



Annual Report 2021

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Marlborough - Gunjur Community Link
Annual Report 2021

Cover photo – Courtesy of Project Gambia.
Head Teacher Botto with students.



2018-2021 IN NUMBERS

£165,000

Given in grants

12

Organisations supported with grants

£126,000

Match funding secured

£22,949

Raised in Emergency Appeal

36

Grants made

139

Volunteers to Gunjur, (0 in 2020 & 2021)

£15,000

Received in legacies

£12,400

Total operating costs, 7% of income

Chair's Report 2021

2021 was a hybrid year, maintaining flexible support to help against the impacts of the pandemic and helping the charities we fund return to their normal activities.

Ongoing Covid-19 support

Through the generosity of people in Wiltshire and beyond, in 2020 we were able to pass around £80,000 to Gunjur and charities operating there. This year TARUD has continued to use some of its health project funds to support this work against Covid and MBG continued to look to secure direct and match funding support for the charities we help. We are pleased to say that all our charity partners are still operational despite the funding and operational impact of the pandemic.

Other Charity Grants

We have looked to help charities re-start their proven programmes, for example BEREEL and their business training and micro finance, Disability Africa which has taken a big step forward with its inclusion centre in Gunjur and helping fund the management and maintenance of TARUD.

We supported a replacement toilet block in the TARUD pre-school with Project Gambia after heavy rains in the summer. The WasteAid recycling programme has been protected and extended until the end of 2022 and Raise Gambia is establishing a

new science summer school programme to support disadvantaged students with a talent for science. Gunjur Project continue to manage education funding and training.

Linking and volunteering

Again group trips have not been possible in 2021, however through Venture Force we have confirmed a 2023 St John's Marlborough Summer Trip including subsidised trip placements. We continue to work with and fund Thriving Through Venture as they look to re-establish their high impact groups programme to Gunjur.

Our Impact at 40 years old

In 2017 when we moved to a grant making strategy delivering impact through other charities 'on the ground' in Gunjur. We hoped to reduce our costs and maximise our funds and impact to Gunjur. As the previous page shows, since 2018 we have supported £291,000 of support to Gunjur and charities operating there; for the operational cost of only £12,400. We have issued 36 grants to 12 different charities. As we turn 40 our impact remains as powerful as ever.

Alex Davies, MBG Chair

Our impact strategy: During 2021 we used a hybrid approach to impact using both the emergency Covid-19 strategy to continue to support the village through the pandemic and our established grants making strategy. **Our Emergency Covid-19 strategy:**

1. Saving lives in Gunjur during the pandemic
2. Supporting disadvantaged people in Gunjur to cope with the impacts of Covid-19
3. To look to ensure that all our charity partners were able to carry on despite the impacts of Covid-19 on the charity and international development sectors.

Our established grants making strategy: MBG looks to have impact in the UK and Gunjur through sustainable community led activities over the long term. After 40 years our impact is spread through the some 2000 volunteers and numerous charities that now operate in Gunjur. All our activities are aimed at reducing financial inequalities through educational, gender and disability equality. We do this through community linking and these specific UN targets:

- Target 4.2: Equal access to quality pre-primary education
- Target 4.4: Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success
- Target 4.5: Eliminate all discrimination in education
- Target 8.3: Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises
- Target 17.17: Encourage effective partnerships



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

2021 Grants: TARUD

MBG supports TARUD with management and maintenance funds connected to a £10,000 pa multi-year health project from St. James's Place. These have been focused on supporting the village during the pandemic, but in 2021 funds have been able to go to the original plan of supporting women's and children's health.

Update from Muna Manneh, TARUD.

Gunjur Health Promotion Project aims to contribute in reducing micronutrient deficiency levels such as iron, zinc, vitamin "A" & "C" and other essential nutrients required for growth and development of children under 5yrs. The resultant of which is stunting, underweight, poor performance in schools and nausea and increase levels of iron intake and food supplements for pregnant women, young mothers as well as women of reproductive age.

