

Gambian Children First

Stichting
The Gambian Children First
Nicolaas Witsenkade 15-huis
1017 ZS Amsterdam



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

FOUNDATION
THE GAMBIAN CHILDREN FIRST

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Dear Donor,

Please find below the annual report of Foundation **The Gambian Children First**, which is very special this year. We also include the financial statements covering the period running from August 2019 up to and including July 2020.

In the school year 2019-2020, we were able to support a total of 110 pupils (mainly girls). Last school year, we collected almost € 18,000 in regular donations. We thank everyone for the generous contributions.

Of course, we hope that you will continue to give. As a consequence of the impact of Covid-19, it was impossible to realise quite a number of initiatives, which means that the Foundation has missed out on income. Due to the weakened financial situation in the schools, support is needed more than ever. After a lengthy lockdown, the skill centres reopened half October 2020. Little by little, they try to remediate learning deficits.

We are proud that our projects are still concrete, small-scale, and focused on individuals. Money does not end up in the wrong hands and we work with local experts.

For the school year 2020-2021, the average costs are still about € 155 per pupil. Of course, you are free to give more, or less: each contribution is welcome.

You can transfer your contribution to our ING account (IBAN **NL86 INGB 0005 2533 50**) or our Rabobank account (IBAN **NL72 RABO 0343 1927 13**) in the name of *Stichting 'The Gambian Children First'* in Amsterdam.

Best regards,

On behalf of the board of the Foundation The Gambian Children First,
Caroline Schaap
Chairwoman

Gambian Children First

Annual visit cancelled



This year, we write a special report about school year 2019-2020. The outbreak of the Covid-19 virus has confronted the world with an unprecedented situation of restrictions, ill people and deaths.



Due to Covid-19, the board of the Foundation has not been able to make the annual visit. The tickets were already booked and our shelter had been organised, but it turned out to be absolutely impossible to go. What a disappointment for us and for the people in our network in Gambia!

Nevertheless, we have been able to maintain contact with the schools by way of our local representative, whom we asked to make the visits for us. We can therefore report on his findings regarding the situation.

Situation in the schools during the lockdown



This school year, the Foundation has sponsored a total of 110 students in the schools and institutions. Until March 2020, everything went fine in the schools. But then, half March, the entire country was locked down. This was an economic disaster for everyone in poverty-stricken Gambia. Tourism completely disappeared. Hotels remained empty, taxis did not drive, markets were closed and more or less everyone in the country was left without income. This led to high unemployment levels and a complete lack of prospects.

Educational institutions were closed from half March to half October 2020. In first grade, only the eldest pupils were allowed to go to school in June to do their exams. The skill centres reopened their doors only in October 2020.

In most cases, the schools aimed at a faster graduation of the students, or at remediating their learning deficits. From January 2021, the school year 2020-2021 started and it continued until August. At the moment of writing, we were in touch with the schools to set the number of students. We are proud that we can now also support the members of the boards of the schools and the students. Thanks to you!

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The schools have been hit very hard by the absence of the students. All non-sponsored pupils pay the school fees by instalments. As they had to stay at home, the schools did not receive anything at all. Notably, a private school such as Taku Leggaye could no longer pay the salaries of the teachers.



Gambia has 2.2 million inhabitants. There are only a few (somewhat bigger) hospitals that are not well equipped for such a pandemic. Is it thanks to the obligation to wear a mask, the lengthy lockdown or the warm weather and life outside that the number of registered Covid-19 cases is relatively low? Who knows. It is positive that this poor country was not hit exceptionally hard by the number of patients, while it was strongly affected by the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Where Are We Active



May we introduce... Musa Sanneh



From January 2020, work with a new local manager, **Musa Sanneh**. He has succeeded to Phoday Touray. Phoday has worked with us for more than 10 years. We have thanked Phoday with all our heart for his dedication and faithful service and we wish him a successful further career. Our friendship will last and we will therefore not lose touch with him.

We have looked for a successor within our network and we are very happy that Musa Sanneh makes every effort for our foundation, besides his job as a teacher at a secondary primary school in Mansakonko. With a Bachelor's Degree in Social Management & Education from the University of Gambia he has the perfect background to work with us.

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A change on the board



A familiar face for many of you: **Ernst Faber**. Ernst has given all his energy to the Foundation for more than 15 years. With great dedication, he originally held the role of treasurer and later that of secretary. “The big man” was always enthusiastically received during the annual visits.

It is thanks to his sharp mind and vast knowledge that the Foundation has become strong and stable. “After 10 years, time is ripe to say goodbye as a member of the board and pass the baton on to someone else,” Ernst said. Fortunately, he will continue to be involved in the work of the Foundation as special advisor.

A big thank you for everything dear Ernst!



It turned out to be difficult to find a successor for Ernst. We are therefore extremely happy with our new board member, Mariëlle Bloem from Wormer. As a little girl, she was already interested in learning about the African continent and she has always wanted to do something for its people. She has taken on the task of secretary. It was a real pity that her first trip to Gambia in May had to be cancelled. Let us hope that she will learn to know the country and the people as soon as possible. We wish you the best of luck Mariëlle!

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Wormerland cares for...



