

The DAIGO Project

2019
Report

The DAIGO Project is a partnership of education and skills in Africa, a collaboration bringing together the:

University of West England, Bristol (UWE)

Represented by Mian Ng

KORI -Youth Charity which provides The Vessel UK Training

Led by Odiri Ighamre

Daughters of Africa Foundation (DOAF)

Managed by Pauline Bailey, Odiri Ighamre and Famara Fatty

In December 2018, Mian Ng, a senior lecturer from the university of West England, Bristol, (UWE) was invited to visit The Gambia to observe the delivery of three of our projects by Vessel UK leaders and to meet the Daughters of Africa Foundation partner organisations. The overall aim was to assess the potential for creating a partnership that could offer UWE students development on a personal and professional level. Impressed by the work witnessed on the ground, she filmed and interviewed our community partners and returned to the university with a glowing report that opened the doors for the Daigo Project to be born.



Mian Ng



Odiri Ighamre



Pauline Bailey



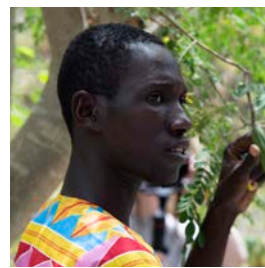
Famara Fatty



Morro Fatty



Sanna Yaffa



Alagie Ndow



Dawda Lowe

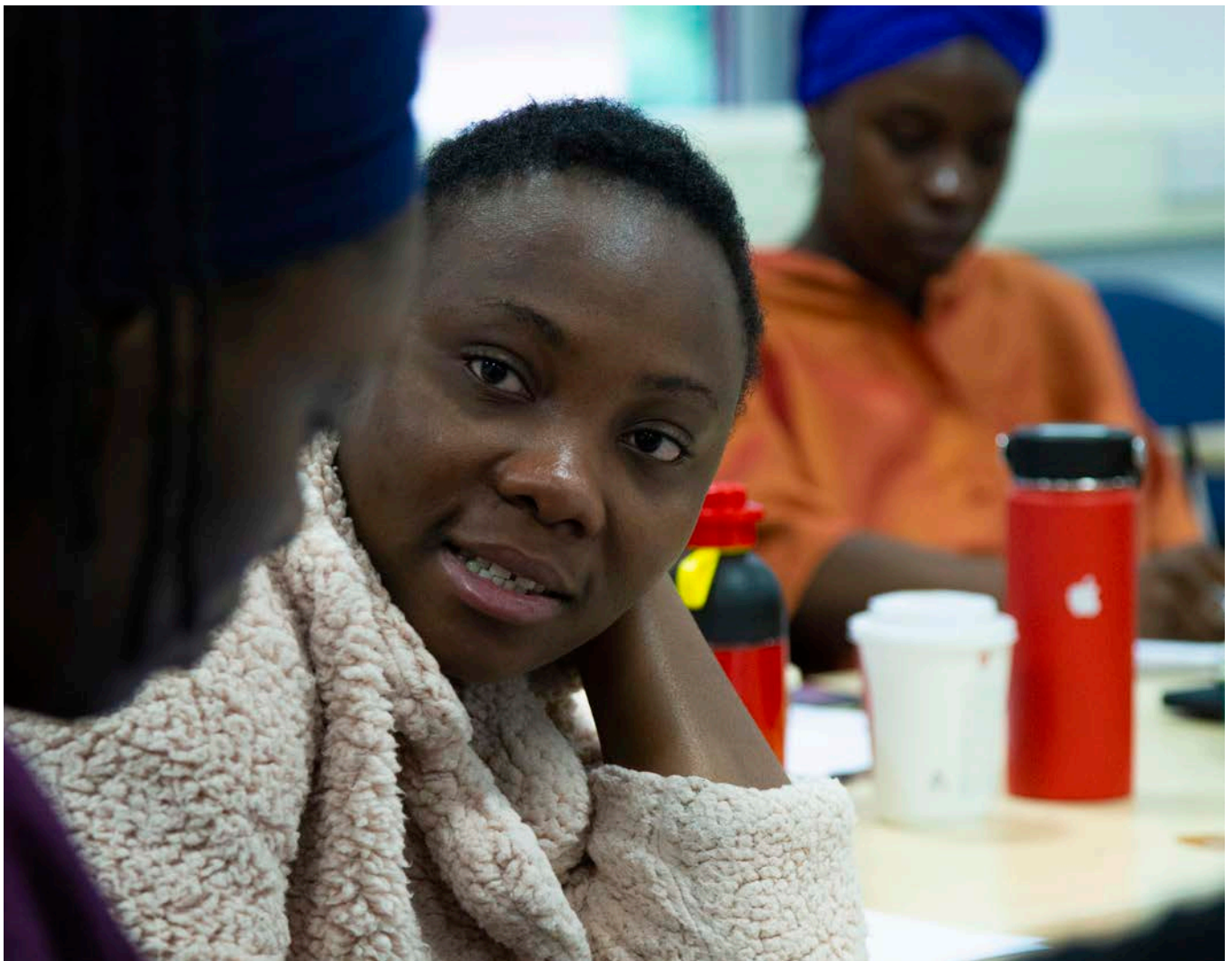


The Planning and Recruitment Process

Planning began in earnest in January 2019, with a leadership team made up of Mian Ng, representing the university, working closely alongside Odiri Ighamre and Pauline Bailey. The timeline for the project was mapped and -as with everything with this project- all agreements had to be in alignment with all three organisations; especially tricky because of the busy student timetables and the diverse partner organisations of DOAF in The Gambia. In February, the advert for the project was shared across all faculties in the university, open to all levels of study, from foundation to post graduate. There was great excitement when over seventy students expressed their interest by email. After a day of presenting the project and further