



Daughters of Africa Ngo Annual Report 2025

Executive Summary

Approaching our first decade, this year represents the penultimate milestone leading up to the 10th anniversary of impact for Daughters of Africa Ngo. Before our formal registration as a charity in The Gambia, Daughters of Africa Ngo was already deeply involved in grassroots volunteering initiatives. These early efforts laid the foundation for our ongoing commitment to community engagement and sustainable development.

Our strategy has always centred around establishing open dialogues with local communities and forming robust partnerships with a range of organisations, including those focused on community, education, and culture. Collaborative community-driven programme development has always been a priority. Through this collaborative approach, the NGO has consistently identified and met the evolving needs of young people and the broader communities where we operate. This philosophy continues to underpin all DOAF's programme methodologies.

With a sustained ethos our guiding principles and objectives remain steadfast: we are committed to building strong partnerships to tackle poverty and resource challenges both in The Gambia and internationally. Even after nearly a decade, our work continues to focus on fostering self-determination, improving employment opportunities, encouraging entrepreneurship, supporting educational advancement, and promoting business development.

Key activities and milestones in 2025 mark our team's implementation of a wide range of impactful projects. Notably, these include initiatives for the UNFPA continuing our initiatives with women and two Daigo programmes—Daigo 9 and Daigo 10, delivered as usual in partnership with the University of the West of England Bristol (UWE) in January and June, respectively. In addition, a visit to Uganda provided an opportunity to collaborate with the women's group from our new potential partner, New Dawn International.

Relocation in November marked new beginnings when the organisation underwent a significant transition with the relocation of our headquarters and digital hub. Moving from Abuko, where we have been based for the past nine years, to the SOS Village in Bakotah, marking the start of a new chapter for Daughters of Africa Ngo.

Pauline Bailey

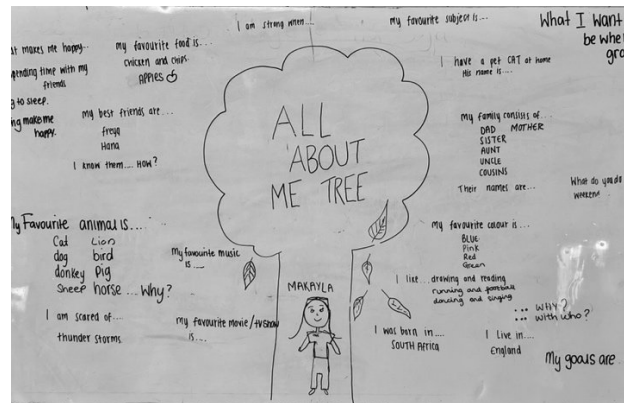
(Founder/Director)



January 2025 Daigo 9

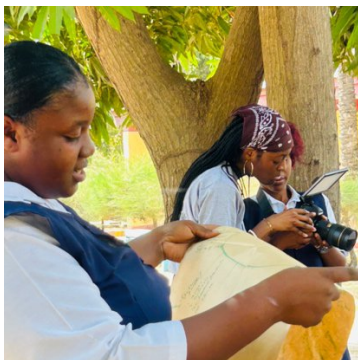
At **Mansa Coley Upper Basic and Lower Basic School** education and social science students from UWE engaged pupils in developing presentation skills which included public speaking and presentation skills using storytelling and performance/theatre based warm up exercises - Pt 1. 'Using the Big Voice' and Pt 2. 'Sharing Stories of Your Past' The group were encouraged to use warmup exercises with the voice and making sounds around the room. The group was encouraged to develop discussions about a subject and present to the whole classroom, culminating in a presentation to the classroom. In the lower basic school UWE education students worked with pupils to explore identity and communication skills.





Sustainability & Enterprise - Beauty Products

One of our partners, SOS Village, who have been supporting children and young people without parental care for 40yrs, most recently have been developing their vocational and enterprise training. This initiative provided an excellent opportunity to collaborate with them on expanding their product offerings by launching a sustainability and enterprise project focused on beauty products. The initial pilot activity involved PhD students from UWE, SOS staff, and local pupils and young women in the production of natural soaps using plants, herbs, and readily available natural ingredients. Additionally, a film was produced documenting the process, with participation from some local girls.





Architecture and Abuko Nature Park The Bird Hide



At Abuko Nature Park architecture and Art & Design students from UWE and construction students from the University of Science, Engineering and Technology (USET), worked together on improving the visitor experience at the park by building



a bird hide and renovated the signage so that visitors could find their way around the park more easily. Activities even included a designing of a logo and a screen print for the printing of T-shirts that the park could sell to generate much needed revenue.

Gambian Girls Matter & Kambeng Kaffo

Once again, support from the UNFPA Gender Promotion Initiative enabled training for the DOAF core team and workshops in Abuko, Lamin, and Willingara as part of the 'Tembendeh' campaign. The initiative focused on empowering women through entrepreneurship, collaborating with local communities, educational institutions, and government agencies. It aimed to promote gender justice and peace building, develop women's business and financial skills, raise awareness through enterprise training, and provide microfinance grants to vulnerable mothers.

Over 450 women participated, laying the foundation for expanding our Gambian Girls Matter (GGM) project. We will continue the activities with these engaged women, enhancing sustainability for GGM and the Kambeng Kaffo project. From October to December, we consolidated our engagement with women across the region, and looking forward to delivering further project activities in the coming year.





In December we also delivered two further activities with 89 local women in financial literacy and business, and sustainability project in renewable energy with solar ovens and dryers training.

