

### **MRC-Holland foundation. Summary of activities in Quarter 3 + 4, 2018.**

In quarters 3 + 4 of 2017, the MRC-Holland foundation has spent EUR 5.198.414 on various projects resulting in a total expenditure of EUR 9.719.552 in 2018. An increase of 42% as compared to 2017. The great majority of the projects were education projects in The Gambia. Projects outside the Gambia that were supported in Q3 or Q4 of 2017 included gifts to:

Stichting WOL: education; Burkina Faso [www.stichtingwol.com](http://www.stichtingwol.com)

Stichting SAHELP: Burkina Faso; <http://www.sahelp.nl/>

Stichting People to people: Ethiopia; education; <http://p2pbridge.wordpress.com/>

Stichting naar school in Haiti: Haiti; education; <http://www.stichtingnaarschoolinhaiti.nl/>

Stichting Stepping Stone Liberia: Liberia; agriculture; <http://steppingstoneliberia.org/>

Stichting Healthy Malawi: Malawi; education; <http://www.healthymalawi.nl/#&panel1-1>

Stichting Medic: Netherlands; health care; [www.medic.nl/](http://www.medic.nl/)

Stichting Read to Grow; Netherlands; education / reading; <http://www.readtogrow.eu/nl/>

In the Gambia, we signed in 2018 (complete year) 52 new contracts for building new schools or renovation of existing school buildings, as detailed below. In total, these contracts comprised the building of 435 new class rooms, 622 toilets, 167 teacher rooms and 11 kitchens. Furthermore, at least 41 school classes were renovated; 8 schools were provided a fence, another 18 schools received water supply and several schools received a solar energy system. The number of classrooms that are finished or being built has now exceeded the number of 1000!

### **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
Started in 2017	282	186	356	110	11	18	17	9
Started in 2018	435	176	622	167	11	12	18	8
Total 2015-2018	1007	560	1412	375	35	44	51	25

In 2018, several projects were described in the Gambian press and the television news. Examples are:

<http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/new-college-campus-for-basse>

<http://www.kerr-fatou.com/gambia-gets-first-rural-teacher-training-college/>

<http://foroyaa.gm/2019-is-a-turning-point-president-barrow/>

<https://gambianewstoday.com/the-president-of-the-republic-of-the-gambia-his-excellence-adama-barrow-yesterday-18th-of-december-2018-laid-a-foundation-stone-of-the-new-college-campus-school-of-education-in-basse/>

<http://foroyaa.gm/president-barrows-statement-on-independence-day/>

In 2017, the wonderful Dutch stichting Read to Grow (<http://www.readtogrow.eu/nl/>) provided us with 30182 children books which were shipped to the Gambia early January 2018 and which will be distributed over various schools. In addition, 344 blackboards and 344 pin boards that we ordered from Smith-Visual were shipped in four containers. In January 2019, another 35.125 books will be shipped.

In 2018, no MRC Holland foundation representatives visited the Gambia. The next visit of Jan and Maureen to the Gambia is planned from February 12 to March 6, 2019. In 2018, Henriette Sonko visited us in Amsterdam twice and we did have email / phone contact almost daily.

#### Projects for which we signed a contract in 2018:

School	Settlement	School #	Region	Works
Jafai Lower Basic School	Jafai Kuta	50763	5	4 classrooms, 5 teacher rooms, kitchen, 6 toilets
Jamisa SSS toilets	Brikama	20943	2	24 toilets
District 6, 7 schools	N.A.	N.A.		Waterpumps, solar installation, water tank
Henriette LBS	Brikama	New	2	school wall
various schools	N.A.	N.A.	6	solar powered water pumps
Busumbala Tumbunto	Busumbala Tumbunto	New	2	5 teacher rooms with parlour, two toilet blocks (12 toilets) with fence
Jamisa Annex LBS	Brikama	New	2	30 classrooms, 30 toilets
Koba Kunda LBS	Basse Koba Kunda	60049	6	18 classrooms, 24 toilets
Jassong	Jassong	New	4	3 classrooms, 1 toilet block
Sinchu Alagi	Sinchu Alagi	21019	2	12 classroom storey building
Jamisa Annex	Brikama	New	2	550 meter wall
Tuba Sandu	Tuba Sandu	New	6	6 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 12 toilets, kitchen
Sare Fodigeh	Sare Fodigeh	New	6	4 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 6 toilets, kitchen
Kurawo	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
Sandu Misera	Sandu Misera	60074	6	4 classrooms; 5 teacher rooms; 6 toilets
Changally	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	Lamin Daranka	20119	2	17 classrooms; 16 toilets

