

Daughters of Africa Annual Report 2023

Executive Summary

Since 2016 Daughters of Africa (DOAF) Ngo continues working to nurture self-leadership and co-create lasting development programmes for people and their communities in The Gambia. Our partnerships with Gambian and UK organisations continues to grow in our 7th year, and this too was another year full of activities with our 2023 projects. DOAF's work continues to focus on team and project development through the maintenance and growth of our partnerships.

Our CEO Mr Famara Fatty completed his MA in Business Management after successfully obtaining a scholarship through our partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE) Bristol. We would like to thank UWE for its generosity in supporting us to have a highly qualified and strong management lead. We continue to seek opportunities for other members of the team as any continuing professional development will benefit the organisation in the long run and enable us to fulfil our vision of having an NGO that is not only an example of good practice, but an NGO that continues to serve communities across The Gambia and beyond.

Our Mini Aya early years project leads continue to receive mentoring from qualified teachers in the UK which you will read about below. We hope that this will be a year of more expansion as we extend our partnerships to other Gambian organisations and countries on the Africa continent.

Pauline Bailey (Founder/Director)



The following information gives a clear reflection of our engagement throughout the year:

Digital Hub

The Digital Hub continues to be used by local students and members of the community. CodeRoots also made use of the facility throughout the year with both training in coding, graphic design, computer programming, and offering digital services such as website design and developments to small enterprises. Our Senior Technical and Education Manager, Alagie Ndow continues to oversee all matters of the digital hub with the assistance of Yerrow Jallow.



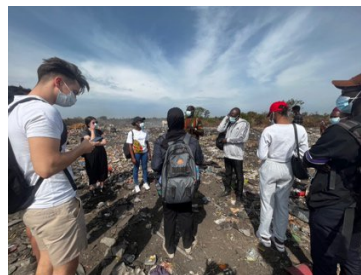
www.daughtersofafrica.info

Daigo 6 Architecture Project Activities:



Twelve architecture students from the Gambian University of Science, Engineering and Technology (USET) participated in Daigo six, which focused on Sand Mining, Transportation Systems and Waste Management. These students were at various academic levels in the university, and they were joined by six MA in Architecture students from the University of the West of England- Bristol (UWE). This also included two senior lecturers, the course lead, and the project lead. Twenty people in all participated in the Daigo 6 Architecture Project.

The project took place over six days which involved several site visits, and a final presentation event from January 9 until January 17. The trips started with Gunjur & Tambana where the students observed sand mining and coastal erosion plus an exploration of one of the local rubbish dumps where waste management was discussed.



Mr Ceesay, Head of the Disaster Management Team conducted the tour, followed by a presentation at the Governor's Conference Hall in Brikama, concluding with a discussion on planning and the team's involvement in the assistance with disasters that have occurred in the country. These range from fire breakouts, building collapse, flooding, property damage, and multiple injuries that occurred as well as the loss of life because of the above.

The team met Mr. Alieu Jallow, the head of the constructions department at USET, who provided information of the different courses that are offered in the college and the transformations into being a university that now offers a degree with each class of 50 students.

The second day was a facilities tour, sharing project focus with tutors and other architecture students not involved in the project who attend the former Gambia Technical Training College (GTTI) now USET. Both the USET and UWE students visited several school departments, and met the director, who briefly discussed the school's vision and goals with us. The pupils were

knowledgeable about what the schools are all about and got the opportunity to meet other students and faculty members from several disciplines. Also, the UWE students had excellent interactions with the Gambia students during the planning and developments of their final presentations to other students and head of departments that we met throughout the project.



On the third day of the project our meeting with the principal planning officer Mr Madiba Keita in Banjul involved a briefing with the whole team from the national town planning office, who presented information on town planning in the Gambia and the issues encountered there. He discussed the country's land size, which was 11,000 square miles, as well as the 2.4 million people who live there, and he explained the outdated plans for the Gambia that the British introduced from the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. A British national development plan with planning legislation from 1991 put comprehensive post-colonial urban planning in place. Local plans are now in existence for every local region of the nation, and 60% of the population currently live in towns. There are two offices with planning responsibilities: town planning and land planning. For years, there hasn't been a plan layout to serve as a guide for the country's development because the country has a high concentration of people in one area, which has caused issues with transportation, pollution, the loss of agricultural land and many sacred locations. It was very clear that town planning is still in its infancy across the Gambia.