advertising, a list of twenty students was finalised. The Vessel UK Training and began with a fantastically multi-skilled group of students, eager to share their skills and in a new African context. They prepared their planning for what would be an intense two-week accelerated learning experience in The Gambia.

In April, KORl's C.E.O - after leading the first few sessions of the Vessel UK Training - travelled to The Gambia armed with the basic planning developed by the twenty students that had now evolved nicely into eight key projects. The Gambian committee of The Daughters of Africa Foundation had to be fully briefed and supported so that they could inform and prepare all the partner organisations that would be involved, as it was from these organisations that participants interested in specific projects would be recruited. The DOAF youth leaders also had to choose which projects they wanted to volunteer for in order to gain valuable and relevant work experience, as well as socialisation and global insight by working alongside the UWE students. An intern, Dawda Lowe, was engaged to coordinate the eighteen youth leaders.

On June the 9th 2019, the project began in The Gambia for students after two days of acclimatisation, settling into their accommodation and sharing their planning with their youth leaders. The excitement and determination was palpable. The project began with an opening event held at Mandinari Lodge attended by the Gambian press represented by The Voice, Foroyaa Newspaper, and Paradise TV.



The projects fell into eight project areas:

Film

First Aid

Nutrition & Long Term Health Conditions

Museum, History and Photography

Sport Rehabilitation & Massage

Documenting

Architecture and Art

Environment Publication

"Although I initially found it difficult to adapt to the different culture, I found that learning more about the socio-economic situation quickly improved my ability to share skills." - Charlie Long, UWE





The DAIGO

Project Delivery:



