



**The Indigo Project
Gambia**

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The Indigo Project-Gambia SCO43468

Winter Newsletter: Issue 2

The Indigo Project-Gambia has been busy since the last Newsletter (Autumn 2013). We visited The Gambia in November 2013 which, as well as being a successful trip, enabled us to identify further need. As a result of this the ideas and future plans are in full swing....keep reading for more information.

Janet School, Serrakunda

We met with the Headmaster, Abdul Newland at the Janet School and paid the fees for eight of the sponsored children at £150 each. These eight are currently sponsored by regular sponsors. This is for this academic year plus we also managed to sponsor a further two children of struggling families with funds raised by donations to the charity. So, for the academic school year 13/14 The Indigo Project-Gambia have sponsored 10 children at the Janet School (private school). We have also committed to sponsor a further five children for the next school year (14/15) and are currently trying to secure individual sponsorship for them! This leaves us 7 children to identify for sponsorship.

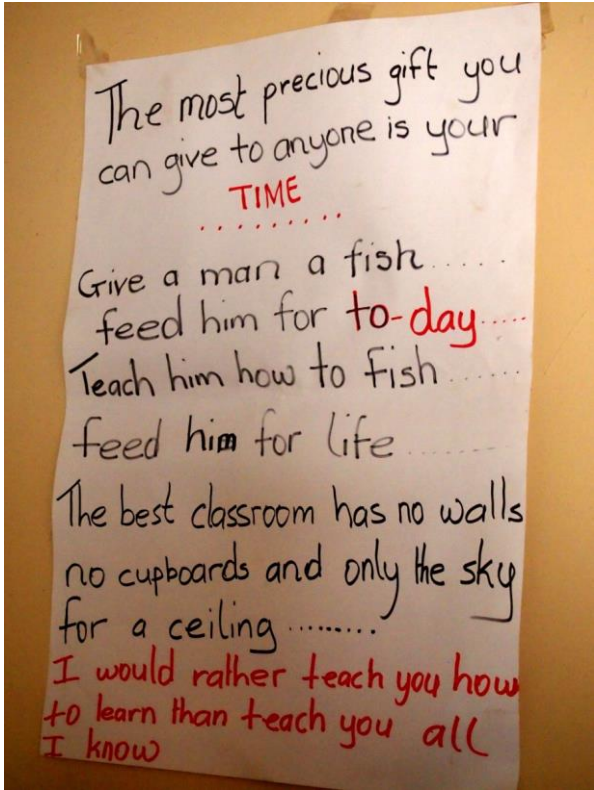


Abdul is also looking for funding to build an Upper school. Currently his pupils are with him from age 3-13 and he would like to take the education up to the age 16. This build will involve buying some land and the build cost will be approximately £25,000. We are looking at ways to support Abdul with this project. He is a very inspiring man and extremely supportive to many families in the community - more a guardian than a Headmaster!



Second to left: Abdul Newland - Head teacher at Janet School

Great motto on Abduls Wall



Abduls wall in his class room displays a poster (see left) with his intention for his pupils. As you can see it is to teach his pupils how to learn rather than teach them all he knows. A fantastic motto and one that The Indigo Project-Gambia fully supports. Abdul is very dedicated to his school and finds lots of ways himself to finance the new build which will add to the community.

If you do want to support this project specifically then please let us know.

“I would rather teach you how to learn than to teach you all I know”

The Janet School Primary 1 Class (Right) are the proud new owners of a football kit kindly donated by Roan Fitzpatrick (Age 12) and his football team from Manchester. The school in Genieri and the Kotu School received their kits last year from Auldern Primary School in Nairnshire, part of the Highlands of Scotland.



Genieri

Genieri Nursery School was also on our agenda this time as we had secured enough finance to paint their class room. As soon as we arrived in The Gambia a friend of the Charity purchased the paint and cement and when we arrived in



Before



After

Genieri a few days later the

classroom was finished. The children were very excited to receive their new books and toys donated to the charity, which we took with us on the trip.

The Charity sponsored 15 children this school year 13/14 and we have committed to a further ten next academic school year. This will make 30 in total for the academic year 14/15. We are looking for sponsorship for 10 children at £40 per year.

Eco-lodge Proposal

Previously we had made a link with a contact named Nfamara Dampha. Nfamara is the head of the Genieri Youth Association (GYA) and they have carried out a needs analysis within the community. It was identified that young people leave the village to find work or suffer extreme poverty. This then takes away this element of the community leaving very young children and older members of the community on their own. We are now looking at the possibility of The Indigo Project-Gambia and Genieri Youth Association working in partnership to build an Eco Lodge to encourage Eco Tourism. This supports the main necessity identified in the needs analysis that was the village requiring employment to get themselves out of poverty.

Therefore as well as the support we give the school, we are currently supporting Genieri with two other projects in developing a Skills Training Centre and the Eco Lodge. Both ventures would provide employment and life skills training.

Additional to this we are supplying a new tailoring centre with sewing equipment, haberdashery and machines. This is opening in February and the equipment will arrive via container in March when Jeana, Dave, Kay and Rona will be on hand to help with the final elements.

Health



We donated a further 28 mosquito nets to Genieri village so that is 150 in total to date. In fact, actual cases of Malaria have dropped from over 200 to less than 10 this year.

Additionally one of our members, a nurse will be returning to The Gambia in March to carry out health screening to identify people at risk from hypertension as this is the third cause of death after malaria.

Many, many thanks to all our current sponsors, your support goes a long way for the children and the community.

News & Events: Just to let you know, quick, before you go...

If you do have any questions please call Jeana 07747 744478 or Vicky on 01309 641630.

- 7 Suitcases are currently in a container travelling down the Atlantic to send clothing, shoes and books to Genieri Village. The next container will be at the end of February equipped with sewing machines and all supplies for the skill centre, this will arrive in March.
- We are holding coffee mornings in Nairn at the British Leigon. All are from 10am till 12 noon. The first is on 8th February and the second is 22nd March. The next two dates are still to be confirmed. If you would like to volunteer for us at these coffee mornings, please get in touch Jeana or Vicky.
- Rag Bag Collection: We are soon to have a ragbag collection with old clothing; shoes etc. We receive 40p per kilo, so if you have any old clothing please call to arrange collection.
- We are now registered with an internet based fundraising company called 'easyfundraising'. It is a simple way of raising money through your online purchasing. If you register with them, when you buy from a website such as Marks and Spencer or Amazon (there are 2700 retailers) the retailer will donate to The Indigo Project-Gambia, so you buy, and they donate. Their website is www.easyundraising.org.uk please have a look for yourself and see how easy it is...

And...

We have joined Facebook so if you are on there, you can 'like' our page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Indigo-Project-Gambia/533840700034545?ref=hl>

You can keep in touch with us via Facebook or the website. There is a 'contact us' page on the website also for you to send ideas, register to sponsor a child or just say hello! All the links to Facebook, the website or easy fundraising can be used simply by cutting and pasting into your browser. Any problems, please let us know.

A HUGE huge thank you for your continued support.

The Indigo Project - Gambia Registered Charity : SCO43468

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