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Cover photo – Lamin (Wiki) Bojang, Gunjur Link Committee

Page 3 photos:

Top left – Gunjur Nansimba, Aja Mai Kebbeh

Top right – Gunjur Alkalo, Giki Darbo

Bottom – Gunjur Imam, Imam Kawsu Touray

All Gunjur-Marlborough volunteers have courtesy calls with these three Gunjur community leaders when they arrive in Gunjur.



Marlborough - Gunjur community link

Annual Report 2019



Chair's Report 2019

In 2019 MBG has expanded its grant making strategy while maintaining the volunteer cultural trips that are core of our community linking approach.

In this report you will see the continued work of MBG as a dynamo empowering community activity in Gunjur. We are proud to have increased the number of charity projects we support in Gunjur and increased the amount of funding we give to those charities. All these charities operate in Gunjur through the initial link created between Gunjur and Marlborough and we retain close ties of friendship with them, but also seek to actively connect their work through targeted funding support from us.

Linking and volunteering

We are a linking and community-to-community organisation. The cultural experience and learning of people interacting with each other is where we start. This year we supported 42 volunteers and seven leaders to travel in four groups to Gunjur. That our trips are facilitated by volunteers from the community of Gunjur based on our 38 years of partnership means they remain a unique offering in what is a crowded and often cynically commercial market place. As 'voluntourism' is increasingly under scrutiny and under fire in the media, we are proud to remain an example of best practice.

Projects

As a linking organisation, we work in equal partnership with the community of Gunjur and Gunjur Community Link. We support the needs of the community as identified by the community. To that end we have increased our support for long time partner TARUD

under the leadership of Director Baai E. Jaabang. As TARUD has a more national reach, MBG supports its Gunjur based operations and facilities. We know it is a force multiplier and through it are working with BEREEL on micro-loans and business training, health programmes and WasteAid's plastic recycling centre. We are also supporting Time for Change and Disability Africa as we continue to ensure we support people on the edge of Gunjur.

Education and awareness

Our long commitment to education and to raising awareness of global issues continues via the work of Dr Nick and TTV through the UK global awareness and community engagement side of the TTV trips. We maintain our website, regular newsletters and documents to continue to inform our members and friends of developments in The Gambia. In Gunjur we support pre-school education through Project Gambia and secondary education by the innovative work of Raise Gambia.

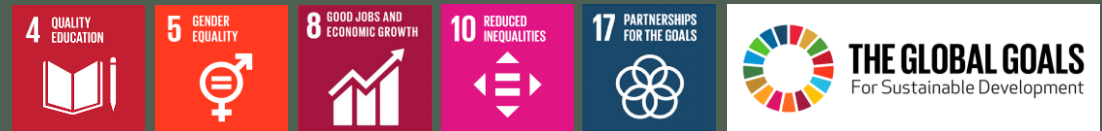
2020

As I write this Covid-19 is wreaking havoc on the world and the economy of The Gambia. Sadly our 2020 summer trip has been postponed and may be cancelled. Our 2020 aim is for the charities we support in Gunjur to still be active and stable by the end of the pandemic. We will distribute emergency funds to that end.

Alex Davies

Our impact: MBG looks to have impact in the UK and Gunjur through sustainable community led activities over the long term. After 38 years our impact is spread through the some 2000 volunteers and numerous charities that now operate in Gunjur. All our activities are aimed at reducing financial inequalities through educational, gender and disability equality. We do this through community linking and these specific UN targets:

- 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 8.3: Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises
- Target 17.17: Encourage effective partnerships



Volunteering: St. James's Place trips

In November three groups of ten volunteers, with two leaders from Venture Force, travelled to Gunjur to support the upscaling of the TARUD / WasteAid plastic recycling centre.

This is the third year of trips from St. James's Place, a FTSE100 finance company whose Head Office is in Cirencester. The company first got involved with micro-finance loans in 2014 through Dr Nick and Anita and Daren Bew, a project still running through BEREEL (page 8)

Groups stayed at NemaKunta lodge and Footsteps Ecolodge but each also spent two days living with a local family in Gunjur.

As will all MBG trips they are managed by the professionals at Venture Force through Tom Tuckwood and the hard work of the Gunjur Community Link by Bouba D. Touray. The trips are made up of three aspects:

1. People – first and foremost our trips about people from different cultures understanding each other better and developing compassion and friendship.
2. Community engagement – living and working along side local people experiencing their country and culture.
3. Community impact – a sustainable community project selected, owned and managed by the people and professionals of Gunjur, helped by MBG volunteers.

