

DAIGO 2

CONTEXT OF PROJECT

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. We accepted twenty-two of the applications and 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)

Lead: Mian Ng

KORI Youth Charity (Providing The Vessel UK Training)

Lead: Odiri Ighamre)

Daughters of Africa Foundation (DOAF)

Directors: Pauline Bailey and Odiri Ighamre

Programme Manager: Famara Fatty



AIMS FOR PROJECT FOR ALL THREE ORGANISATIONS

- 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

PROCESS

UWE students received the mandatory four days of Vessel UK training, which focused on 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. The range of specific project areas were presented by the Daughters of Africa Foundation Directors, and the students were then able to explore and choose their preferred project areas.

The Gambian committee of The Daughters of Africa Foundation were continuously briefed about the projects developing in the UK, so they could prepare their partner organisations in the Gambia. It is from these grassroots organisations that participants for each of the 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 would provide them with valuable knowledge, work experience references, socialisation and enrich their global knowledge as they worked alongside the UWE students during the delivery period.

PROJECT AREAS

Creative Sew Tailoring & Design
Abuko Youth Association Youth Development
GAMBINO Environmental Project
National Museum Project
Community Workers Project
Construction Project
Filmmaking Project
Documenting Daigo 2

CREATIVE SEW: TAILORING & DESIGN

UWE students Noelia Cepeda (Fashion), and Orlaigh Tilley, (Fine Art), supported by DOAF Youth Leaders: Fatou Keita and Omar Fatty, led this exciting project for twenty trainee tailors at the Kembugey Tailoring School hosted by the JK Astrup skill Training Centre. The aim was to develop new skills in garment construction, foster new creative thinking and design in their tailoring approach.

The UWE students had been prepared by research in the UK that showed that many Gambian tailors tended to depend on magazines and social media for their design ideas. The students, combined skills of fashion and fine art, to enable them to use a field study trip to MyFarm, a social enterprise in The Gambia, to demonstrate how to use nature as one example of inspiration for design, colour and pattern combinations.

The trainee tailors learnt how to create mood boards and developed their dart manipulation skills and pattern cutting to create their final designs. The twenty participants all completed a small professional portfolio to document their learning which could then be used for developing further designs beyond the project.

"...doing the Daigo Project really has made a big shift in my confidence and is so important for students like me who struggle with self esteem and public speaking."

Noelia Cepeda- UWE Fashion Student

"It will benefit me in the future on how to design on fabric, how to create darts and designs."

Sanna Camara, trainee tailor - J. Kastrup Skill Training Centre

ABUKO YOUTH ASSOCIATION (AYA) - YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Abuko Youth Association became a registered youth organisation in 2014 in the Gambia with the support of KORl Youth Charity. The organisation has evolved over the years into becoming an association made up of thirty-seven, 15 to 20 year olds, many who are siblings from the first group, coming from across the area of Abuko and Wellingara. UWE Students Lydia Cerguera, (Creative and professional writer), Julia Szwed, (Graphic Design) and Esmee Turlej, (Fine Art), chose to work with these young people. Working alongside them were DOAF Youth Leaders Malick Njie and Isatou Demba.

The team worked creatively with the AYA, delivering a range of activities aimed to build on their unity and support the young people in identifying and expressing the needs they saw as important in their own community through presentations of their written pieces. After a raucous and enjoyable field trip to the wonderful 'Mama Africa Gallery' for

inspiration, the young people spent the two weeks developing their public speaking skills, creating posters on social issues, writing, practicing presenting their stories and preparing to end with a public community performance backed by a visual exhibition of their achieved work.

The ever present DOAF youth leaders were actively involved in all the leadership tasks, supporting the UWE students in understanding the young people and documenting all of the activities. The last day of the project ended in a hilarious and provocative community performance attended by locals and was declared a great success by all.

"It was rewarding to give the young people a voice and a way for their ideas to be heard. Showing them that creative skills can be applied in day to day life."

Esmee Turlej – UWE Fine Arts

"I learnt to believe more in myself, how to plan a poster, perform to an audience, story plan and to create speeches. It is important to express important issues to others in the community."

Fatima Jallow (AYA)

GAMBINO - ENVIRONMENTAL ZINE



The Gambino Project was aimed to provide further development in sustainable environmental learning and solution thinking for the thirty young people from St Peter's School who had formerly taken part in Daigo 1. This group had already learnt a lot about environmental issues both locally and globally and had created the first edition of a Gambian environmental zine called 'Young Gambia Speaks.'

The observation at the end of that project was that the young people still needed more in-put to deepen their environmental learning, photography, journalistic and presentation skills, so that they could successfully complete production of the magazine all by themselves.

The Daigo 2 UWE students that were keen to build on this last project were Kwan Suh (Photography), Yans Srajhans (Product Design), and Rosie Bond (Graphic design). Working alongside them were DOAF Youth Leaders Nfamara Njie and Katrine Badlie and 16-year-old Vessel UK leader, Kervarnie Tashay White.

