



Newsletter No. 12

May 2021

Projekthilfe Gambia e. V.





Hattingen, Germany/Manjai Kunda, May 2021

Dear friend and supporters of Project Aid The Gambia,

a warm "Welcome" to this newsletter edition from the Project Aid The Gambia team in Hattingen, Germany, and in The Gambia. We hope you like the new layout. It is based on the layout of our new flyer, which will be published in the next few days. You are welcome to request free copies to read and distribute. Just send an e-mail to info@buschclinic.de.

We hope you have come through these times in good health. It looks like the worst is over in Germany. Stay confident.

4 May 2021 was the **thirtieth anniversary** of the **opening of the Jahaly Health Centre** in Jahaly, CRR. We are proud that we have been able to provide basic medical care in Jahaly for so long thanks to your donations and the tireless efforts of our nurses - and that the Jahaly Health Centre still looks the same today as it did on its first day. We think: actually, it looks even better. On the day of the anniversary, our team in Jahaly did what they have done every day since 4 May 1991: take care of the patients. At the top of the page you can see the Jahaly Health Centre staff sending warm greetings to you. You can see how the anniversary was celebrated in Jahaly a few days ago on the last page. Let's go for the next 30 years!

And by the way, on 23.12.2020 we remembered **the founding of Project Aid The Gambia** exactly **35 years** ago. You can read a report in the German newspaper WAZ about Projekthilfe boss and co-founder Matthias Ketteler [here \(please just click here\)](#)

In the last few months, we have been busy in The Gambia supporting the public health system in the fight against the **Corona pandemic**. In 2020, we sent a total of **four aid containers** to Gambia, mainly loaded with used medical equipment. The transport costs alone amounted to over **13,500 euros**. 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**, Germany, the ventilators were provided by the companies **Loewenstein Medical** and **Boergel**. The **Office of the German Embassy in The Gambia** also financed the purchase of accessories for the ventilators to the tune of 7,000 euros. The donations were handed over to the Gambian Ministry of Health at a well-attended **press conference** held at our Project Office in Manjai Kunda. You can watch the report of the Gambian TV station "Star TV - The Gambia" about this press conference [here \(please just click here\)](#)



The majority of the hospital beds are distributed via the Gambian Ministry of Health's **Central Medical Store** to health facilities in the country - including the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital EFSTH, the largest hospital in The Gambia. We ourselves transported 19 beds to the hospital in **Bansang** - 310 kilometres from the coast, 40 kilometres east of Jahaly - with our truck in November 2020.

Six hospital beds and two wheelchairs were donated to the **Gambia Police Force Clinic** 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**.

Dr. Eliezer Rodrigues from Venezuela, who was our medical advisor in The Gambia for several months last year, instructed medical staff from the Gambian Ministry of Health in the use of the ventilators.

Until then, only 20 ventilators were available for 2.3 million people in The Gambia. Thanks to our donations, the medical treatment options for patients in The Gambia - even beyond the Corona pandemic - have now **improved** significantly.

The EFSTH hospital received 4,000 washable everyday cotton masks from our "**Masks for The Gambia**" fundraising campaign, which we had produced in The Gambia. Our team personally distributed 11,000 masks to 25 health posts and two hospitals in the North Bank River Region. Previously, we had already delivered 8,000 masks to 23 health centers and local health posts in the Central River Region around Jahaly.

The **Corona situation** in The Gambia itself remains unclear. Officially, there have been **5,940 Corona cases** registered in The Gambia so far (as of 11.05.2021), 91 of which are active. 5,4674 patients have recovered, 175 have died. A high number of unreported cases must still be assumed, since testing facilities exist almost exclusively in the coastal region. In the meantime, 25,445 people have been vaccinated – a little more than one per cent of the population. The disaster in India, where more than 3,000 people die every day from Corona, shows what can happen in Africa if vaccination campaigns are not ramped up quickly. We fervently hope that Africa, and by extension The Gambia, will be spared this fate.

In **2020**, we treated **32,232 outpatients** at the Jahaly Health Centre in Jahaly. **313** patients were admitted as in-patients, **88** were referred to the hospital in Bansang. Our midwife delivered **48 babies** at the Jahaly Health Centre. Our small laboratory carried out **10,291** laboratory tests.



In April 2021, the Jahaly Health Centre introduced a **flat medication fee** of 1.65 euros per patient for the first time. Until then, prescribed medicines had always been dispensed free of charge for 30 years. Sustained high patient numbers in recent years are one of the reasons for this change. There is another reason why Project Aid considers the introduction of a drug fee to be sensible: "Development cooperation means putting the economic basis of projects on their own feet," says Matthias Ketteler from the board of Project Aid The Gambia. "We guarantee that there will always be enough medicines available in the Jahaly Health Centre in the future". At the end of March, Project Aid bought medicines for about 18,000 euros to replenish the supplies in the Jahaly Health Centre for a whole year. A detailed explanation of the new fees can be found [here \(please just click here\)](#). Freed-up funds can be used, among other things, to finance further container aid transports.

The **Jahaly Madina Kindergarten** was able to reopen in November 2020 after a seven-month Corona closure. More than 30 children per classroom are not allowed. Tables and chairs have a prescribed spacing of 1.5 metres. The other requirements of the education and health ministries regarding hygiene, disinfection and temperature measurement are also adhered to. But the main thing is to get things started again. This academic year, the kindergarten is looking after a total of 330 children - 172 girls and 158 boys - in eleven learning groups, six in the morning and five in the afternoon.