Financial Literacy & Business Initiation

This training was delivered to strengthen participants' capacity in financial literacy and basic business initiation. Specifically, the training aims to equip the women with practical skills in budgeting, record keeping, savings management, and small enterprise development. By enhancing their financial decision-making and entrepreneurial confidence, the initiative sort to empower women to improve their household income, initiate viable micro-businesses, and contribute meaningfully to community economic growth.



Renewable energy – Solar oven and dryer training.

The Objective was to enhance the economic resilience and environmental sustainability of the participants, by building their practical capacity to adopt and utilize renewable energy technologies—specifically solar ovens and dryers—for income generation, reduced household energy costs, and the promotion of climate-friendly livelihoods.



With funding support from UNFPA, DOAF implemented capacity-building training on renewable energy technologies for women in the West Coast Region. The training targeted a total of 80 women each from Lamin, Abuko, and Willingara communities. The training focused specifically on the practical use of solar ovens and solar dryers as sustainable, low-cost renewable energy solutions.

The initiative was designed in response to persistent challenges faced by women in the targeted communities, including limited access to affordable energy, heavy reliance on firewood and charcoal for cooking and food processing, environmental degradation, and restricted livelihood opportunities. These challenges disproportionately affect women and girls, increasing their economic vulnerability, health risks, and time burden.



Tie Dye in Uganda

In July this year as Founder/Director I took the opportunity to visit Uganda again to deliver a practical activity, following on from the fact-finding visit in April 2024. While there I began talks with New Dawn International a sister charity very similar to DOAF but who now, as well as delivering projects in the community, have a school that include pupils that board.

I had met with some of the women from the group and other parents of disabled children who struggled to meet their challenges because of lack of income. They agreed to have a workshop in Tie Dye as they had not participated in anything like that before. I felt it would be something they could learn and then use that skill to develop a creative enterprise in tie dye products such as T-shirts, cushion covers, tablecloths etc. to generate income. The workshop was a roaring success, and the women have continued even after I returned back to the UK.



Daigo 10 Projects Overviews.

Team Londou Project

A youth-focused learning project built around identity, ambition, and joyful learning, using art, reflection, and play to help children explore their passions, cultures, and future goals. With this project the students and their Gambian counterparts delivered activities with outcomes and impact that created an environment where children could feel seen and understood through personal reflection and sharing, speak openly about ambition, barriers and receive encouragement. The pupils discovered enjoyable, self-led ways to learn a new language, learn from one another through cultural exchange (music and dialects), and they were able to build confidence through creative outputs recognition, while also imagine positive futures for themselves and their communities.



Handmade booklets became language passports.



Key Outputs Included:

- Vision boards and “About Me Trees” capturing identity, interests, and personal context
- Structured worksheets for language-learning resources (YouTube, music, apps, film/TV)
- Language Passports (handmade, decorated booklets)
- Celebration certificates reflecting individual goals and aspirations
- Personalised study plans tailored to each child’s language choice and interests
- SOS zines celebrating passions and culture through collage and stamps
- “Dream Compound” clay models + storytelling presentations



Team Ham Ham - Leh Project

This project was developed in collaboration with young women and youth groups at SOS Village site to address menstrual health challenges through education, sustainable product development, and enterprise skills.

The programme combined open discussion, design feedback, practical production, and business education to ensure that reusable sanitary pads were not only environmentally sustainable but also culturally appropriate, comfortable, and aligned with the real needs of users.

Alongside health education, students were supported to develop skills in branding, marketing, and event planning, preparing them to promote their products confidently and responsibly within their community.



Team Vote

This project focused on empowering young people at SOS Village through political education, leadership development, and creative civic participation. Through this civic engagement and youth leadership project, the participants were engaged to understand democracy, develop leadership skills, and engage confidently in civic life. In discussions on governance, voting systems, media influence, and corruption, students explored Gambian perspectives on accountability and participation.

Working in teams, participants created political parties, wrote manifestos, designed flags, and delivered speeches, culminating in a mock election and rally. The programme strengthened confidence, critical thinking, ethical awareness, and a sense of responsibility toward their communities.

Language, Creativity & Identity Project

This project supported children in exploring their identity, passions, and learning styles through creative activities and language learning. Using reflection tools such as vision boards and “About Me” writing, students shared their interests and aspirations, guiding personalised learning support. Media-based resources encouraged enjoyable, self-directed study and the creative outputs included language passports, zines, and clay “dream compounds,” alongside certificates and study plans celebrating progress.



The programme strengthened confidence, cultural exchange, peer learning, and motivation for lifelong learning.



We are seeking funds to support creative learning projects with Mini IYA, local children and schools. Our goal is to enhance our education work and develop environmental and sustainability initiatives to raise awareness about climate change. In summary, it has been another productive year for DOAF and its partnership projects. In the coming year, we anticipate further collaborations with SOS Village in Gambia, focusing on vocational training for young women aiming to explore new opportunities to improve their skills in leadership, business, community activism, and creative entrepreneurship. We intent to explore further the engagement of young people in developing digital skills that will enhance their prospects in further study or employment.

This was a very busy year, as we continue to meet expectations even though we are a very small team. More than ever, it is crucial that we secure core funding to build capacity, forge new partnerships locally, nationally and internationally to continue the growth of DOAF into and beyond the next decade. 2026 will be a retrospective on our achievements so far, with so little. It will be a celebration of the commitment of our communities and partners and the team who helped to make it possible.

Pauline Bailey.
Founder/Director
Daughters Of Africa International Ngo