



Marlborough Brandt Group

Linking people for a fairer world

Marlborough - Gunjur Community Link
Annual Report 2022



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3. 2018-2022 5 Years in Numbers

4. Chair's Report 2022

Grants

5. TARUD Health Project

6. Project Gambia

7. BEREEL

8. Disability Africa

9. Disability Africa

11. MBG Approach to Impact

12. MBG Grants Strategy

13. Financial Overview 2022

14. The Marlborough Brandt Group

15. Acknowledgements

MBG

2018-2022
5 YEARS IN NUMBERS

£194,000

Given in grants

12

Organisations
supported
with grants

£126,000

Match funding secured

£22,949

Raised in Emergency Appeal

42

Grants made

139

Volunteers
to Gunjur,
(0 in 2020,
2021 & 2022)

£15,000

Received in legacies

£14,200

Total operating costs,
7% of income

Chair's Report 2022

2022 maintained the flexible support to help against the impacts of the global pandemic, but now the focus is very much on helping the charities we fund return to their normal activities.

Emerging into the post pandemic world

MBG is delighted that all but one of the charities we support survived the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The amazing generosity of the people of Marlborough, and the match funding MBG was able to secure, were a significant help to our partners when other forms of fundraising was not possible.

Our partners are now re-establishing their proven programmes which transform lives for the better. We are pleased to say that these include our long-standing partner NGO **TARUD** where our core funding support has helped maintain the core organisation while the **St. James's Place** multi-year funding has provided real help in fighting Covid-19 and is now supporting children and families with better nutrition and diets.

Charity Grants

We have looked to help charities re-start their proven programmes, for example **BEREEL** with their business training and micro-finance. Operating out of the **Gunjur Project** this programme provides jobs that change the lives of whole families through sustainable employment.

Disability Africa sees the completed roof repairs of its groundbreaking child disability inclusion centre in Gunjur while managing the learning and diversification developed during the pandemic. We have committed to a new three-year funding agreement for the work delivered in Gunjur.

We have also agreed a new three-year funding agreement with **Project Gambia** to fund professional pre-school teacher training, as this charity celebrates 20 years of pre-school education in Gunjur.

Gunjur Project continues to manage education funding and training through legacy **VIBE** funding. MBG has granted additional money to continue the educational journeys of the young people supported since 2016.

Linking and volunteering

Again, group trips have not been possible in 2022, however through **Venture Force** we have confirmed a 2023 **St John's School, Marlborough** Summer Trip with 20 students and two teachers. We have moved the programme to now be embedded in the school core curriculum which has seen the participant numbers increase and teachers now take part. MBG has subsidised all trip places with two highly subsidised places for students who would not have the financial ability to take part in overseas cultural volunteering. **Venture Force** is also working with the **Gunjur Community Link** to bring 19 students from a school in Leeds to Gunjur.

We continue to work with and fund **Thriving Through Venture** which also has a group planned in 2023.

Our Impact at 41 years old

In 2017 we moved to a grant making strategy delivering impact through other charities 'on the ground' in Gunjur. We hoped to reduce our costs and maximise our funds and impact to Gunjur. As the previous page shows, since 2018 we have supported **£320,000** of support to Gunjur and charities operating there; for the operational cost of only **£14,200**. **We have issued 42 grants to 12 different charities.**

Thank you

Our on-going partnership with the people of Gunjur, especially during the difficult past two years, is only possible through the continued support of our members and supporters. **Thank you** for the emails of encouragement, thanks and donations. At 41 years old we retain our commitment to long-term, sustainable and high-impact work in Gunjur with people in Marlborough, and now across the UK.

Alex Davies, MBG Chair

2022 Grants: TARUD

TARUD has continued to use some funds to fight Covid-19 but has been able to focus its £10,000 pa multi-year health and nutrition project from St. James's Place into the core planned activity of supporting child and family nutrition.

Update from TARUD.

