

Summary MRC-Holland Foundation activities Quarter 2, 2017

In the second quarter of 2017, EUR 2.111.171,- was spent on various projects, primarily education projects in The Gambia.

Total amount spent in the first 6 months of 2017: EUR 3.335.194,-.

Projects outside Gambia:

The projects outside The Gambia that we supported in Q2 2017 include:

Stichting WOL (<http://www.stichtingwol.com/>) Building schools in Burkina Faso.

Stichting Read to Grow (<http://www.readtogrow.eu>): Supply of children books to various countries.

Stichting AFOS (<http://www.afosflevoland.nl/>): Various projects in Burkina Faso

Stichting Sante pour Tous (<http://www.santepourtous.nl/>): Surgery projects in Marokko.

Projects in Gambia:

The great majority of our projects are in The Gambia and are initiated and monitored by our local team, led by Henriette Sonko. We focus on building new class rooms for government schools and renovation of existing schools. Incidentally we provide support for clinics, agriculture projects etc.

For each school the needs are reviewed and together with the Ministry of Education it is decided how many classrooms, teacher quarters and toilets are needed at each location and which projects are most urgent.

Special projects in Q2 2017:

In collaboration with Stichting Read to Grow (<http://www.readtogrow.eu/nl/>) and volunteers of the US Peace Corps, we are starting a library program where each classroom will be provided with a library shelf. In April, 16.000 children books were shipped to the Gambia.

In May, 272 schoolboards (120x350 cm), 272 large bulletin boards (120x240 cm) and 272 smaller bulletin boards (90x120 cm) were shipped in two large containers to the Gambia.

We have started two exciting programmes to improve on the quality of reading skills. The use of tablet labs for early literacy and library corners in each classroom. In May, 80 tablets with education software from www.alphabetking.com were shipped to the Gambia for a pilot project on three schools.

In Q2 work was started on the new St. Francis University that is built in collaboration with stichting Kinderen van Lamin and the Catholic Education Committee in the Gambia. This University is required to train teachers for the Senior Secondary Schools in Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and IT.

List of projects in the Gambia in Q2 that are financed for 100% by the MRC-Holland Foundation:

Ongoing projects:

School	Works
BAKOTEH SSS*	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
BANTANDING TUKULOR	6 classrooms, 12 toilets, staff quarters, water
BRUFUT UBS*	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
BUNDUNG*	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
JALAMBANG	6 classrooms, toilets
JAMAGEN JOKA	7 classrooms, 12 toilets, staff quarters, water
JIBOROH*	12 classrooms, 12 toilets, teacher quarters, water
KABAFITA Senior Secondary*	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
KABAKOTO	12 classrooms, 12 toilets, teacher quarters, water
KERR BOHOUM	7 classrooms, 12 toilets, teacher quarters, water
KERR NGORR	7 classrooms, 12 toilets, teacher quarters, water
KOMBO KEREWAN*	23 classrooms, 36 toilets; water, fence, renovation 2 buildings
KOMBO LAMIN Babylon	20 classes, 36 toilets, water
MEDINA SERING MASS	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
ST AUGUSTINS	Renovation
BULOCK St John Vianey	6 classrooms, 10 toilets
Nema Kunku	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
INSIGHT TRAINING CENTER	training center
Kabafita Annex LBS	30 classrooms, 30 toilets, water
Bulanjor	6 classrooms, teacher quarters, water
Bunuborr	6 classrooms, teacher quarters
Kiang Karantaba	Rehabilitation , electricity, water
Gunjur Kunkunding	6 classrooms, teacher quarters, water, fence
Farato Bojang Kunda	18 classrooms, toilets, water
Gunjur Kunkunding	6 classrooms, 12 toilets, staff quarters, fence, water
Kagnobon in Zuid Senegal	12 classrooms

* Expected to be finished before the start of the new school year in September 2017

Recently started:

School	Works
Kuwonku Ba	4 classrooms & staff quarters
St Francis University	A new science & technology university
Busumbala Tumbunto	12 classrooms, water, toilets and fencing

Njawara	6 toilets
Sami Essau	9 classrooms, staff quarters & toilets
Demba Wandu	6 classrooms & toilets
Julangel	9 classrooms, staff quarters, water & toilets
Kulari	12 classrooms, staff quarters, water & toilets
Njayel	6 classrooms, staff quarters & toilets
Sotuma Sire	9 classrooms, staff quarters, water & toilets

Future projects:

school	Works
Jambur	4 classrooms
GAMBIA COLLEGE nursery school	4 classrooms
SINCHU ALAGIE LBS	12 classrooms
KIANG MANDUAR	4 classrooms, teacher quarters, toilets
Crab Island Skill Center	Rehabilitation
Presentation Girls Vocational school	New roof & computers
Gambia College	Borehole
Jamisa BCS	30 classrooms
Jamisa SSS	18 classrooms
Faraba Banta LBS	Renovations
Jambur	6 classrooms
Abuko	18 classrooms
Brikama LBS	Renovation & new classrooms

