

Gambia School Support

UK Registered charity 1176136

Project summary at 31 March 2023

Synopsis

1. In 2 years we have increased the number of pre-primary schools we assist from 3 to 11
2. The project now has 1,506 pupils (aged 3-6), 43 qualified and 13 unqualified teachers
3. UNICEF research suggests that there are 273,000 3-6 year old children in The Gambia of which 104,000 attend some form of pre-primary school. However, under half of these are 'fit for purpose'
4. We estimate that GSS is now assisting over 3% of the good quality pre-primary school places in the country.



GSS's aims and approach to delivering them

GSS's aims:

1. increase the number of pupils and schools we assist
2. improve the quality of the teaching and education

We recognise that the constraints are:

- a) the pace at which the capacity of our implementing partner the 'Gambian Management Team' can be increased without sacrificing quality*
- b) the provision of reliable funding*

GSS's approach:

1. is to assist only community schools which must adhere to agreed standards (such as the full use of the MoBSE curriculum)
2. guides the schools, contributes to the teacher salaries and maintains/equips them
3. develops the teachers through its training and 'on the job' coaching programs
4. promotes each school's independence and administrative capability
5. is to build the capabilities of our local 'implementing partner' (see slide 9)



Kemo Bah - Managing Director of our implementing partner and leader of our project in The Gambia

Plan for the next next 12-18 months

Following this rapid expansion, our focus will be on the:

1. **head teachers.** Good Head Teachers are crucial, we have rated our 11 Heads as follows:
excellent - 3
good - 1
improvement needed - 5
poor - 2
GSS are funding Head Teacher training workshops and 'on the job' coaching. Poor Head Teachers will be demoted if they prove unable to make the grade. **Program cost £1,750 p.a.**
2. **teachers.** The 32 qualified teachers ratings show a similar range of ability. GSS is funding two day 'catch up' workshops every term to build their capabilities. **Cost £3,600 p.a.**

Of our 13 'classroom assistants', we are paying for 8 to qualify by paying their Gambia College fees and travel costs. **Cost £3,500 over 3 years**
3. **inspection & measurement regime.** Selection is underway of 3 'coach/inspectors' to work alongside our Managing Director. Each will be responsible for monitoring 3 to 4 schools, spending a day at each school every month. **Cost £1,000 p.a.**
4. **increase the number of pupils.** Through the enrolment of 230 new pupils to reach target capacity (retaining class sizes at 30/35). **This will reduce GSS's costs by £3,000 p.a.**
5. **infrastructure improvements.** Classroom furniture upgrades, painting, tiling, toilet refurbishment, playground equipment at 7 of the schools to bring all up to a similar standard. **Cost £15,000**



'catch up' 2 day workshop to bring on weaker teachers



workshop to train the 3 new school 'coach/inspectors'

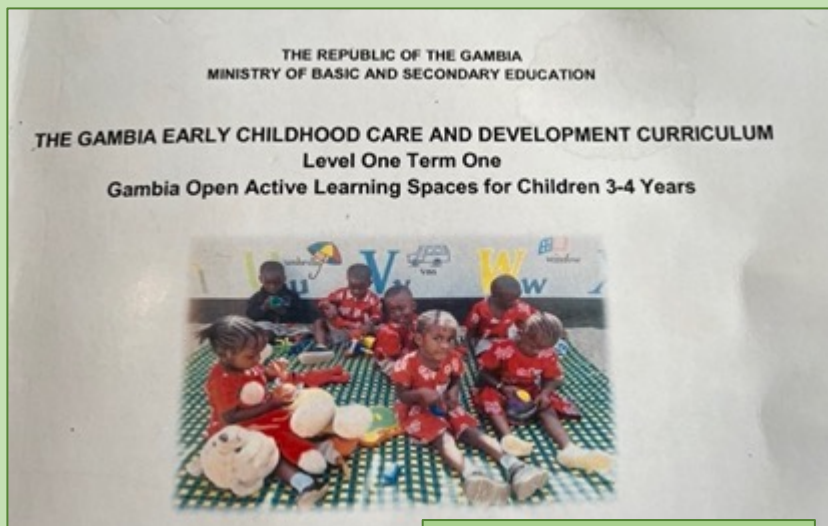


Widen the use of the MoBSE curriculum – it's appropriate and works well

- Published in 2019 by Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education (World Bank sponsored)
- Describes the lesson plan for each class (there are 4 year groups) for every school day
- Sets a topic for the week say 'Fruit & Vegetables', with the lesson plan reinforcing other topics such as numbers, colours, shapes, writing, 'the market'
- Our aim is to see its proper use in every classroom in all the 11 schools.