The Gunjur Health Promotion Project is a community nutritional health education programme linked to fortified foods. The project seeks to strengthen eight women's groups to establish 'mother clubs' in Gunjur through the "Kabilo" system'.

By engagement with the local community the project staff strived to identify and monitor underweight children in Gunjur, and link mothers to groups. We build capacity for training on nutritional health and conducted periodic cooking demonstrations using locally grown bio-fortified crop varieties (Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes–OFSP, whole grain Pearl Millet–PM and African Leafy Vegetables–ALVs Amaranths) that are rich in iron, zinc, vitamins A and C in particular, protein, calcium and other essential elements. These support growth and development of children aged five years and under, young mothers and women of reproductive age.



Project sustainability greatly depends on ownership. The Gunjur Health Promotion Project (GHPP) is one the most successful projects implemented by TARUD where ownership is being manifested through various mother groups and individuals within Gunjur, thus competing with others for successes achieved over the period.

Use of WhatsApp, [plates and utensils](#) have helped to spread awareness of the project. The spillover effect of this activities and communication campaign caused more groups to express interest in the project

Impact

During the period under review, TARUD Health Promotion Project helped contribute to reducing micro-nutrient deficiency levels such as iron, zinc, vitamins A and C, and the other essential nutrients required for growth and development of children under 5yrs in women and children five years and under in Gunjur.

Deficiency in such nutrients results in stunted growth, low weight, poor performance in school and nausea. These also serve as nutrient supplements for pregnant women and women of reproductive age.

Cooking demonstrations are routine activities and are held frequently in Gunjur. A total of 14 cooking demonstrations were held that attracted 446 women, 130 men and 1136 children of below five years (584 girls and 552 boys).

Baai E. Jabbang, Director of TARUD



2022 Grants: Project Gambia

MBG committed to a new three-year funding commitment for teacher education of £3,000 a year, with two payments made during the 2022 financial year.

Project Gambia is a small charity formed officially over five years ago but which has been operating in the pre-schools in Gunjur for 20 years arising from the work MBG did with TARUD in Gunjur. It supports and works alongside the teachers of five pre-schools in Gunjur helping them provide early education based on learning through play. For the last four years, MBG has provided teacher-training funding to help ensure a consistent and reliable source of long-term professional skills development.

During the Covid period, the schools have run themselves effectively and while our schools will always need to be funded, they are now fully self-sufficient in every other way.



MBG has confirmed another three years of funding to support this independence through our continued focus on professional teacher education.

We will be funding another six teacher-training places, as well as the graduation fees and other costs of existing trainees.

Supporting education remains a key part of MBG's strategy and we know that - as in the UK - the quality of children's pre-school education has a significant and enduring impact on their lifelong learning. We are proud to support this far-reaching investment, with the teachers going on to influence the lives of over 950 pre-school children in Gunjur.

**Anita Bew, MBE: Trustee
Project Gambia**

Find out more about Project Gambia here:
www.projectgambia200.com

2022 Grants: BEREEL Micro-Businesses

MBG Continued its three-year funds for BEREEL with a further £3,500.

BEREEL, (Building Empowerment: Rural Economic Engagement in Life) is a charity endeavouring to support sustained economic development at the micro, grass roots level in rural communities in The Gambia. Their formal purpose is the prevention or relief of poverty in The Gambia by assisting through the provision of education and training, and the necessary support to enable individuals to generate sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

There is up to 70% youth unemployment in rural Gambia and BEREEL work with Gambia's most vulnerable youth (18-35), and older people if they are vulnerable.

Support in Gunjur is through the provision of business training and an ongoing support programme. The pedagogy was designed so that it was accessible to participants with low levels of education. It was based on simple behavioural activities that all participants could understand, to develop an innovative, developmental mindset along with essential business management tools and techniques.