With the energetic support of **Julius Possel**, a student of plant biology at the German Osnabrueck University of Applied Sciences, we are working on the reforestation of our **moringa plantation** these weeks. Due to drought and after two bush fires that had spread to the plantation, only 1,500 of the original 10,000 moringa trees are left. 9,000 plants were replanted from seed in February. Some of them will now be planted out on the plantation. Julius has worked with our gardeners to prune the old trees professionally. He has analysed soil samples and improved the soil quality by applying lime. In the next few weeks he will experiment with irrigation and hopefully bring the plantation to new flowering.

And what else?

The **aid convoy** of our **Regional Group North** planned for October 2020 and postponed to 2021 has been postponed for another year to Easter or autumn 2022 due to the Corona pandemic.

Volunteering and **internships** in The Gambia have been possible again since April 2021. A full Corona vaccination is not a requirement, but is strongly recommended by the board.



In January 2021, **two young patients** were finally able to return home to their families after medical treatment and rehabilitation in Germany. Their return flight had been further delayed due to Corona travel restrictions. We thank **Friedensdorf (Peace Village) International** for taking such good care of them (and of all the others)!

Also recovered is our **tractor** in Jahaly, which had been out of action for 22 months. A new diesel pump has given it new life. Now the farmers in Jahaly can finally borrow the tractor again. The farmers pay for the diesel and the driver. We take care of maintenance and repair - even if the latter is not always as quick as we would like.

In 2020, the administrative/advertising costs of Projekthilfe Gambia e.V. amounted to 3.95 per cent. This means that of every euro donated, more than 96 cents went directly to our projects in The Gambia. For comparison, the corresponding costs of organisations with the German DZI donation seal: 13 to 14 per cent.

The student **Regional Group South** around Hannes Rapp in Ulm has disbanded.

The **2020 Annual General Meeting** of Project Aid The Gambia, Germany, was postponed because of Corona and will take place as soon as face-to-face meetings are possible again. The board will remain in office until then.

Finally, as always, we ask you to keep informed about our work for the people of The Gambia. **Please also kindly ask your friends and acquaintances to support Project Aid The Gambia and ask them to support our work with a one-time or regular donation or by sponsoring one of our kindergarten places.**

We promise: Your donations are guaranteed to reach our projects with only a minimal deduction.

By the way: If you use **AmazonSmile**, we receive 0.5 per cent of your purchases as a donation from Amazon. By May 2021, we have already received 519.21 euros in donations. There are **no** additional costs for you. Simply follow [this link \(please just click here\)](#). **New:** now also via the **Amazon app**. You can find out how to set this up [here](#).

We thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely

Projekthilfe Gambia e.V. (Project Aid The Gambia)

The Board

Matthias Ketteler, Frank Heuer, Dieter Lieken, Ulfert Engelkes, Juergen Heuer



30th anniversary in Jahaly. The staff party.

On Sunday afternoon (16 May), a small celebration was held at Jahaly Health Centre to commemorate the foundation of the clinic 30 years ago. The staff of Jahaly Health Centre and the kindergarten - nurses, laboratory assistants, cooks, teachers, educators, cleaners, gardeners and watchmen - were invited. The elders from Jahaly, the alkalos and imams of Jahaly and Madina were present. From Manjai Kunda, the team of the project's main office and three members of the board of Project Aid The Gambia had arrived. The women had prepared a festive meal of grilled chicken in baobab sauce. And a birthday cake. Matthias Ketteler from the board of Project Aid thanked the staff for 30 years of commitment and for their excellent work. "My thanks go to the entire team and to my mentor, Abubacarr Tambadou, who convinced me 33 years ago in Germany to build a clinic here in Jahaly, his home village. I am happy because Jahaly Health Centre has become a model for the whole of The Gambia. And that is not because of the solid buildings, the money or the maintenance, but because of the people. The fact that we have the trust of the people of Jahaly and Madina is of the utmost importance." It was a happy afternoon - despite over 40 degrees in the shade.



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Website für weitere
Informationen über
unsere Arbeit:



www.buschlinik.de

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Kontakt

Projekthilfe Gambia e. V.

Byfanger Str. 23

45529 Hattingen

Tel. 0234 9418322

E-Mail info@buschlinik.de

Internet www.buschlinik.de

Regionalgruppe Nord

Mittenfelder Weg 12

26935 Stadland

Tel. 0170 5638231 (Dieter Lieken)

Tel. 0176 84343291 (Rieke Wiese)

E-Mail regionalgruppeNord@buschlinik.de

Project Aid The Gambia

International NGO A57

Main Office, off Kotu Road, Manjai Kunda

P.O. Box 4540 Bakau

The Gambia / West Africa

E-Mail projectaid@work.gm

Bankverbindungen

Sparkasse Hattingen **IBAN DE204305 1040 0000 0509 63**

Geno Bank Essen e.G. **IBAN DE57 3606 0488 0200 9009 00**

Oldenburgische Landesbank **IBAN DE41 2802 0050 1742 5430 00**

Eingetragen im Vereinsregister

Amtsgericht Essen - Registriernummer VR 30455

Gemeinnützigkeit anerkannt

Fotos: Angelika Berndt (front page), Alhagie Manka (page 1 right), Project Aid
The Gambia, Projekthilfe Gambia e.V.

V.i.S.d.P.: Ulfert Engelkes

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