

# Daughters of Africa NGO Annual Report 2019



**“Chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people”.**

**(Marcus Mosiah Garvey August 1887 – June 1940)**



## **Introduction**

Throughout 2019 Daughters of Africa NGO has continued to support grassroots development in The Gambia, West Africa through our sustainable projects and activities that channel self-leadership in Youth and their communities.

We are committed to collaboration and forging partnerships that enable us to co-design and deliver project activities and enterprise skills development that are of relevance to the groups of young people and their communities. 2019 was a very busy year and we have obtained a number of achievements notwithstanding a successful application to formally be registered for International NGO status!

Our Partnership with the University of the West of England in Bristol (UWE), meant the delivery of the first Daigo Project supporting twenty students from across a range of faculties to deliver projects in partnership with Gambian youth leaders and other professionals. The students were able to design and deliver sustainable projects covering Arts and Heritage, Sports, Health, Film and photography, architecture and publication.

## The Committee



**Famara Fatty** – Was voted to continue as Programme Manager with one of our Co-founder/Directors Odiri Ighamre when we are planning and delivering our various programmes. As part of the continuing professional development that we encourage members of our committee to engage in, Famara has managed to secure an opportunity to study his '**Masters in Business Management**', offered as a scholarship by The University of the West of England, Bristol, and we thank this partner for their generosity. This will be a 12 months course that will give Famara a higher qualification in what he has been doing for some years now, as he has spent the last fifteen years working for a variety of international NGOs.

*"I have always wanted to pursue higher education....so I was over the moon when the news broke, and the same could be said of my family friends and colleagues"*

**Morro Fatty** – The construction activities continue to grow from strength to strength and as well as having numerous apprentices working and training under his tutor-ledge, Morro has also led on the construction projects delivered by the trainee architects and construction students from UWE and The Gambia, who have worked together to deliver their project.

**Amadou Jallow** – Continues to develop the excursions and internal visits when Students and other professionals visit The Gambia to deliver their projects and need to take some down time in the middle of their stay.

We now offer trips that include visits to Abuko Nature Reserve, Mandinaring Lodge, boat trips along the Mangrove, Lamin Lodge and fishing, trips to the elephant tree, Juffrey Island, and Kuba Lodge Retreat to name but a few.

**Hamidou Jallow** – Continues to run and develop the CSCACTS library and youth Centre, where he supported the UWE trainee architects and their project partners of Gambian trainee architects and construction students on their eco building project of a breakfast and lunch serving Unit.

**Alagie Ndow** – DOAF Secretary Alagie is fully engaged in making sure all meetings are well documented and he also continues to help us to make links with and cement our relationships with existing and potential partners. As the Education Manager of another charity called (My Farm), Alagie is responsible

for running their educational programmes in various locations across the provinces plus the IT block on their home site in Sukuta. Alagie is also the founder of Inspiring Young Stars (IYS) youth association, one of the youth groups we partner with and manages their headquarters which is located at the local library and Learning Centre he founded in Abuko.

## Achievements

### Sports

Early in April 2019 DOAF formalised its partnership with the West Coast Football Coaches Association with a view to sustain our long-term plans to support children and young people in sports (especially football), plus expand on coaches' education across the region.

Our partnership with KORI Youth Charity led to UK coach Zikko Archer delivering two weeks of training to the SOS and St Peter's youth teams. After a tournament the participants were awarded kits and certificates.

### Education

Working directly with children and their teachers at grassroots level in April, senior teaching professional Evelyn Ighamre from the UK supported curriculum development and teacher training within local schools around Wellingara and Abuko.



Evelyn delivering numeracy and literacy work with primary school children.

In July we signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with The Gambia's Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE).

In the spirit of our ethos of 'channeling self-leadership' members of our committee (Alagie Ndow and Hamidou Jallow) delivered Leadership and Business Training to some of our young leaders in the community. This was held at the community library at Wellingara and was attended by 19 young people in September.

## Arts

The relationship with our Associate Visual Artists continued throughout 2019 and we were able to provide opportunities for some artists to sell their paintings to interested UK visitors.

Through one of these artists (Kebba Sallah @SallahArts & printing), we were also able to make contact and start developing a relationship with Ida's Ideas Fashion School, which is the first fashion school in The Gambia.



Ida's Ideas Fashion School Design and Garment Construction Classrooms.

We also continue our dialogue with the National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC), which enables the involvement of museum staff in our sustainable projects that develop curatorial, interpretation and creative enterprise skills at the museum with local youth groups, UK students and staff.

## Training Programmes

We will be receiving a donation of ten PCs for our new plan to develop a digital hub compliments of Mekonnen Tekeste. Vessel UK leader Zaira Rasool who worked in The Gambia in 2018 will partner with DOAF to support the development of a digital hub. This will enable us to continue projects through distance learning and enabling a provision for a research facility that local youth and their leaders can access.

Other young professionals will also be able to have access to this facility, which will be based at our headquarters in Abuko where we intend to develop further distance learning programmes and explore other ways to engage young people across The Gambia.



Subject areas plan to include coding, other IT training, leadership and management, chess training and tournaments plus any other programmes we can deliver online for skills and professional development.

In June we had the pleasure of hosting Canadian award-winning science fiction author Geoff Ryman, who facilitated 'A Saferla' (The Writers Project), at University of The Gambia's Faculty of Law. The course was attended by budding writers from the University and the community and this was the first project we have delivered for them since formalising our partnership.



The young writers' group with Geoff Ryman Science Fiction writer, DOAF founders Odiri Ighamre and Pauline Bailey and project manager Famara Fatty.

## The Daigo Project 1

Our partnership with the University of the West of England in Bristol (UWE), took place in June with 20 students. This is a partnership in education and professional skills development for UWE Students across all faculties and Gambian youth and their communities. This first programme delivered in the Gambia after intensive and thorough training delivered by our sister charity in the UK, Kori and their Vessel UK training led by Odiri Ighamre.

The students working with DOAF's youth leaders delivered eight projects covering the following subject areas:

Arts and Architecture,

Documenting (video production),

Film.

First Aid,

Museum/Heritage with Photography,

Nutrition and Long-term Health Conditions,

Publication of an Environmental e-Zine

Sports Rehabilitation and Massage.

Through this partnership programme the students' projects provided some sustainable and relevant solid outcomes such as building a lunchtime booth/hut for the young people at the CSCACTS library and Study Centre (Architecture). The research and photography from the Museum project resulted in the production of artefact postcards printed for sale in the museum. The publication projects produced an environmental zine and copies were printed for each participant at St Peter's School.



Architecture Project at CSCACTS



e-zine project with St Peter's

All the projects were well attended, and participants were fully engaged across all projects where we engaged over 500 participants from our partnerships.



Filmmaker Pierre Amiral delivering a workshop with some of the youth leaders. (June 2019)

## Final Words

With the continued expansion of our partnerships this year we have been able to engage many young people and adults. We are looking forward to the programmes we will deliver in 2020 with our existing partners and will continue to encourage the professional volunteers from the UK and elsewhere. These

volunteers are keen to deliver much needed skill development projects with youth leaders and Gambian professionals that support new employment opportunities.

The Directors of DOAF would like to thank the committee members, youth leaders, partners, students and members of the local communities in the areas we worked in this year. As ever, all their hard work and commitment enabled the projects to function extremely well, helping all involved to achieve their goals, and for their contribution to assist the continued success of the Daughters of Africa Foundation's programmes. Here's to our future activities and infinite possibilities with new partnerships and an expansion into new countries across this amazing continent.

Here's to continued infinite possibilities!

Pauline Bailey and Odiri Ighamre

Co-Founders / Directors