A scaffolding approach was taken to the learning journey allowing participants to be comfortable with concepts before adding further depth. This was commenced in an introductory workshop and ongoing small group, half-day education / networking events ("Share events"), one-o- one support visits and other support initiatives.

We also worked with our local Gambian staff to start giving them the skillset for their own delivery of the training programme in the future. This has progressed so well that they will be delivering the next workshop themselves, and are writing a strategic plan for the complete transfer of the governance and operation of the charity to The Gambia.

The workshops are currently delivered at a local compound-'The Gunjur Project' - with logistical support from the registered charity, ['The Gunjur Project Association'](#).

By the end of the period from January 2021 – March 2023 there was an increase in people running businesses in the formal economy or employed, and an average increase in personal income levels. This is evidenced by 135 people being engaged over the last 2 years with 86 (37F, 49M, 5D) opening bank accounts, 85 (31F, 54M, 6D) having increased their income to over \$1.15 per day with 53 (13F, 40M, 4D) of these increasing to over \$1.90 per day.

The people who have been involved with the project are living in compounds with a total of 1961 people (927M, 1034F, 24D) affected by the ability of our participants earning a better income. Support has also been given to people who were previously on the programme, so that a total of 250 people have been through the introductory workshop and are being supported currently.

To support equal access for women, Issues such as poorer nutrition of women than men, are addressed by ensuring that at all training events good meals are provided. Transport is provided to ensure the women are safely taken to and from the training events and no discrimination is allowed in the selection process that would disadvantage a woman. We provide child-care and food for the child, so that the woman can concentrate on the learning event rather than constantly being worried by the child.

[Read the full impact report here.](#)

Dr Nicola Swan and Dr Trevor Long
BEREEL





2022 Grants: Disability Africa

MBG confirmed a new three-year £3, 500 fund for Disability Africa

The Marlborough Brandt Group first introduced DA to Gunjur in 2011 and then supported us further in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. We are most grateful to you for this. Since 2019, we have run playschemes in communities across Kombo South including central Gunjur, Kunkujang, Madina Salaam, Sambuyang, Sanyang, Sinchu Wurri, Tanji and Tujer.

Why?

Disabled children in Africa are some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people on our planet due to the stigma of disability and negative traditional beliefs. Disabled children are often seen as cursed or less than human. They may not be known to the world outside of their homes, confined to single rooms, left behind. They suffer comprehensive deprivation of a normal childhood – social interaction, exclusion from education, lack access to basic medical care and are even deprived of food.

Our central strategy for inclusion is playschemes

Play is powerful. Some of the many benefits are it can instantaneously end a child's isolation and reduce risk of harm. Playschemes are **hubs** where staff assess then deliver essential medical, education parent support programmes. All children can play and playschemes are easily delivered by local people at minimal cost. Disabled children learn while playing - children develop vital coordination, social and communication skills for example fine motor skills and turn taking and making friends.



The Gunjur inclusion centre is back in action...

While the purpose built Gunjur Inclusion Centre has been undergoing repair work to the roof, with funding support from MBG and matching funding from other partners;, our Outreach Play Programme ensures children unable to attend the playschemes are seen regularly. Playworkers go to homes with toys and run a playscheme on a smaller scale. We are delighted to say that, since August, our Inclusion Centre has been housing a lively playscheme. **They have had 489 visits so far this year at the Gunjur Inclusion Centre.**

In 2023, it will be running at full capacity – i.e. a playscheme operating five days a week while working with health and educational professionals. The Centre boasts a large playroom, space for community-based physiotherapists, an art room and lots of outside space.

It proves to be a fun and stimulating place for children to develop – just what it's designed for! In the coming years, it will be the National Centre for Inclusion in Africa's smallest mainland nation. Providing expertise, training, best practice, and information sharing to all organisations/people who want to know more - helping to change negative attitudes and approaches to disability and inclusion.



