MRC-Holland foundation. Summary of activities in Quarter 2, 2018.

In quarter 2 of 2018, the MRC-Holland foundation has spent EUR 2.581.735 on various projects, in particular in The Gambia. Projects outside the Gambia included gifts to the Dutch Hernia society (<u>http://www.operationhernia.nl/</u>), who perform and train surgery in Ghana, Macheo's Children center in Kenya (<u>http://www.macheo.org/</u>), and stichting Sante Pour Tous who perform and train surgery in Morocco (<u>http://www.santepourtous.nl/</u>).

In The Gambia, we signed 11 new contracts for building and renovating schools this quarter, as detailed below. One of these contracts is for renovation of a famous, 90 year old, boarding school in the interior of the Gambia: Armitage: (<u>https://allafrica.com/stories/201701100733.html</u>). This Senior Secondary School is located 200-300 km from Banjul and is in very bad condition. We visited the school in November last year. Several Gambian newspaper brought the news on this special 10 million Gambian Dalassie renovation project (~EUR 200.000):

<u>http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/d10m-project-launched-to-revamp-armitage-senior-school</u>). Next to the renovation of the buildings we have just finished a new 800 meter wall around the school and there will be a large solar project to provide electricity to the school.

	New	Renovated	New	New	New	New	New water	New Solar
	classrooms	classrooms	Toilets	teacher	kitchens	school	supply	installation
				rooms		fences	(boreholes)	S
Finished	520	387	700	198	24	33	35	21
Ongoing	259	51	428	102	10	5	16	2
Total	703	397	1014	263	31	37	50	23
Started	76	41	114	37	2	1	1	0
in Q2								
2018								
Finished	72	6	90	20	3	2	7	1
in Q2								

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

Projects for which we signed a contract in the first half of 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	Busumbala	NEW	2	5 teacher rooms, two toilet blocks (12
Tumbunto, LBS	Tumbunto			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,	Sare Demba Toro	60110	6		3 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 6 toilets
LBS					
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,	Sare Marie Dobo	New	3		Two 3-classroom blocks, two toilet
LBS					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
					3 classrooms; office, store, 5 teacher
Jassong	Jassong	New		4	rooms; kitchen, 6 toilets
Armitage	Janjanbureh	50049		5	Wall, ~567 m.
Brusubi LBS	Brusubi	20815		2	18 classrooms and 24 toilets
	Cassamance, Zuid				Construction of 14 toilets and
Kagnobon	Senegal	N.A.	N.A.		rehabilitation of 12 classrooms
					7 classrooms; 12 toilets and 5 teacher
Kalagi LBS	Kalagi	20043		2	rooms
Kiang Manduar	KIANG MANDUAR	40082		4	10 teacher quarters
Jamisa UBS	Brikama	20074		2	18 classrooms; 4 toilet blocks
	Nema Kunku /				
Nema Kunku UBS	Serekunda	New		2	18 class rooms 18 toilets
					12 teacher rooms; 4 toilets; 2 showers,
Henriette LBS	Brikama	New		2	kitchen/store
Armitage	Janjanbureh	50049		5	Complete Rehabilitation
Batokunku	Batokunku	20992		2	12 classrooms, 12 toilets 5 teacher rooms

Next to these projects, several schools will be renovated this summer. Among these are: KobaKunda, Sukuta LBS, Old Yundum LBS, Kuloro, Kalagi, Bulock, Kagnobon and Armitage. In total, more than 150 class rooms. In the next 3 months, we also hope to make a start with our new sponsor program for students that have just finished their senior secondary school. Finally, another two containers with 272 schoolboards and 272 pinn boards will be shipped to Gambia this summer.

General info on the education facilities in The Gambia:

In the table below is some information on the education situation in The Gambia as provided by the ministry of Basic and Secondary education (<u>http://www.edugambia.gm/data-area/publications/year-book-2018.html</u>):

Lower Basic	Classes	Classrooms	Increase from	Classroom	#	# students	# students /
Schools (page 100)		available	previous year	shortage	Students	/ class	classroom
Year 2018	9513	7483	505	2030	350.323	36.8	46.8
Year 2017	9009	6978	346	2031	329.828	36.6	47.3
Year 2016	8586	6632	252	1954	308.729	36.0	46.6
Year 2015	8203	6380	465	1823	293.503	35.8	46.0
Year 2014	7662	5915	118	1747	274.939	35.9	46.5

Upper Basic	Classes	Classrooms	Increase from	Classroom	#	# students	# students /
Schools (page 240)		available	previous year	shortage	Students	/ class	classroom
Year 2018	2448	2125	31	323	98.108	40.1	46.2
Year 2017	2353	2094	90	259	94.357	40.1	45.1
Year 2016	2246	2004	34	242	90.838	40.4	45.3
Year 2015	2155	1970	104	185	90.176	41.8	45.8
Year 2014	2023	1866	188	157	87.391	43.2	46.8
Senior Secondary	Classes	Classrooms	Increase from	Classroom	#	# students	# students /
Schools (page 354)		available	previous year	shortage	Students	/ class	classroom
Year 2018	1471	1425	106	56	64.957	44.2	45.6
Year 2017	1415	1319	66	96	60.310	42.6	45.7
Year 2016	1302	1253	71	49	56.001	43.0	44.7
Year 2015	1228	1182	26	46	51.225	41.7	43.3
Year 2014	1117	1156	129	39	49.113	44.0	42.5
Total	Classes	Classrooms	Increase from	Classroom	#	# students	# students /
		available	previous year	shortage	Students	/ class	classroom
Year 2018	13432	11033	642	2409	513.388	38,2	46,5
Year 2017	12777	10391	502	2386	484.495	37,9	46,6
Year 2016	12134	9889	357	2245	455.568	37,5	46,1
Year 2015	11586	9532	595	2054	434.904	37,5	45,6
Year 2014	10802	8937	435	1943	411.443	38,1	46,0

These figures make clear that the shortage in education facilities is enormous. By necessity, many schools have two shifts / day even though this results in children having their lessons in the afternoon when it is very hot. Besides, it results in children having to walk to or from school before sunrise or after sun set.

