

Sgoil Creideamh

The Gambia

September 2016



“And now abide faith,
hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of
these is love.”

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

A Valued Education

The Gambian constitution directs compulsory primary education for all children, but a lack of resources and infrastructure has made implementing this very difficult.

Education is highly valued and sought after in the Gambia. Many families simply can not afford to pay for their children's education.

A Christian Education

The Gambia Partnership seeks, by God's grace, to serve Kabekel Village, not only by providing an education, but a Gospel centered education.

Sgoil Creideamh hopes to open end of September

Sgoil Creideamh (Faith School) is a newly established Christian school in Kabekel Village, the Gambia.

The school has been constructed entirely by funds raised through the Gambia Partnership charity, based on the Isle of Lewis, on land registered to the Gambia Partnership.

We hope to employ 5 full-time staff, along with a caretaker and a cleaner. Initially, the intention is to provide for nursery and Grade 1 students.

We expect somewhere in the region of 80 children in the nursery and between 25-30 students in Grade 1, when the school term begins this month.




The Gambia Partnership
Supporting the work of the Gospel in the Gambia

School Construction

The school construction has been a much longer process than originally envisaged. For anyone who has watched the BBC Alba documentary, "Feachdan Ionatain / Jonathan's Army," you will be familiar with some of the difficulties faced in the initial stages of the build.

The construction begun in 2014 and, two years on, the final elements of the build are being completed. The total costs were in the region of £30,000.

We are thankful to God for opening the door in Kabekel, and providing this opportunity, both to reach out with the Gospel and to provide an education to the children of Kabekel.

We are indebted to Bill Hebner (Hebner Houses) for the design of the build and for his expertise during a number of visits to the Gambia, during construction. Most recently, this month, he visited at short notice, to deal with some of the outstanding build issues.





The Nursery Block

The majority of furniture in the school was made available some time ago by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, upon the closure of the old Nicolson Institute building in Stornoway. The furniture which was deemed surplus to requirements was offered to local community groups and charities.

The Gambia Partnership were grateful to receive a large number of chairs, tables and other furniture which was sent by container to the Gambia, where it will be made good use of in Sgoil Creideamh.



Village Needs

Kabekel village Identified the needs they considered to be pressing within the village. The Gambia Partnership agreed to work with the VDC to provide clean water, education and sponsorship.

School capacity

The school will be able to accommodate up to 250 students between the two buildings. It is hoped as funds become available to the school, that the school roll will steadily increase.

Sustainability

The local community, with time, will be expected to contribute to the costs of running the school.

The idea behind the school is not to create a sense of dependency amongst the villagers. Rather, it is to give them the means and opportunities, as individuals and as a village, to progress.

Sponsor a Teacher

Annual Running Costs

As we, as a small charity, seek to establish the school, we have a responsibility to meet the salaries of staff members.

If you are interested in contributing towards all or part of the salary costs of a teacher or another staff member, for the first year, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Staff Salaries (per annum):