An activity to complement a nationwide government intervention strategy on health and wellbeing of Gambians and Gunjur is no exception. The project will also strive in increasing awareness of behavioural change communication at all levels to impact positively on food intake and diversification for adolescent male and female population of Gunjur.

Delivery in 2021

The focus this year was mainly the consolidation of Mother Clubs in the promotion of the micronutrient rich crop varieties at the same time working with the community kabilos to raise their understanding of the values of whole grain consumption of Pearl Millet and the Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes (OFSPs).



Kabilos managing their OFSP fields

Several kabilo based cooking demonstrations were held targeting young children and their mothers.
The Marlborough Brandt Group

Children continue to feed on the iron and zinc rich whole-grain Pearl Millet food in their prepared by their mothers and most times other family members benefit from the meals. In eight sessions these have reached 55 males, 176 females, 137 boys and 149 girls who participated in enjoying meals prepared by the mother clubs.

During the cooking demonstrations the project staff sensitise participants about the increasing prevalence of Diabetes and related diseases in Gunjur for people to choose food rations for dietary management and healthy living. Nearly all the participants are aware of diabetes and are discussing at family levels.



Cooking demonstrations with young mothers

Management and maintenance

MBG has a three-year support relationship with TARUD for a Project Manager to support the Director and enable better reporting, professional accounts and monitoring to help TAURD secure other funders.

Our funds also help with the maintenance of the building and resources. TARUD has used these funds to restore old doors and windows with more secure replacements and improved the reliability and resilience of the electricity supply for the building. Repairs to the roof are now a priority.

2020 Grant: Project Gambia

In January MBG made a grant of £1,700 to Project Gambia to support the TARUD Pre-School in addition to the multi-year teacher training funds.

Project Gambia is a small charity formed officially 4years ago but has been operating in the preschools in Gunjur for 18 years. They support and work alongside the teachers of five preschools in Gunjur helping them to give their children basic education whilst learning through play. For the last three years MBG has provided teacher training funding ensuring a consistent and reliable source of long-term professional skills development. However, there was an additional need in 2021.

The TARUD Preschool is the oldest and largest preschool of the five Project Gambia is supporting. They have 183 children both boys and girls, with eight teaching staff plus cooks and cleaners.

During the rainy season this year, Gunjur experienced very heavy rains causing some of the toilets to collapse as they were already in a poor state of repair.

This is causing much distress amongst the children and teachers alike, as well as being a severe health risk to all concerned.

The Project is to renovate the toilets where possible and rebuild where not. To provide long drop toilets for the children, a flushing toilet for the staff and hand washing facilities for everyone. This will improve the life of the children and staff at school enormously as at present they are having to go elsewhere. This is also important for hygiene during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The photos below show the new toilets in place and built to a high standard, spacious and tiled for much easier cleaning.

Anita Bew, MBE: Trustee Project Gamabi

MBG is agreeing another three year grant to Project Gambia and the pre-schools, teachers and children it



Find out more about Project Gambia here:

www.projectgambia200.com

2021 Grants: BEREEL Emergency Covid-19 fund

MBG Continued its three year funds for BEREEL with another £3,500.

BEREEL, (Building Empowerment: Rural Economic Engagement in Life) is a charity endeavouring to support sustained economic development at the micro, grass roots level in rural communities in The Gambia. Their formal purpose is the prevention or relief of poverty in The Gambia by assisting through the provision of education and training, and the necessary support to enable individuals to generate sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

Working in Gunjur, we plan to deliver a minimum of two, and up to three, micro-business training workshops per year with up to 30 participants on each. The workshops are currently delivered at a local compound – ‘The Gunjur Project’, with logistical support from the registered charity, ‘[The Gunjur Project Association](#)’. We emphasise inclusivity and fair representation of the community on the programme with an open welcome to different religious groups, tribal affiliations, gender, educational background, disability and other marginalised groups.

Delivery in 2021

The employability and micro-finance projects were put on hold in 2020 due to travel and movement restrictions imposed in response to Covid-19. In that time the facilities at The Gunjur Project were all completed and with MBG and support from St. James’s Place the costs of 2020 were covered so funding could just be rolled over into 2021 to support projects for the lost year.