These groups were working to increase the capacity of the WasteAid plastic recycling project through TARUD – see page 15. The groups work 9am-2pm on the site having lunch with the project workers and volunteers. Anyone who has been to The Gambia knows how fantastic the food is and on this trip it was provided by Funneh Camara supported by Fatou Mundaw and Fatou Janneh.



Photo: Lamin Jatta transports the teams in country and helps everyone. The Marlborough Brandt Group

Volunteer Report: Stuart Kingsley

As soon as I discovered the opportunity to go on this trip, I knew it was going to be special for me. We were told that we would 'find our niche' and that very quickly we'd discover what we'd be doing. I very quickly discovered that my niche was not turning out bricks! They broke every time. I did however enjoy fetching sand in the wheelbarrow and mixing the cement for making the bricks. Very quickly I became 'Mr Sandman' and I loved it. I have to say that hard digging and soil shifting, when done in direct sunlight in the middle of Africa, is very sapping

Whilst working, we were encouraged to talk to the locals, ask as many questions as we could and see what we wanted to see. It was a real education for me and to be honest the most valuable part of the week. We had a planned lesson arranged at the lower basic school where I had the privilege of helping a class of 6-10-year olds solving maths equations (better than I could!) on the blackboard. We then did a



Photo: Head Chef Funneh Camara



Q&A session and the main topics were – The weather, how cold is it? Does it snow? How much snow? How cold is the snow?

We had lots of wonderful 'down time' too. Every single day I experienced something wonderful and new, ranging from going running on the beach at dawn, to playing drums around a bonfire and even being invited to a wedding ceremony.

In summary, and I am being deadly serious here, this was probably the most important week of my life. It made me realise that no matter where in the world you go, how rich or poor they are, how intelligent and educated they are, or what religion they are, no one is better than anyone else. I returned to the UK vowing to myself that never again will I get 'stressed' over an annoying email, or that I'm in a traffic jam. Thank you to the wonderful people of Gunjur

Volunteer Report: Beth Jenks

Arriving in Gatwick, I was initially nervous about who the group would be and if everyone would get on. These nerves quickly evaporated as everyone just seemed so lovely. Arriving in Gambia and seeing the other group through the gate at the airport and waving at each other was fantastic, my excitement turned up quite a notches seeing how full of energy they were!

Our chaperones, Lamin, Essa and Lamin Driver were so wonderful and got us right in the swing with some African drumming the afternoon we got there. They were absolutely wonderful people with big hearts and did everything they could to support us through the trip. Seeing the Iman (village elder) was amazing, to see someone who has so much respect from and for others was refreshing. He was very insightful and his outlook on life also gave me some things to ponder.

I really enjoyed our home stay, and teaching the kids nursery rhymes, them teaching us theirs and drumming with us. A lovely family I am also still in contact with. The whole week was intense, emotions were heightened the whole time, the kids running after us waving and screaming was heart-warming.

Overall, this experience has helped me learn more about myself. I get more out of experiences and good relationships with people than anything else. I have more appreciation for what we have. The food was amazing in the Gambia! It was nice to get excited about the small things and spending time with people and I hope to remember this feeling always.



Photo: Beth with fellow volunteer Jan Jago enjoying time at the project site.

Grants: MBG Strategy

The Marlborough Brandt Group (MBG) promotes international understanding through linking and working with people in Marlborough, 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 38 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 2019 we distributed £33,550 to Gunjur which included £15K income funds from late 2018.

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.

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

The Marlborough Brandt Group

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.

Grants: Micro-business education BE REEL

MBG granted £3,500 to support the continued work in running workshops to build micro-business resilience and empowerment in Gunjur. Led by Dr Nicola Swan and Dr Trevor Long with The Gunjur Project Association, the project aims 'to provide business management training and support for those who do not have access to appropriate training... to develop more economically viable micro-business and trained managers, thereby improving income levels for families and the broader community and reducing the desire to take the back way.'

Last year's successful pilot of two workshops with 40 people was built on in 2019 with two further workshops. The training programme looks to the local Gunjur economy by enhancing self-employment opportunities through employability, increase the number of micro-enterprises and train local trainers for future sustainability.

