



STELLA'S SCHOOL SCHEME



Fighting poverty through education

Charity no 1130256



NEWSLETTER 2021

Helping one child will not change the world, but surely for that one child, the world will change forever.

The last two years have been a time of hardship and change for so many people all over the world, especially for those in education as their progress has been disrupted so much. It is as true in The Gambia as anywhere else but we are doing our utmost to help where we can.

I have been blessed to have been part of SSS long enough to see the fruits of what we have done. It has not all been plain sailing and we have had challenges along the way with students dropping out or getting married and one tragically dying, but it has been wonderful to see the successes and to watch those students go from strength to strength.

In these difficult times it is very easy for us to focus on ourselves and how things are affecting us. It sometimes helps to try and see how it is affecting others. We are being told not to travel and that holidays abroad are an unnecessary luxury which they may be, but in The Gambia, where a large portion of the population relies on tourism, people are starving and education takes second place when you are struggling to feed your family. Hungry children are becoming involved in criminal activities to find food for their families.

Each one of you who supports us is having a very positive impact on someone else's life. You are giving someone you have not met a positive chance at life and it is interesting to see that many of them pay it forward by helping others.

We need your help more than ever before, more children and young people require assistance with their education in these troubled times, so please continue to support us, and share this letter with friends who may be interested in giving support or consider fundraising for us. A little money goes a very long way when many of us are contributing towards a goal. When the Covid coast is clear come and visit us and help the Gambian economy at the same time.

The overheads of this charity are minimal, I work in a voluntary capacity, Bea, my assistant, gives me part time administrative assistance and Fatou takes a tiny salary of £44 per month.

Please consider giving one of our Gift Certificates for Christmas or birthdays and making a very positive difference to a young life in 2022.

We send you our very best wishes for the festive season and we hope the New Year will be a better one for the whole world.

Heather, Fatou and Bea



Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5TH

Tel: 01306 627568 email: info@sssgambia.co.uk

The Triplets

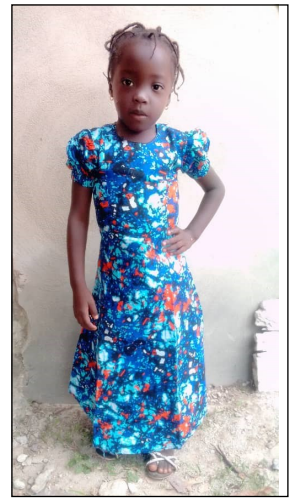
The triplets were actually quadruplets. They are called Maimuna, Fatoumata and Sarjo. There was one other sibling Sohna, but sadly she passed away. They were born prematurely in the 21st January 2017 and they come from a village called Busumbala. The country was in chaos at the time as the dictator President had just been voted out in the elections and was being deported that day, so the first days of their lives were precarious. Their mother was unable to feed them all and their diet had to be supplemented with powdered milk which is very expensive for a family with an unexpected increase in numbers! Their mother was unable to work as the triplets took up all of her time so it has been a difficult time for the family. They are now ready for school and there are 3x uniforms, books, school bags and lunches to budget for so their father sought the help of Fatou for their education and we have agreed to help them. It will cost about £110 per child per year. The cost of living is rising in The Gambia as well as other places so if you could help in any way, we would be very grateful.



Maimuna



Sarjo



Fatoumata

Omar Sanneh

One day a young lad came to visit The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust with his dog who was unwell. He seemed to be a real animal lover and after the initial visit with his dog he came more and more frequently to help out. He demonstrated a real empathy for animals and had incredible powers of observation and soon spent every waking hour when he was not at school with us. Our volunteers noticed after some months that he became very quiet and sad. When they spoke to him, he broke down. Due to a change in his family circumstances his school fees were no longer being paid and he had to change schools. During his time with us he had set his heart on being a vet and he suddenly saw all his hopes and plans for the future slipping away. Megan, one of the GHDT volunteers approached me about it as she was very concerned for him and it has been arranged that the rest of his school education will be sponsored by SSS. We have a happy young man back again and he is doing very well at his new school.



