

Daughters of Africa Annual Report 2022

Daughters of Africa (DOAF) was incorporated in The Gambia in November 2016 working to nurture self-leadership and co-create lasting development programmes for young people and their communities. This was a year packed full of community events and increasing clarity regarding our projects. Our work focussed on team and project development. The following gives you an insight regarding our engagement with our community.

Abuko Digital Hub



Our Tech Manager, Alagie Ndow delivered IT training for one group of eight youth and another group of four adults, each group attended five workshops. This is part of our bid to spread computer knowledge across the community and to encourage people to use the hub as a community resource.

We were honoured to gain another intern from 'The Intern Group' Yanying Lin, a psychology student from Oxford University. She delivered CV and resume development workshops virtually, for 10 young people making sure they understood that well prepared documents would give them a greater chance at achieving employment. After this activity Yan stated, 'I learned how important it is to actually talk to people before making assumptions about what they can and cannot do.' She also found that some of the young people had not realised that it was important to volunteer or join community activities to build their skills. She also worked with some of our management team, helping them to develop their vision for the projects they were leading.

Digital Literacy Project

'A good session and the first time that I learned about graphic design.' Lamin



We hosted an amazing project led by Musa Bojang a computer scientist, supported by the organisation Coderoots. He organised a wide range of learning in web design, computer programming, coding and graphic design which is sought-after training in The Gambia and 35 young people were able to take part.

Daigo 4 Architecture Project

'It was really nice to exchange cultures, work as a team and share the knowledge.'

Eight architecture students from the University of West England (UWE) collaborated remotely with nine students from the Gambia Technical Training Institute to explore building material alternatives to concrete and to build their research skills through exploring the Gambia National Museum. The project delivery took place over 15 hours. The final output was two written reports that documented the learning from the project, contributed to by all participants and was made available for other students in both institutions.

Daigo 5



Eleven trainee art teachers were invited from Gambia college to take part in the project with eight art students from the University of West England (UWE), who were studying a wide range of subjects including business, graphic arts, film, and Cyber Security. The UWE students created a project called 'Tomorrow's Teachers' using their subject learning to share skills that they felt would support the soon to be art teachers. The project focussed on building self-expression, using graphics tools, understanding artist social media platforms and craft learning.

Health Forums



We were excited to continue providing community health forums led by physicians Dr Tosan Otubu and Dr Atinuke Akinmolayan, both general practitioners in London. This year Dr Appiah Afua also joined us to provide information on special needs and mental health. Our team provided them with current research on health issues in The Gambia and they then prepared and delivered on-line presentations on diabetes, mental health, and cancer for an invited audience. The sessions took place bi-monthly. Each forum lasted for two hours with plenty of time available for questions and feedback. Going forward we are looking at ways to take these forums directly to the audience in their own localities.

Gambian Girls Matter (GGM)

'I liked the use of images to portray feelings and thoughts' Mariama Fatty



Gambian Girls Matter is a youth led initiative developed by Fatoumatta Baldeh, one of our youth leaders who felt that the safety of girls needed to improve in the country. She has brought together a team of both genders who are determined to better the lives of girls and young women in the nation.

Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage, early pregnancy, school safety, public safety, and legal rights knowledge, remain their key areas of concern. The group led workshops and discussions during the year with 60 young people from Future Generation Senior Secondary School. They used the thoughts from these discussions to create a written 'Code of conduct,' which was printed and given out directly to participants.

In August the GGM team and 10 invited girls received training from Dr Sirieta Mullings from Bedfordshire University in the UK. In the workshop titled 'Visual Voices,' she showed the group how to use visual arts to engage their participants in future workshops. The aim is for this work to be taken into more schools in the coming year.

Mini AYA Prep-School

'I enjoyed drawing faces and painting the face masks'



Mini-Aya has been open for 10 terms. We have enrolled 20 students, eight of whom are girls. In October seven children were ready to graduate. Parents were invited to witness their children presenting what they had learned over the year in the prep-school. Eight new members joined from the neighbourhood brought by parents who were keen that they prepared for public school. Over this year there has been an average attendance rate of 85% and in the last term, we achieved a 100% passing rate in the end-of-term assessment. Mini Aya's development is guided by UK teachers, Evelyn Ighamre and Belinda Ajayi.

The prep school hosted 17-year-old Vessel UK leader Naila Seale during the last term. She delivered an inspiring arts project for the eager 4–11-year-olds. During five the workshops they developed their skills and understanding of drawing and painting. Arts learning is a key part of the school's delivery.

DOAF CREDIT UNION



The Daughters of Africa NGO (DOAF) Credit Union was founded to supporting local women in building their income. We maintain professional and transparent management of the union. Members elected a board of 7 executives to represent them, and all staff from DOAF invest in the credit union themselves. We operate according to the policies of National Association Of Cooperative Credit Unions In The Gambia (NACCUG). Since last year there has been a significant increase in the saving activities of the credit union members; however, the credit union has successfully recruited 52 members from the community, of which 51 are women, and 51 of these members are actively saving and have saved a total of D105,000 to date. While it was difficult to obtain the trust of the members in the beginning things have improved through regular meetings. Some women have even opened accounts for their children, which gives us an opportunity to educate the next generation. Furthermore, we have passed NACCUG's first audit, and they trained one of our team in book-keeping so we are on track! Our aim is to establish 100 active savers in 2023 and gain further training for our team.

The Demaro Initiative

DOAF have observed that many young people across fail to enter higher education without sponsorship due to financial hardship. Our response to this is The Demaro Initiative, managed by The Daughters of Africa, the initiative provides a robust system to provide financial support for young people that meet the criteria to engage in training, education, or enterprise development. In return they will volunteer in their own communities. So far, we have offered this support to three young people who are studying accounting, public administration, and computer science.

THIS YEAR

We have worked with 288 people across The Gambia:

- 193 females
- 100 males
- 4-11- 23
- 10-20 years = 70
- 20-30 years = 68
- 30-50 years = 127
- Participant's locations: Bundung, Lamin, Abuko, Faraba, Faraba Banta, Kunkujany, Kanifing South, New Jashwang, Latrikunda, Latrikunda German, Bakote, Tabokoto, Westfield, Sincehu Alagie, Bajulinding, and Busumbala Village.
- Participant's Institutions: University of The Gambia, Gambia College, 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.

This is our sixth year of growth, and we are grateful for our amazing team. The CEO, Famara Fatty was also able to travel to the UK to complete his master's in business management due to the University of West England giving him a course scholarship. We value this opportunity to have a highly educated management lead and we know it will contribute to achieving the mission of the organisation.

