



Science Education in Rural Gambia

SCOPE OF PROJECT

To build a three (3) classroom science lab in the Village of Wassu, in the Niani District on the North Bank of the Gambia River



HISTORY OF PROJECT

In February 2019, four members of the Edmonds Rotary Club traveled to The Gambia thanks to a generous grant from District 5030. Lamin Manneh, Maggie Peterson, Beth Kealy and Randy Hutchins, along with Christian Jorgensen of the Rotary Club of Brusubi, visited nine school sites over a period of three days.

Prior to these visits, the team met with key government officials in Banjul, including the Permanent Secretary, the Regional Education Officer and the local governor. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Rotary Club of Edmonds and the Ministry of Basic Education, thereby guaranteeing government support for this project.



BACKGROUND OF SCIENCE EDUCATION IN THE GAMBIA

The Constitution mandates free and compulsory primary education in Gambia, but a lack of resources and education infrastructure has made implementation difficult. In 1988, the government of Gambia began a major education initiative which included a 15-year plan that has emphasized increasing gross enrollment rates, lowering school entry age from 8 to 7, developing basic education curricula and improving teacher training. Primary education is paid for by the government, but fees are required for secondary education. In rural Gambia, this places great burden on impoverished people.

But the primary issue for higher education is the lack of materials, particularly in the area of the "pure" sciences.

WHAT ARE "PURE" SCIENCES?

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Calculus
- Physics
- Agricultural Science

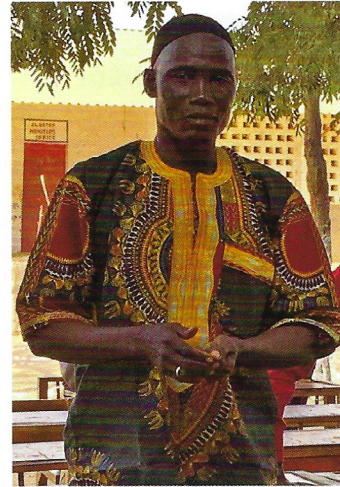
Students must pass the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in order to graduate from high school and continue on to higher education. In Gambia, high school students specialize in three main study areas: science, business and art.

GENERAL CONSTRAINTS FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION IN HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION:

Lack of:

- Science labs in schools
- Student transportation
- Incentives, including housing, for teachers
- Private tutoring
- Qualified teachers and proper training
- Amenities such as electricity and running water
- Security (i.e. keep items from being stolen)

NIANI SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECT SITE



Lamin Juwara, Principal



ROTARY CLUB OF BRUSUBI - SERREKUNDA

The Rotary Club of Edmonds is partnering with the Rotary Club of Brusubi, which will be overseeing this project in Gambia.

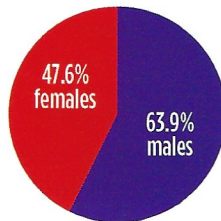




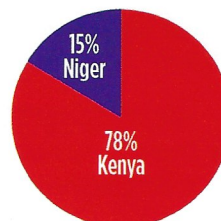
WHY NIANI?

- Passionate administration/principal
- Bright committed teachers, including three women
- Well tended campus
- Strong community support
- Serves 12 feeder schools
- Space to expand
- High student accomplishment rate
- Has computer lab

LITERACY RATE IN GAMBIA



LITERACY RATE IN KENYA AND NIGER



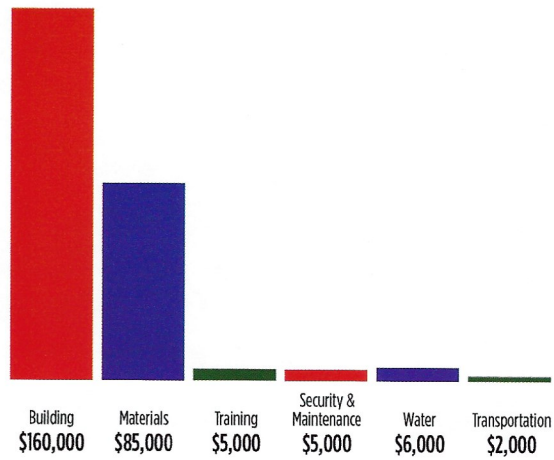
LITERACY RATE IN THE UNITED STATES



*www.utg.edu.gm/index



COST PROJECTIONS



SUSTAINABILITY

The Rotary Club of Edmonds intends that this project will be a permanent part of the school, serving students from the Central River Region for decades to come.

We will ensure that science teachers and school administrators are trained on how to use and maintain the science labs.

We will fund a dedicated staff person who will clean, maintain and keep the lab in top working order.

Our sustainability plan will be in place for five years at which time, we will transition the project to the Ministry of Education and the people of Niani.

A project coordinator from the local community will be identified.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Strong School Management Committee (SCM)
- Willing to provide necessary unskilled labor required for project.
- Will work with all stakeholders to make sure that the project is fully implemented as designed.
- Will ensure participation at local community level, including all feeder school communities.



THE ASK

We are looking for partners in this exciting and important project.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Become a partner club with a minimum \$1,000 donation.
- Any partner over \$10,000 will enjoy naming rights to a classroom.
- Private donations must be used for the construction of the building.



Rotary
Club of Edmonds



For more information, or to
schedule a presentation, please contact:

Maggie Peterson

International Service Co-Chair
Mag2Teach@comcast.net
425-308-4013

Lamin Manneh

International Service Chair
laminm@johnlscott.com
206-834-5290