

## Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.5 - July 2017

### Improvements in the Village.

The Day Care Centre is just about to break up for the summer, which is the Rainy Season, also known locally as the Hungry Season. Crops are not ready to harvest and reserves are at a low. However, as we are now feeding the children on a 365 day/year basis everyone will have a bit more food, but the families will still go short during the summer.

There are however two bits of good village news, one long term and the other short term. With a fair season the village can hope for an improved subsistence crop, and perhaps even some cash crop by the end of the summer.

Firstly, the longer term good news. The local Mansa Konko district council has managed to obtain some aid which appears to be from a Gambia wide source, and this, combined with aid from a Turkish charity has allowed the village to buy and cultivate another hectare or so of ground. Water is provided by solar driven pumps.

The news is particularly good as the ground is very close to the village, saving them about a 40 minute walk morning and evening to the old gardens, time they will happily put towards cultivation. There is already good evidence of progress, as the work you see in the photos



has largely been done manually. The tractor owned by the Village does actually work most of the time, but villagers can rarely afford the fuel (about 1 day's earnings per litre), and its use is strictly limited to very heavy work not really practical by hand. The original gardens

have been turned over to an orchard, less labour intensive. We'll see how it goes, but it's sure to improve feeding in the village.

### Your Contribution.

The short term good news is that we've recently been able to improve the children's diet just a little. Historically we sent out 10,000 Dalasis per month, just enough to provide a meagre diet. Regular monthly donations by some of you have resulted in a small positive balance and the income has been stabilised. As a result we now send them 11,200 Dalasis, enough extra to buy another 50Kg bag of rice every month, which is very much appreciated by all. And on the subject of efficiency we can report that, having no administration costs, and the only operational cost being unavoidable money transfer charges, we consistently get 94-95% of **DONATED** money out as foodstuffs. We think this is without parallel, and you can be certain that whatever you donate is robustly turned to good use, and you can see the result in the photographs below. Whilst it's a fair portion – it's the same every day, and in some cases it's the only meal of the day.

### A Heartfelt Request.

If you're not already, might you consider becoming a regular donor? It does make such a difference to the children to **know** that they'll be fed at least once a day, albeit on a poor diet. A very small number of Pounds on a monthly basis allows us to provide this food security.



Once we can improve the children's diet sufficiently we would be able to look at more sustainable activities, but we're still some way short of that situation - so every single Pound counts. Please do consider it, as so very little to us makes such a great difference to them. If you can manage to make a small regular donation you'll find a Direct Debit Mandate form attached to the E.Mail, or give Sophie or me a call and we'll sort it out with you. If you want to use PayPal just tap on the "DONATE" button at the bottom of any page of the website [here](#).

### The Long Road to Sustainability.

With just short of 5 years association with Genieri we do feel a sense of expectation that they are on the threshold of sustainability, albeit not quite there yet. Recent developments look really hopeful that they may get over that threshold. It's a real struggle for them, and every bag of rice you sent via "children feeding" is a bag of rice they don't need to find, bringing them that much closer to breaking into profit. Without you they would be a long way further back. Without aid in general they would have no way to the start-point of the road to self-sufficiency.

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