The training is designed to be distinct from other business training available in The Gambia by presenting key management skills in ways which participants can assimilate through behaviour change and by developing critical thinking skills. It is also available to English speaking Gambians even if they have not completed their year 12 certificate or have limited English reading and writing.

Training content is specifically designed to be Gambia-centric logic and uses examples that build on a participant's business idea. Topics covered include product and service differentiation, production and distribution, customer focus, pricing and budgeting, competitors, communication, marketing and basic financial recording. The workshops are supported by Gambian facilitators including Lamin L. Touray and Buba K. Touray (who used to manage the TARUD Gunjur Youth Development Business Programme).

The two five-day project workshops were advertised over Gunjur Radio and word of mouth. Building on 2018, specific effort was made to reach participants from more marginalised communities and women. The Gunjur Project Association and Gunjur Development Association were particularly helpful here.



The 2019 workshops saw 47 people complete the course with some members also being supported onto literacy and medical support programmes.

Impact measuring is difficult in such a long term programme, however "initial outcomes have been very positive with excellent feedback ... and anecdotal developments of businesses by alumni and participants' confidence. Early signs are very positive and give us strong encouragement to continue to develop the core programme." Dr Swan.

Find out more: www.bereel.org/
www.gpagambia.org

Case study – Abdoulie Touray

Completed the June 2018 workshop when 21 and selling cosmetic lotions from compound to compound. By January 2019 he had established a barber shop working full time with around 25 customers a day. He used Facebook and WhatsApp to advertise. Abdoulie said one of the biggest learnings was the importance of punctuality to his customers. In November 2019 his business had expanded to include cosmetics and provide Wi-Fi for customers. The business allows him to contribute to the family income and provide money for daily lunches for his siblings.



Grants: Thriving Through Venture

Thriving Through Venture (TTV) delivered its second project in 2019 which was supported by MBG with a £2,500 grant.

Founded by Caro Stover, an educational psychologist, and Dr Nick Maurice, TTV engages and links young people aged 16-18 in Wiltshire and Gunjur, to undertake real-life purposeful projects that address the rise of low self-esteem and anxiety.

This second project was made up of a cohort of 12 young volunteers from three state schools, and two independent schools: John Bentley School and St Mary's in Calne, Ridgeway in Swindon, St John's Marlborough and Marlborough College.

This year's theme was Identity and Migration with projects that develop skills in photography, performing arts and research, moving beyond the classroom and text books to prepare them for the adult world through practical engagement with it.

The group had a bonding and training weekend in Devizes and a day with the Gambian community in Bristol.

During their two weeks in Gunjur the group are all carefully paired with a Gambian student of the same gender who they work along side in groups everyday developing strong bonds and mutual understanding. The group are also introduced to the work of TARUD, The Gunjur Project, Nemasu lodge, Waste Aid and the UK High Commissioner Sharon Wardle.



www.ttventure.org



The Marlborough Brandt Group Photo by 2019 group – Tobaski in Gunjur – festival of Eid Al-Adha

The 2019 trip had three programmes through which identity and migration were explored and better understood:

Photography

Four volunteers completed training with Lou Spence and looked to take images capturing elements of their own identities through shoots in the UK which were then reproduced in Gunjur. They also photographed people who had migrated to the UK to understand the drivers of migration.

Performance

The groups developed skills by using performance to understand how people and communities share through drama, folk tales, music and stories. The group were asked to listen to older members of both communities and relate stories, reconnecting across generations. The group said this was transformative and something vital that captured stories that might otherwise have been lost.

Migration

The young people met with experts and those who have migrated to the UK from The Gambia, Iraq and Syria to understand the impact on identity and individuals of migration. In The Gambia the group were paired with people from across many tribal groups who live in Gunjur and talk with those who have tried to reach the UK but turned back in Libya. The group questioned what it meant to be a member of a tribe, a Gunjurian, a Gambian and living in the UK.

Grants: TARUD

Under the professional leadership of Baai E. Jaabang, TARUD has had another good year. TARUD has long been a close partner of MBG and based on their previous work MBG was pleased to increase our support to £2,500 of unrestricted funds spread over the year to support their core costs. We recognise that being able to support an effective locally-run NGO on the ground is a benefit that many UK charities do not have.

TARUD continues to manage the legacy delivery of the Gunjur Youth Business & Development Programme (local business micro-loans) reporting to United Purpose. The funds distributed over the past five years will continue to be managed and reinvested by TARUD.

Future partnership 2020-22

TARUD is doing more work on a national scale and so MBG has been working to help TARUD maintain its Gunjur based community work and impact.