Head Teacher—£2,500

Teacher—£1,500

Nursery Assistants —£600

Caretaker—£300

Please contact —

Karen France

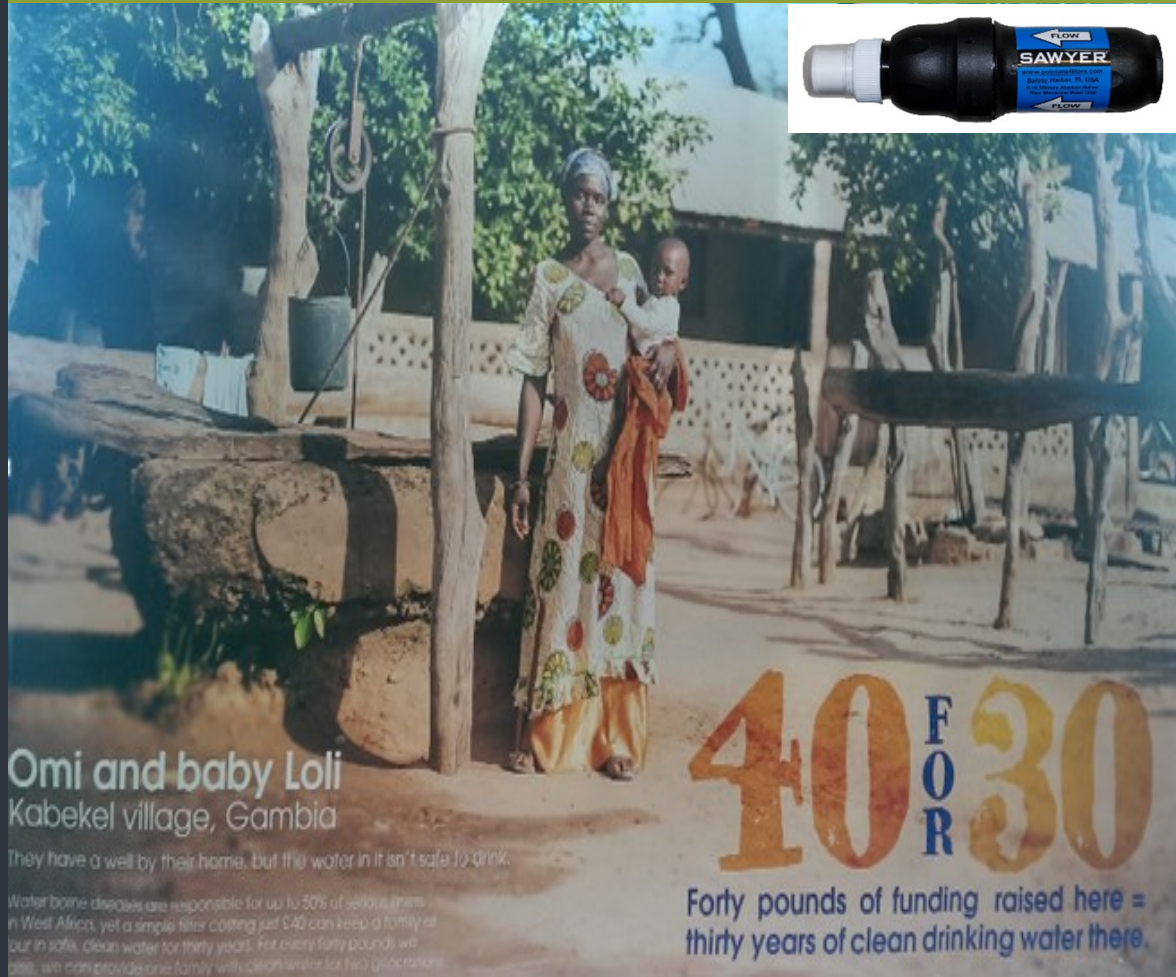
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Kabekel Clean Water Programme

Sgoil Creideamh has benefited from another Gambia Partnership initiative, 'the Clean Water Programme.'

The programme provided the school and every house in the village with a water filter providing clean and safe drinking water for 30 years.



Omi and baby Loli
Kabekel village, Gambia

They have a well by their home, but the water in it isn't safe to drink.

Water borne diseases are responsible for up to 50% of yellow fevers in West Africa, yet a simple filter costing just £40 can keep a family of four in safe, clean water for thirty years. For every forty pounds we raise, we can provide one family with clean water for two generations.

40 FOR 30

Forty pounds of funding raised here = thirty years of clean drinking water there.

Child Sponsorship

Make a difference in a child's life and sponsor them to attend Sgoil Creideamh.

In return, you will receive regular updates, including report cards and photos as they progress.

Karen France

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Fundraising Opportunities in Stornoway

The Gambia Shop, North Beach Street, is looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Pat Graham (07572 280949) or Ian Maciver (07909 594002).

There will be a co-op bag pack on Saturday 24th September from 10am-7pm, please contact Scott Maciver (07900 302041) if you would like to help.

www.thegambiapartnership.co.uk

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