'the market' topic for the day



the MoBSE curriculum booklet



Resourcing our Year 1 classes (age 3-4) and making them exceptional

- The children's parents/guardians are often illiterate and 'education at home' is rare.
- Most children have lacked stimulation before coming to school and start a long way behind.

- Our Year 1 classes focus on:
 - a) 'learning through play' by equipping them with floor mats and toys.

Cost per class £1,000 for toys and £100 for floor mats.

b) training through specific workshops for Year 1 teachers

c) following the MoBSE curriculum for the Year 1 stage.

The cost of completing the equipping the schools with toys is £6,000 and mats £500.



the Year 1 class at Pirang



all the Year 1 teachers in their workshop

How your money is being spent

The cost of running the project has risen from £75k to £90k a year because:

- a) we are assisting 4 more schools*
- b) a 30% teacher pay increase (we are guided by Government rates)*
- c) a recent uptick in inflation*

How we allocate your donations:

- 55% on teacher salary 'top up' contributions. Their pay is met:
 - 30% from the fees the schools collect
 - 70% from GSS's 'top up' contributions

Note: GSS ensures that 20% of the places go to orphans, disabled and children from backgrounds of severe hardship
- 17% - teaching materials and maintenance of the infrastructure
- 10% - teacher training and development program
- 8% - pay/car for our project leader (Kemo Bah)
- 3% - food at 2 schools (*charity Rising Brook funds food at a further 3 schools*)
- 7% all other items e.g. office costs, WiFi, rent for 2 schools, Kemo Bah's 'Gambian Management Team' GSS's 'implementing partner'.



a pupil enjoying herself at the newly restored Santo Su Community Nursery School in Brufut
- restoration/equipping cost £23,000
- annual assistance £6,000

GSS's financial position is strong

Donations by following this link <https://gambiaschoolsupport.org/how-you-can-help/>

- Fund raising record (GSS's year end is 31 July):

2019-20 £57,926

2020-21 £75,196

2021-22 £117,182

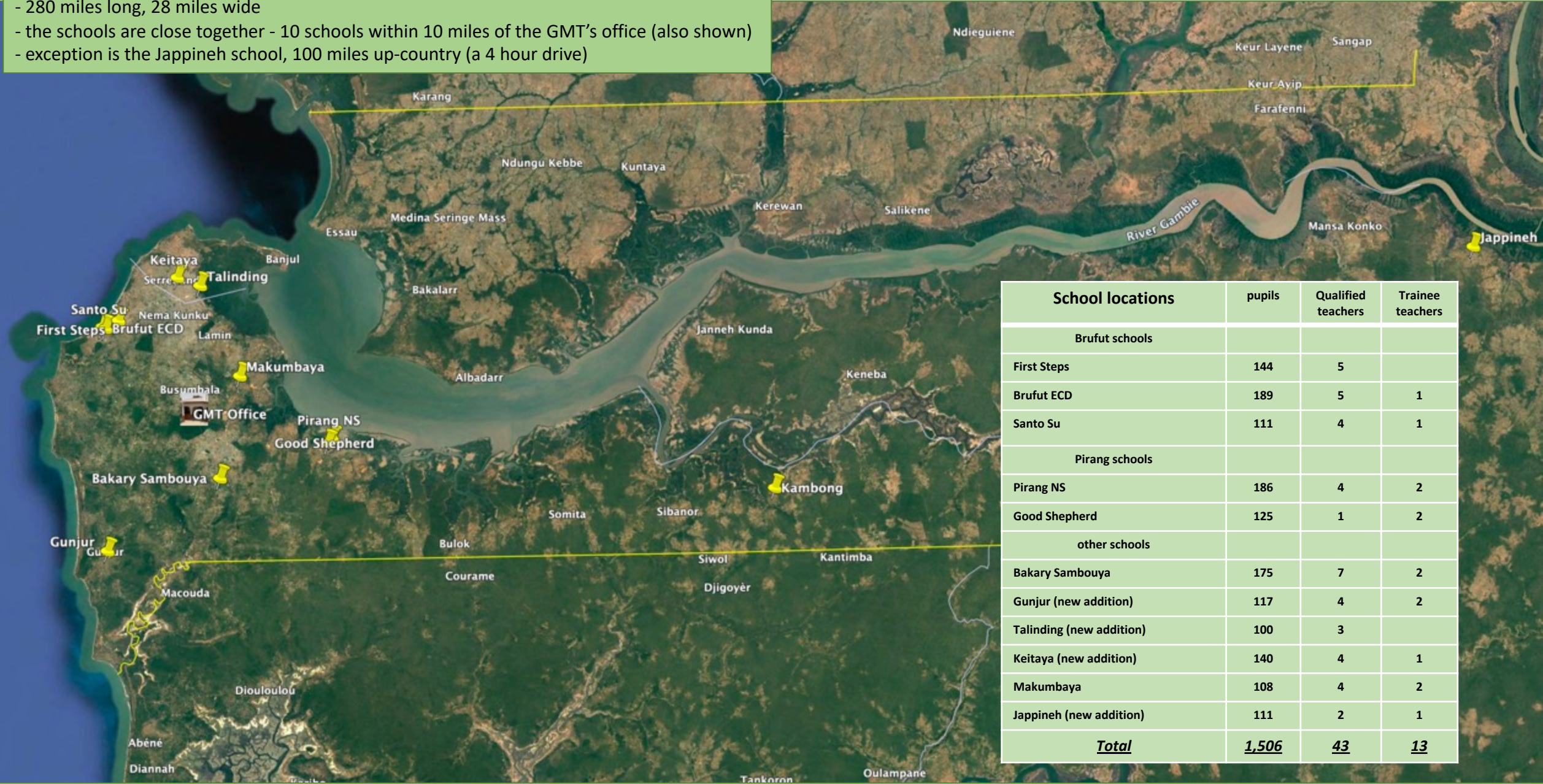
2022-23 £120,000+ (forecast)