Fanta Jallow

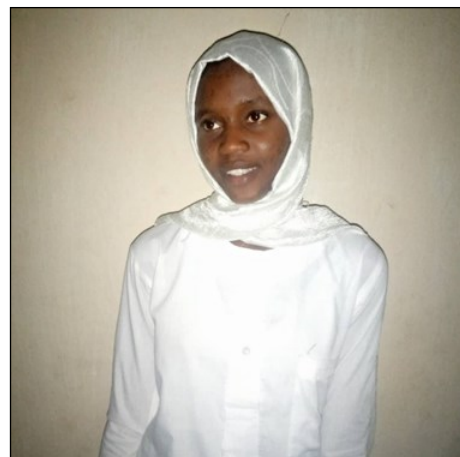
My name is Fanta s Jallow and I am a beneficiary form your amazing sponsorship program. I am studying science and currently in grade eleven at Masroor Senior Secondary School.

I write to thank you for sponsoring my education. You have contributed immensely towards my education by paying my tuition fees and providing the necessary learning materials which has impacted positively in my educational career and has helped me attain excellent results yearly.

I am indeed grateful to my sponsors (SSS) for your support and contributions towards my education.

I look forward to continued support in my future endeavours.

Fanta is an excellent pupil and was in the top ten pupils in the whole country last year.



Lamin Touba Nursery School

We continue to support the salaries of the staff at this school which seems to be going from strength to strength with is pupil numbers. Mr. Landing Manka recently wrote us a charming letter of thanks, saying that thanks to our contribution to the salaries, the staff had also been able to attend college. He said that previously it had been a constant worry each month and he sent his very sincere thanks to our supporters for their help. I think you will see from the photos that is has grown into a very well organised little school and the children look so smart in their uniforms.



Muhammed Mbye

Hi,
My name is Muhammed Mbye.
I am 13 years old and I'm in grade 7. I have been a beneficiary of SSS since my nursery school up to the present time.
In future I would love to be a Vet and with your support I will do my very best to achieve my goal.
Thank you so much for making me proud.



THANK YOU!

We are very grateful to Jonathan and Nicky Richards and their daughter Dawn for holding a fundraiser for us. It was shortly after lock down and was held outside on a gorgeous summer evening. Not only was it lovely to see people again but they had gone to great trouble to make it a very special evening. Nicky was selling her beautiful pottery in exchange for donations to SSS and an astounding £1073 was raised for us. In addition to this they are coming out to see us and hopefully meet some of the pupils who have been sponsored over the years and hopefully see the benefits their sponsorship has brought to so many.

Thank you so much to you all!



Stella Isha Mbye

My name is Stella Isha Mbye I am a recipient of the SSS
I am really grateful for giving me the opportunity to get educated and this support motivates me to do my very best in school.
Thank you for sponsoring my education. With the support I promise to work hard to fulfil my dreams of one day becoming a poet and a lawyer to be able to fight for human and animal rights and hopefully study the behaviour and emotional well being of animals due being mistreated in the community . Thank you SSS



News of our Students....

Bubacarr Jobarteh is doing his final semester of an MSc in Agronomy at the University of The Gambia. He is finalising his research proposal with his supervisors.

Mohamed Dumbuaya is doing a BSc Agricultural Science and Environmental science at the University of The Gambia. He has been voted President of the Animal Welfare Gambia organisation and is an extremely active President, promoting the establishment of Animal Welfare Clubs in schools throughout the country. He has also been voted as Animal Welfare Advocate of 2021 by his peers which is indeed an honour.

Musa Jallow qualified as a doctor and after working in The Gambia won a scholarship to study Public Health in the UK. He has since had a paper published and is now doing his Masters in Belgium.

Sukai Jallow studied economics at the University of The Gambia and has won a scholarship to do her Masters in Italy where she works part-time to support herself.

Muhammed Baldeh is presently working at the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust as a senior paravet. He will be leaving us in January to go to University to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science.