While Dr Nikki Swan and Dr Trevor Long had hoped to get out to Gunjur in January this was not possible. As a result, the decision was taken to establish the Gunjur office as a charity to allow bank accounts to be set up and employee staff.

After some difficult administration to get everything in place remotely the staff started work on March 1st. They began conducting interviews with young local entrepreneurs and community members to assess the need and feasibility of running the programme. The revealed that the need is, as ever, still present and with so the business loan and business skills training programme is set to re-start. The aim is for the updated loan and training plan to be in place for August and loans to be issued in the last quarter of the year.

All applicants of the micro-loans will have to complete our business education programme and be an active member of the continued education and support process we offer. However, completion of the training will not guarantee them a loan as they will have to show their ability to manage and repay the loan as well as the effectiveness of having a loan in the first place.

Travel to The Gambia was finally possible in late May and Nikki and Trevor spent a month with the new staff running training events and formalising the administration processes. The community has struggled in the past 18 months of Covid-19 because foreign income has virtually ceased as the tourist industry was stopped and the need for financial and business education remains very acute. The value of this programme remains as vital as ever.

Dr Nicola Swan and Dr Trevor Long
BEREEL



2021 Grants: Disability Africa

MBG Continued its three year funds for Disability Africa with another £3,500.



The Gunjur Inclusion Project’s core programme is the playscheme which is delivered at sites across the region. Playschemes prove to be an inexpensive approach which enable us to raise awareness of the rights and needs of disabled children while developing and delivering services to meet their needs. They also provide a context for assessment of educational and medical needs and a springboard for development and delivery of other vital community-based services.

Disability Africa in The Gambia has continued to provide services to disabled children across Kombo South in 2021 following a challenging 2020 for the Gunjur Inclusion Project. We have seen 139 disabled children this year, in several different communities across Kombo South including in family homes, various locations in central Gunjur, Kunkujang, Madina Kunkunding, Madina Salaam, Sambuyang, Sanyang, Sinchu Wurri, Tanji and Tujereng.

It is because of the playscheme that we recognised the need to run other programmes like a Parents’ Support Programme, Schools Inclusion Programme, Medical Support Programme, and a Young Adults Programme. We have delivered approximately 230 Schools Inclusion visits. Our aim is to ensure all disabled children who would benefit from help in the classroom, are supported in lessons by local playworkers and continually assessed. Currently, we support 20 children in the classroom.

Our playworkers work closely with the teachers to deliver educational objectives and we are looking to expand the number of children supported. We have also delivered more than 137 Medical Support visits so far this year ensuring children with impairments receive vital medical support.

For the Gunjur Inclusion Project the best is yet to come...

We are delighted that the Gunjur Inclusion Centre (GIC) will be open in early 2022 after repairs to the roof. This will enable us to see more children, deliver more playschemes and other services. Without the building being open, we haven’t been able to see as many children as we would have liked because children and staff teams have been using temporary sites.

Moving into this multi-purpose facility with a plan for growth in place will ensure more children receive a quality service throughout 2022. The team are excited about getting back into the centre and the Project Coordinator has submitted a *plan for growth* which we will monitor together. The GIC will run five days a week and boasts a large playroom, space for community-based physiotherapists, an art room and lots of outside space. It will prove to be a fun and stimulating place for children to develop – just what it’s designed for! – and in turn be the National Centre for Inclusion in Africa’s smallest mainland nation.

Thank you to the Trustees at the Marlborough Brandt Group for your support and for your pledge to support us over the next three years.

Mike Carr - Project Development Officer



2021 WasteAid Grant

Supporting WasteAid with Gunjur Plastic Recycling Centre

MBG provided £3,500 of match funding to help continue the plastic recycling centre project delivered by WasteAid and TARUD. A joint agreement between WasteAid, MBG and St. James's Place, funding was agreed for two more years.

