



## **THE DEREK BAILEY FOUNDATION**

**Reg.charity 1079492**

### **A village in the Gambia. WEST AFRICA**

My involvement with Nyofelleh started in 1993 when I was visiting the Gambia as a tourist and met Famara Demba a local man passionate about his village and his country. Somehow in the space of two weeks he managed to persuade me to finance the building of a small school in his village of Nyofelleh

Nyofelleh is a traditional African village with most of the homes being built with sun dried mud bricks and dried branches from palms. There are usually two rooms, which are bedrooms at night and sitting areas during the day. One room is for the women and younger children the other for the men and older boys.

The food is cooked out side over open fires, my favourite place .I usually find myself nursing the youngest child whilst my friends, the women cook, we don't talk much as language is a problem but there is peace and a deep friendship between us, which crosses all barriers. The chickens wander close to the fire to retrieve any food dropped, with the cow and calf, a donkey and goat close by.

There are no surface roads to Nyofelleh and the tracks are deeply rutted making travelling difficult. This causes problems for the younger children during the rainy season they have been known to drown in the flash flooding so the girls were not being educated. The boy's were walking five kilometres to school.

Nyofelleh Primary School opened within a year, with 90 children on the roll, Two untrained teachers (sponsored by me) and no equipment whatsoever other than a blackboard and chalk. That was a great day.

Very quickly the Gambian Education Authorities adopted the school and the children began to follow the official Gambian curriculum whilst I continued to support them in a small way.

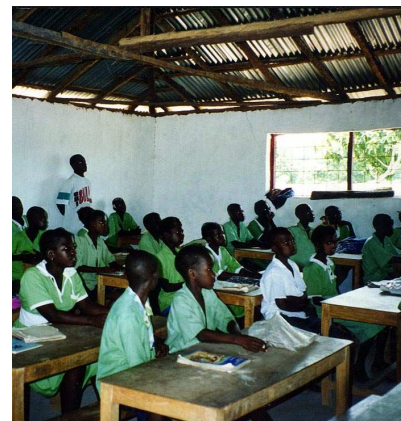
Other charities have helped

The World Bank built more classrooms.

Water Aid built a well enabling the children to grow the vegetables for their mid-day meal.

U.N I.C.E.F .are helping with books for a five-year period

Nyofelleh Primary School is now well known as a very good school with 350 laughing happy children on the roll. There are now five trained teachers and this year one of the children came first in a competition opened to all the Gambia



Some times the children come to school very sick , so we started to provide medicines so that the head mistress could give the children some relief mainly from Malaria ear and eye infections as well as cuts and bruises.

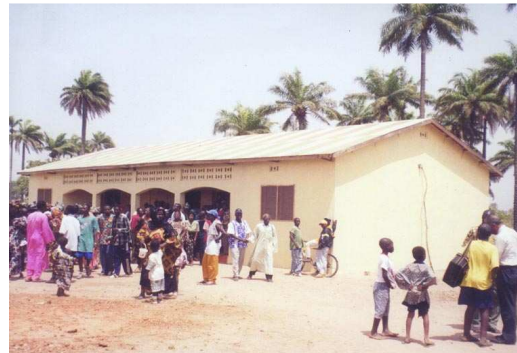
The women of Nyofelleh gathered to-gether and begged us to help them with their medical needs. They did this by play acting their problems, we soon got the message as labour is pretty much the same where ever you are, but all these women have been circumcised so their suffering is greater, so it was then I and a few close friends decided to sponsor a basic building as a Medical Centre with out quite knowing how the final stages of the project would be funded.

The Derek Bailey Foundation became a recognised charity March 2000.This gave us much advantage of being able to maximise any gifts with tax back from Gift Aid

The building work for the Medical Dispensary was completed in May 2001 with a grand ceremony, which I attended along with hundreds of local people, Government Officials and the American Ambassador. George Haley who is the brother of Alex Haley author of Roots.

It is a good building-but not yet equipped. There are separate rooms for consultation, treatment and dispensing, a four-bed ward plus shower room and toilet.

A solar lighting unit has arrived from the UK so that the Dispensary can function in the evenings. This gave the unexpected bonus of communication as now cell phones can be used.Work has started to run a pipeline to provide water from the village well.



Sarjo a man from the village has been appointed as nurse, there are a first aid kit and a starter pack of medicines ready for the rainy season when illness, particularly malaria is more prevalent.

The Gambian Government are helping by providing medical support once a month in the form of a trekking team who work for a full day giving treatment and also advising the nurse Sarjo

The Derek Bailey Foundation provides the money for two untrained teachers, the nurse, medicines and sponsorship of three young men at high school and University

The Dispensary will never be able to offer treatment to Western standards. But hundreds of adults and children in the village and surrounding areas who previously had little chance of help will have access to basic medical care.

We need now to equip the Medical Dispensary. If you would like to help please contact:

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