

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 (<http://www.operationhernia.nl/>), who perform and train surgery in Ghana, Macheo's Children center in Kenya (<http://www.macheo.org/>), and stichting Sante Pour Tous who perform and train surgery in Morocco (<http://www.santepourtous.nl/>).

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: (<https://allafrica.com/stories/201701100733.html>). 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): (<http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/d10m-project-launched-to-revamp-armitage-senior-school>). 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.

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	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 in Q2 2018	76	41	114	37	2	1	1	0
Finished in Q2	72	6	90	20	3	2	7	1

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 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

Upper Basic Schools (page 240)	Classes	Classrooms available	Increase from previous year	Classroom shortage	# Students	# students / class	# students / 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 Schools (page 354)	Classes	Classrooms available	Increase from previous year	Classroom shortage	# Students	# students / class	# students / 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 available	Increase from previous year	Classroom shortage	# Students	# students / class	# students / 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 <http://countrymeters.info/en/Gambia>, there are 89.363 live births expected in The Gambia this year although other sources provide a lower estimate (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Gambia). 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.



SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS
ECD	76	106
LBS.	250	360
UBS	75	148
TOTAL	401	614



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 ; EXISTING 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.