2022 Grants: Disability Africa cont.

Find out more about Disability Africa - [here](#)

Impact

105 children have been supported at our play-schemes, while **23** have been part of our Outreach Play Programme.

This year **42** families have been visited and supported by our team in outreach visits. This includes vital safeguarding support and psychosocial support, ensuring families can thrive.

46 children have benefited from our Medical Support Programme. Playschemes allow staff to informally assess children's healthcare and available treatment and offer a safe child-friendly place for the delivery of outreach medical services and coordinating any aftercare that may be needed. Medical Support Officers at our projects support disabled children with every day first aid as well as to access vital life-saving medical treatment – for example surgery, after care, collecting medicines and attending appointments with children. We have strong working relationships with local, trusted health professionals including general practitioners and surgeons.

Our inclusive education programme ensures that, as soon as possible, disabled children are able to participate in mainstream classes with support of a trusted professional from the Gunjur Inclusion Project – **15** disabled children have been supported so far this year. Our team has also conducted a training day with teachers this year and have introduced the idea of a 'buddy system' where non-disabled peers will support their disabled friends in the classroom helping to shape an inclusive generation.

Challenges

One of our biggest operational challenges was the closure of the Gunjur Inclusion Centre. As the supporters of the MBG will know, this has been an ongoing issue since it was forced to close in 2018. However, the fact it is now being used and will be fully operational in 2023 will significantly increase delivery.

Another significant challenge for the people we serve, and for us as a small charitable organisation, is the global economic crisis – namely, inflation. For example, The Gambia's food inflation rate is higher than 17%. This means our money does not go as far, it makes planning difficult, and it means the families we serve are poorer. Inequality continues to rise and those under-served people in low-income communities like Gunjur, are pushed further into poverty. Our services exist to change this situation.

Your support of £3,500 this year was enough to ensure our Outreach Play Programme could run through the year – thank you for this. The same support next year - £3,500 - will pay for around 377 visits to the play-scheme at the Gunjur Inclusion Centre. This includes medical support at the play-scheme, a nutritious meal and a stimulating, educational experience for disabled children led by a team of paraprofessionals.

Thank you very much to everyone at MBG for your continued support of the Gunjur Inclusion Project: you are helping us build inclusive communities.

**Jonathan Dobson, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer
Disability Africa**



Grants: MBG approach to impact

Our impact strategy

MBG looks to have impact in the UK and Gunjur through sustainable community led activities over the long term. After 41 years our impact is spread through the well over 2000 volunteers who have travelled to Gunjur, and the numerous charities that now operate in Gunjur. All our activities are aimed at reducing the impacts of financial inequalities through educational, gender and disability equality. We do this through community linking and these specific UN targets:



Target 3.2

By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of 5



Target 4.2: Equal access to quality pre-primary education
Target 4.4: Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success
Target 4.5: Eliminate all discrimination in education



Target 5.1

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere



Target 8.3

Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises



Target 10.1

By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average



Target 17.17

Encourage effective partnerships



TAURD Management and maintenance

MBG does not work on the ground in Gunjur but supports other established charities. In support of our aims, we provide TAURD with a Project Manager to support the Director and enable better reporting, professional accounts and monitoring to help TAURD secure other funders. Our funds also help with the maintenance of the building and resources.

Grants: MBG Strategy

The Marlborough Brandt Group (MBG) promotes international understanding through linking and working with people in Marlborough, the UK and Gunjur, The Gambia and their wider communities.



MBG operates in partnership with the community of Gunjur and The Gunjur Community Link (GCL) to provide opportunities for embedded cultural trips to Gunjur, UK-based global education and grant support for sustainable Gunjur-based programmes.

We recognise that during the 41 years of the Marlborough-Gunjur link many other charities, often based in and around Wiltshire, now operate in the Gunjur Area. Rather than manage projects directly, MBG now financially supports these charities' operations in Gunjur.