Sare Marie Dobo	Sare Marie Dobo	New	3	two 3-classroom blocks, two toilet blocks, 5 staff rooms with two toilets and kitchen
Passi Chally	Passi Chally	New	3	one 4-classroom block, one toilet block, 5 staff rooms with two toilets and kitchen
Jassong	Jassong	New	4	3 classrooms; office, store, 5 teacher rooms; kitchen, 6 toilets
Armitage	Janjanbureh	50049	5	Wall, ~567 m.
Brusubi LBS	Brusubi	20815	2	18 classrooms and 24 toilets
Kagnobon	Cassamance, Zuid Senegal	N.A.	N.A.	Construction of 14 toilets and rehabilitation of 12 classrooms
Kalagi LBS	Kalagi	20043	2	7 classrooms; 12 toilets and 5 teacher rooms
Kiang Manduar	KIANG MANDUAR	40082	4	10 teacher quarters
Jamisa UBS	Brikama	20074	2	18 classrooms; 4 toilet blocks
Nema Kunku UBS	Nema Kunku / Serekunda	New	2	18 class rooms 18 toilets
Henriette LBS	Brikama	New	2	12 teacher rooms; 4 toilets; 2 showers, kitchen/store
Armitage	Janjanbureh	50049	5	Rehabilitation
Batokunku	Batokunku	20992	2	12 classrooms, 12 toilets 5 teacher rooms
Welingara Ba	Welingara Ba	40904	4	12 classrooms, 10 teacher rooms, kitche, 2x6 toilets
New Yundum LBS	New Yundum	20148	2	Wall
Gambia college	Brikama	N.A.	2	18 classrooms and 24 toilets
Koba Kunda BCS	Basse-Koba Kunda	60049	6	18 classrooms, 24 toilets and 10 teacher rooms
Welingara Ba 2	Welingara Ba	40904	4	12 classrooms, 10 teacher rooms, kitche, 2x6 toilets
Bulock phase 2	Bulock	21076	2	12 classrooms, 10 teacher rooms, 24 toilets
Kaiaf SSS	Kaiaf	40900	4	12 classrooms, 10 teacher rooms, 24 toilets
Sintet	Sintet	20736	2	5 teacher rooms, 12 toilets
Brusubi UBS	Brusubi	20933	2	6 classrooms, 12 toilets
Jalambang	Jalambang	20980	2	19 classrooms, 24 toilets
Jambur phase 2	Jambur	20184	2	6 classrooms, 5 teacher rooms, 12 toilets
Brusubi LBS Wall	Brusubi	20815	2	School fence
New Yundum LBS	New Yundum	20148	2	12 classrooms + 12 toilets
Brikama LBS	Brikama	20078	2	12 classrooms and 24 toilets
Bajakunda UBS+SSS	Bajakunda	60919+ 60920	6	12 classrooms and 24 toilets and 10 teacher rooms
Jarra Darsilami	Jarra Darsilami	40055	4	8 classrooms and 12 toilets and 5 teacher rooms
Brusubi SSS	Brusubi	20932	2	18 classrooms + 24 toilets
Brikama Niambai (Bij Gambia college)	Brikama	New	2	7 classrooms and 8 toilets

Old Jeshwang (Bolivar)	Jeshwang	10071	1	18 classrooms
Bakoteh Proper LBS	Bakoteh	10101	1	9 classrooms
Basse college	Basse	New	6	18 classrooms + 128 dormitories +16 toilets

#### Special projects in 2018:

1. The Gambia college in Brikama is at this moment the only school in the Gambia in which new teachers for lower and upper basic schools are trained. The school has several thousand students and is overcrowded. In 2018 we finished building a nursery school at this location and we started building a new 18 classroom block:  
<http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/barrow-commissions-d6m-classroom-blocks-at-utg>.
2. In December, the president of the Gambia placed the first stone for a second teacher training college in Basse. This will be the first tertiary institution in the interior of the Gambia. We start with building 18 classrooms and 128 student dormitories. In the next stage, teacher accommodation will be provided: <http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/new-college-campus-for-basse> The area made available by the local government is 1 square km....., providing many opportunities for the future.
3. At the Koba Kunda school near Basse we finished a new 18 classroom block in 2018 and started building a second 18 classroom block. This will greatly expand the capacity for upper and senior education in the Basse area. One of the former students of the Kobe Kunda school is president Barrow. He already mentioned that he will be presiding over the inauguration when completed.
4. Armitage is a famous boarding senior secondary school in Janjanbureh (Georgetown on older maps) that was founded in 1927 and which has more than 800 pupils. This huge complex was in need of a major refurbishment which has been done in the summer of 2018:  
<http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/d10m-project-launched-to-revamp-armitage-senior-school>.