This highly innovative project looks to tackle waste plastic and prevent it entering the oceans in this coastal country. Based on an idea by students from Pewsey Vale school, through an MBG / WGECE 2015 entrepreneurs project with VIBE, the team melt plastic, add sand and create durable but lightweight floor and roof tiles. WasteAid secured DFID and UKAid funding to run a two year pilot in Gunjur to the end of 2020.

Business training requirement

The designed project has two major areas of focus: to strengthen the business and the waste management capacity of the Gunjur Plastics Recycling Centre.

WasteAid and TARUD decided collectively to approach this first area of focus by bringing on board a business training organisation. To that end, WasteAid held a fact-finding meeting with TARUD on the 16th of February 2021 to identify TARUD's needs for business training and to understand the climate of business training organisations in The Gambia. The selected business training organisation would be required to have a track record of working with early-stage businesses in The Gambia and will work with WasteAid and TARUD to identify the right investment needed to achieve sustainability.

Business training organisations

After completing a rigorous selection process, KawFa was given the contract for business development due to the impressive track record of its trainers, enthusiasm of the organisation to deliver a fulfilling programme and its suitability to meet the needs of TARUD.



2021 WasteAid Grant cont.

To that end, KawFa created an indicative timeline to deliver the business training element of the project commencing on the 1st of May 2021 and finishing in December 2022. The first deliverable will be the baseline assessment, due by the end of May 2021.

The base line assessment concluded that key for success was developing the skills of the local team in business and marketing, to increase the capacity of the site and productivity of the volunteers and secure more working materials and improve specialisation.

High winds in the rainy season have damaged the production site roof which will be resolved later in the year. Consideration is being given to investing in an extruder to allow for better ventilation to allow for a stronger building.

Find out more about WasteAid in The Gambia here:

<https://wasteaid.org/programmes/the-gambia/>



Photo above: The Gunjur team with their products

Photo left: From the first session out of three sessions scheduled for the baseline assessment of TARUD's organisational capacity conducted by KawFa Solutions & Strategies. TARUD staff participate in discussions on the opportunities that converting plastic waste into products has provided their community.

"One citizen one tile" campaign

TARUD with other partners has launched its "One citizen one tile" campaign to promote recycled tile production. In this campaign, the price of a tile will be D50 (£0.7) and all the tiles sold will cover a popular roundabout in Gunjur. Old used car tyres will also be decorated as flower containers which will make the place more colourful and attractive. This campaign will also be an opportunity to involve the local community in the plastic waste segregation.

Year two will continue to focus on skills training, production scale and marketing of the product while also informing the local community of the issue of waste.

Read more about waste problems in the Gambia here:

<https://wasteaid.org/women-tackling-the-gambias-waste-problem/>

2020 Grant: Raise Gambia

In December MBG made a grant of £2,000 to Raise Gambia in support of Summer School education in science

MBG has supported the science lab in Sifoe just West of Gunjur for several years.

Raise Gambia looks to support the teaching of science in The Gambia both to support the wider and deeper education of Gambian students through improving and enchainning the teaching of science in secondary schools. This also gives access to a subject that is often only really accessible to elite schools in The Gambia.

Raise Gambia has four core programmes:

1. Holding teacher development workshops to encourage effective teaching
2. Providing laboratory facilities for use by Gambian science teachers and their students
3. Liaising with the Gambian Ministry of Education and school principles so as to understand their priorities
4. Encouraging a dialogue and interaction between Gambian and UK students.

Due to the Covid Pandemic the students trips have not be possible so RASIE Gambia has reassessed their work and developed new projects to support Gambian teachers and their students.

MBG is supporting a Summer School for Grades 9 and 12 (ages 14/15 and 17/18) Senior Secondary School students in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in July and August 2022.

The main aim of the project is to enhance the learning of gifted and talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Gunjur and the surrounding area and to increase their chances of further education. This is improve their employment opportunities within The Gambia.

The programme aims to work with 30-40 students in groups of around 15 drawn from several schools which are already connected with Raise Gambia where the students can then become science ambassadors.



