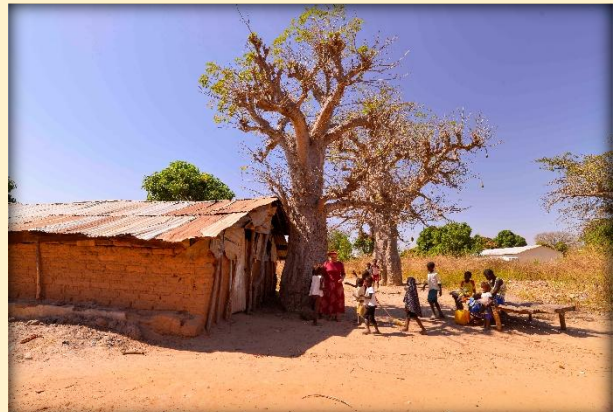


Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.36 – October.2025



It's truly amazing just how fast time flies, especially when reminded how long it is since the last Newsletter went out.

The reason is simply that so little has changed since December.2024 that there was indeed little to report. Things have been very much "Business as Usual" from our perspective. But one thing did occur which made life somewhat difficult.



During the year Malaria struck as it always does, and we provided medication for the children as usual. However, long after the malaria season had ended, we were informed of a significant outbreak in the Village, a claim which failed alternative scrutiny. Coming as it did when our own revenues were beginning to shrink, and alternate sources were not available, continuity of malaria support became questionable. We made the decision to husband all resources to ensure continuity of feeding, and funding of Coartem was the casualty. It was an uncomfortable and sad moment.

Some better news.

Members of our sister charity (**Yate-Genieri Link**) visited the village some time ago and noted significant improvements, with many more compounds sprouting satellite dishes, most compounds now have electric light and there are far fewer signs of abject poverty.

No real details were provided, but they do report a clear sense of progress, and some meaningful indicators of sustainability. This is truly great news after so many years of deep dependency, and timely indeed, as after 35 years of supporting Genieri through thick and thin the **Link** feels that it is now time to close its doors. This is due to persistent and growing difficulty acquiring funds and an ageing management and donor base, a common enough scenario in the charity world.

So - where are we now? Each month we sent out money to:

- Feed the Day Care Centre children a full lunch of rice with a little simple protein, and during the months of July, August and September (their Hungry Season when stored crops are finished and the next harvest isn't yet ready) we augment this with a breakfast.
- We also send the nursing mothers a small monthly allowance to buy some extra food to supplement breast feeding, which is almost universal in rural Gambia. Our logic was that the allowance will help improve health of both the mother and the child, most especially in the poorer families of which there are many. When the child is taken into the Day Care Centre that allowance is stopped and Day Care feeding takes over until the child enters Primary School.

At present we can continue this, and for some time, as we've taken the view that being reliably fed will help the children remain healthier, and easing some subsistence costs will make things so much easier for many in the Village.

Amusing and quite touching – The Great Cowie Penny Hunt.



Recently we discovered that some of the primary school children in our local village (Cowie) spotted our donation tub in the local convenience store. They apparently got together and conducted a penny hunt around the village and produced a noticeable collection of small value change, which they then presented to store to help feed the Genieri children. The store lady reports that they had a gleeful time putting the cash through the slot, just to empty it out and put it back through again. It surely wasn't a great deal of money in our terms, but at then end of the day it did pay for the rice component of approximately 70 - 80 simple meals, or a lunch for every child in the Day Care Centre.



Jimmy, Sophie and Bob

