

# Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.22 – March.2021

## Things are looking up.



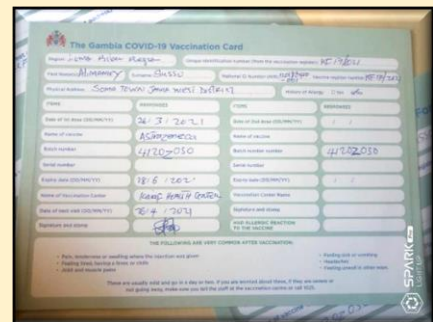
After such a hideous year for the Villagers it's heartening to see things look up in 2021. Slow though it's been – there has actually been real progress on a few fronts.



The Ladies Gardens are in very much better condition, and there's a realistic prospect of a useful vegetable harvest, with all the benefits garden produce will bring.

The overall health situation is good, with no cases of COVID in the Village, and no deaths from Malaria in the past year, so that went relatively well, although there will always be a fair number of malaria infections, that absolutely comes with the territory and there's nothing we can do. So, with basic feeding under good control, and COVID support out of the way we can focus more acutely on improving health care actually within the Village itself.

It's good to know that the vaccination drive in the Gambia has started, with emphasis on Health and Emergency workers, followed by the elderly. It's supplied by the WHO/COVAX scheme, and of course supplies are very limited. It does seem likely that Gambia will be low priority in view of their significant success in holding the infection at bay. Good news also that there's a big government push to reduce the hesitancy/reluctance factor via lots of visits and education sessions even in the smallest villages. They've even got "Proof of Vaccination" certificates, we wonder if our guys will get around to that?



### PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE



The Village has had a Primary Health Care Centre for many years now, but this is primitive, providing little more than simple symptomatic relief, and it's both severely dilapidated and insecure. The roof is defunct, and the ceiling is collapsing.



Primitive though it is, it's very comforting for the Villagers to have even simple help so close to hand, and it's clear that they value it a great deal.

Security improvements we've funded have reportedly brought great joy to them, and they're delighted that we're helping improve their situation.



On another positive note a sister charity is providing funding for a much more qualified nurse (Alimamey Susso) to attend on a part-time basis, and this brings the opportunity for



significant improvements in the medication and care they can enjoy. With Alimamey in place he can administer much more potent and effective medicines than were previously available, and save the Villagers precious time and money.

With the nearest clinic in Kaiaf charging 25 Dalasis for a consultation (about £0.42, or AU \$0.77), and all treatment charged separately many of the Villagers have a stark choice.

With your help fewer of them will suffer due to shortage of funds, and many will not have to make the choice between food or medicine. Any choice they may have is as stark as that, but so very real in that part of the world.

We know personally of one child and one teenager who were lost, and could maybe have been saved if care were more affordable and closer to home.

So, we and our sister charity are fixing up the building, securing it against the weather and providing the security they need to prevent theft of the medicines (which has real cash value, to say nothing of the medical risk they pose). So, mending the roof and fixing the ceiling are next.

With these things done we **CAN** deliver medical care to them significantly cheaper than previously, and that can only help.

Additionally we see a real possibility of movement towards more sustainability within the Primary Health Care Centre, as it has some footfall from satellite villages, and that may well provide some much needed "profit" to subsidise health care within the Village.

Our target performance is that all village children should receive free treatment. Achievable? - we think so, and without compromising our core and enduring aim of ensuring adequate nutrition for the children in the Day Care Centre.



You're continuing to give is making a **BIG** difference to a lot of people who are disenfranchised beyond the comprehension of most of the developed world.



**Jim, Sophie and Bob**