



ANNUAL REPORT

'Supporting grass-roots development in Africa through the channeling of self-leadership and the building of sustainable projects for Youth and their communities.'

Daughters of Africa Annual Report 2020

Daughters of Africa (DOAF) formed in November 2016 in The Gambia, was born out of an initiative led by KORI Youth Charity a London based charity, that has been developing models of youth and community work in Africa since 2008, in The Gambia since 2014 through its Vessel UK Training Programme. KORI co-founded DOAF with Arts practitioner Pauline Bailey.

The work is focused on sharing and propagating tried models of youth and community development in grassroots communities across Africa. This is done through delivering accredited training for trainers and well-planned skill exchanges, enabling experiential learning for young people, managers and educators and the sharing of best practice.

At the core of our philosophy, we believe in building healthy partnerships, and we are committed to addressing the inequalities and lack of opportunities that occur in Africa because of poverty and lack of resources. We work with communities to co-create projects and sustainable initiatives that support self-determination, employment wellbeing, creative enterprise, education, and business development.

We have a well-rounded structure of leadership and participation. Our board is made up of community leaders that engaged with our management and leadership training in 2016 and elected to transition into the DOAF board so they could fully take part in guiding the development and keeping it relevant and integral to everyday developments in The Gambia. This diversity of leadership not only enables rich growth but also makes sure that the projects coming into the communities from elsewhere are relevant, ethical and sustainable from an African lens.

Some Key Projects 2020:

- Art and Design training for local artists
- Delivery of projects by students from the University of West England, Bristol, for 300 youth in the areas of: architecture, construction skills, copywriting, film making, graphic design, photography, health, curation, surveying, and youth work
- National Art Bantaba Portrait competition for Gambian artists
- Digital Hub development for young people in Abuko, Lamin, Wellingara and Tabokoto
- Work in St Peters technical school

Current Developments

Daigo 2 builds on the success and learning from the first Daigo Project delivered in The Gambia in June 2019. The preparation for this second trip began in September 2019, it was open to all students across faculties in the University of West England, Bristol, the trip took place in January 2020. The DAIGO Project is a Partnership of Education and Skills in Africa bringing together the University of West England, Bristol (UWE), KORI Youth Charity (Providing the Vessel UK Training) working with the youth leaders and partners of the Daughters of Africa (DOAF).

Aims for project for all three organisations included:

- Multidisciplinary practice and clear understanding of collaboration
- Facilitation of subject learning and the means to gain experience at an international level for all participants
- Connection of subjects and interests to the relevant needs and context in African communities to foster direct sharing of skills and knowledge
- Communication, respect and understanding between international communities
- The broadening of knowledge on global realities



The UWE students received the mandatory four days of Vessel UK training from KORI Youth Charity, focused at building their understanding of global realities: developing their ethical and critical practice, application of risk planning and supporting the students through the development of relevant, sustainable projects for The Gambia. Specific project areas were identified by the daughters of Africa and the students were then spent two months in preparation for the trip.

The Gambian committee of The Daughters of Africa Foundation were continuously briefed about the projects developing in the UK so that they could prepare their partner organisations in the Gambia, as it is from these grassroots organisations that participants for specific projects were recruited. Also, twenty DOAF Youth Leaders were chosen from a range of groups including: The University of The Gambia; school leavers, school students and local youth organisations, these are young Gambians that wished to volunteer and who were then trained by DOAF in preparation. Daigo 2 provided them with valuable knowledge, work experience references, socialization enrichment and development of their global knowledge as they worked alongside the UWE students during the delivery period.

Project delivery areas:

Creative Sew – Tailoring & Design – **J. Kastrup Skill Training Centre**

Youth Development – **Abuko Youth Association**

Environmental Project – **St Peters Technical School**

Archiving and Curation skills – **National Museum**

Community Workers Development – **Batokunkun Nurse Attendants, The Foundation School for Nurse Attendants, and Wellingara Clinic,**

Construction Skills – **J. Kastrup Skill Training Centre**

Filmmaking and Documenting of Daigo 2 – **Across all groups**

The Daigo 2 project reached a total of 300 participants and featured prominently on national television. It also set a new bar for what could be achieved through active and ethical partnerships.

Abuko Digital Hub

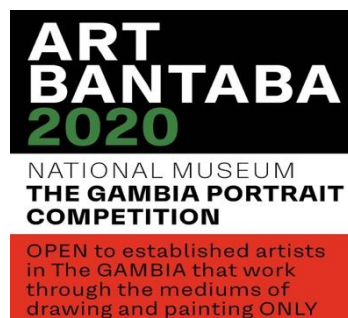


The challenge of Covid 19 focused our work with young people and made us look more closely at digital delivery. We have fundraised with a young company called **Coderoots** (<http://coderoots.io/>) to start-up a free space for youth in Abuko where DOAF's office is based, also areas of: Lamin, Tabokoto, Wellingara and those further afield. The space now has 10 donated, programmed and fully connected computers. We ran a survey to understand the tech needs and experience of 30 young people and liaised with similar projects in Nigeria and South Africa, London and The Gambia to broaden our understanding of best practice operation systems, broad band provision and the additional resources needed to create an inclusive space

that could provide IT training, mentoring, research, study support and access to important free courses. We wish to develop the space into a full learning centre model for youth providing a range free quality training to meet the needs of the communities we work with.

Arts Development

We work widely with artists providing training, materials and opportunities. The aim being to support the many talented artists in The Gambia in developing national and international profiles. In November we launched and funded the Art Bantaba National Portrait Completion in partnership with The National Museum in Banjul, with adverts running on the radio and across our network of art providers and artists. Over 70 inquiries were received from artists, with The Gambia College receiving a direct introduction to the initiative from our programme manager, Famara Fatty and Director Odiri Ighamre.



The competition builds on our efforts to widen arts participation evident in the film we produced and shared across the Gambia in 2019, (<https://youtu.be/jkuJbzY0Qo>), which gives a voice to 14 talented, diverse artists. We plan to eventually develop an **Arts and Design Certificate** and **Diploma** that provides and develops artists conceptual, practical and business knowledge of the arts. The practical side of the programme would involve participants in designing and leading effective arts workshops in schools and the community.

Chess Learning

The 'Mindoverbody Chess Academy' based in the UK, Birmingham, provided months of tutoring for some of our youth leaders during the lockdown this year. This was especially welcomed during a period of little education being provided in The Gambia. We hope that this interest grows and they teach each other so we can host a community wide tournament in the future.



Kombo East District Youth Organisation



Always seeking new partnerships, we met with leaders and youth of KEDYA in Kuloro Village, who run a variety of programmes, one of which is a credit union. We learnt that the initiative enabled women in the community to financially plan and progress by providing them with accounts when they joined the credit union, this has inspired the DOAF board to explore and research the reality of credit unions. We were impressed by KEYCDA's summary of projects such as the food growing, girl's projects and youth programmes. We are now exploring partnership development with the group.

On a last note, we have finally submitted all the needed evidence and payments to the NGO board for International NGO status and we were directly inspected by their team at our office in Abuko. We hope this status will raise the visibility and fundraising potential of our work. The year ended in December with our Annual General Meeting where all board members were present and thankful for what had been achieved by DOAF despite the tragic circumstances the pandemic had wreaked worldwide.