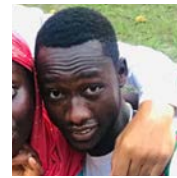
Pierre Animal



Ebru Edgeworth



Ebrima Dampha



Musa Gumaneh



Mariama Jadama



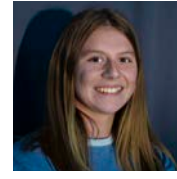
Miriam Atom



Claire Spray



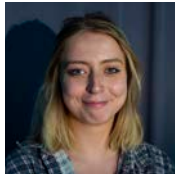
Fatoumata Barry



Alesha Hickmans



Ilaria Meredio



Shannah Webb



Isatou Demba



Nfamara Njie



Harriatou Sowe



Suleiman Al Sadi



Siobhan Anderson



Jade Ayino



Abi
Van Der Linden



Lamin Fofana



Aminata Singhateh



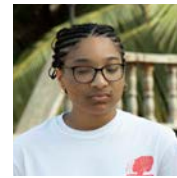
Justyna
Krolikowska



Adele Mildon



Adama Jammeh



Afiya Mudada



Kanwarpreet Singh



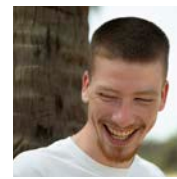
Fatou Keita



Adam Touray



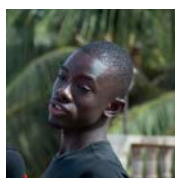
Jake
Fellows-Samuel



Charlie Long



Anna Quarrie



Mbye Jallow



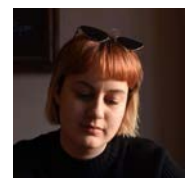
Malik Njie



Rose
Lee Stanton



Innes Letch



Nicole
Shola-Edwards



Sainaboi Mballow



Alpha Omar Bah

Leaders

Filmmaking

Filmmakers: Pierre Amiral (UWE) and Ebru Edgeworth (DOAF)
Youth Leaders: Musa Gumaneh, Mariama Jadama (Inspiring Young-Stars)
Ebrima Dampha (Abuko Youth Association)

The plan was to train a group of young people active in the community of Abuko in filmmaking production skills, the intention being that they would grow through producing a film on their own, filming interviews with key members and their music events. Two days were spent training the group in camera skills, after which the group were organised into a film crew and began filming their story in the community.

Challenges

The plan had to be altered a week into working with this group when it became apparent that they had misunderstood the intent of the project; a new plan had to be devised quickly. Inspired by the work that the Museum, History and Photography team were doing, the film makers decided to focus on training their three youth leaders through the creation of a living history documentary, which involved interviewing young people about their views on life in The Gambia.

Outcomes

An evocative and insightful living history documentary was produced, enabling ten young people to air their views on their lives in The Gambia. The film was gifted to the National Museum in Banjul, and will be built on through subsequent projects. The youth leaders were inspired by the determination of the two filmmakers to overcome the project challenges, and gained theoretical and practical work experience in filmmaking. All involved gained an understanding of the value of media training in the Gambia as a route to new opportunities for youth employment.





"The training has allowed me to gain experience in all aspects of making a film, including how to use a camera and record sound."

- Ebrima Dampha, Youth Leader

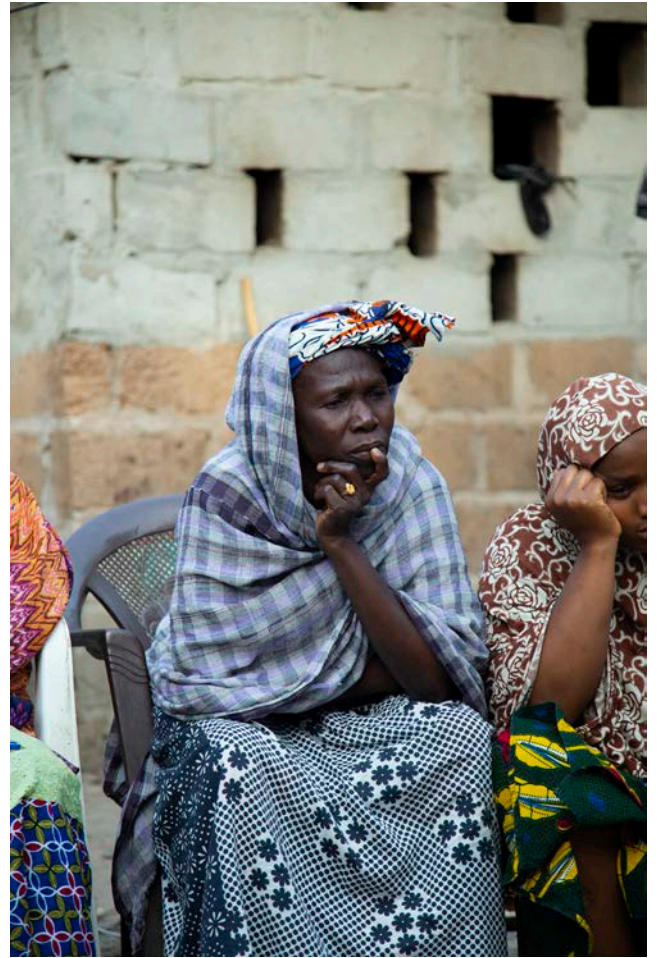
First Aid

Public Health: Claire Spray, Miriam Atom (UWE)
Youth Leader: Fatoumata Barry (Inspiring- Young Stars)

