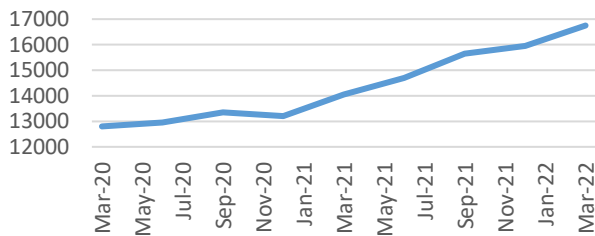


Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.28 – July 2022

Food Price Inflation - March 2020 till March 2022



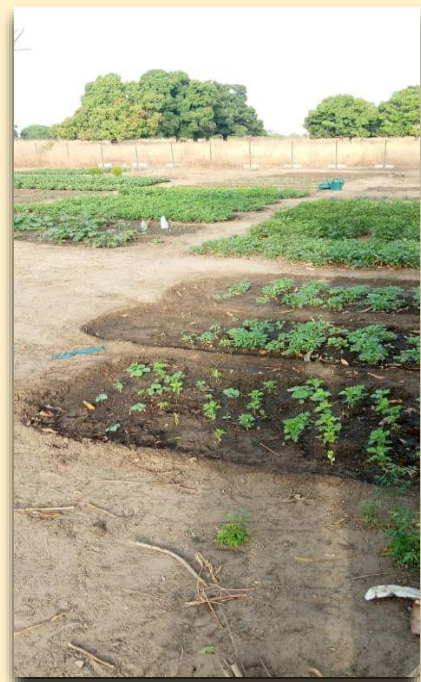
Last newsletter we mentioned that food prices in The Gambia were rising significantly, with a yearly inflation rate of about 23% on a normal basket of commodities to feed the children. Since then things have become a very great deal worse, with rice and cooking oil prices soaring, resulting in a March.2021 to March.2022 inflation factor of some 31%. Cooking oil alone doubled in price in just a year. This is a staggering rate of increase, and we suspect that the real influence of the Ukraine situation is yet

to work its way through the system, as Ukraine is a massive producer of vegetable oil on which the whole world depends.

The Ladies Gardens

Things are going really quite well in the gardens, with a new bore-hole pump producing copious water and consequently the crop yield is good.

The photographs certainly indicate a fair improvement, but with plenty of work still to do as the planting season goes on.



The Gardens are now under a better form of management than in the past, with a simple, but hopefully successful commercial structure surrounding it. Historically these gardens were based purely on the subsistence farming model, with little or nothing left after foodstuffs were taken for family consumption. In consequence support was required for simple things like fence maintenance and replacement of broken pipes. It's further improved by the fact that the Government has recently

provided a primary school within the village, and the school purchases it's lunchtime vegetables from the gardens. Whilst this is term time only it does form some type of guarantee of income.

Things have been brought to a better place, and a little money is now being generated to provide for some of that maintenance, hence lightening the load on the charities. The tide does indeed appear to have turned here, but it's really too early to be fully confident. There are just too many things that can go wrong, but this is a really encouraging sign of better things to come.

Jainaba Dampha



Bad health is with us again in the village, in this case Jainaba is suffering from an undiagnosed complaint, and has been so for a while now.

Jainaba has been the Day Care Centre cook for many years now, indeed her service long pre-dates our own involvement with the Centre. She typically cooks of the order of 28,000 – 30,000 meals per year.



Various attempts have been made to diagnose her condition, but to no avail, and she is now shuttling between Genieri and the coastal region in search of a cure. In the past few days however we hear that she is back in the village and showing considerable signs of improvement despite that lack of a diagnosis - great news indeed.

Primary Health Care Centre (PHC)



Our January report mentioned improvements in the sustainability of PHC funding. Even more succes has been brought to the Centre by the hard work of Alimamey Susso (the head nurse).

In addition to being medically threatening, Malaria is a significant financial burden on the villagers. When infected they cannot work or grow food, and their poverty is exacerbated. COARTEM is effective and readily available, but at about £6.00 per adult dose it's the same stark choice they confront – food or medicine.



One way or the other they go hungry, and while they remain infected they form a transmission vector to other villagers, and (despite their discipline) the disease is promulgated throughout the community.

We've helped in the past, and this has brought some measure of relief.

Lately however Alimamey has managed to make further inroads to sustainability, in that he's making a small profit from some medication, and the PHC is now in a position to buy some of its own COARTEM, and again the burden on our charity is lessened. Particularly heartening is the fact that some of this "excess" will be coming from outside the village, lightening the load on the villagers themselves.

We'll surely have to help with COARTEM this year again, and into the near future at least, but progress is certainly being made, making it all the more rewarding.



Of Hens and Cockerels

In March we mentioned the atrocious delivery to the village of a load of cockerels instead of hens.

Mercifully that has been reversed, and the words of the chairperson of our sister charity tell the whole story better than we can.

“On our recent visit we were delighted to find that the project is now flourishing – chicks in one room, laying hens in another, and three rather disgruntled cockerels in another, waiting to take part in the programme.”

Excellent news indeed, with a meure of more money to come into the village, and dietary improvements.

That’s all for now folks, and of course we’ll keep you up to speed as things develop.

Jim, Sophie and Bob