MBG aims to maintain an annual spend in Gunjur (in terms of projects and linking trips) of around £20-£25K a year. In 2022 we distributed £34,345 to Gunjur

MBG is a volunteer-run charity that aims to place as much of our income and fundraising into Gunjur as possible. However, we accept that there are some unavoidable costs to running a charity, so MBG aims to spend no more than 15% of our total annual spend on charity overheads and core costs. In 2022 this was 6.2%, down from 6.7% in 2021.

Photo – Bouba D. Touray, Gunjur Link Committee Liaison Office

As a charity we set out the following criteria for grant applications:

- The organisation must be a registered charity, ideally registered in the UK.
- The cap for any one charity or activity would be £3,500 a year to ensure a sustainable drip feed of funds. This is an increase on the £2,500 limit from 2017 as the Trustees agreed that income and the charity balance allowed greater distribution of funds.
- The activity supported must meet the aims of MBG and the operational standards we expect / are expected of us or which are industry standards.
- MBG will support core costs for recipient charities, however generally the charity should not be spending more than 15% of total turnover on management and overhead costs.
- There must be clear reporting of inputs and outputs, and ideally also impact measurement, to understand the effectiveness of the grant.
- Exceptions to these rules may be applied for emergency funding, however these will still be to charities or community organisations and in support of MBG's charitable aims.

Financial Overview 2021

A summary of the accounts will be available at the Annual General Meeting and copies of the full MBG financial accounts are available from the MBG website. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirement of the charities Act 2011, section 145 and provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime; and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and have been subject to independent examination by a firm of chartered accountants – Oakensen Limited.

Income	2022	2021	2020
Covenant and Gift Aid	2,956		2,203
Donations and Gifts	35	870	13,844
Interest	115	4	41
Legacy	-	2,500	10,000
Membership MBG	2,742	2,475	2,896
Fundraising	-	-	275
Grants	25,000	15,000	25,600
	<u>30,848</u>	<u>23,052</u>	<u>54,004</u>
Expenditure	2022	2021	2020
Direct Charitable Expenditure	29,063	33,801	76,725
Travel	77	-	-
Insurance	205	544	506
Office costs and publishing	124	72	300
Computer and Website costs	194	194	195
Bank Charges	88	459	812
Bookkeeping and accountancy	1,108	1,008	960
	<u>30,859</u>	<u>36,078</u>	<u>79,498</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due	(1,108)	(1,008)	(960)
Balance Carried Forward	90,502	90,513	103,539

The Marlborough Brandt Group is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registration no. 0256 7458 and registered charity no 1001398.



Financial Overview 2021 cont.

During 2022 we maintained a stable financial position. The work of the charity has continued to be influenced by the ongoing impact of the pandemic. We now have confirmed youth group trips in 2023. The 2023 Summer Trip will be around 20 students from St. John's School Marlborough, led by Venture Force, who are also taking out a large group from a school in Leeds. The Summer Trip is now in direct partnership with the St John's to ensure the financial security of all those involved, following new best practice coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have also supported a 2023 group from Thriving Through Venture with £10,000 legacy funds from 2019, delayed due to the pandemic.

As in 2021, the Trustees agreed to focus the charity efforts on supporting our long-standing charity partners and the poorest people of Gunjur through the impact of Covid-19 as well as getting back towards delivering out community impact aims in Gunjur. Since 2017 we have placed a maximum operational cost spend of 15% of total spending. In 2022 operational costs represented 6.2%, down from 6.7% in 2021.