Despite splitting the lessons over a morning and an afternoon shift, the current AVERAGE of 37 students / classroom at the Lower Basic School and 40-44 for the Upper and Senior schools is extremely high. Some schools are fine but others have more than 60 students / class!

The yearly increase in number in students is also enormous: close to 30.000 extra students each year. Only to cope with this increase in the number of students, more than 700 classrooms to be build each year. More than we can handle. Our aim to have all schools for basic, upper and secondary education up to date within 10 years and with an average of less than 40 children / classroom will not be possible unless we are able to expand our current production of 250-300 classrooms / year.

According to <u>http://countrymeters.info/en/Gambia</u>, there are 89.363 live births expected in The Gambia this year although other sources provide a lower estimate (<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Gambia</u>). Aiming at an education participation of 100% from 6-15 years of age and 50% for 16-18 years of age, one would expect 406.000 children at the Lower Basic School (observed: 350.323); 159.000 children at the Upper Basic School (observed: 98.108) and 75.000 children at Senior Secondary School (observed: 64.957). In total we see a possibility of growth from the current 513.388 students to 640.000 by a higher participation in education which will also require 3000 classrooms.

Please take into mind that the population of the Gambia is now more than two million, while it was only 400.000 in 1965 and 916.000 in 1990. The yearly population growth rate is decreasing only very slowly and the number of students is therefore expected to increase rapidly for many years to come. The ministry of Education in the Gambia is provided an enormous task each year and we are pleased to help them somewhat.

What happens when a school has insufficient class rooms? This week we gave green light to a building project for the Welingara Ba school in district 4, where we will initially build 12 classrooms, 10 teacher rooms and 12 toilets. This school has 1015 pupils, divided over the Early Child Development school (ECD, 76 boys + 106 girls); the Lower basic school with 250 boys and 360 girls and the upper school with 75 boys and 148 girls. There are at this moment only 6 classrooms available for these 1016 children..... This implies that each classroom has on average 85 children in the morning and another 85 in the afternoon...... As a result, many boys have left the upper school and try to find work on have left to the city. The girls remain in Welingara Ba, resulting in two girls for every boy in the upper school.

The most nearby school in Jassong is also quite crowded. We have recently finished 6 new classrooms there. See pictures below.





Above: The good news is told by Henriette to the parents in Welingara Ba

Below are pictures we received this quarter from various projects.



Up: Building a new school in Jassong. Below: the first part is finished and furniture is delivered.



A mail (10-4-2018; in Dutch) of Thea Mom, stichting de Noodpot; One of the projects we regularly support.

Ik kom net thuis na een lange dag, klap mijn laptop open en vind jullie bericht.

Kon even niet meer ademen... heb het wel driemaal moeten lezen... wat 'n fantastisch mooi gebaar weer van jullie. Hiermee wordt de wensdroom van Marie Joof en mijzelf al voor 'n heel groot deel verwezenlijkt. HEEL VEEL DANK HIERVOOR!

De toegezegde donatie van €5000 komt deels ten goede van het Klamboe-project (€4000, voor 500 Klamboes) en 25 staaroperaties zullen worden uitgevoerd (€1000).

Below: Two pictures from Brusubi Lower Basic School where we will build 18 classrooms this year







Above: The Babylon school in Lamin which was finished in the last quarter (20 classrooms). A project in collaboration with stichting "Kinderen van Lamin".



Above: A new nursery school next to the Gambia college (PABO). A project in collaboration with "stichting Bouwen".



Nema Kunku; First 18 class rooms of this new Lower Basic School are almost finished and will be in use from September onwards. The second phase with another 18 classrooms for a new upper and senior school has started in June.



Busumbala Tumbunto Lower basic School. The new building with 12 classrooms + toilets + teacher rooms has been finished recently



Teacher rooms in Busumbala Tumbunto

Below: Part of the report on the situation at Kalagie Lower Basic School. 7 class rooms in use, each with double shift.

KALAGIE LOWER BASIC SCHOOL								
SCHOOL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	CLASSES				
DATA								
GRADE								
1	32	32	67	2				
2	34	28	62	2				
3	42	45	87	2				
4	28	35	61	2				
5	24	30	54	2				
6	28	18	46	1				
ECD	59	46	105	3				
TOTAL		482		14				

Only 83 combined benches available ; **EXIXTING STRUCTURES: Classrooms** 7 in use, 6 without roof ; **Toilets** 6 in use, 6 under construction (UNICEF)



Kalagie LBS, 6 classrooms without roof. This block will be demolished and a new block will be build.



Above: Minna: Needs some paint but will be of use in the new school year.



Above: Manduar. Wall plastering in progress.



Current school in Batokunku. We have just started construction of a 12 classroom school building here.