MBG has facilitated a three-way partnership with TARUD and St. James's Place Wealth Management who have committed £10,000pa for three years in support of a nutritional health and common deadly diseases awareness programme.

MBG has committed two associated grants. Firstly, £2,500pa for three years to provide for a Projects Manager at TAURD to support the Director with impact reporting and increase the charity's professional capacity.

Secondly, £5,000pa for three years in support of strategic support for the charity to provide professional accounts and auditing, an annual report and impact assessment as well as additional staff and operational support. The aim is to support TARUD to establish the good practice and capacity to bid for more grants and continue to diversify its funding and grow its impact.

Through MBG the Think Charitable Foundation which is connected to Think Wealth Management and Bilal Patel (SJP volunteer) has granted £1,500 to TARUD to install running water into the TARUD compound and to update the toilets, especially for the women working at TARUD.



Case study – Kaddy Janneh

Kaddy sells breakfast and lunch baguettes for workers and children at the Lower Basic school. The stall is a simple wooden boxed table with the fresh baguettes kept inside the table and the two filling options on top with a selection of sauces. There are several other traders on the road and Kaddy works alongside a small food stall selling foods for cooking at home.

Kaddy used the micro-loan set up the business and create a cashflow to support her to become established. This allows her to buy the daily provisions of bread, beans, macaroni, spaghetti, onions, potatoes, TAK flavouring, ketchup and spicy Sonia sauce.

Kaddy is required to repay £12 a month of the interest free micro-loan.

Kaddy's ambition is "to expand the business to maximise profit to help sustain my family and pay for my children's education. I want to be save sufficient money to pay for school up to university (about £250 a term). I support both my family and my extended family."



Grants: Project Gambia

Project Gambia supports a cluster of seven preschools in the Gunjur area aiming to create a sustainable and high-quality provision of preschool education to the wider Gunjur community. 968 3-6 year-olds currently attend these preschools daily, with MBG's grant of £3,500 being used to support teacher training in early childhood development which includes £1,000 of unrestricted funding for the core charity costs.

This is the third of a three-year funding grant that MBG has provided to Project Gambia, which aims to support early educational curriculum, development of appropriate teaching resources and professional training for teachers. MBG supports not only tuition costs, but also the cost of travel and study resources that can be a barrier to adult education.

Project Gambia now has 46 early years teachers, 17 of whom are students enrolled at different stages of a three-year Early Childhood Development Qualification at The Gambia College or the Arabic College. After graduating the teachers will join the other qualified teachers from the programme that are now employed in the community, and will work in one of the seven pre-schools across Gunjur.

The students all feel that they are developing personally and professionally and feel a lot more confident in their teaching abilities. In 2019 Project Gambia has also started delivering some leadership development with the Headteachers, thinking about management teams, performance of teachers and all the responsibilities and opportunities of being a leader.

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



Photo: teacher Mia Janneh at TARUD preschool

Project Gambia in numbers:

- 968 children in 7 preschools
- 46 early years teachers, 17 currently in MBG funded professional training.
- 28 stimulating and fully resourced learning classrooms.
- 4 preschools with funded lunch programmes for children's nutrition.
- All 7 preschools have running water.
- 3 preschools have electricity.
- All of the teachers are paid.
- All 7 preschools have girls' and boys' bathrooms.
- All of the preschools have vegetable gardens and space to play.

To find out more visit:

www.projectgambia200.wixsite.com/welcome
or email projectgambia200@gmail.com

Grants: Disability Africa

This year MBG has started supporting Disability Africa, who are now an established presence in Gunjur, with a grant of £2,500 to support an outreach play programme.

Disability Africa works to prevent disabled children in the Gunjur area from being left behind. Its innovative programme is looking to be a sustainable role model which can be copied in other parts of Africa. The charity focuses on inclusion and equity of opportunity, working to end isolation.

Disability Africa has built a flagship disability centre in Gunjur near the lower basic school. However some structural problems with the roof have meant its partial closure and temporary closure to children. While it is being repaired the charity is looking at other ways to make the best use of its trained staff and resources. Director Ric Law sets out how MBG supports:

"The whole idea of the outreach playschemes originated with the temporary closure of the centre, but it's become one of those things that we realised we would need to have invented in any case. There are so many children remote from the centre of Gunjur who would benefit from a more local facility.

