

The Derek Bailey Foundation News Letter 2008

Dear Reader

On behalf of the trustees of the DBF we would like to thank you all so much for the support and donations that you have given us during the past year.

The early stages of our new project have involved a lot of documentation and we have been very fortunate in having a donation of a laptop from Intelligent Innovative Business Communications, many thanks to Calum Ferguson., Stuart Taylor and S. Williams.

On receiving the lap top the GSK were able to start with all the plotting and planning such a large project needs.

Just Trust a charity in the UK gave us £500.00 to help us this year.

Our Musical Friends from Nottingham led by Dave and Val Machin have made large donations after giving a concert and a raffle .Dave and Val have composed a song on the prevention of Malaria using a mixture of English and Mandinka this is on a DVD and was the theme of their concert.

We are planning on upgrading our website early in the New Year and I am hoping we will be able to use the music perhaps in the back ground.

The GSK held their first workshop meeting Sunday 6th July at Gunjur Health Centre. This was at the start of the rainy season when the villagers need to be so aware of the dangers.

The Public were bombarded with traditional music starting at 9am this attracted over hundred participants and was chaired by the GSK Treasurer Mr. Ahmed S. B. Bojang who gave a brief description of the Malaria programme. He expressed his happiness over the large presence of women participants.

He reported that a sponsorship was secured for a young person in Gunjur by the DBF. Mr Bojang highlighted that the programme will include environmental cleaning by the villagers and sensitisation through drama and other mass communication methods including the local radio.

GSK secretary said the village would be divided into zones where volunteers will move from compound to compound to reinforce malaria messages. The project would provide bicycles, motorcycle, cutlasses, wheelbarrows, etc. for the implementation of the project.

Giving an overview of Malaria burden in the Gambia / Gunjur, the officer in charge of Gunjur Health Centre Mr Secka said Malaria affects almost every Gambian. He said every second, 10 people are infected with malaria, and that when four people die one is a malaria patient. Infants are most vulnerable and that they die very quickly so he emphasized the need for early reporting at Health Centre. Pregnant women and children under five years of age are most at risk.

An alarming report was that **22325** cases of malaria reported at the health centre in Gunjur last year in which 140 had severe malaria. He advised participants to help themselves by joining the fight against malaria.

The coordinator urged the people to make use of their bed nets because it will significantly reduce the risk of them getting malaria, he also advised the women not to rest on their veranda at night with their children but instead sleep underneath bed nets. He finally advised the youths to come together and clean the environment as a way of doing away with mosquitoes. The coordinators speech was followed by drama on malaria by a local student group.

It would be amazing if at the end of the year we can show a significant reduction in the numbers of villagers getting Malaria, because for many years now we have been made aware of how much money we have spent on drugs It has been like pouring money down a drain because we could see no end to it .

Thank you once again for all your help

Joan Bailey