For their field trip the large group visited Abuko Nature Reserve. This trip was focussed on developing their photography skills and preparing them to settle down to the first week of intense research and learning across a broad range of topics including: the circular economy, urban planning, globalisation, colonialism, tourism, climate change, waste management, biomimicry and waste management amongst others.

The project involved the development of a range of skills and the St Peter's students worked in topic focussed groups to have their discussions after reading articles or watching relevant video clips. They then used what they learnt to develop their writing, public speaking, drawing and lino-printing to create visual content for the zine. They also reviewed the art of African artists and urban planners for further stimulus for the zine content.

All through the project the team used ice breakers to keep the students positive, and engaged, they encouraged critical thinking around the environmental issues, motivating them to apply their learning to solution thinking about their country's environmental challenges.

The project ended in a successful presentation of the printed zine and the ideas and learning that had created it for the rest of the Year 11 students in St Peters.

"I feel being involved in this has helped me gain teaching experience and the ability to share skills with others as well as to develop my portfolio."

Rosie Bond (UWE)

"I will remember this project for the vast knowledge that has been put in me as an aspiring young Gambian."

Yai Bah (St Peter's student)

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM - THE GAMBIA

This ambitious project built on the project delivery of the team from Daigo 1. This time the project was focused on developing the skills of fourteen of the staff at the museum, improving their curation skills through sharing ideas on archiving, the re-designing of exhibition space and effective documentation. The team focused on renovating and re-curating two craft exhibitions.

The UWE students involved were: Luka Bell, (Creative and professional writing), Eleanor Beale, (Photography), Billy-Jo Pierce, (Interior Design) and DOAF Youth Leaders Sulayman Saidkhan and Ajie Amie. The team was directly led by Mian Ng (UWE Lead) and proactively supported by Mamat Sallah, Assistant Director of the National Centre for Arts and Culture.

The updating of the craft exhibitions with the museum staff involved firstly identifying their skills and interests and then working with them to build new plinths; create fresh textile backgrounds for artefacts, update photography and re-write the exhibition descriptions. This enabled sharing of photography skills, copywriting and the process of protecting artefacts, a priority for this important museum sector. For their field trip the whole group visited the local markets to source materials for improving the interior design of the chosen areas.

By the end of the project they were able to hold a proud formal opening of the renewed craft exhibition space. The work was achieved on a small budget using only locally sourced materials leaving the staff confident that they could apply the learning to re-thinking and developing other areas in the museum.

"I was making presentations, sharing my writing skills and working within time to achieve the goals as well as developing my own copy-writing."

Luka Palonus – (UWE)

“As a Destination Manager of tourism in the Gambia the project has developed my knowledge of museum management and the management of artefacts in the museum.”

Ebrima Jammeh - National Centre for Arts and Culture



COMMUNITY WORKERS PROJECT - THREE PROJECTS IN ONE

This project worked across eighty participants in three separate groups, sharing skills in three day rotations. The groups were made up of the Batokunkun Nurse Attendants, The Foundation School for Nurse Attendants and a group of community workers that came together hosted by Wellingara Clinic, this last group included teachers; youth workers and business and community leaders.

THE HEALTH GROUP

Jamie Hulley–Mills (Adult Nursing), led the health project with DOAF Youth Leaders Fatoumatta Barry and Mariama Jafunneh supporting him. The project was built on the on-going research by DOAF on some of the main health issues affecting Gambians and included raising awareness regarding the danger of taking too many pain killers - that were thought to be causing a proliferation of stomach ulcers in the society

Also, the project included delivering general first aid training with a specific focus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Current information on the dangers of smoking was also heavily discussed. During each rotation, the participants choose the topic that they felt most passionate about and were then supported in creating mini health promotion campaigns to share the learning with their families, friends and community.

THE COPY WRITING GROUP

Uwe Students Alice Beresford, and Megan Headford (Creative and Professional writing), delivered the copywriting project, supported by DOAF Youth Leaders, Muhammad Saidkhan and Alieu Bah.

They focussed on developing the participants public speaking whilst sharing information about the career of copywriting.

They also engaged the participants in developing their writing skills by showing them how to create adverts on the public health issues that most concerned them. The sessions were hubs of discussion and learning as participants spoke out about their key societal concerns and shared their experiences with each other.

BUSINESS GROUP

UWE student Atupele Mussa (Business) and DOAF Youth Leaders Kujay Sanyang and Ebrima Touray led the business project, leading the participants in discussing and learning about the most successful trades and enterprises currently running in The Gambia; sharing business models, effective budget management and looking closely at how globalisation was impacting The Gambia.

The project enabled immense socialisation and a great sharing of ideas and information by the participants, students and youth leaders. Business learning was acknowledged by all as very important for Gambians as many of the participants already had a business or were determined to set up their own businesses.

"I learnt how to draw up a business plan, how to manage my income and expenses and I enjoyed the networking."