Photo: Experimenting with electrical circuits at a Teacher Development Workshop



Photo: Local students engaged in Refraction of Light experiment



For more information about **Raise Gambia**, visit: www.raisegambia.co.uk

Grants: MBG Strategy

The Marlborough Brandt Group (MBG) promotes international understanding through linking and working with people in Marlborough, UK and Gunjur, The Gambia and their wider communities.



MBG operates in partnership with the community of Gunjur and The Gunjur Community Link (GCL) to provide opportunities for embedded cultural trips to Gunjur, UK-based global education and grant support for sustainable Gunjur-based programmes.

We recognise that during the 40 years of the Marlborough-Gunjur link many other charities, often based in and around Wiltshire, now operate in the Gunjur Area. Rather than manage projects directly, MBG now financially supports these charities' operations in Gunjur.

MBG aims to maintain an annual spend in Gunjur (in terms of projects and linking trips) of around £20-£25K a year. In 2021 we distributed £33,801 to Gunjur which included £10K income funds from St. James's Place.

MBG is a volunteer-run charity that aims to place as much of our income and fundraising into Gunjur as possible. However, we accept that there are some unavoidable costs to running a charity, so MBG aims to spend no more than 15% of our total annual spend on charity overheads and core costs.

Photo – Bouba D. Touray, Gunjur Link Committee Liaison Office

As a charity we set out the following criteria for grant applications:

- The organisation must be a registered charity, ideally registered in the UK.
- The cap for any one charity or activity would be £3,500 a year to ensure a sustainable drip feed of funds. This is an increase on the £2,500 limit from 2017 as the Trustees agreed that income and the charity balance allowed greater distribution of funds.
- The activity supported must meet the aims of MBG and the operational standards we expect / are expected of us or which are industry standards.
- MBG will support core costs for recipient charities, however generally the charity should not be spending more than 15% of total turnover on management and overhead costs.
- There must be clear reporting of inputs and outputs, and ideally also impact measurement, to understand the effectiveness of the grant.
- Exceptions to these rules may be applied for emergency funding, however these will still be to charities or community organisations and in support of MBG's charitable aims.

Financial Overview 2021

A summary of the accounts will be available at the Annual General Meeting and copies of the full MBG financial accounts are available from the MBG website. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime; and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and have been subject to independent examination by a firm of chartered accountants.

Income	2021	2020	2019
Covenant and Gift Aid	2,203	1,348	-
Donations and Gifts	870	13,844	10,035
Interest	4	41	97
Legacy	2,500	10,000	-
Membership MBG	2,475	2,896	2,951
Fundraising	-	275	1,062
Grants	15,000	25,600	-
	<u>23,052</u>	<u>54,004</u>	<u>14,145</u>
Expenditure	2021	2020	2019
Direct Charitable Expenditure	33,801	76,725	33,578
Travel	-	-	604
Insurance	544	506	543
Office costs and publishing	72	300	1,146
Computer and Website costs	194	195	617
Bank Charges	459	812	71
Bookkeeping and accountancy	1,008	960	1,020
	<u>36,078</u>	<u>79,498</u>	<u>37,579</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due	(1,008)	(960)	(1,490)
Balance Carried Forward	90,513	103,539	129,033

The Marlborough Brandt Group is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registration no. 0256 7458 and registered charity no 1001398.



The Marlborough Brandt Group

Financial Overview 2021

MBG aims to be between a £20,000 deficit and cost neutral during the year to sustain its long term grant making ability. In 2020 the Trustees agreed to exceptional spending of nearly £80,000 supported by £11,000 donated through the emergency appeal. In 2021 we have returned to our long term grant making strategy with a deficit of £13,026. MBG is a volunteer run charity that works remotely to minimise costs. Since 2017 we have placed a maximum operational cost spend of 15% of total spending. In 2021 operational costs represented 6.7%. Income arises only through donations, grants and fundraising, and is supported by cash reserves. The Trustees consider the principle financial risks facing the organisation are the loss of that income stream and overspending of cash assets. The Trustees consider that their financial procedures adequately manage those risks.

All payments to TARUD are now online which is more secure but also more expensive. MBG took the view to cover these costs from our funds rather than deduct them from the grants. Information about our spending and grants are set out in this annual report.