On day four of the project, the group met Pa Modou one of the marketing managers at the Taff City development which held the vision/model for real-estate development. The city will involve building educational institutions at all levels, a vocational training centre, markets, residential estates with houses of different sizes, a sports and entertainment centre, banks, hotel, and shopping centre. A vast number of properties have already been sold (off plan) with more homes currently for sale while building continues.

Mustafa Nije, the owner of Taff Real Estates was also in attendance and explained the securing of 500 hectares of land 15 years ago in Sifoe, Gunjur where the site is located. This is much larger than the current capital Banjul. He has used this European model across the continent where he has built gated estates in other African countries.

The students from UWE and USET prepared their presentations in the digital HUB across the duration of the five days of exploration and presentations.

On the last day, in the conference room of USET, both sets of students presented their final research findings to tutors and architecture students of USET, all stakeholders, and the team of Daughters of Africa (DOAF). They suggested solutions on dumping management, flooding problems, traffic issues, town planning issues, and mining solution.

Daigo 7 Education Project Activities:

The Daigo Seven project concentrated on the learning journey of Gambians covering education from pre-school to senior level. There were twelve participants of youth leaders/trainee teachers. Approximately 600 children were engaged over the project, and five schools across the municipal area were visited, ranging from elementary to upper basic and senior schools.



The team included six DOAF youth leaders and six UWE students and for Daigo Seven, the team's main task was to observe, interact, and share skills with the teachers and students in each of the schools visited. The team was divided into three groups, to deliver different types of activities. The first team focused on teamwork and the value of effective communication; the second team delivered creative activities working with young people to manage waste and learn the value of recycling. The third and final team focused on the value of physical health and conducted appropriate practical activities; all these teams worked with students' ages 3 to 17 across the schools visited.

The group also visited the USET teacher training department and met with the principal, who gave an overview of the programs of the four departments, including the nurse practitioner school, agricultural practitioners' school, midwifery school, and the public health department.

The group also had a tour of the campus and the various zones for the students, plus a tour of the university library. There was also a visit to the Early Child Development Department where there is an elementary school, which is an appendix to the university grounds and used for practical teacher training for school across the country.

The group met Mr. Ebrima, the department head for agriculture. There was a tour of the gardens where agriculture students practice and where different students have developed their garden projects on various plots.



On the second day of the project, there was a visit to Faraba Banta Basic Cycle School where the group observed the teachers and children and engaged in skills-sharing with them. The second visit of the day was a trip to Faraba Cycle Basic School. The principal gave an overview of the school, including its purpose, number of grades (1-9), organisational structure, and understanding of the Gambia's educational system. He also shared some information about the project activity for that day, which divided participants into three groups to work in different classes with a variety of students in age range. In total, there were 45 students in each class. The school has 1,100 students, with more females than males. The students' ages ranged from 7 to 13, and the main goal was to observe the teachers' teaching methods before implementing various activities like friendship groups, creative workshops, and sports teams that would be maintained throughout the entire project.

On the third day, project participants went to St. Peter's Senior Secondary School, where they had a class of 65 children. On the fourth day, a visit was made to the Wellingare School, which has grades 1-3 and classrooms of up to 55 children in each. There are up to eight distinct classes in each grade.

On the fourth day, the group worked with Mini Aya. There, they met 31 youngsters, who were divided into three equal groups and ranged in age from 4 to 11 where they delivered literacy activities.

On the fifth day, the participants went to the Royal Seeds Nursery and Primary School, where they worked with 25 students in the 1-2 and 5-6 grades and was able to meet the principal.

On sixth and final day of the project was the UWE students and Gambian Youth Leader's presentation of their research and findings. 115 people attended made up of tutors, trainee teachers, students, and lecturers and the presentation were held at USET.