Arokey Sowe – Batokunku School of Nursing

"Teaching copywriting abroad will look amazing on my C.V and will show how I can pass on my writing skills practically when I am challenged."

Meg Headford - Copywriting Student (UWE)



CONSTRUCTION

UWE student Adrian Wallace-Scott (Environmental Architecture Engineering) and DOAF Youth Leader Lamin Fofana, worked together to deliver construction learning for 24 construction students and builders hosted by the JK Astrup Skill Training Centre

The project began with a field trip to an Eco Resort, called 'Sandeles,' where the participants were able to observe and analyse the long term impact of weathering on the site. The group were then set the task of designing scaled drawings of buildings that would better deal with the sea and wind exposure that had degraded much of the retreat and they then shared those ideas in groups.

The two weeks included learning current information surrounding eco materials; ventilation, building durability and design. They also carried out practical experiments to test the strength of different types of bricks to ascertain which were best for different types of buildings in The Gambia.

Through theory, practical's and presentations of their ideas they shared their experience and were also supported in building their capacity and understanding of surveying, Computer Aided Design Software (CAD) and Sketch Up.

"This has taught me how universal the subjects of architecture, construction and engineering are. It has made me realize how much I have learnt and how much I have to learn."

Adrian Wallace-Scott (UWE)

"It was very important to understand the different types of bricks and their quality through testing and reflecting. I would like to build on this understanding."

Morro Fatty – Builder

FILM MAKING PROJECT- GAMBIAN ARTISTS

UWE Students Ben Heath and Yoana Lopes Bras Pinto (Filmmaking), set themselves the task of developing a film about 14 Gambian Artists and their work. The artists had been chosen and prepared for the interviews by Mamat Sallah, Assistant Director of the National Centre for Arts and Culture. The two students were supported by DOAF Youth Leaders Alpha Ann and Mariama Baldeh. The process of filming over the two weeks took the team all over the Gambia

and they were generously granted access to the artists' homes and studios to watch whilst they worked and shared their practice, challenges and future plans. This resulted in rich footage for the film and provided an inspiring, insightful, important film for viewers both in The Gambia and the UK.

"Its taught me so much about filming in regards to using the camera and sound equipment in different environments. I've also learnt how to mange a big project."

Ben Heath (UWE)

"I've learnt that the lack of resources here does not stop people from being ambitious and hopeful or from being in tune with what is happening in other parts of the world."

Yoana Lopes Bras Pinto (UWE)

FILM MAKING PROJECT- DOCUMENTING TEAM

UWE students Deborah Cardoso Ribas, (Professional Creative Writer), Josh Carroll and Joe Noon (filmmaking), and Aneta Nalinska (photographer), with DOAF Youth Leaders Alpha Omah Bah and Assan Gibba, had the challenging job of documenting all the projects as they were being delivered. Deborah was in charge of social media content, providing up to date content from Vessel UK training to the delivery in The Gambia for the University, KORI Youth Charity and DOAF.

The team had to keep up with all the activities of the students, Youth Leaders and participants. They travelled to different sites filming activities, conducting interviews, and documenting the impact of the projects as they happened. The result was a series of clips that will foster further learning and understanding of the scale of work, commitment required and achieved to deliver Daigo 2.

'This project will bring a lot of benefit to my organisation, especially regarding documenting through film-they now don't need to get someone from outside to do this for them.'

Alpha Omah Bah – (DOAF Youth Leader)



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS ON DAIGO 2

This was indeed another exciting and challenging project powered by KORI Youth Charity's work experience in Africa and the delivery of it's Vessel UK training that has established the work in parts of Africa for over sixteen years. The International NGO: 'Daughters of Africa Foundation's partnerships, hardworking committee members and the four years of work on the ground in Gambia have provided the infrastructure enabling research, support and the cultural respect needed for the success of both Daigo 1 and Daigo 2 and many other projects. The University of West England's students have brought a wealth of new subjects and ideas to the table and enriched the learning of so many Gambian participants.

Delivering Daigo 2 was challenging as the the projects were more diverse and crossed a wider geographical area across the Gambia than previously and the coordination of transport for UWE students, DOAF staff and youth Leaders was difficult and much more expensive than expected. We hope to solve this in the future by fundraising for a mini bus.

The project itself was a huge success, twenty-two UK students and twenty DOAF Youth Leaders presented their projects to an audience on the final day, they had managed to work with 330 participants in total, their projects were filmed and declared as 'a productive and meaningful sharing of skills' on National Gambian Television. The UWE students all arrived back safely in the UK to share their work with other UWE students through an on-line symposium organised by Mian Ng. Many of the students are keen to stay involved with the work and planned to stay in touch with the Youth Leaders that they had worked beside. The achievements by the hard work and commitment of the three organisations is celebrated as a momentous joint effort.

"It brought us together to learn something new, we have learned not to give up and to share what we know and think with the community."

AYA

