

# The Gambia School Project

## ***A little bit about us:***

The Gambia School Project is a local charity based in Donegal Town, Co. Donegal. We raise funds to build and equip schools in The Gambia. We also run a sponsorship programme to give children of all ages the chance to receive an education.

We work in co-ordination with *Vrienden Van Gambia*, a Dutch Charity that is based in The Gambia, who oversees all our projects at ground level. We would like to thank Marloes Kok, the co-ordinator of *Vrienden Van Gambia* for all the hard work she has done for us.



***A classroom in The Gambia-2003***

## ***Background:***

In 2004, Alec Reid and Robert Dunlevy from Donegal Town decided to do a fundraiser for schools in The Gambia after Robert had seen the poverty that existed there. A lot of schools were outdoors and were hugely over crowded, with very few books or basic teaching equipment such as pens and paper. Children were often taught to write using a stick in the mud, there were no tables or chairs, and little general teaching equipment.

Alec asked some Gaisce students from the Abbey Vocational School at the time if they would like to help. Evan McGarrigle, Stacey McGinty and Nicola Stewart volunteered to help, and in January 2005 a group visited The Gambia.

After this trip, fundraising continued, and the Project has been expanding ever since. A sponsorship programme was established in 2008, sponsoring 15 children and young people to go to school each year.

In January 2010, a number of teachers from the Abbey Vocational School along with Alec Reid and Nicola Stewart visited The Gambia - Michelle Harvey, Donna Patton, Marie O'Brien and Sean Mc Dermott.

### ***Fundraising with the Abbey Vocational School:***

The students and teachers of the Abbey Vocational School have played an important role in the success of the Gambia School Project. They have organised events such as raffles, ceili's, Christmas Carolling, gig nights and many other events throughout the years.



***Pictures from a walking trip in aid of the Gambia School Project***

### ***IRI Du Nursery School:***

IRI-DU Nursery School is one of the primary projects started by the Gambia School Project. In co-ordination with the Dutch Charity with whom we work with *Vriendan Van Gambia* (Friends of Gambia), we built and established IRI-DU.

Over recent years we have been successful in stepping back from the project, and a teacher who first started as a teacher there in 2005 is now successfully running the school. We provide some support to them as needed, particularly for maintenance and upkeep of the school, as well as for teacher training. We fund many other projects and continue to cover school supplies and even food in circumstances where families may not be able to afford it.



***IRI-DU Classroom***



***Robert at IRI-DU Nursery 2005***



*IRI-DU Toilets and Swings*



*The two IRI-DU teachers with Nicola*

**IRI DU today:**



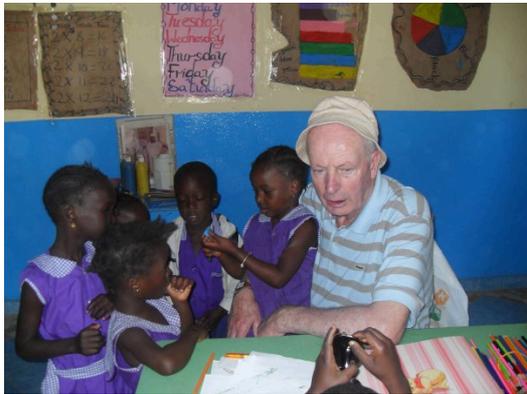
*Patricia from Donegal on a visit to IRI DU in 2016*



***Visit with AVS teachers:***



***Painting at Bommel Nursery***



*Alec with kids from IRI-DU*



***School Lunch:***

*Rice with some vegetables and potatoes*

We will continue to support schools in the Gambia, thank you to all who have supported us so far, particularly the continued efforts of the dedicated students and teachers in the Abbey Vocational School.

If you are interested in supporting us in any way or would like more information please get in touch!

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