First Aid training in the Gambia is a recognised priority, and with a struggling health care system and a minimal ambulance service, many citizens develop serious health complications or die before informed help can be accessed. Using DOAF research the sessions were planned to focus on reported re-occurring issues like bleeding; resuscitation, head injuries, breathing issues, etc. The ninety-six participants included caterers from SOS Children's Village, masseuses from a popular hotel, women and men's groups of mixed ages from the local community of Abuko, football coaches and physiotherapists from the West Coast Region Football Association, trainee nursing attendants and the staff of Royal Seed Nursery School.

Challenges

Working with some of the local groups presented interesting language challenges, which were adapted to and overcome relatively easily by the students thanks to the wonderful youth leader who spoke the local languages and the bilingual skills of the UWE student. In one such encounter the session was translated from English into Wolof and Mandinka then into French thus fully utilising the skills and responsive approach of the students and youth leader facilitating the sessions.





"I have learned a lot about the Gambian society - the Gambian community are hungry for education, and really pushed me beyond my boundaries."

- Miriam UWE Student

"I have found the first aid training extremely valuable, as I am hoping to become a nurse. I now feel able to assist people who are sick and need help."

- Fatoumatta Barry
Youth Leader

Museum, History and Photography Project

History: Shanna Webb (UWE)

Photography: Ilaria Meredio, Aleisha Hickmans (UWE)

Youth Leaders: Nfamara Njie (Inspiring Young - Stars) Harriatou Sowe and Isatou Demba (Abuko Youth Association)

This project was built around the specific needs of the National Centre for Arts and Culture in The Gambia, compiled by the Director Hassoum Cessay. He had shared that there was a need for their staff to receive in-depth training in digital archiving so that fading artefacts could be documented before they were altogether lost. In response to this information, UWE's postgraduate photographer Ilaria Meredio provided two days of training for 10 staff members. The other part of the project was focused on 15 young people from the Inspiring Young-Stars youth association. Their learning began with a day in the museum guided by a historian Omar Daffeh and musician, Matarr Ngeng. The young people learned how to conduct interviews with local people in their community through guest speaker Elders: Papa Gibba and Merr Ngundu Sisaho, they learnt more about their local history and the basics of portraiture photography.

Challenges

Gaining confidence in interviewing took time for the young interviewers, who were unused to asking direct questions of their elders. In Gambia young people are generally brought up to be reticent around elders as a sign of respect. However, by the end of the project they were quietly confident approaching more elders – finding that they were in fact happy to take part - and they learned a lot about local stories and the history of their area.

Outcomes

The museum staff learned to take pictures of the artefacts exhibited, and some of the photographs were printed as postcards for the museum to sell. They were also donated a quality digital SLR camera to continue with this enterprise.

Two small exhibitions of art, writing and portraits were created by the young people to share their learning, and were put up in the museum and the youth space. Inspiring Young-Stars were also given four cameras by the UWE students to continue practising their photography skills.





“The project was a wonderful educational platform providing an excellent safe space for youth to learn and discover their historical back ground, learn new skills and expand their potential as well as gaining an excellent international cultural exchange.”

