

Project Gambia Update 2017

Where has 2016 gone?! But as the New Year begins we thought it was time to update you on the progress and achievements that have been made in Gunjur in The Gambia.

Firstly, we want to thank you for your continued support as without your kindness our work could not continue.



We are delighted that we are now a standalone registered charity called Project Gambia, having separated from MBG who were originally the umbrella organisation we worked with.

Much has happened in the last year. The Preschools group is now 6 in number with 23 classes of approximately 800 3,4,5 and 6 year olds. Three quarters of the staff have now been trained and gained a recognised Early Years Qualification at Gambia College and efforts are being made to train those who remain unqualified.

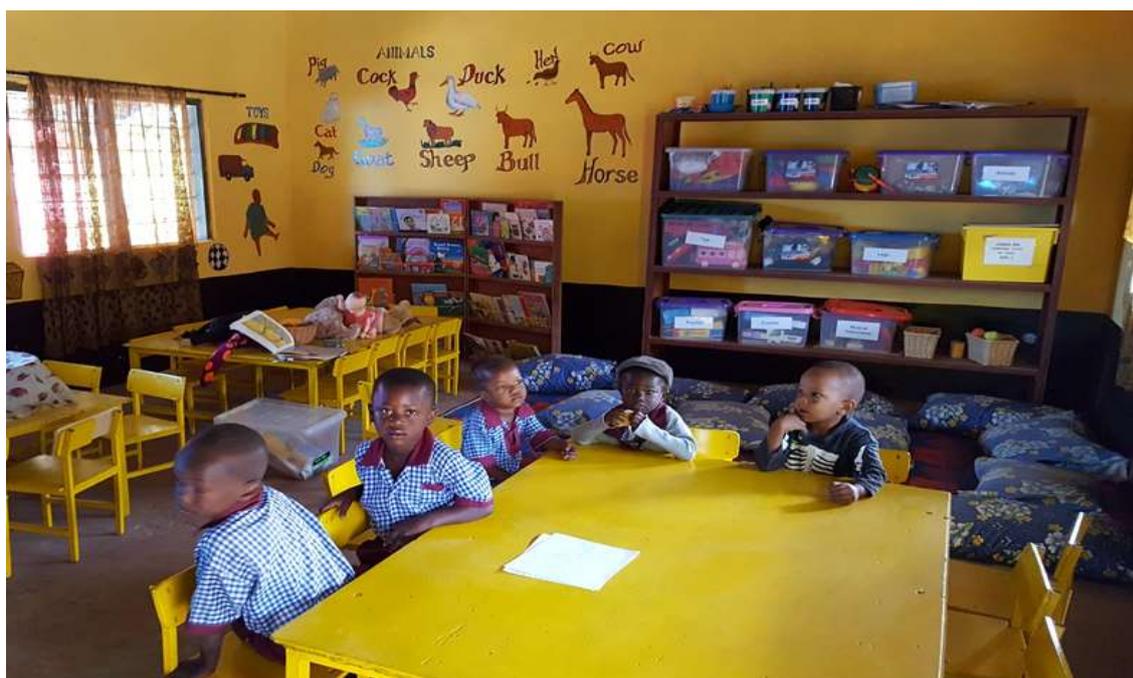


All the schools will have good quality toilets by the end of this year and most have electricity and piped water. Together with partner organisations a great deal of maintenance work has been carried out to ensure the buildings are safe, functional and attractive. Many of the schools now have playgrounds with swings and slides and all have sand play areas.



Those with enough space have large gardens where children help grow vegetables and fruit to supplement lunches. Half our schools now have feeding programmes.

All six schools now deliver the curriculum written by our Gunjur teachers and we are thrilled that Gambia College now use this for their training. The Preschools are now all fully resourced too, allowing the children full access to this rich, developmentally appropriate and lively curriculum.



Training continues each year and recently we have focused on planning, role-play, music making, sand play, physical education, using puppets, storytelling, junk modelling, mapping the village, literacy and organising the day. Two new inputs this year have been the building of role-play shops and the provision of tribal wedding costumes made in Gunjur for authentic play.



Knowing the value of first hand experiences, a budget has been provided for each school to enjoy regular cooking and seed planting. Money has also been provided for the children to enjoy trips outside school to the market, clinic, seaside, art village, museum, snake farm nature resort and each other's schools.





By the end of March 2017, all classrooms will have a story corner with a folding book unit and a class set of storybooks. The curriculum has also been enhanced by wonderful topic non-fiction book packs and photo packs.

Future developments will include more numeracy work and resources, classroom organisation and art.

One final exciting development is the decision to build a seventh Preschool. Many children in Gunjur still do not have the chance to attend school and the community of the Lanuary district urgently needed a school. The first block was laid in January 2017 and our hope is that it will be complete within a year.



So as you can see much has happened in 2016!

If our work is to progress, we naturally must raise further funds. We hope that you will continue to support us and would be thrilled if you know of other who may be able to help. We urgently need further donor members to join our 200 Club. For a regular monthly donation of £5.00 you will fully fund a child's education. So please, please, please help if you can. Thank you.

Project Gambia: Registered charity number 1166472

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