



# Spring Update 2009



Dear Sponsor,  
I thought it was time we gave you an update on developments in the Gambia.

The Tarud Pre-School now has nearly three hundred children and with additional support from a Dutch charity, a hall, staff-room, new toilets and play area have been built.

A new water system has been installed to draw water from the school well. This will ensure that water does not have to be pulled up by hand, an arduous task. Your kind donations have helped provide these new facilities.



The school has established a garden to grow vegetables for the children's lunches and the whole school helps with this.

The P.T.A (Parent Teacher Association) has been reformed and are making efforts to raise funds for the school through various social events.

The school has suffered considerably by the drastic fall in the dalasis, the countries currency. The GB pound once bought 55 dalasis but now buys 32 dalasis, so fundraising is even more urgent.

Over the last two years the staff have been working very hard on the creation of a pre-school curriculum. This will be the first of its kind ever.

Such was the interest in this project that four other pre-schools in the surrounding area asked to become involved, we were delighted to welcome them.

Following two conferences, which I led, the group have produced a wonderful new Gambian based curriculum, of which they should be very proud.

The task is now to trial one topic on 'Ourselves' and then fully resource the school to deliver the new curriculum.

As the other four schools have made such a marvellous contribution, and have almost no resources themselves, we have decided to raise funds to buy them resources too. A huge challenge!

The new 'Ourselves' topic once trialed, will herald the beginning of a new era in Pre-School education in the Gambia. Indeed, such is the excitement of this new curriculum, that the Government have shown an interest in it too!

The next stage will be to offer training to staff on classroom management, so fundraising is needed more than ever at this stage. As you can imagine, to raise funds to purchase equipment and resources for five schools is going to be a real challenge.

We have created a resource list, similar to a 'wedding present' list. Items are catalogued and priced and we are looking for sponsors to buy from a pencil to an easel!

If you would like to purchase an item on behalf of the schools, please contact me directly.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the children of Gunjur and the Tarud Pre-School.

Without your generosity, none of this could have been achieved. Every penny you have donated has been spent on the children,

whose lives have been changed because of

your kindness. I

hope you will continue to support us throughout

2009.  
Warm wishes  
Neil Griffiths.

