

MBG September 2022 update



Dear friends,

Welcome, in this update:

- **MBG AGM 24th October, by Zoom**, our annual report and a look back at our last four years in numbers.
- An update from **Disability Africa** on MBG funds supporting disabled children in Gunjur.
- Bristol Gambian community **Kombo Sillah Association** delivers an Independence Day Lecture for young people.

MBG update.

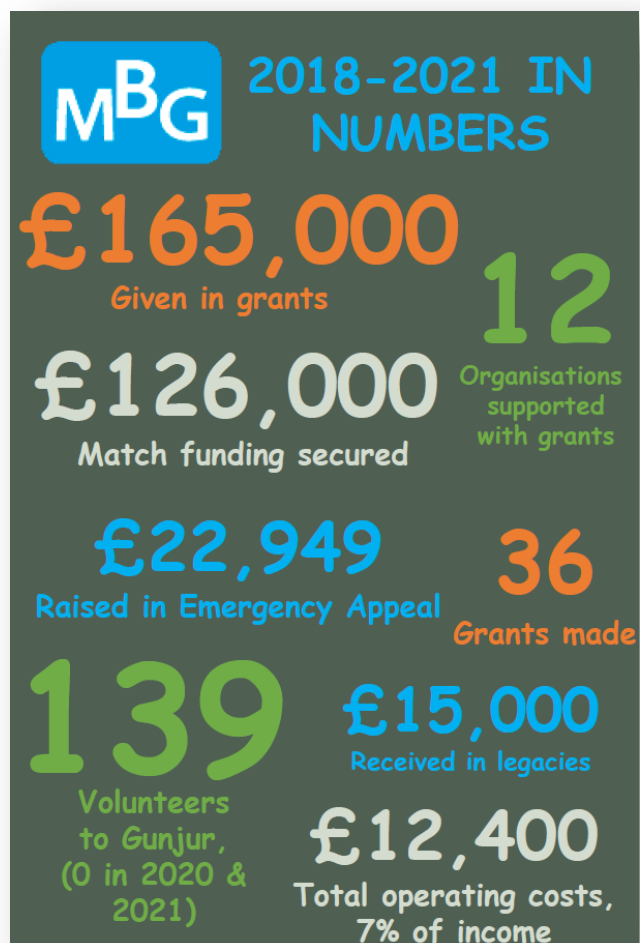
This year we have been busy supporting our partner charities working in Gunjur.

We are delighted to say that all the charities we support are still operating and are returning to their tried and tested operations with some evolution following the impact of the pandemic.

Our latest Annual Report is now on our website, a link is below. It has now been five years since the MBG office closed so we have looked back at the four years since then to see what we have been doing.



You can also read out 2021 annual report here. [2021 Annual Report](#)



Update from Disability Africa

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

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. 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.



THE GUNJUR INCLUSION CENTRE BACK IN ACTION

While the purpose built Gunjur Inclusion Centre has been undergoing work, 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. **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! – and in turn be the National Centre for Inclusion in Africa's smallest mainland nation.

IMPACT

101 children have been supported at our playschemes, while **22** have been part of our Outreach Play Programme.

This year **35** families have been visited and supported by our team. This includes vital safeguarding support (see below).

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.

Thank you very much to everyone at MBG for your continued support of the Gunjur Inclusion Project – it is through support from people like you that is helping us build inclusive communities.

www.disability-africa.org

Bristol Kombo Sillah Association Independence Day Lecture



The trustees of the Kombo Sillah Association Gambian diaspora in Bristol delivered an excellent first Independence Day Lecture. With short addresses from KSA Trustee Lamain, I.S. Manjang, Alex Davies (MBG Chair) and KSA Trustee Massey Touray.

The primary lectures were delivered by two talented young people Tida Scattered Janneh and Bakoto Jobe.

To a packed hall in the Easton Community Centre, Ms Scattered Janneh talked of the value and importance of volunteering. She highlighted her and young people's readiness to grasp this opportunity for the next KSA chapter; challenging them to be ready to take over, bring innovative ideas, to run the organisation. Setting aside time to provide services without expecting financial gain, including fundraising can play a part in one's personal development and self - improvement. "Supporting a cause you really believe in is going to give you results [and] you develop skills that you cannot develop in the classroom" You help give back to your community, bring to light lack of access to basic needs, provide and break down stereotypes in our communities.



Bakoto Jobe discussed the role of charities today, being a trustee of Digilocal, a charity that helps disadvantaged young people have access to technology to eliminate the digital divide. Ms Jobe discussed the value of KSA and importance of connecting with young people in our own communities. The role and governance of charities for effective delivery and the opportunities of young people to be involved.



Chairlady Massey Touray said how blown away the audience was and had goosebumps listening to their inspirational speeches. There were a lot of follow up questions from the full room including from local youth workers and council staff.



KSA aims for this to be an annual gathering supporting it's mission to connect with young people in the local community. Find out more about the Kombo Sillah Association here www.ksa-uk.org

As always, you can reach us at info@mbq.org and we hope to see you virtually for the AGM.

MBG Trustees

If you'd like us to stop emailing you, or you'd like to get in touch, please contact: info@mbq.org