

Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.13 - April.2019

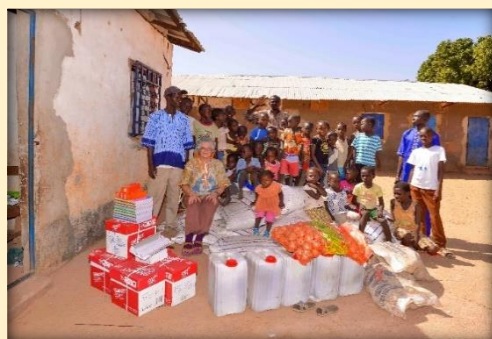
We've come to the end of our 3rd. financial year for the Charity, and it's been a good one indeed, especially for the children.

In summary we've delivered a lot of foodstuffs as you can see from the little table alongside. As the year progressed, we gathered some more money, and it was largely spent on dietary improvements. For example, they're able to buy potatoes every month, rather than

only occasionally, and they now enjoy small amounts of protein in the diet every day, instead of only on feast days, if then.

Projections for the coming year are based on providing an additional daily meal for the children for the months of July, August and September. Even in years of good harvest it's a really, really lean period for them, as last harvest's crops have been eaten, and the next harvest isn't yet ready. There's no telling how good or bad the harvest will be, but provision of the extra foodstuffs should cover the situation well enough and save the children from some hunger.

	Delivered		Projected for
	April 2018 - March 2019		April 2019 - March 2020
Rice	2400	Kg	3000
Potato	240	Kg	600
Oil	960	Litres	1200
Pepper	10	Kg	12.5
Onion	960	Kg	1200
Tinned "Beef"	16	Cartons	64



To create a visual perspective the wee picture represents about 15-20% of what we need to do the job for 2019 - 2020, with a target delivery of about 35,000 - 36,000 hot meals.

It's interesting and satisfying what we've together been able to do, even though the school roll has uncharacteristically increased from historically stable figures between 68 and 72 (since feeding started) to a high of 82 in the current year.



We'll also provide a small amount of extra money to hire help to cook this extra food, as Jainaba Dampha already cooks about 27,000 - 28,000 meals per year. Since that extra money will be paid directly to the ladies it's almost certain it'll be spent on extra food for their families.



We also provided the building material and fittings for a new school toilet, and this is now in place, helping greatly with playground hygiene and hopefully reducing the incidence of disease.

We could also afford to provide a small amount of money to help purchase supplies of Coartem, a drug found to be very successful in the cure of simple Malaria. At about £4.50 per dose for a child and £9.00 for an adult, this may well save some lives when the disease strikes, as it does

EVERY year in the Village. Typically 5 cases per week are diagnosed in Genieri during the “Malaria Season”, and although some of them merely resolve themselves, others can be fatal.

Even if it doesn't directly save lives it will surely prevent significant misery. 3 charities have joined forces and contributed to this fund of “ring-fenced” money. Given that the early symptoms of the disease are very Flu-like, the group has also purchased a supply of rapid diagnostic test strips (RDT) and the village's primary health care worker was trained in their use. RDT is cheaper than the drug itself and should minimise inappropriate use of the more expensive drug. In many cases it will also obviate the need for an expensive trip to the Doctor in the next village Kiaif.

If we can make the children more resilient by strengthening their immune systems via better feeding and reduce the number of infected individuals via Coartem, we may well reduce the incidence of this pernicious and sometimes fatal disease within the village.

Taking all the above at face value, one could quite reasonably conclude that the Village is wholly aid dependent, and the money has all been spent purely on consumption. However, a more holistic view provides a different impression, with one of the 3 charities providing the very much needed resource for immediate consumption, the other benefactors are relieved of that load, with their aid being spent improving the Day Care Centre itself and assisting development of the ladies' gardens.

This should result in longer-term benefit.



Crop	No. Beds
Sorrel	50
Okara	82
Onion	180
Pepper	75
Cabbage	20
Tomato	33
Bitter Tomato	30
Lettuce	4
Garden Egg (Aubergine)	11

Crop yield in the gardens is increasing well, with more material available for cash crop, rather than purely for subsistence needs, and more of this looks to be on the way.

It looks as if this is developing in just the right way to (in its own good time) get some new money into the Village, via the ladies' considerable efforts. The photographs and table are particularly heartening when we look back a few years at the paltry quantities of crop they were able to produce for a

similarly sized population, with a great deal more effort. Further plans are afoot to help acquire more water storage, as that is currently the limiting factor in the gardens restricting cash crop.

As we can personally attest, educational materials and teaching aids are so much more abundant now, with consequential improvements in the education itself, and the children love it.

It's interesting to note the well-established correlation that matriarch led households in Africa enjoy better nutrition than patriarch led ones, and it is equally well established that nutritional quality is even higher in households where the mother is better educated.

Within the Day Care Centre, the gender split of children is about 50/50, so in the very long run this is probably going in the right direction.

27 pupils before we provided food



About 70 Pupils in 2016

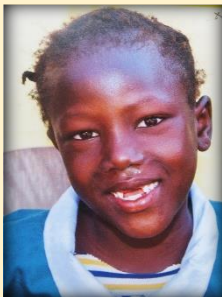


So - that's it for 2018/2019. We're pleased with how it's gone since we started, and especially this year. We can help them a little more, as the Charity's finances are more secure.

Genieri is now a better fed and healthier place than when we first arrived there, fundamentally so.

We hope to help them even more in the forthcoming year, with a clear emphasis on providing enhanced enablement towards greater self-sustainability. It's the only answer in the long run, yes - a long way away, but worth working for.

More sad news we've just received.



This poor little girl aged just 10 has died in the village, reportedly from "stomach pain". We have no further information yet, but suspect the underlying cause was poverty vs. the cost of medical care.

BETWEEN US WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

PLEASE KEEP HELPING US.

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