

## MRC-Holland foundation. Summary of activities in Quarter 1, 2018.

In quarter 1 of 2018, the MRC-Holland foundation has spent EUR 1.934.000 on various projects, in particular in The Gambia. Projects outside the Gambia included gifts to stichting Biblioneef (<http://www.biblioneef.nl/>) and stichting Aros de Esperanza (Colombia; <http://www.aros-de-esperanza.org/>).

In The Gambia, we signed 16 new contracts for building schools in the Gambia, as detailed below. In total, these contracts comprised building 131 new class rooms, 224 toilets, 55 teacher rooms and 8 kitchens. This is highly appreciated by the government of the Gambia and our achievements were even mentioned by the president in his speech on independence day: <http://foroyaa.gm/president-barrows-statement-on-independence-day/>.

As another wonderful sign of appreciation, our representative in the Gambia, Mrs. Henriette Sonko, was called to the State house on April 5 where she received the keys for 5 excellent double cabin pick-up trucks from the President's office. President Barrow personally intervened and honored our recent request for 5 trucks for the construction monitors of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) in regions 2-6. These construction specialists play a vital role in monitoring our construction projects and they report directly to MoBSE and the MRC-Holland foundation. No truck is needed for region 1 which is an urban area. The pictures below show Mrs. Sonko receiving the keys at the State office and handing them over later that day to the Permanent Secretary of MoBSE, on behalf of the construction monitors.



Our team in The Gambia has expanded again in Q1 2018. We welcome Mr. Omar Jatta. Mr. Jatta retired from his position of director of education for lower and secondary education in region 2 on December 31, 2017. He will now continue to work with us on the improvement of education facilities and possibilities in The Gambia.

**Summary of the MRC-Holland foundation education projects in the Gambia (2015-2018):**

	New classrooms	Renovated classrooms	New Toilets	New teacher rooms	New kitchens	New school fences	New water supply (boreholes)	New Solar installations
Finished	436	381	598	168	20	30	27	20
Ongoing	136	6	192	40	3	3	4	2
Started in Q1 2018	131	6	224	55	8	4	17	1
Total	703	397	1014	263	31	37	50	23

**Projects for which we signed a contract in Q1, 2018:**

School	Settlement	School #	Region	Works
Julangel, LBS	Julangel	60040	6	Refurbishing classrooms, kitchen, toilets
7 schools	N.A.	N.A.	6	Waterpump, solar installation, watertank
Jafai LBS	Jafai Kuta	50763	5	4 classrooms, 5 teacher rooms, kitchen, 6 toilets
Jamisa SSS	Brikama	20943	2	24 toilets
Henriette LBS	Brikama	New	2	school wall
Busumbala Tumbunto, LBS	Busumbala Tumbunto	NEW	2	5 teacher rooms, two toilet blocks (12 toilets), fence
Jamisa Annex LBS	Brikama	New	2	30 classrooms, 30 toilets
Koba Kunda LBS	Basse Koba Kunda	60049	6	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
Jassong, LBS	Jassong	New	4	3 classrooms, 1 toilet block
Sinchu Alagi, LBS	Sinchu Alagi	21010	2	12 classrooms
Jamisa Annex, LBS	Brikama	New	2	550 meter wall
Tuba Sandu , LBS	Tuba Sandu	New	6	6 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 12 toilets, kitchen
Sare Fodigeh, LBS	Sare Fodigeh	New	6	4 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 6 toilets, kitchen
Kurawo, LBS	Kurawo	60172	6	4 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 6 toilets
Sare Demba Toro, LBS	Sare Demba Toro	60110	6	3 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 6 toilets
Sandu Misera, LBS	Sandu Misera	60074	6	4 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 6 toilets
Changally, LBS	Changally	60124	6	4 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 12 toilets
New Yundum LBS	New Yundum	20148	2	12 classrooms; 24 toilets; 5 teacher rooms; 2 teacher toilets
John Pickering, SSS	Lamin Daranka	20119	2	17 classrooms; 16 toilets

Sare Marie Dobo, LBS	Sare Marie Dobo	New	3	Two 3-classroom blocks, two toilet blocks, 5 staff rooms with two toilets and kitchen
Passi Chally, LBS	Passi Chally	New	3	one 4-classroom block, one toilet block, 5 staff rooms with two toilets and kitchen

Projects in preparation for quarter two include the renovation of the Armitage complex in Janjanbureh.