Gambian Girls Matter (GGM)

This initiative continues to be led by Fatoumatta Baldeh one of our key youth leaders. Due to funding issues, we have not been able to continue with the 'Visual Voices' project. However, we are hoping to continue collaborating with Dr Sireita Mullings from the University of Bedfordshire who aims to bring some of her students over to the Gambia to collaborate with the young women from GGM funding pending.

We have been successful with our funding application to the Civil Society Organization's 'Gender Promotion Initiative Project 2' managed by the United Nations Population Fund. This support will go a long way to provide opportunities for capacity building as well as enabling DOAF to focus on promoting gender transformative actions with GGM and the other women focused initiatives and partnerships that we will continue to develop. We are awaiting the UNPFA's induction to commence later in 2024.

Credit Union

The Credit Union had to be closed as unfortunately, there were not enough members or savings taking place for it to function effectively. Nevertheless, those women who were committed to enterprise development, will be involved in creative enterprise activities in the coming year through our various partnerships and collaborations.

Mini AYA Prep-School

The importance of primary education for a Gambian child cannot be overstated. It teaches literacy, facilitates access to further studies, and acts as a protective factor against child labour and child marriage. However, pupils face immense difficulties as they progress through primary education and Mini-Aya seeks to address these issues through high-quality prep-

school education for children aged 4 to 11. To our knowledge, we are the only free preschool in Abuko. We provide courses in English, maths, reading stories and the Arts taught by both Gambian and UK teachers. We also organize regular excursions to environmental, cultural and historical sites to expose pupils to more areas of learning. Our aim is to prepare students both academically and psychologically for Grade One in primary education so that they can become confident and motivated learners.

The prep-school runs every Saturday from 9-11am. Each term is for six weeks followed by a two weeks break, the date of each term will be confirmed with parents. Assignments will be given to all students at the end of each Saturday class and parents should take the responsibility for their children completing assignments that they are given. There will be an educational excursion each term and only children that have attended regularly will be invited.

Since its inception in 2019, Mini-Aya has been open for 17 terms. We have enrolled 28 students (8 of whom are girls) and the prep-school was able to produce seven graduates on October 1, 2022, and we have since enlisted the help of eight additional youngsters from the neighbourhood to help them get ready before they start their school. We have an average attendance rate of 85% for teaching weeks, and in the last term, we achieved a 100% passing rate in the end-of-term assessment. The organizing of the graduation costs DOAF on average 7,560 Dalasi for graduation expenses: refreshments, certificates and gifts for the graduates.

All of the students at Mini Aya Prep-school have performed significantly better than when they first entered primary school, and we have heard from parents who say that their children are doing much better in their main weekday school as a result of their attendance to Mini Aya on the weekends.

Mini Aya has successfully completed six educational outings to various locations. The learning included information about the habitats of various animals and how those animals behave in their habitats, the various cultural differences, and beliefs held by various tribes in the Gambia, masquerades, the building of the July 2022 arch and the formation of Banjul to name but a few.

Week 1	Opening week & introductions
Week 2	1 hour of remote class with a UK teacher, 1 hour of in-person class with a Gambian teacher
Week 3	1 hour of remote class with a UK teacher, 1 hour of in-person class with a Gambian teacher
Week 4	2 hours of in-person class with 2 Gambian teachers
Week 5	2 hours of in-person class with 2 Gambian teachers
Week	End-of-term tests, Excursion/Creative work (Art)

Brief Summary of data for This Year.

We have worked with 316 people across The Gambia:

- 193 females
 - 100 males
 - 4-11- 23
-
- 10-20 years = 115
 - 20-30 years = 74
 - 30-50 years = 127

Participant's locations from the following 16 areas:

Bundung, Lamin, Abuko, Faraba, Faraba Banta, Kunkujany, Kanifing South, New Jashwang, Latrikunda, Latrikunda German, Bakote, Tabokoto, Westfield, Sincehu Alagie, Bajulinding, and Busumbala Village.

Institutions:

University of The Gambia, Gambia College, USET, Nusrat Senior Secondary School, ABCD

Secondary School, Future Generation Senior Secondary School, Abuko Lower Basic School, Management

Development Institution, Gambia Training Technology Institute, Wellingara Clinic and Faraba Kairaba Clinic.