Charity Commission Audit

In 2021 we were selected for a Charity Commission Audit which was conducted over the summer with the MBG Trustees and Dr Nick Maurice. We were pleased that the audit did not flag up any risks and indeed recognised a number of areas of good practices that MBG is following, for example transparency and security. There were three action areas, the first two were signed off at the 2021 AGM and the third will be completed during 2022.

1. Continue to review the charity's governing document and ensure that it remains fit for purpose.
2. Keep the charities policy on overseas cash payments and the charity expenses policy in line with the charity commission best practice – as we are already doing.
3. Review the charity commission documents on partnerships and use them to confirm that best practice is in place with strategic partners TARUD and Venture Force. The quality of existing MOU agreements was recognised so this is about ensuring that we have regular reviews and due-diligence checks in place.

You can view the full report on the MBG website [here](#).

The Marlborough Brandt Group

The Memorandum of Association of MBG signed in 1990 defines its objectives as:

- (i) to promote, foster and sustain educational projects between people of the Marlborough District and people living in areas of deprivation abroad (i.e. “the developing world”); and for that purpose; to sustain the special ‘Link’ which MBG has built up with the people of Gunjur in The Gambia, West Africa and to establish links elsewhere.
- (ii) to promote activities that will relieve poverty, sickness, physical and mental additional needs and the disabilities of old age among people living in the developing world.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

MBG is governed by a board of trustees, who are responsible for the financial probity of the organisation, for agreeing the strategy and ensuring that MBG's activities fall within its charitable purposes. The Trustees are elected by the membership at an annual general meeting. The Trustees are supported by an experienced and committed group of volunteers.

Governing instruments: Memorandum & Articles of Association Incorporated 04.09.14

Photo: New roof going on the Disability Africa Inclusion Centre in Gunjur. Annual Report 2021

The Marlborough Brandt Group cont.

PATRONS

Founder Patron: Dr Nick Maurice

Professor Keith McAdam

Jon Snow

TRUSTEES

Alex Davies (Chair)

James Busby

David Johnson

MBG PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT 2019

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and when planning activities. Our main activities and who we have helped are described in this report. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MBG has many sources of support without which we would not be able to function. We act as a conduit for the support of our beneficiaries in The Gambia and in UK. In company with beneficiaries; we would like to extend our most sincere thanks for all the generous support we have received. Here are just some who have helped in our work during 2021:

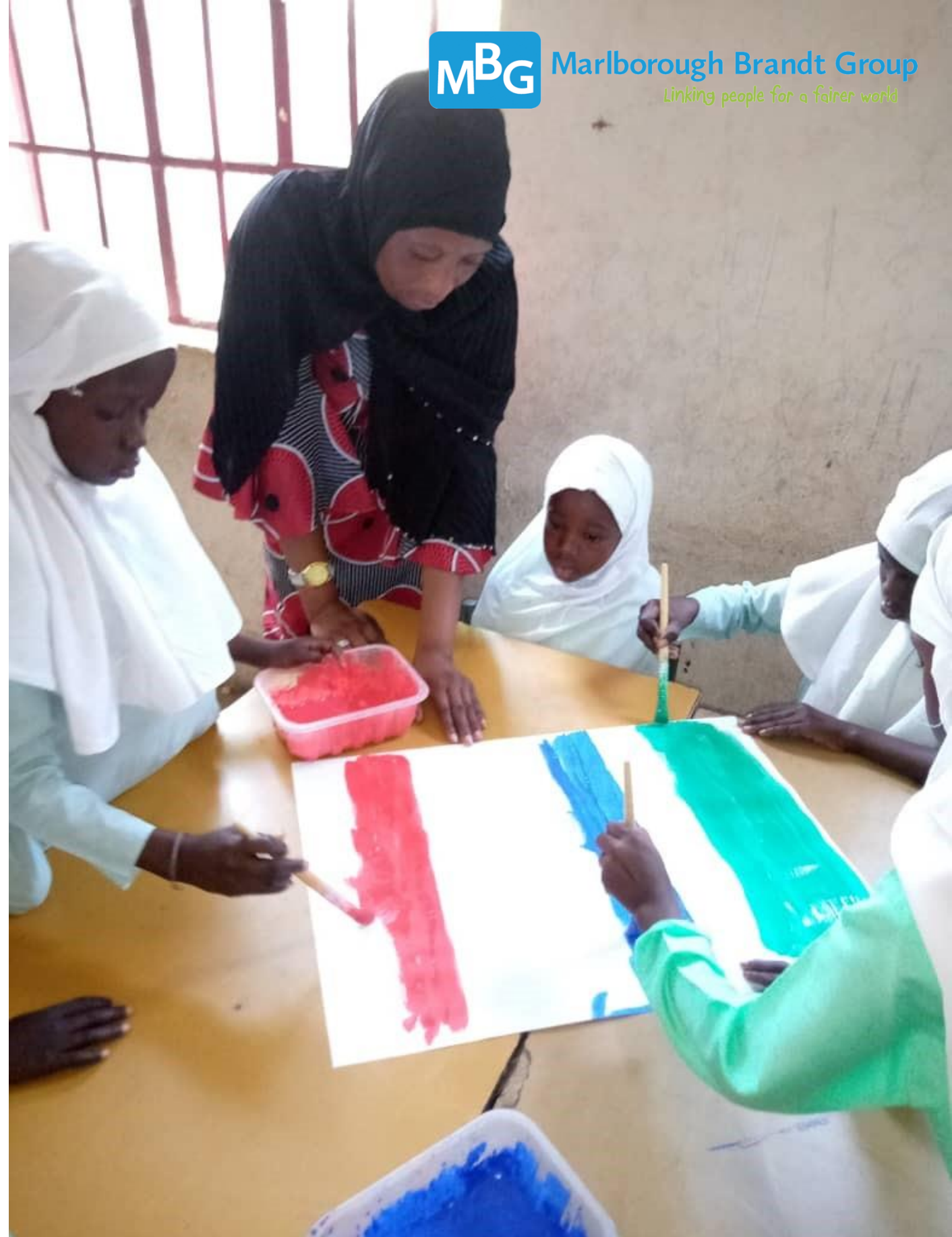
Individuals

Essa Sumareh
Bouba Touray
Ousman Touray
Lamin ("Wiki") Bojang
Lamin ("Driver") Jatta
Funneh Camara
Fatou Mundaw
Fatou Jannah
Anita Bew
Theresa Ardley
Steve Atyeo
Lamin Bojang
Sonia & Bill Buxton
Colin Crockin
Stephanie Dale
Richard Draper
Darla Dryland
David Du Croz
Anna Gent
Giles Goldring
Angela & Gordon Hutt
Harriet Lamb
Michael Maude
Dr Nick Maurice
James Parry
Anna Quarendon
Barney Rosedale

Pam Tulloch
Micky Graham
Robin Twelftree
Susan Suchopar
Baai E. Jaabang
Michael Evans
Babucarr Camara
Zoe Lenkiewicz
Bilal Patel
Nicola Davies
Naomi Allen
Phil Bunton
Stewart Kingsley
Beth Jenks
Chris McMenamin
Fiona Yang
Emma Beldon
Tom Tuckwood
Graham McDonald
Susie Chesher
Ronnie Robb
Alex Darboe
Fatou Darbo
Alkali Darbo
David White
Dodou Touray
Yahya Camera

Institutions

Arkleton Trust
Brewster Maude Charitable Trust
Footsteps Ecology
Gunjur Community Link
The Gunjur Project
Hiscox Insurance
Kempson Rosedale Trust
Kombo Sillah Association
Nema Kunta Garden & Ecology
St. James's Place Charitable Foundation
St. James's Place Wealth Management
St John's Marlborough
St Peter's Trust
Think Charitable Foundation
Time for Change Foundation
Trust Agency for Rural Development
Venture Force
WasteAid



Back Cover photo – Courtesy of Project Gambia
Teacher Fatou Barrow at Sheik Hatab Preschool