- GSS's cash in bank £95,000 at 31 March 2023 plus equivalent of £29,000 held in The Gambia
- Every penny GSS raises is spent in The Gambia. GSS's Trustees pay all their travel and UK overheads
- Reserves policy is to retain a minimum of one year's running costs - currently £90k
- A big thank to all our donors including:
 - the 41 individual monthly donors producing a bedrock £18,000 p.a.
 - Germany based sister charity 'Help in Progress'
 - Philip King Charitable Trust
 - Peter Cundill Foundation
 - Austin Bailey Foundation
 - BPL Global Benevolent Fund
 - CBRE GI Charity Committee



GSS’s project is helped by the geography of The Gambia

- population 2.5m (concentrated along the Atlantic Coast south of the capital Banjul)
- 280 miles long, 28 miles wide
- the schools are close together - 10 schools within 10 miles of the GMT’s office (also shown)
- exception is the Jappineh school, 100 miles up-country (a 4 hour drive)



School locations	pupils	Qualified teachers	Trainee teachers
Brufut schools			
First Steps	144	5	
Brufut ECD	189	5	1
Santo Su	111	4	1
Pirang schools			
Pirang NS	186	4	2
Good Shepherd	125	1	2
other schools			
Bakary Sambouya	175	7	2
Gunjur (new addition)	117	4	2
Talinding (new addition)	100	3	
Keitaya (new addition)	140	4	1
Makumbaya	108	4	2
Jappineh (new addition)	111	2	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,506</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>13</i>

Gambia School Support

Trustees

← *the partnership* →

Gambian Management Team

GSS's implementing partner



Josh Dale-Harris

Chairman Oct 14

former Senior Director
at CBRE Global Investors



Tim Lodge

Trustee Jan 19

former CFO
Tate & Lyle

Ran their
operations in
Zambia

Nick Stevenson

Secretary Jun 17

Former Head of
Equity Research at
SG Warburg and
then Mirabaud



Ed Dale-Harris

ARB
Trustee Oct 14

Built schools in
Sierra Leone and
Senegal

**Robert
Whitcombe**

Treasurer
Oct 14

Oversight of
agricultural
project in
Ghana



Kemo Bah MSC
Managing Director

- MA's in Education & Public Administration
- 25 year teaching experience (8 as Headmaster)
- Leading posts in the Min of Ed and GTTI
- recruited to lead GMT in Dec 2018



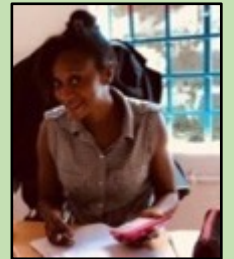
Fanding Manyang
Heads maintenance & construction



Sainey Dampha
Financial controller



Pa Gibba
General Assistant



Fatoumatta Bah
Administrative assistant



Lady Kira Dalton
*African Oyster Trust
consultant to the GMT*

- lives in The Gambia and set up the GMT in 2002
- extensive local experience and connections

Mrs Ada Bright
**Independent Examiner
of GMT's accounts
appointed by GSS**

(no photo at Ada's request)

Gambia Schools Support



GSS is a UK registered charity Charity Commission number 1176136 registered on 6 December 2017

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facebook page: www.facebook.com/sanchabacommunity/

instagram: www.instagram.com/joshgambia

GSS does not hold any assets or are party to any contracts in The Gambia. GSS works through a trusted implementing partner.

This document was prepared in March 2023 by Josh Dale-Harris