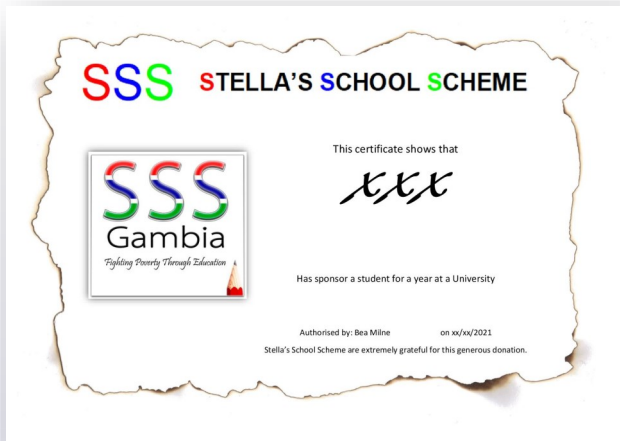
Ebrima Ndow On completion of his studies he secured a contract job as a Displacement Tracking Officer with the UN organisation for migration. He has also been working within his community and was part of a massive tree planting initiative. He is also concerned with waste management within his community and is part of a movement to clean up his home town of Farafenni.

These are just a few of our present and past pupils and their achievements, we are so very proud of each and every one of them and what they have achieved against all odds.

We could achieve so much more with additional funding, so if you could share this newsletter or have a fundraiser for us, we would be very grateful.

Thank you so much for your kind support, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and positive New Year.

GIVE A GIFT OF EDUCATION



The following certificates can also be purchased as a gift to someone who has everything and needs nothing this Christmas.

To order please email info@sssgambia.co.uk

with your details ,details of the recipient if purchased as a gift. Payment can be made by card through

<https://www.justgiving.com/stellasschoolscheme>

or directly into bank account - details will be supplied by email.

Did you know....?

£5 can buy a set of books for child in early education

£10 can buy sports equipment such as footballs, nets

£30 can pay a teachers salary for a month

£50 can buy selection of books for a school library

£100 can send a child to school for a year

£550 can send student to College for a year

£1200 can send a student to University for a year



SSS is currently desperately looking for laptops for our college and university students to help them with their studies....



IF YOU HAVE A LAPTOP THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED, WHY NOT DONATE IT TO STELLA'S SCHOOL SCHEME?



Laptop must be

- ***In fully working condition,***
- ***No cracks on screen***
- ***Windows 7 or above***
- ***Good battery life***
- ***Including the charger***



Please post to:

SSS, Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5TH

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Sambel Kunda Clinic Trust

Community Healthcare in the heart of The Gambia

Charity no 1148681



NEWSLETTER 2021

New Update

The clinic continues to be very well run by nurse Ceesay who retired from Government service as a midwife. We continue to work closely with the Gambian Health services and regular ante natal and post natal clinics are held.

The Government recently donated an ambulance to the area which relieves the pressure on the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust drivers and vehicles. Progress is being made now, the roads are improving and the people in the rural communities not only have access to this primary care clinic, but it is generally easier to reach the main centres if patients are referred.

We are trying to make the clinic as sustainable as possible and drugs are paid for from the small fees made by patients for their treatments. We still cover the salaries and maintenance costs out of your donations and will need to do so for the foreseeable future so we would really appreciate any support that you can give us, particularly as a regular gift to enable us to budget to provide maintenance and to improve our facilities.

This little clinic has been, and continues to be, a life line in this remote little corner of The Gambia and community health has improved and lives have been saved thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

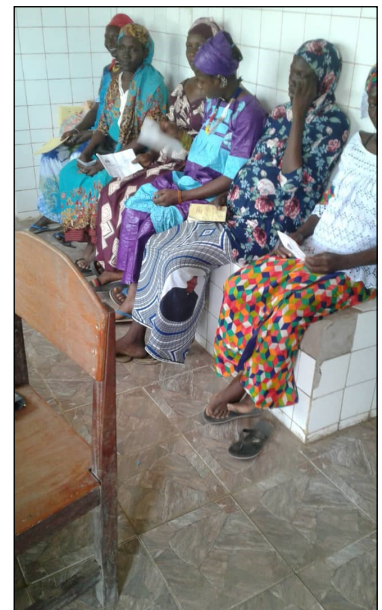
THANK YOU!



On reproductive and child clinic day. This is done once a month where all children under five years and pregnant women are weighed and assess.



Nurse Ceesay taking a pregnant woman's blood pressure for her to do further assessment and possible treatment.



Pregnant ladies waiting to be assessed at the ante natal clinic.

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