- We maintained our support for Disability Africa helping with £3,500 of funding to support with the impact of the pandemic, building repairs and home-visits for disabled young people around Gunjur.
- We started a new three-year partnership with long-time partner Project Gambia, supporting teacher professional education for pre-school teachers. We made both year 1 and year 2 payments totalling £6,506.
- We continued our support with £3,500 for the BEREEL micro-finance and employability programme.
- In readiness for the 2023 Summer Group, we subsidised two places on the trip with £2,269 for disadvantaged students selected by St John's School, Marlborough.
- We supported TARUD with a total of £13,055, which is a mix of funding support from St. James's Place Wealth Management for an extend health programme and direct support for wages and office maintenance.
- We submitted GiftAid claims for 2020 and 2021 which, due to the Covid-19 Emergency Appeal brought in an additional £2,956.
- We also received a one-off unrestricted donation of £15,000 from St. James's Place Wealth Management.

The Marlborough Brandt Group

The Memorandum of Association of MBG signed in 1990 defines its objectives as:

- (i) to promote, foster and sustain educational projects between people of the Marlborough District and people living in areas of deprivation abroad (i.e. "the developing world"); and for that purpose; to sustain the special 'Link' which MBG has built up with the people of Gunjur in The Gambia, West Africa and to establish links elsewhere.
- (ii) to promote activities that will relieve poverty, sickness, physical and mental additional needs and the disabilities of old age among people living in the developing world.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

MBG is governed by a Board of Trustees, that are responsible for the financial probity of the organisation, for agreeing the strategy and ensuring that MBG's activities fall within its charitable purposes. The Trustees are elected by the membership at an annual general meeting. The Trustees are supported by an experienced and committed group of volunteers.

Governing instruments: Memorandum & Articles of Association Incorporated 04.09.14

The Marlborough Brandt Group cont.

PATRONS

Founder Patron: Dr Nick Maurice

Professor Keith McAdam

Jon Snow

TRUSTEES

Alex Davies (Chair)

James Busby

David Johnson

MBG PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT 2022

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and when planning activities. Our main activities and who we have helped are described in this report. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes.

Acknowledgements

MBG has many sources of support without which we would not be able to function. We act as a conduit for the support of our beneficiaries in The Gambia and in UK. In company with beneficiaries; we would like to extend our most sincere thanks for all the generous support we have received. Here are just some who have helped in our work during 2022:

Individuals

Essa Sumareh
 Bouba Touray
 Ousman Touray
 Lamin ("Wiki") Bojang
 Lamin ("Driver") Jatta
 Funneh Camara
 Fatou Mundaw
 Fatou Janneh
 Anita Bew
 Theresa Ardley
 Steve Atyeo
 Lamin Bojang
 Sonia & Bill Buxton
 Colin Crockin
 Stephanie Dale
 Richard Draper
 Darla Dryland
 David Du Croz
 Anna Gent
 Giles Goldring
 Angela & Gordon Hutt
 Harriet Lamb
 Michael Maude
 Dr Nick Maurice
 James Parry
 Anna Quarendon
 Barney Rosedale

Pam Tulloch
 Micky Graham
 Robin Twelftree
 Susan Suchopar
 Baai E. Jaabang
 Michael Evans
 Babucarr Camara
 Zoe Lenkiewicz
 Bilal Patel
 Nicola Davies
 Naomi Allen
 Phil Bunton
 Stewart Kingsley
 Beth Jenks
 Chris McMenamin
 Fiona Yang
 Emma Beldon
 Tom Tuckwood
 Graham McDonald
 Susie Chesher
 Ronnie Robb
 Alex Darboe
 Fatou Darbo
 Alkali Darbo
 David White
 Dodou Touray
 Yahya Camera

Institutions

Arkleton Trust
 Brewster Maude Charitable Trust
 Footsteps Ecolodge
 Gunjur Community Link
 The Gunjur Project
 Hiscox Insurance
 Kempson Rosedale Trust
 Kombo Sillah Association
 Nema Kunta Garden & Ecolodge
 St. James's Place
 St. James's Place Charitable Foundation
 St John's School, Marlborough
 St Peter's Trust
 Think Charitable Foundation
 Trust Agency for Rural Development
 Venture Force
 WasteAid



Marlborough Brandt Group

Linking people for a fairer world



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Company number. 02567458