A large and famous boarding school: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201701100733.html>

Furthermore we hope to make a start in the next 6 months with a new sponsor program for students that have just finished their senior secondary school.

**Below are pictures we received this quarter from various projects.**



Above: The Nema Kunku project (18 classrooms) is almost finished.

Below: Babylon school in Lamin; also 18 class rooms and almost finished. This project is a collaboration with stichting “Kinderen van Lamin” (<http://www.kinderenvanlamin.nl/> ).



Two pictures below show the start of a completely new school in Sare Fodigeh, which is located in the Sandu district of Gambia (a very remote area; around 30 km north-west of the district capital Basse Santa Su). This is one of the projects that we started in quarter one of 2018.

Fotos were made by the constructor, “Future in our Hands” and were captured from their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Future-In-Our-Hands-The-Gambia-254950791211816/> ; d.d. 14-3-18.

One page further below shows pictures of the present school “buildings” in Tuba Sandu and Sare Fodigeh.

On request of the ministry of basic and secondary education of the Gambia (MoBSE), we decided to build school buildings in 6 villages of the Sandu district: Four existing lower basic schools that required an update or expansion, and two new schools.

These villages were visited by representatives of the proposed contractor FIOH, the construction monitor for region 6 of the ministry of education, a representative of the ministry of education head office and of the MRC-Holland foundation.

As a good water supply is indispensable for the construction work and of course for the schools, we contracted a Gambian company (Flevo Trading) in January 2018 to prepare bore holes at each of the 6 locations and at one existing school in this area. Next, the company “Global energy” was contracted in January 2018 to provide solar powered pumps and a watertank at each of the 7 locations.

The company “Future in our Hands”, who has build already many schools for us, was contracted for building the schools in the first week of March. The pictures below show the water system at Sare Fodigeh and the arrival of the cement required for the construction work on March 14. The 6 new school buildings (Tuba Sandu; Sare Fodigeh; Kurawo; Sare Demba Toro; Sandu Misera and Changally) should be operational at the start of the 2018-2019 school year in September.







Below:Sare Fodigeh current school (made of millet stems). Construction of a new school building has recently started.



Below: Tuba Sandu current school (made from empty rice bags). Construction of a new school building has recently started.



**Other schools in preparation:**



Above: The new lower basic school in Faraba Bantang.



Left: A new fence at Jamisa Annex LBS ; Middle and right: Jamisa senior secondary school in preparation.



The new school (in preparation) and the new teacher quarters at Jambur.



Kerr Bohoum Village,  
Kerr Bohoum Lower Basic Sch,  
Lower Niumi District,  
North Bank Region.  
7th March, 2018

MRC Holland Foundation  
Brusubi  
Kombo North  
Dear Madam,

#### LETTER OF CONGRADULATION

The Management of the above mentioned school headteacher, SMC chairperson, teaching staff and the entire people of Kerr Bohoum and surrounding are Congradulating your foundation for transforming the lives of the pupils of the school to a modern one.

Furthermore, as the headteacher I am Congradulating you for moving my teaching staff and Students from the animal pen that we were using since 2012, to a standard with unique facilities that enhance learning in the school. Your foundation has pump in lot of fund in building these structures and providing the necessary facilities.

In Conclusion, these facilities will go way in helping the pupils of the village and surrounding and addressing their academic need. Once that note I assure your foundation of our commitment in taking care of these valuable assets with keen interest, to add more value to this wonderful endeavour of your great foundation.

Long live MRC Holland Foundation!

Long live my newly built school.

Yours faithfully,  
Bajatch Sonto.  
H/m



A nice thank you letter from Kerr Bohoum where we recently finished a new school.





