

Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.25 - August 2021

News from a land where life is hard, hungry and short

Vaccination Day in Genieri, and progress being made.



30/07/21 saw a vaccination team visit the Village to do their good work. As a result 50% of villagers have had a 1st dose, split between AZ and J&J. The local nurse Alimamey Susso is working hard to convince all villagers to take the vaccine, and to remove the hesitancy that abounds in the Gambia.

Alimamey is tracking this initiative for us, and we'll keep you informed as it progresses. Sadly it'll take a while, with only 1.3% of Gambians having a first dose, and 0.5% being double vaccinated.

On a sadder note.



Sadly we also have to report the untimely death of yet another villager, this time that of the wife of our friend out there. Fatou Sanneh died on the night of 30/31 July, apparently of massive sepsis following a foot infection which went gangrenous with great speed. She was attended by Alimamey who could do so very little. He reports that he tried his best, but with only Hydrogen Peroxide available as an antibiotic/antiseptic there was nothing that he could do. She was moved with all speed to the main hospital in Banjul (some 120Km. away), but died shortly afterwards. She was buried in the village on the afternoon of 31st July.

It's sad news indeed, and the whole village is in mourning as Fatou was



universally popular and always wore that signature smile. Her husband Sutay has now lost his father, his wife and one of his sons in less than 3 years. As is common in that land the family was large,



and Fatou leaves behind a husband, 3 sons, 2 daughters, and an inherited daughter and grandson.

Equally sadly it seems likely that two of those deaths in a single family were preventable, if only adequate health care been available in a timely and affordable manner.

Life expectancy in The Gambia is just 62.6 years compared with 81.3 years in the UK.

On a much more positive note



We're now half-way through their hungry season, when foodstuffs are very short indeed, and you provide "double feeding" for the children. In addition to the normal lunch they have a breakfast of rice porridge, which sees them through the long wait from last evenings dinner (questionable in many cases) till lunchtime.

By the end of August we'll have delivered about 19,000 meals since April, and by the end of the hungry season that number will have risen to 24,500.

So please remember to order any AMAZON products you need via the link below. The yield is small, but with enough supporters it'll mount up, and so help us further improve health care within the Village and reduce some suffering, as well as helping us better secure the feeding program.

It all helps.

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Jim, Sophie and Bob