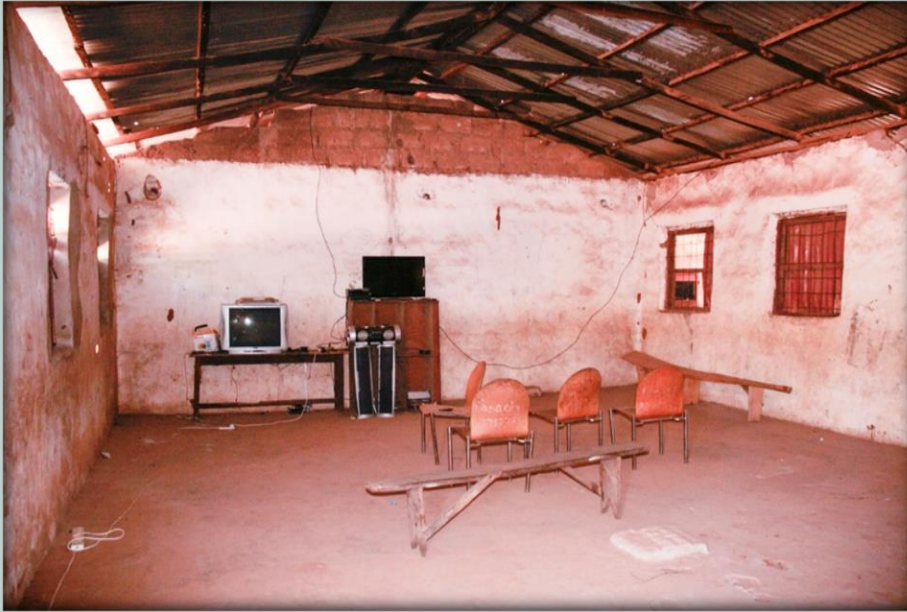


## Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.31 – July 2023

Another newsletter, after a long period of little to report - something happened in short Order.

### The Childrens TV and security of the Day Care Centre

Were the children not disadvantaged enough someone stole their TV. This was used mainly for watching cartoons and we can only imagine the absolute glee and noise that this generated. To some extent it also provided for any education videos that the headmaster could locate.



The really pressing issue is larger than that, as the Day Care Centre is insecure hence there's a real risk of theft and loss of any replacement. On top of that an external wall and gate have collapsed, something that will be a lot more expensive to fix. Our sister charity is examining the security issue, but it's all in the

air right now, so we'll keep an eye on it and let you know how it's progressing.

### Medication for the smallest children.

**Background.** In this land about 1 in 25 babies die during their first year of life, and many of those deaths are attributable to the common risk factor of maternal undernutrition, low birth weight, and about 57% of these deaths are due to treatable infections. In the "developed" world this figure is typically 1 in 250.

So we've been examining how we can reduce the general burden of family costs and disease misery in the village at the same time. As a rough measure a typical medication charge for an adult is of the order of **70 Dalasis (about £0.85)** against an upcountry daily wage of 100 - 150 Dalasis.

This must all be seen in an economy where being able to eat every day was not always guaranteed but was becoming more common. Recently however it's going backwards with crippling food inflation of about 22%, and the really bad times could be returning for the poorest of families. The impact is becoming very real, very quickly indeed and it doesn't appear to be slowing down.

Counter intuitively, medication for a small child is approximately twice the price for an adult, with a typical treatment for a baby at about D180 (£2.40). This is vastly out of reach of all but a very few, and many potentially fatal and often inexpensively treatable complaints are left to develop and kill.

We're very excited about a new initiative we're trialling by focussing on the very smallest children, from birth to the day they enter the Day Care Centre, and by sending a small monthly allowance directly to the mothers we'll be guaranteed that all of the benefit you supply goes directly to the intended recipients.

The mums will have some money to afford medication for their baby and perhaps a little bit left over to eat better. Good nourishment is so important for the breast-feeding mothers to reduce the risks to themselves and their babies.

By trialling this simple system we'll try to determine where the sweet spot lies, bringing maximum benefit to the maximum number of children and their families, but always consistent with available resources. We can sustain the cost over the current period of high disease loads, and into the future if we receive a little additional support for them.

If you're already a donor the village always send its thanks, and the wee sample below is typical of what they say, we're no more than the front guys for YOUR generosity and it's that generosity they evidently appreciate so much.

*Greeting to you ,sophie and others that support you to feeding need children at DCC, Entire community say thank you for feeding children at hard time. children enjoy it,*



If you don't currently contribute, we really do need more help, and for the price of a single cup of coffee and a slice of cake (or a pint of beer) you can do such a LOT. For that amount you could treat a child with malaria, treat two children with many other locally common and potentially fatal diseases or provide about 50 or 60 toddler meals.

Even better - for a regular donation of just £5.00 per month you'll provide enough money to medicate about 25 little children a year, or supply 600 or so baby meals (YES – 600 baby meals). One way or another you'll surely have made a very welcome difference and we'll be able to sustain the help we provide to the children for longer.

Would you really miss that single cup of coffee or pint over the whole month, would you even notice it? So please help us help these children.

To make a single donation just text **FoodforKids to 70085**, and we'll make sure it all goes where it should.

A repeat donation would be really excellent, as it allows us to budget and help guarantee continuity for feeding and medication. No matter how small an amount this really does help so much. Text **MedsForKids to 70085**.

Internet banking details are at [Contact \(geniericollections.co.uk\)](http://geniericollections.co.uk). And if you're a Paypal fan, you'll find a direct link at the bottom of the same page.

**Jim, Sophie and Bob**