School and solar installation at Kerr Bohoum (North bank). COMPLETED OUTER AND IN-HOUSE COMPONENTS INSTALLATION INCLUDES 330A/H 24VOLTS BATTERY BANK, 1600WATTS INVERTER, VICTRON 50/100 MPPT CHARGE CONTROLLER, BATTERY BALANCER, SYSTEM MONITOR, MANUAL BREAKER AND 200A DC FUSE





New school and solar installation in Kabakoto: **FULL VIEW OF IN-HOUSE COMPONENTS**  
**INSTALLATION INCLUDES 660A/H 48VOLTS BATTERY BANK, 5000WATTS PHEONIX INVERTER,**  
**VICTRON 150/85 MPPT CHARGE CONTROLLER, BATTERY BALANCER, SYSTEM MONITOR,**  
**MANUAL BREAKER AND 250A DC FUSE, POWER SUPPLY BREAKER.**





The new school in Kiang Manduar.



Start of a new nursery school at the Gambia college.



The new school, teacher quartets and toilets in Gunjur Kunkunding lower basic school





School building, teacher quarters and toilets under construction at Jambur basic cycle school.



School building, teacher quarters and toilets under construction at Busumbala lower cycle school.



Construction of the Science University at St. Peters school. A project in collaboration with stichting "Kinderen van Lamin".



The new school building, teacher quarters and water supply at Bantanding Tukulor Lower Basic School.



The new school building, teacher quarters and water supply at Jamagen Joka Lower Basic School.



Construction at Insight Training Center is almost completed.



Shipment of 30.000 children books, provided by stichting Read to Grow, in two containers with 272 blackboards + 272 pin boards (supplied by Smit Visual).

Parts of some of the many letters we received in quarter one:

**Kaiaf** upper and senior secondary school is a public school located in Kiang East and Lower River Region of the Gambia. Kaiaf upper and senior secondary school is a school with two components; the Upper Basic and the Senior secondary school. Presently our roll is up to **488 students and we have only six classrooms**. We have three classes of grade 7, two classes of grade 8, two classes of grade 9, two classes of grade 10, two classes of grade 11 and one class of grade 12. Altogether we have twelve classes and only six classrooms. This is the main reason why we operate double shifting. Out of the six classrooms structures we have, four of them are not in good condition because the roof is made of tiles and they are breaking causing lot of leakage especially during rainy season.

**Jassong:** Presently, there are **only two classrooms for over 150 pupils** nursery class inclusive, only one toilet facility for both sexes built by the community, no fencing, no water facility and very limited teaching and learning materials. due to the distant from nearby schools, the ministry of Education has recently upgraded our Islamic School to both English and Arabic education to help young kids to have access to and enjoy quality and compulsory education. However, since the intervention of the said ministry, they only provide teachers to the school. The building, furniture, toilet and teaching and learning materials were all provided by the community with help from Diaspora youths and other philanthropies. The community has a total of nearly 1000 inhabitants who depend mainly on farming. Presently, high percentage of the population are elderly and children as a result of youth migration to Diaspora and Kombo. (Diaspora = backway = going to Europe ; Kombo = largest city area in Gambia)).

**Fugga** Lower Basic School: For your information, Fugga Lower Basic School is a new school and has an enrollment of **one hundred and fifty (150) pupils of which only eighteen (18) pupils have furniture**. There is only one classroom block and the rest is grass thatched.

We cannot immediately help each of these schools. We decide together with the ministry of Basic and Secondary education (MoBSE), which projects are most urgent.



Below are some pictures from Medellin, Colombia, where we support stichting Aros de Esperanza already for several years (<http://www.aros-de-esperanza.org/> / <http://www.aros-de-esperanza.org/index.php?pageid=438&nieuwsid=1628> ). Aros de Esperanza is already able to keep over 500 girls who live in the underprivileged neighbourhoods of Medellin and Bello, Colombia, out of the reach of drugs, gangs and teen pregnancy, plus we can make sure that the girls finish their school and learn appropriate norms and values.