- Alagie Ndow, Founder of Inspiring Young-Stars

Environment & Sustainability Zine

Graphic Design: Charlie Long, Anna Quarrie (UWE)

Architecture: Jake Fellows-Samuel (UWE)

Youth Leaders: Mbye Jallow (SOS Children's Village) and Malick Njie (Abuko Youth Association)

The project was delivered to thirty art-focused year eleven students from St Peter's Junior and Senior Technical Secondary school. It began with a whole-group visit to the infamous Bakoteh rubbish dump to meet Kemo Fatty, Director of 'Green Up Gambia' regarding rubbish management, and then on to the beach to learn about the problems facing Gambia with coastal erosion. The students also visited the social enterprise Myfarm to learn about renewable alternative energies - particularly the potential for use of solar power in The Gambia. Back at the school, the UWE students and youth leaders led discussions, read articles and watched footage covering both local and global environmental issues, and their learning and thoughts were developed into the articles, poems and visuals that became the first edition of the magazine (or 'Zine') they named 'Young Gambia Speaks'. This was printed and then shared with their peer students at a presentation for the school, and also distributed to key groups in the wider community.

Challenges

The project was extremely fast paced due to the need to create a finished magazine. The team was very dedicated working long hours to get the work completed, including rehearsing the students so they were able to provide a comprehensive presentation.

Outcomes

A completed 'Zine' on environmental issues with preparations achieved for a second edition. The students learnt new journalism, art and graphic design skills. The students involved were from across year eleven, they formed new friendships and presented their learning proudly to their school at the end of the project.





"Taking part in the project has shown me how much I enjoy working with young people and teaching - even though it has sometimes been difficult to engage all 30 students in tasks specific to their interests. The experience has reminded me how important it is to push myself out of my comfort zone."
- Jake Fellows-Samuel , UWE

"The training allowed me to build on my journalistic and article writing skills, and I also had the opportunity to contribute poems and learn how to edit photos."
- Mbye Jallow, Youth Leader

Architecture and Art

Architecture: Suleiman Al Sadi, Abi Van Der Linden, Siobhan Anderson (UWE)

Art: Jade Ayino (UWE)

Youth Leaders: Lamin Fofana (Inspiring Young-Stars), Aminata Singhateh (SOS Children's Village)

The project brought together three architects and one art student from UWE with ten Gambian, mixed gender construction workers. Day one began with a visit to different Gambian builds led by the lead construction builders Sanna Yaffa and Morro Fatty. The aim being to share and explore the construction methodology in the Gambia with the architects. This was then followed by the architects delivering training on current global eco building techniques and materials. The construction workers had expressed the need to build on their skills in AutoCad, and two mornings were spent on teaching them how to improve their use of this design tool. The practical side of the project was focused on a grassroots organisation called CSCACTS, who needed an environmentally appropriate external canteen build and more seating and tables for the many students that used the space, as well as signage advertising the space to the immediate community.

Challenges

The liaison between the UWE team and the lead builders began in advance of the project delivery as they had to finalise the design and materials that would be needed. Working this out was challenging and the design had to change several times. They worked long hours to a very tight deadline to ensure that the project was completed. Additionally, the female architects found their instructions were often challenged by the construction workers, whilst the male architect did not have this experience.

Outcomes

By the end of the two weeks, a completed external canteen built from both recycled plastic bottles and bricks was completed. A space from which food could be sold, helping to provide a new income flow for the organisation. Old and broken furniture was upcycled and put to use to serve the flow of visiting students and a beautiful mural advertising the space to the community was created by the artist and youth leaders.





"Taking part in the project has made me think about where I want to work, and given me the opportunity to learn about a country outside of Europe."

- Siobhan Anderson, UWE

"I have gained valuable experience in setting out a plan for a building project, and how to recycle materials effectively."

- Lamin Fofana,
Youth Leader

Nutrition and Long Term Health Conditions

Public Health: Justyna Krolikowska, Adele Mildon (UWE)

Youth Leader: Adama Jammeh (SOS Children's Village)