Finished projects (2015-2017):

BAKARY SAMBOUYA	6 classrooms, 12 toilets, fence, electricity, water
BAKOTEH proper	Renovation
BASSE St Georges	6 classrooms
BRUSUBI	wall arround new site
BURONG	6 classrooms, fence, electricity
GIDDA SUKUTA	6 classrooms, 12 toilets, staff quarters, fence, water, electricity
JALAMBANG	6 classrooms, fence, water
JESHWANG	Upgrade
KAFUTA	6 classrooms, teacher quarters, toilets, water, fence
KUNKUJANG GUNJUR	6 classrooms, 12 toilets, teacher quarters, water, fence, electricity
KUNKUJANG JATTAYA	6 classrooms, 12 toilets, teacher quarters, water, fence
MANDINARI	17 classrooms, 40 toilets, teacher quarters, water, fence, renovation 5 buildings
MEDINA SERING MASS	Renovation
SEREKUNDA annex	Wall

SEREKUNDA proper	wall, computerroom
SIFOE	14 classes, renovation, electricity, water
SOMITA	6 classes, teacher quarters
TUBAKUTA	8 classrooms, 12 toilets, staff quarters, fence
TUMANI TENDA	8 teacher rooms
TUMANI TENDA BCS	7 classrooms, 8 toilets

Summary: Number of new class rooms:

1st July:	No of new classrooms
Completed*	106
ongoing (half way)	299
recently started	71
contracts in preparation but not signed yet : a lot of classroom renovations	4
total	480

* We expect that at the start of the new school year in September 2017, a total of at least 200 class rooms will have been finished, among which the projects indicated by a star. Our intention is to finish construction of more than 250 class rooms / year.

Some pictures of the projects in progress that we received in Q2:

The school in Ndemban which urgently requires renovation:



The Kombo Kerawan project on 30-04-2017. This new building has a length of 70 meters and consists of 23 class rooms! It is build in collaboration with Stichting Kinderen van Lamin.



The same Kombo Kerawan school a few weeks later:



Kabafita Senior Secondary School is currently on tiling, plastering and roofing stages.



Kabafita Annex (a completely new school to alleviate the situation at the Kabafita Lower Basic School which has more than 3000 pupils. The construction of five blocks of thirty classrooms is progressing first floor concrete. Three blocks should be ready by school opening in September.



The condition at **Kabafita Lower Basic School** is appalling and needs urgent attention. Some blocks will need to be demolished while others can be renovated.



Kabafita Lower Basic School, current situation:



Jalambang Lower Basic School is progressing on schedule. The mistress is impressed with the speed compared to previous works been done and too the quality of work showcased. Plastering, roofing are complete. Tiling and painting are in progress.



Sifoe Lower Basic School. This was the first school that we finished in the Gambia. The solar system is installed and operational, however eight of the solar bulbs are not functioning due to technical problems. The doors for the top floor and the entrance to solar batteries are faulty and needs maintenance. The director for Region 2 instructed the headmistress to use part of their School Improvement Grant money to make secured iron doors for the solar equipments. There is need for book shelves the school library.



Work at **Gunjur Kunkunding Lower Basic School** is in progressing well. The water system is installed and is in operation.



The Staff quarter and the kitchen is at a roofing stage and is also expected to be completed before September.



As they now have sufficient water, work is about to commence at the Gunjur Kunkunding school garden with the teacher and the students on site to strategise.



Tubakuta Lower Basic School started operation in earnest even before the formal handing over. Students express delight of the new settings with all the facilities needed for a better learning environment.



Kombo Kerewan Upper Basic School is highly expected to house students in September, 2017. Staff quarters



Doors and windows are already been fixed. Tiling and painting are at the finishing stages. 54 sets of combined furniture have been delivered.



Community involvement at **Nema-Kunku Lower Basic School** as well as all other schools has been highly cherished.



BAKOTEH SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL is at its final stages of construction (18 class rooms). Painting is in progress and as well the construction of the toilets and library corners. Already a set of 54 chairs has been delivered whilst the rest are under production.



Another project of importance is the school library project. Over 250 boxes of books on various learning categories has been received and stored at Bakoteh Senior Secondary school for onward distributions to MoBSE schools.



BUNDUNG UPPER BASIC SCHOOL

Bundung Upper Basic School is at the finishing stage (18 class rooms). Painting and tiling is on course as well. A concern of rain water splashing in the classrooms through windows was spotted and could make learning very difficult for the students in the near future if not addressed. Perhaps a window barrier could be constructed to avert rain water getting into the classrooms.



BUSUMBALA TUMBUNTO

Although all the materials were bought and stored due to difficulty of trucks accessing the site during rainy season, construction is at the foundation stage. However, the installed water system has been tampered with two solar panels stolen which was not a good start but could be addressed when night watchman is employed.