"This is a playscheme based at Kunkujang Lower Basic school – we visited the scheme while we were out there last week – it's really lively and truly inclusive. About 56 kids were there when we attended over 50% of whom were disabled. It's run by our staff but organised by a local dad who uses his donkey rig to collect some of the less ambulant kids enable them to be included in the playscheme.

MBG has supported this for one year and will review to consider a multi year grant to support this wider outreach from the core charity work.



Watch our video

Watch our video here and learn how Disability Africa help disadvantaged young people in Africa.



DISABILITY
AFRICA
CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES

For more information about **Disability Africa**, visit:
<https://www.disability-africa.org/home>

Grants: Time for Change, The Gambia

MBG supported this new charity, which operates in the Madina Kunkunding area of Gunjur in the South East edge of the village, with a £1,000 grant.

Formed by the band The Warm Collective (TWC) a collective of musicians, singers, rappers, producers and volunteer supporters, TFC feels that music, sport and culture have a powerful role to play in creating dialogue to form positive and meaningful change.

Its mission is to help young people in Gunjur and the UK through the provision of recreational and leisure-time activities, whilst also supporting social welfare and develop creative skills through participation in society. It also aims to provide education and training to increase sustainable income for individuals in Gunjur. TFC has volunteer groups in Newcastle YMCA, Northumberland College and Queen Elizabeth High School Hexham. It has linked with the Madina Kunkunding basic school.

MBG has funded the drilling of a borehole and pipes to convert the existing well to provide clean and easily accessed water to the homes of this area which is currently too remote for the standpipe taps in the main village. TFC will then add a pump, solar panels and a 600L tower to provide running water.



Photo: Michael Evans from TFC in the home-stead with floor tiles from WasteAid



TFC has a project base, the "Only Goodness Homestead" which acts as a lodge, arts centre and café in the Madina Kunkunding area. They have also built a community bakery which provides both employment and food to the local people. Their other projects include developing a recycling initiative and supporting creative artists, rappers, singers and musicians to develop their skills and record their material.

Find out more on Facebook: [click here](#)



Grants: Raise Gambia

MBG continued to support the Raise Gambia science lab to enhance the level of teaching and learning of science in Gambian upper basic schools.

MBG has supported the science lab in Sifoe just West of Gunjur for several years. Usually this coincides with a St. John's Science Trip but the 2019 trip has been postponed.

Raise Gambia looks to support the teaching of science in The Gambia both to support the wider and deeper education of Gambian students, but also to give access to a subject that is often only really accessible to elite schools in The Gambia.

Raise Gambia has three core programmes:

1. Local Upper Basic school visits to the lab in Sifoe
2. Lending out of scientific equipment to schools for lessons
3. Teacher Development Workshops to improve the teaching skills of Gambian teachers.

The charity is also considering running summer school lessons for students who show an aptitude for science to enhance their opportunity to attain good exam grades and support their future education options.

The funding from MBG is to fund ten additional schools visits to allow more students access to science lessons. This includes transport and meals to maximise access.

£400 to increase the amount of equipment that can be lent out to other schools. Typically Upper Basic Schools will have no scientific equipment, electrical circuit apparatus or simple chemistry experiments. The funding should allow 20 loans over the academic year.

For more information about **Raise Gambia**, visit: www.raisegambia.co.uk



Photo: Experimenting with electrical circuits at a Teacher Development Workshop



Photo: Local students engaged in Refraction of Light experiment



Grants: WasteAid

MBG has supported WasteAid for the first time in partnership with St. James's Place on developing a two year plastic waste recycling centre run by TARUD. MBG gave a grant of £1,000 in addition to £4,000 from St. James's Place Charitable Foundation.

WasteAid is an innovative charity working world wide to create a world with equal access to waste services for all and the protection from disease, pollution and environmental destruction.

WasteAid secured funding from DIFD to work in The Gambia to reduce waste plastics as waste in The Gambia quickly enters the river system in the rainy season and is washed out to sea contributing to the ocean plastic crisis.

Most waste in the Gunjur is dumped and burned. The toxic fumes from burning plastic is extremely damaging to children's lungs and developing digestion leaving long term and irreversible damage.

WasteAid is working with TARUD to develop an idea proposed by students from Pewsey Vale school through an MBG global education school challenge. Waste plastic is gathered and cleaned, melted and boiled with sand added before being poured into moulds. These create floor and roof tiles as strong as concrete while being much lighter, fully recycled and can even be melted down again and remoulded for further use.