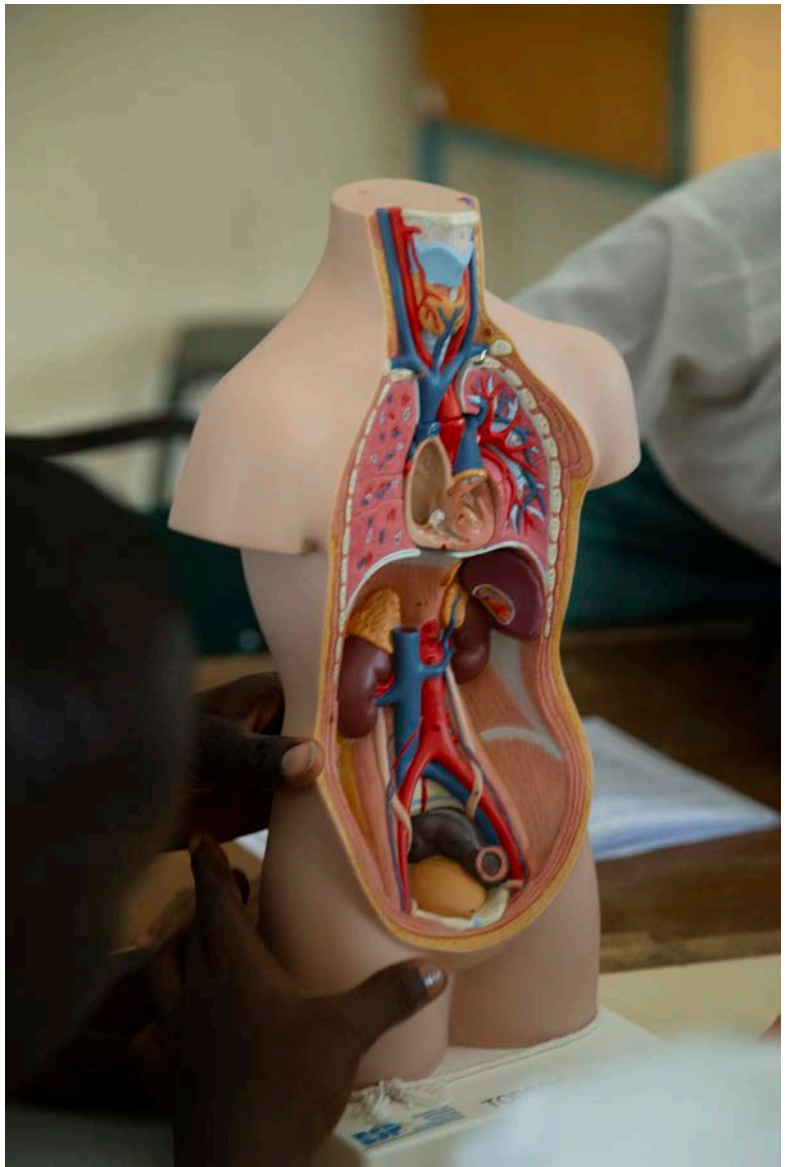
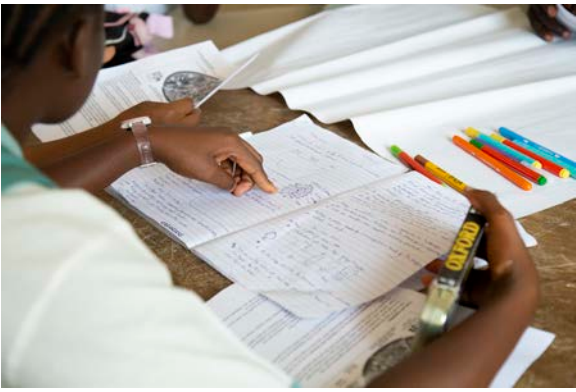
This project was created from the long-term observations and discussions regarding health held by DOAF at a community level. It was established that there was a dire need for people to understand more about the most common illnesses afflicting the society. Accordingly, the students built their projects around breaking down the causes, symptoms, development of and medication for illnesses like diabetes, HIV and AIDS, and high blood pressure, sharing how the use of local foods for general healthy living could help prevent these ailments from ever developing.

Challenges

The six days within the school were extremely intense, as the students worked with ninety science students from year ten and eleven. They also had to adapt to the language challenges in the local areas and tailor their delivery for each new group they worked with.