Below are some of the mails and pictures that we received in 2018 from various projects.

#### From the project proposals:

**New Yundum Primary School:** The number of students enrolled at the school is 2700 divided in 26 classrooms. 26 classes come in the morning and 26 classes also come in the afternoon. There are 102 teachers out of which 70 females and 32 males. At the library there are books on the shelf and tables but no chairs found. Almost all the structures of the school need some renovation. (*More than 100 students / classroom!*).

**John pickering Upper/Senior Secondary School.** This school has 13 classrooms with a student population of 1612. There are 766 students for the upper basic and 846 for the senior secondary school situated at Lamin Daranka. The school is overcrowded with an available land space spared for

constructing new classrooms. School documents shall be provided by Mr. Kalifa Jobe. (Imagine an upper/senior school with 124 students / classroom...).

**BRUSUBI UPPER AND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL:** The total number of students at the upper basic school is 675. And the total number of students at the senior secondary school is 270. Together 945 students. There are 360 girls and 585 boys divided in 17 classes in both morning and afternoon shifts, all occupying in 9 classrooms and using 6 toilets. (Again more than 100 students / classroom!).

**A nice letter from Kerr Bohoum in the North region.**

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 head teacher, 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.

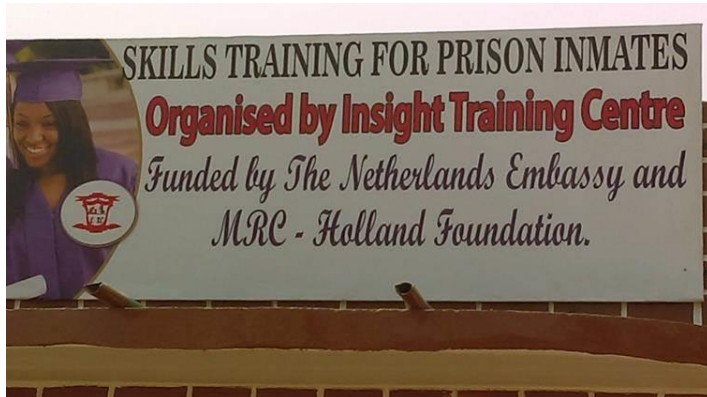
In Conclusion, these facilities will go way in helping the pupils of the village and surrounding and addressing their academic need. One that note I assure your foundation of our Commitment in taking care of these valuable assets with keen interest, to add more value to this wonderful endeavour of your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

Long live MRC Holland foundation!

**Part of the speech of one of the inmates at Gambia prison who took part in the skills training for inmates that we sponsored:**

It is impossible for us to fully express our deepest gratitude, it is like a dream yet a reality that someone can be in prison in The Gambia and still go to school. This affirms the saying that nothing is permanent except change. Indeed, this is an EPOCH making event that economically. We really appreciate our sponsors The Netherlands Embassy and MRC-Holland Foundation who did not write us off as most people think that these are criminals that are of no good and so should be allowed to remain in jail and languish. This clarion answer will forever be remembered, we want to assure you that you have not wasted your money but have succeeded in training and breeding great Enterpreneurers and Business Moguls who hope to come out soon and become employers of labour. Once again we want to thank you and very

**Let's hope that the inmates indeed provides Gambia with great entrepreneurs and business moguls!**



Below the new classroom for skills training at the Gambia prison:



Below pictures of two schools visited in district 6 by our team. Such schools are nowadays an exception





Above: the first of two blocks with 18 classrooms at Koba Kunda.

Below: The second block with 18 classrooms at Nema Kunku.







Left and above: New building at Jamisa Lower

Basic school in Brikama

Below: The new Jamisa Senior Secondary School in Brikama





New building in Jassong



New building at Babylon school, Lamin



New building in Kulori



Above: New buildings at the school in Kunkujang Jattaya (in collaboration with the Maladah foundation). The lower basic school has now been expanded with an upper school and a senior secondary school. The Maladah foundation informed us that, in contrast to the past, now all children in the village attend school and that only once in the past four year a young schoolgirl got pregnant. This shows that the influence of the school goes beyond simple education.

Below and next page: 4 pictures of Tuba Sandu.





Above: A nice picture we received from Medellin, Colombia, where we sponsor the foundation Aros the Esperanza who encourage young girls to attend school. Only those girls who attend school regularly can participate in the Basketball program.

2018 was a good year for the MRC-Holland foundation. We'll continue and expand our efforts in 2019!