BAKARY SAMBUYA LOWER BASIC SCHOOL classrooms have been completed and operational. Eight cupboards for library corners have already been supplied and are waits for more books. A new borehole drilled, installed and now fully functioning. The works at the toilets are progressing and will soon be finished.



KERR BOHOUM.

Water situation is fine. Like Bantanding tukolor, Kerr bohoom also seems to be far with the construction and they are likely to complete in the next few months.



KERR NGORR

Construction seems to be slow there as well. First set of classroom block is a bit above window level but the rest are still at concrete level. Water system installed and is in good condition.

CLASSROOMS WATER TANK



JAMAGEN.

The construction team seems to be understaffed so the progress is slow. Water tank installed so there is no shortage of water.



BANTANDING TUKULOR.

Teacher quarters, toilets and first set of 3 classrooms are far. The water system is good but the tank has no stopper so there is overflow of water whenever the tank is filled.



Toilets

KABAKOTO.

Kabakoto has the highest number of classrooms to be built in that end but the progress/speed is good. Water system installed and operating fine. TEACHERS QUARTERS



WATER TANK NEXT TO THE HAND PUMP



BUSUMBALA TUMBUNTO

Not much progress is been done there yet. They have dug the foundation it has being concreted already.



FARATO BOJANGKUNDA.

The first 2 floors have been completed and they are proceeding with the third floor.



NEMA KUNKU

The two classroom blocks are virtually in the same level. They have neatly done wide staircases. The land in the area seems to be slopy especially where the school is located so the contractor had to make high verandas for in the case of rain.



INSIGHT TRAINING CENTRE

The building is at window level, which is a hall and they should be proceeding with the first floor, which will contain classrooms.



Construction work at **Giboro** is accomplished and classroom ready to be used.



A recent request for help from a lower basic school with 3341 pupils and only 42 class rooms, some of which in deplorable status. We will discuss their request with the ministry of basic education but the pictures make clear that expansion and renovation of the school buildings is urgently needed.

Brikama Lower Basic School
Kombo Central District
West Coast Region
Brikama.
21st June, 2017.

The Country Director
MRC Foundation
Brusubi
U/s: Regional Director
Region II
Brikama.
Dear Sir,

soon and forwarded 4/7/17

APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT

Re: Construction of Classrooms,

On behalf of the parents' teachers associations (PTA), school management committee (SMC), pupils and on my own behalf, I wish to write and forward an application requesting for support from your foundation. The area in which we are soliciting for assistance is the construction of classroom blocks. This is due to the limited classrooms we have in the school. Some of these buildings are very old and dilapidated whilst others are demolished and beyond repairs. You will recall that most of these buildings were built during colonial era. One of the oldest schools within the country.

Currently the school roll stands at three thousands three hundred and forty - one pupils out of which, one thousands seven hundred and thirty one are females, with one hundred and forty teachers, with seventy eight female teachers. There are currently eighty-four classes with only forty - two classrooms.

The annual enrolment for grade ones for the past two years exceeds seven hundred pupils. This is likely to increase for the coming years. This is mainly due to the intervention of the school enrolment grant.

Madam, I shall be very grateful if this application is given due consideration.

Attached are some of the photograph of some of the old demolished buildings.

Yours Sincerely,

Dawda C. Jarju

Dawda C. Jarju

H/M

Bala Musa Jabang

W.D.

SMC Chairman

Cc: Red 2
School File

*40 classrooms
84 classes*









The team of stakeholders including Education Director Region 2, Headmasters & Mistresses, Education construction monitors, Contractors and a Village Head all paid a visit to the MRC Holland head office. And of course in the photo also is our able MRCH team member, Mrs. Fanta Baldeh.



Below a letter of appreciation from Jidda Sukuta. Until last week they shared the nursery school and a tree with the office under the tree for the past two years. Now they have 5 classes in the morning shift for grades one and two. By next year they will need more classrooms already!

The Founder
M R C Holland Foundation

Jidda Sukuta Lower Basic School,
Kombo East District,
West Coast Region.
25th April, 2017.

Dear Madam,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

The pupils, teachers and the entire community of the above named school really appreciate your kind gesture.

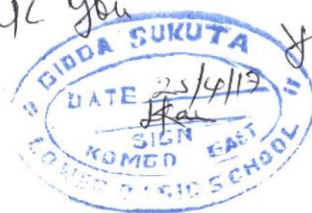
The structures and its facilities have created comfortable teaching and learning conditions for both pupils and teachers.

The quarters for teachers is also another wonderful gesture, because it has addressed the housing problems for them.

Long life the M.R.C Holland Foundation, long life Mrs and Mr. SONKO.

With your untiring efforts and support we look forward to your sincere cooperation.

Thank you



Yours faithfully,
Lamin Kanara