Outcomes:

The two project leaders worked with all the year ten and eleven science students from St Peter's Junior and Technical School, who responded positively to the interactive nature of their delivery, which included the practical learning of taking ones' blood pressure. They also worked with male and female groups in the community of Abuko, and with trainee nurse attendants and beach workers in the tourist areas





UWE Bristol



DAIGO

PARTNERS OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS IN AFRICA

"I have gained so much teaching experience, and had the opportunity to teach more than 180 people! Working with the youth leaders has been inspiring, and the experience has really boosted my confidence in public speaking."

-Adele Mildon, UWE

"The training made me much more interested in medicine and how it is used to treat long term health conditions."

-Adama Jammeh,
Youth Leader

Sports Rehabilitation and Sports Massage

Sports Rehabilitation: Kanwarpreet Singh(UWE)

Psychology: Afiya Mudada (UWE)

Youth Leaders: Fatou Keita Adam Touray

This project was delivered primarily to the West Coast Region Football Association in Brikama, Gambia. The Association serves a wide range of football clubs, and was keen to raise the skills level of their coaches, physiotherapists and footballers. The first four days were focused on the thirty-four physiotherapists and coaches whose capabilities were critical for the health of their players. The project delivered both theoretical and practical knowledge, and one of the four days was spent learning and practising basic sports massage techniques. Individual days were then spent with four youth teams teaching them how to warm up and down correctly and how to identify and manage their own injuries. A further day was also spent working with the young, passionate footballers at the Abuko Youth Association.

Challenges

It became apparent that coaches and physiotherapists had many complex training requirements, and that sustained monitoring and a much longer programme was required to meet these needs.

Outcomes

The West Coast Region Football Associations coaches and physiotherapists were thoroughly satisfied with the training, especially as it gave them a far better understanding of the training programme they needed.





“This trip has not only given me the experience needed for my chosen career path but from a personal standpoint has changed my outlook on life. It has been a truly humbling experience and has given me key life skills to take back to England with me.”

- Kanwarpreet Singh, UWE

Documenting Project

Filmmakers: Inness Letch, Rose Lee Stanton (UWE)

Photography: Nicole-Shola Edwards (UWE)

Youth Leaders: Alpha Omar Bah (CSCACTS) Sainabou Mballow (CSCACTS)

Creating a documentary and photographic content from all of the projects that made up this exciting trip was a mammoth task, especially because the team of three had to be up to date with seven projects and respond to day to day changes.

Challenges

Gambia at this point was at its hottest, awaiting the relief of the rainy season, so running around in and out of taxis with heavy camera equipment was very difficult for the team. After the first week of documenting across the projects, they dedicated some of the second week to critiquing and uploading what they had gathered and began their editing as they had to prepare for an end of project presentation.

Outcomes

The presentation that closed the two week project was shared in film and images created by the documenting team, allowing everyone to see and appreciate the rich scope of work that had been achieved. The footage will be a film preserving the experience and success of the project for future Daigo Project students and wider audiences.





"I have enjoyed getting out of my comfort zone and developing strong working relationships with my fellow students."

- Innes Letch, UWE

"I have learned how to operate a camera and edit what I have filmed, and also have become confident in choosing camera angles while filming."

- Musa Gumaneh, Youth Leader

Project Conclusion

In conclusion, the first Daigo Project 2019 provided great learning for all involved. At the first review by the three lead organisations, the discussion centred on strengthening the recruitment process, accessing further funding and finding voluntary administration support. The project proved to be an overwhelming success, inspiring and informing over 500 certificated Gambian participants and shared nationally by Gambian television and newspapers. The students felt the Vessel UK Training had prepared them well for the global experience and were impressed by DOAF's committee's leadership and partner organisations.

The outstanding heroes of the project, however, were the Gambian youth leaders and the UWE students who worked so passionately and diligently, sharing their skills and their learning ethically and professionally, plus many of them expressed an interest in maintaining their involvement in The Daigo Project going forward to assist with recruitment or even return in the near future to deliver other projects. KORl - Youth Charity has also been able to offer some of the students opportunities for paid work, training and experiences that continue to enrich them.

The DAIGO Project
Summer of 2019 Report

Written By Odiri Ighamre
Designed By Anna Quarrie

Photography By Nicole Shola

daughtersofafrica.info
www.kori.org.uk



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