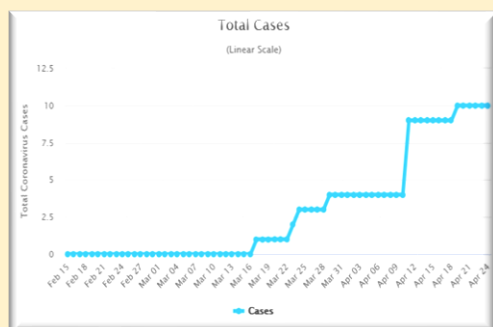


## Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.16 – April.2020

### A COVID 19 update from the Gambia.

It's been a while since we provided a newsletter, but as I'm sure you well know a great deal has been happening.



The good news is that The Gambia in general has thus far avoided Covid 19, and Genieri wholly so. This little impoverished nation of just 2,000,000 people has recorded a total of 10 infections, and a single death.

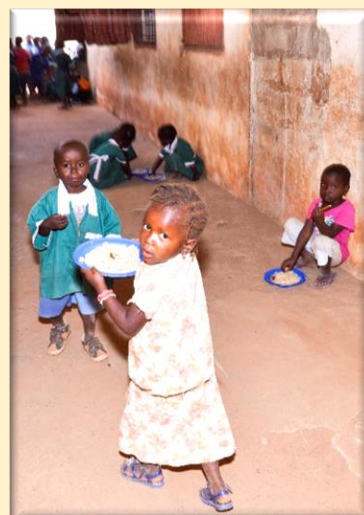
Their infection rate is just 0.5 in 100,000, which is an interesting comparison against more “developed” nations. Clearly The Gambia did something right, they locked the place down fast and hard.

More locally the Village followed their national model.

They locked their village to outsiders. They now remain in their separate compounds (extended family closed groups of houses), with no visitors, and they have taken it even further.

The Day Care Centre is closed, but the children attend for the lunch you provide, collecting their food in family groups only, then sitting in these isolated groups.

Hand washing in those groups is enforced both before and after the meal. We can but hope that it all remains successful.



**That's the end of the good news.**

**Serious** hunger now stalks the village, with almost the entirety of the people having no work at all. This was a sparse economy indeed, generally having only one or unusually two individuals in a very large extended family group having (at best) the odd day wage. In result a typical compound had only just enough to eat, giving that those totally inadequate group incomes were augmented by field rice and garden produce. Incomes have now stopped entirely, garden irrigation has failed, and the rice crop is many months away.

There is no safety net in The Gambia, no welfare system, no food banks, no support specifically for the vulnerable. Nothing – and they are on their own.

The result and their prospects are stark to say the least, and they are in dire need. The headmaster says “many compounds have no money and no food”. The only individuals guaranteed a proper meal every day are the children that you feed.

Fortunately we have a reserve, husbanded away for a long time for just such an emergency, and we're sending some immediate money to help tide them over. Given that this situation may

well last a long time that money requires to be eked out. Real numbers are quite impossible to capture, but rough calculations suggest that we can provide money for the more needy of the people to have a single meal per week.

We have a charity policy – “don’t pester the donors”, as your donations have allowed us to improve nutrition and health for the children since the day we started, and everyone appreciates it so much.

Under these unprecedented circumstances we feel that we must break policy, albeit reluctantly.



Can you help please, as every little bit of money you can spare helps so much, and reduces their misery.

A reasonable simple meal costs just £0.10 based on local materials.

There’s no shortage of materials locally, just of money.

Please do whatever you can, no matter how little or how much, we’ll ensure that all of it goes to where it is required.

The easiest and cheapest way within the UK is via bank transfer to:

Bank: Bank of Scotland  
Sort Code: 80-22-60  
Account Name: Genieri Collections  
Account Number: 14712463

You can find also find our PAYPAL link at the bottom of our front page at:

<http://www.geniericollections.co.uk/>

**BETWEEN US WE’RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

**PLEASE KEEP HELPING US.**

**JIM AND SOPHIE: 01324 831 520 07890 389 507 07980 306 520**

**BOB: 01866 822978 07817 415 049**