid - supported with funding of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



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In January 2019 Matthias Ketteler and Charles Mbye of Project Aid The Gambia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Health (MOH) which is intended to improve the health care in rural Gambia. Project Aid will seek sponsors to renovate and maintain a large number of rural health centers. The health centers will be equipped with solar energy, running water, a small laboratory and, if not available, staff houses. Project Aid will try to obtain urgently needed (second hand) medical equipment, maintain it regularly and train technical operators. There is also an app in the pipeline designed to simplify patient management and drug delivery to health centers.



### **About Us**

Project Aid The Gambia - Projekthilfe Gambia e.V.

The partner organizations were both founded in 1985 as “Projekthilfe Dritte Welt e.V.” (Germany) and “Project Aid The Third World” (The Gambia). The German organization is based in Hattingen/Germany as a registered and state-approved charity NGO. The organization in The Gambia is registered as International NGO A57. In 2015 both organization were renamed to “Projekthilfe Gambia e.V.” respectively “Project Aid The Gambia”.

The German organization has about 45 members and about 330 supporters. All members including the two Boards of Management and all activists in Germany work voluntarily. The Board of Project Aid The Gambia oversees the NGO's work in The Gambia

Since many years the administrative and advertising costs of the organization amount to only less than 1 per cent up to 4 per cent.

The daily work on the ground is done by the Gambian partner organization “Project Aid The Gambia”. Project Aid The Gambia employs a total of 70 staff. A Gambian Project Coordinator supported by one assistant organizes the daily work in all of the projects. The management team especially cares for the logistics of the in-time delivery of all drugs to the Health Centers in Jahaly and Buniadu. At least once a month the Project Coordinator is travelling to Jahaly and Buniadu. The management team is in contact with the German partner organization on a daily basis.

Project Aid The Gambia provides advice for the Gambian government (Ministry of Health – MOH) in issues of rural health care.

### **More information:**

Website: [www.buschlinik.de/en](http://www.buschlinik.de/en)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BuschlinikGambia](https://www.facebook.com/BuschlinikGambia)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/Buschlinik](https://www.youtube.com/user/Buschlinik)



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