With success in year one to refine the manufacturing process the aim was to expand the manufacturing capacity by moving to a large site on the edge of the village in the Madina Kunkunding area, near to the Time for Change base.

MBG paid for the initial clearing and foundation to be build ready for the St. James's Place volunteers to work with local professionals to build the workshop and office/changing rooms building.

Key to the project is proving the concept so it can be duplicated around the world, but also its sustainability to pay for itself and provide employment in the local area.



Babucarr Camara, shown here onsite with examples of completed floor tiles, is the Project Officer at the plastic recycling centre. He oversees the recruitment of trainees and supports their training through creating resources and materials. Babucarr supports the supervision of the project, managing relationships with the community and supports the project administration. Babucarr is also CEO of a local poultry farm.

For more information about **WasteAid**, visit: www.wasteaid.org



Financial Overview 2019

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 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.

	2019	2018
Income		
Covenant and Gift Aid	-	-
Donations and Gifts	10,035	16,565
Interest	97	47
Legacy	-	2,428
Membership MBG	2,951	3,797
Fundraising	1,062	1,291
Grants	-	15,000
	14,145	39,128
Expenditure		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	33,578	21,274
Travel	604	542
Insurance	543	542
Office costs and publishing	1,146	665
Computer and Website costs	617	502
Bank Charges	71	75
Bookkeeping and accountancy	1,020	1,020
	37,579	24,620
Creditors: amounts falling due	(1,490)	-
Balance Carried Forward	129,033	152,467

The financial target for 2019 has been to deliver the charity aim of distributing funds between a £20,000 deficit and cost neutral position to sustain its long term grant making ability. The deficit of £23,434 is the result of £15,000 SJP grant from 2018 spent in 2019 – offsetting a £14,508 surplus in 2018. During 2019 the Trustees distributed funds in support of visits and community projects in Gunjur while supporting other charity run projects also operating in Gunjur.

Over the year the charity saw a net deficit of £8,434 through the distribution of funds. A key activity for 2020 will be to secure the past four years of Gift Aid.

Our operational cost represented 11.9% of expenditure, below the 15% maximum we aim for. This has dropped from 13.6% in 2018, 42.6% in 2017 and 20.5% in 2016 with 38.7% restricted wages.

Janneke Blokland Treasurer

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 2019 cont.

Summary of key points related to income and expenditure:

INCOME

- £5,000 received from the Think Charitable Foundation connected to Think Wealth Management and Bilal Patel who was a member of the SJP November Trips. The £5,000 was in support of TARUD, BeReel and the Gunjur Medical centre through the 2020 Summer Trip. Personal kit was also donated to those working at the project site.
- £700 was raised by the annual MBG Quiz at St John's Marlborough, this year won by 'ChurchMob' in their 12th outing.
- Membership lower than 2018 but the same as in 2017 so remains stable overall.
- £600 donation from St. James's Place for printing and photography.

EXPENDITURE

- Details of the charities MBG supports to deliver our charitable aims are cited in this report.
- MBG has agreed grants with BeReel and TARUD which distribute our remaining restricted funds by 2022.
- St. James's Place kindly laid out the 2018 annual report, though the improved print quality and volume for trip volunteers meant a higher print cost of £500. Creating some printed documents allows for mailing to members who do not use email, for volunteers and for our partners and volunteers in The Gambia.
- £417 was used for training in responsible photography for the development sector – the style and expectations of imagery used is changing and while MBG is well placed because of its equal partnership and shared learning heritage, needs to remain current.

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, who 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

Photo: The Roots Kombo Sillah Band Gunjur, including long time Gunjur Community Link Volunteer Wiki Lamin, perform at Bolongbaa Beach Lodge and Camping on Gunjur Beach.



The Marlborough Brandt Group cont.

PATRONS

Founder Patron: Dr Nick Maurice

Professor Keith McAdam

Lord Judd of Portsea

Jon Snow

TRUSTEES

Alex Davies (Chair)

Chaplin Janneke Blokland

James Busby

David Johnson

MBG PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT 2019

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 2019:

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 Cheshier
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 Charitable Foundation
St. James's Place Wealth Management
St John's Marlborough
St Peter's Trust
Think Charitable Foundation
Time for Change Foundation
Trust Agency for Rural Development
Venture Force
WasteAid



Marlborough Brandt Group
Linking people for a fairer world



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21 Stallard Street
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Company number. 02567458

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