



**The Indigo Project
Gambia**

The Indigo Project - Gambia

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Winter Newsletter: Issue 4

Newsletter Winter 2014 Issue 4

Season's Greetings to everyone and all who have supported the project this year. It has been a good year with 3 visits to The Gambia in 2014, to continue supporting the communities we are working with and additional support in the form of a team visiting just recently moved some projects forward significantly. You will see this further in the newsletter, but from all of us at The Indigo Project – Gambia have a fantastic New Year and wishes of health and happiness to all.

As you will remember the last newsletter saw the container leaving Tearie Farmhouse and after its successful arrival in August, two members of the charity went to The Gambia in October to sort out the items ready for the volunteer group going there in late November. There was a lot to sort, but it was completed with the help of 2 locals (at least) who help us regularly when we go out there.

The trip in late November saw most work carried out closely with The Janet School. As this has been the largest group so far to go out and undertake work, it gave us few unknowns. It was decided to concentrate on this geographical area of Serrakunda on this visit, as the temperatures are much higher inland and concern was expressed regarding carrying out work at Genieri Village. However, we did still visit the village and delivered some resources. This is tabled later in the newsletter.

The Janet School, Serrakunda



And so with attention at The Janet School we worked as a team to 'beautify' the school grounds. The outside of the classrooms were re-painted, the team carried out the ground preparation of the vegetable patch, re-limed the wall in the playground and painted a mural on it. We delivered some classroom work, tidied up the bin area and provided the sponsor children with their new packs for the new school year. Finally we made a play area out of discarded tyres. Abdul the Head Teacher and the other staff were very grateful for the work we did. Abdul even joked he had cancelled our flights for us to stay a further week!



Abdul, other staff and helpers plus the children were involved in different stages and were very eager to support us and on the last day they offered a beautiful assembly with singing and a member of our group played the Scottish Chanter (pre-cursor to the bagpipes) to the children as a cultural exchange.



Abdul re-liming the playground wall



Pictures illustrating the work carried out at the school.

There were approximately 200 hours spent on this project over the 2 weeks. We supplied the cost of the paint as well as the lime. The paint to design the mural was donated and sent in the container back in August. The work was carried out on a tight budget due to the container costs.

What's Next?

The next project now would be to support Abdul in completing the build of an Upper School and Nursery within the current grounds. Abdul houses the Nursery elsewhere at considerable cost per year and the Upper School does not exist yet, which is what we would like to see change. He has already dug the foundations and bought the bricks but he needs assistance in the final stages. This would be at a cost of £10k. Abdul hopes to complete this work before the end of April 2015 as his lease expires on the Nursery building then.



We would like to fund this or even provide a microloan. When Abdul is not paying out for the soon to expire premises, then he would be able to pay back the loan.

If this is achieved then accommodating the nursery on the ground floor and grade 7 on the upper floor will allow the school to provide education to age 16. It will also reduce the schools outgoings greatly by not covering the expenses of two venues.

Sponsorship at The Janet School

Eight children are currently sponsored in this area. Five are still at the Janet School and there are three children who have left there to continue their education at different Upper Schools. Their individual sponsorship has followed them to their new school. There are five children that have been identified on this occasion and at this school requiring sponsorship which costs £150 per year. The charity supports the child throughout their education and



again sponsorship goes with them when they are at an age to leave Janet school.

If Abdul is able to complete the build for the new building then these children will stay at the same school longer. Please note, no children are dropped in their sponsorship if a sponsor did not want to continue with their sponsorship. We do our utmost to ensure a new sponsor is found and the education is continued.



We like to keep in contact with all our sponsors

and ask you let us know if possible in plenty of time if you would like to cease sponsorship. Our sponsors are not obliged to continue until the child completed their education. We are very, very grateful for what you can do.

Community Shop

As well as the work we carried out at the school, the container also took donations from Scotland to a Community Shop. The shop was in the final stages of being ready to receive the goods to sell so we bought the final bits to complete the work. This included cement for the floor to enable the laying of the tiles and lime with added colour to paint the inside and the outside of the shop. As well as this providing resource in the local area this provided work for a local builder.



The shop is to be run by a young lady who we pay a salary. This gives her a secure sustainable income. The shop is a community enterprise and sells clothing, shoes and household goods at an affordable price and profits will go towards further containers and projects within the Gambia.

The shop will also run on a 'voucher scheme', so that families facing hardship who cannot afford clothing and shoes can spend up to a certain amount in the shop. This will be in place in the next few months; we are still looking at how this will best work.



Trip to Generie

We visited Generie 3 hours inland to deliver 21 school packs to the sponsored children, three more sewing machines for the skill centre and also some school equipment in the form of stationary and paper. Further sponsorship is being sought for an additional six children at Generie village for academic school year 15/16 at a cost of £40 per year.

The elders in the community were also very pleased to receive some football scarves, kindly donated by Elgin Football club.



Hospital Work

Kay and Sarah spent some time at the local hospital and delivered 40 kilos of equipment. The staff were very grateful for the much needed medical equipment given.



The Indigo Team with the teachers and workers at The Janet School

Other News

AGM

We held the AGM in October where we had a change in the constitution to include 'increasing of livelihood's'. This enables us to support people in setting up business's which will provide work adding to the local economy. Full minutes are available upon request. These will also be available on the website hopefully very soon.

Fund Raising

Rag Bag

A Ragbag collection was picked up In November and raised £274, thank you everybody for donating. We are always collecting clothing and shoes. If you have anything to donate you can either arrange to have this dropped off at Tearie Farmhouse or we can try collect from you if there is a large amount. We will be looking into arranging another container to go soon and so all suitable clothing and footwear is sorted and taken to Gambia for the shop and other items are weighed in so this is a great way to get the items we need and fund raise at the same time. The

Gambians use suitcases to keep their clothing in so if there are any suitcases you no longer want then please do let us know.

Whist Drive

We continue to provide sandwiches at a fundraising whist drive every six weeks, this has been a successful steady fund raising event for the charity.

Coffee Mornings

We also have held coffee mornings, the latest was at Forres Town Hall.

Further Fundraising Ideas

In the New Year we expect a fundraising group will start and events will be posted on face book and on the website.

Thank you for your interest in the Indigo Project – Gambia.

If you would like to sponsor a child or have any fundraising ideas we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for all your support.

Any questions, you can contact me on 07747744478

Kindest regards

Jeana & the Indigo Team