

## **GAMBIAN DEAF CHILDREN SUPPORT PROJECT (GDCSP)**

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13<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been given your details by Mr Mohammed Akhtar from St Albans who runs a charity (KADECT) supporting deaf children in Gambia and also Kashmir. We in GDCSP have been working closely with KADECT over the last couple of years to develop education services for deaf children in the more distant inland Upper River Region of Gambia (URR), in a town called Basse.

As I am sure you are aware, Gambia is a very poor country and, in the past, there has been no educational provision of any kind for deaf children in the inland areas. Many deaf children away from the urban area were never diagnosed, nor did they or their families receive any form of support. The children simply didn't go to school and were kept at home doing chores for the family etc. Most were unable to earn a living or participate in normal daily life and society, and consequently lived in isolation and poverty.

Then in 2012 through the combined efforts of KADECT and my own charity, we were able to persuade the authorities, as an experiment, to open a special class or unit for deaf children attached to a local primary school, while we provided the initial funding to get the Unit started. This was the first educational unit for deaf children that had ever been opened in Gambia and so was a completely new venture for the country.

An experienced teacher of the deaf was seconded from the only school for the deaf in Gambia (200 miles away) and the first 12 deaf children were enrolled in September 2012. The results since then have been remarkable. The deaf children were hungry for learning and, thanks to the skilled teaching and the enthusiastic support of the mainstream school staff, the deaf children have done outstandingly well in the school exams, one of them even coming first overall. Quite remarkable, and very exciting!

These first pupils are now continuing to progress through the mainstream school system and, if they continue to make similar progress in future, there is every

prospect that they will pass further exams and gain sufficient literacy, numeracy and vocational skills to enable them to be employed and to take a full part in society, pulling themselves out of the current cycle of poverty, unemployment and underachievement. The future is suddenly much brighter for them and their families!

This significant success has, predictably, led to an increase in pupil numbers and as a result, in September this year, a second class has been opened. Even this is not enough however and further expansion is needed as more deaf children have been discovered in the area. Having seen what can be achieved, they are keen to start school themselves.

The problem - and this is why I am contacting you - is that there is not enough room in the current primary school building for any more pupils. They urgently need some extra classrooms to enable the Unit to expand and I am hoping your charity may be able to help.

What is needed is a building to house three classrooms and a small office for the specialist teacher. Pleasingly there is space on the school campus to build an additional classroom block, all that is needed is funding to meet the costs of materials and construction.

By our standards this can be done comparatively cheaply and I have been able to obtain plans for the proposed building and also an estimate of the actual costs. These amount to 774,410 DL (Dalasi). The exchange rate varies almost daily but is usually in the region of 50DL/£1, meaning that the complete building could be constructed for about £15,500. I am enclosing these plans and estimates for your consideration.

I am wondering if your charity may be able and willing to assist with the funding for this worthwhile project? I do hope so and, if it would be helpful, I would be very willing to meet with your representatives, together with Mr Akhtar, to give you further details and also show you photos of the deaf children at work in the Basse Unit.

Please will you let me know if this project would meet your criteria for support and also let me know if you would need any further details before coming to a decision.

Thank you for reading this letter and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

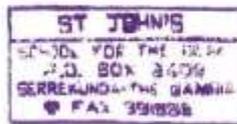
Dr Malcolm Garner  
Chairman, Gambian Deaf Children Support Project (GDCSP)

c.c. Mr Mohammed Akhtar, Chairman KADECT

**BILL OF QUANTITIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE CLASSROOM BLOCK FOR ST. JOHN'S SCHOL FOR THE DEAF - ST. JOSEPH'S LOWER BASIC SCHOOL UNIT CLASS - BASSE THE GAMBIA**

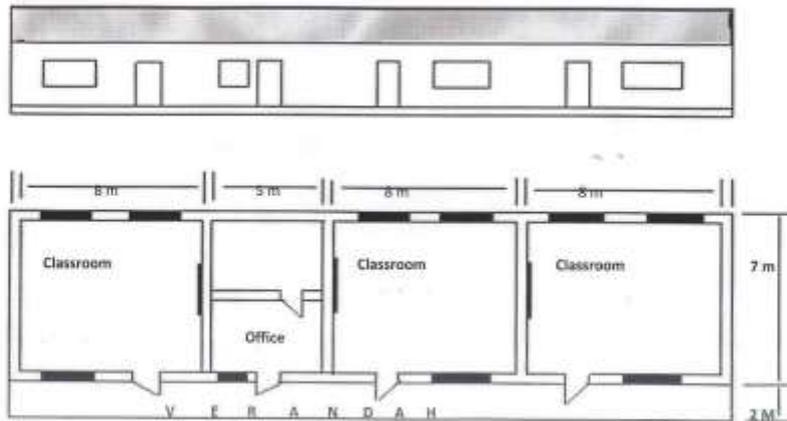
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST	REMARKS
1	CEMENT BLOCKS	4000	D 3.00	D 12,000.00	
2	SAND	20 TRIPS	D2,700.00	D 54,000.00	
3	STONES	10 TRIPS	D3,700.00	D 37,000.00	
4	CEMENT	500 BAGS	D 225.00	D 112,500.00	
5	CORRUGATES .20mm	20 PACKETS	D5,500.00	D 110,000.00	
6	BLDG. RODS 10mm	60 PIECES	D 240.00	D 14,000.00	
7	BLDG. RODS 6mm	30 PIECES	D 180.00	D 5,400.00	
8	BINDING WIRE	4 ROLL	D 150.00	D 600.00	
9	TRUSSES STEEL	18 PIECES	D6,000.00	D 108,000.00	
10	NAILS - CAPPED	2 C'tons	D 1,500	D 3,000.00	
11	NAILS - ASSORTED	30 KGS.	D 45.00	D 1,350.00	
12	PURINS - TIMBER	100 PIECES	D 260.00	D 26,000.00	
13	DOORS (steel)	4 SINGLE	D2,500.00	D 10,000.00	
14	WINDOWS (steel)	10	D1,800.00	D 18,000.00	
15	WHITE LIME	2 BUCKETS	D 550.00	D 1,100.00	
16	WATER PAINT	2 BUCKETS	D 600.00	D 1,200.00	
17	TRANSPORTATION			D 15,000.00	
18	WORKMANSHIP			D 195,260.00	
19	DESIGN & SUPERVISION			D 40,000.00	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>D774,410.00</b>	

SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND TEN DALASIS

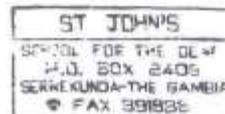


27/09/13  
*Principal*  
 Daniel J. Mandy  
 Principal

**PROPOSED THREE CLASSROOM FOR ST. JOHN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF -  
 EXTENSION ST. JOSEPH'S LOWER BASIC SCHOOL - BASSE**



PLAN



*Principal*  
 Daniel J. Mandy  
 Principal  
 23/10/13