The various churches in Wormer continue to make great efforts for our Foundation. In January 2020, we were allowed to give a presentation during one of the services. The community is very much involved in the work of the Foundation, which is reflected in the donations! It is so special to see that gifts are so

generous while many of our donors do not know the country and its people.

Unfortunately, people have hardly been able to go to church due to Covid-19. This affects the funds the Foundation aims to collect. However, we are very grateful for everything that has nevertheless come our way and we will continue to use it for the benefit of the youth in Gambia!

Women's Garden Sutukoba

Due to the lengthy lockdown, many people have seen their income evaporate. Without money, food cannot be bought. The honorary consul of the Netherlands in Gambia, Mrs Henriette Sonko, has asked us for help to breathe new life into the Women's Garden in Sutukoba.



The garden, already equipped with a well, used to flourish and was full of vegetables and fruit. However, it decayed because the wooden fence was ruined by cows, goats, monkeys and donkeys. Around 60 women would very much like to be able to grow crops again, in order to provide their families with healthy food.

The Women's Garden in better times

Our previous local manager Phoday Touray was born in Sutukoba. He was closely involved in the foundation of the Women's Garden. It is therefore a great pleasure to him that we want to help the people in the village of his birth.

Usually, we do not comply with such requests and we stick to the field of education. However, now that Covid-19 continues to take its toll all over the world, everything has changed and we take the view that it is important to support the initiative of the Women's Garden.

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Thank you for your ongoing support



Please continue to help us and give Gambian youths a perspective for their future. Education is vital for the development of any country that wants to move away from poverty!

Vacancies board The Gambian Children First

We continue to look for extra board members. Our foundation is small, but it does big things in Gambia. Already since 2002, our foundation is a reliable partner for the schools we support. More than 650 young girls and boys have followed a vocational training thanks to our help and support. Being able to 'touch' a life and give it a positive turn is inspiring and energising.



To be able to continue and do this (voluntary) work, we are looking for new board members. We can certainly use two enthusiastic people. Of course, affinity with Africa and participation in the yearly visit are decisive.

Have we raised your interest? Do you have any questions? Please contact one of the members of the board or call us at +31 (0)6 26 84 44 09.

Composition of the board

Chairwoman	Caroline Schaap	Caroline-in-afrika@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mariëlle Bloem	info@baborbeautyspawormer.nl
Treasurer / Contact person schools	Nella van der Laan	Tgcf.nellaheijnen@gmail.com
Special advisor/ photographer	Simon Heijnen	Spm.heijnen@gmail.com
Special advisor	Ernst Faber	
Local manager in Gambia	Musa Sanneh	
English translation annual report	Sophie Verschuur	

*Gambian Children
First*



**THANK YOU FOR
EVERYTHING
ERNST!**

Gambian Children First

Financial statements

Balance sheet of the Foundation The Gambian Children First 31 July 2020				
	31 July 2019		31 July 2020	
ASSETS				
Real estate		€ 5,000.00		€ 5,000.00
Cash		€ 25,040.50		€ 17,370.76
TOTAL		€ 30,040.50		€ 22,370.76
LIABILITIES				
Capital		€ 11,233.12		€ 4,562.89
Short term debts (rest 20% tuition fees '18-'19)		€ 873.51		€ 0.00
Long term debts (reserved for Mam Tuti Darboe)		€ 3,933.87		€ 3,807,87
Long term debts (reserve fund decreasing revenues)		€ 9,000.00		€ 9,000.00
Reserve for possible negative sales profit real estate		€ 5,000.00		€ 5,000.00
TOTAL		€ 30,040.50		€ 22,370.76
Profit and loss account Foundation The Gambian Children First 01 August 2019 - 31 July 2020				
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2019-2020	2019-2020
	Result '18-'19	Budget '19-'20	Difference	Result '19-'20
RECEIVED				
Received donations	€ 12,732.89	€ 12,000.00	€ 6,607.68	€ 18,607.68
Special donations (with destination)	€ 10,996.25	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Other revenues	€ 565.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Interest	€ 1.37	€ 15.00	-€ 15.00	€ 0.00
TOTAL	€ 24,295.51	€ 12,015.00	€ 6,592.68	€ 18,607.68
EXPENSES				
Production costs (mailing and postage)	€ 643.38	€ 100.00	- € 34.40	€ 65.60
Bank costs + currency differences	€ 489.25	€ 450.00	- € 34.01	€ 415.99
Costs in Gambia	€ 450.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Fee and costs Local Manager	€ 810.00	€ 1,080.00	€ 111.74	€ 1,191.74
Other costs	€ 30.00	€ 150.00	€ 386.35	€ 536.35
Website	€ 0.00	€ 250.00	- € 82.29	€ 167.71
Special projects	€ 8,493.03	€ 5,000.00	- € 285.67	€ 4,714.33
Teaching costs 2018-2019	€ 9,792.69	€ 14,000.00	€ 1,697.14	€ 15,697.14
TOTAL	€ 20,708.35	€ 21,030.00	€ 1,758.86	€ 22,788.86
RESULT	€ 3,587.16	-€ 9,015.00	€ 4,833.82	- € 4,181.18



Gambian Children
First



*Will you continue to support us?
We need your help!*

Foundation The Gambian Children First	
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