

ARDINGLY OLD JESHWANG ASSOCIATION: A.O.J.A

Chairman's Annual Report 2018-2019

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year ended 30th June 2019

AOJA was formed in 1993. Its aim is to provide affordable healthcare to the community of Old Jeshwang, an urban village in The Gambia, of some 20,000 people. To this end, in 2000, we completed and equipped a modern health centre, which we now staff. Although unable to fully support it financially the Gambian government accepts our facility as an integral part of its health care system and is the permanent home of the Area Public Health Officer, monitoring its daily operation, including immunisation and blood donation programmes.

The Charity registration number is 1024627 and is governed by its Constitution dated 6th August 1993.

Registered Office: Avins Bridge Cottage, College Rd, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6SH

The officers are:

Mr Stephen Doerr: Chairman

Mr Lynn Wilson: Vice Chairman/Secretary

Mrs Peggy Guggenheim: Treasurer

Mrs Barbara Monk : Assist. Treasurer.

The trustees are: Stephen Doerr, Lynn Wilson, Barbara Monk and Mr David Ogilvie.

The charity's bankers are Barclays where three of the four officers are signatories.

Finance

The detailed results of the year are set out in the annexed Receipts and Payments Account. Cash funds, without charge, remain fairly constant at £21,759, reflecting a more predictable financial year. This outcome incorporated the expected costs of modifying the new generator, absorbing increased fuel prices and continuing the refurbishment programme. The sustainability programme by which the Health Centre is now able to give more support to staff salaries using income from the Pathology Lab and Dental Surgery, has allowed us to better plan and fund renewal and development. The 'six month running cost buffer' has been retained, in line with good financial governance.

Sponsorship

The sponsorship scheme continues to be our main source of regular income with our sponsor pool constant at about 130 supporters, giving a monthly income of around £2000, which underpins the running costs of the Health Centre including salaries, refurbishment and development.

Although overall income remains at a fairly constant level the pattern of support is inevitably changing as some groups are unable to maintain previous levels. However, any shortfall has been made up by building on the success of events such as the annual BBQ which now attracts regular interest from local commercial groups and entrepreneurs who are reassured by the directness of our funding chain to The Gambia, which allows little scope for loss or wastage.

The thoughtful loyalty of our individual sponsors, who periodically increase their level of subscription, has enabled us to retain a doctor's presence, with a paediatric clinic in the morning and a pilot G.P. surgery in the afternoon. In addition, income from the Health Centre's dentist and expanded Pathology Lab continues to enable the clinic's management committee to fund its own staffing demands and initiatives.

Other separate fund-raising in the UK continues to support new initiatives and essential refurbishment. This has included representation at local events, talks to community groups and individual family initiatives. The Association also now benefits from the donation of 'unwanted items', including 'house clearance', the value for which is realised with the support of a local auction house. We are particularly indebted to our group of corporate sponsors; St. Peter's Church Ardingly, St. Nicholas Church Brighton, Worth School, Bidborough Primary School and Redcoat Express Gatwick. During the year a local optician started to donate his stock of redundant spectacles which we are able to pass on to the main hospital in Banjul. Our website, aoja.org, continues to develop, making it easier to give more regular news updates and helped facilitate the national data handling protection initiative, GDPR.

Clinic Activities

The Health Centre well serves the community, with the infant welfare clinics thriving. Deliveries at the clinic continue to average at around 25 per month, close to the expected level for our catchment area. Approximately two-thirds of the women attending our anti-natal clinics deliver their babies at the Centre. We continue to strive to maintain compassionate care within clean surroundings.

Our annual visit this year focussed on re-energising our partnership with the new government and health officials. A positive meeting with the new Minister for Health resulted in a promise to visit OJHC early on to see what extra support he could give.

Our Centre is now regularly inspected, in line with the other community health centres, and a discussion with The Deputy Director for the local health authority was reassuring in his review.

Cherno Yaddi, our deputy administrator, is now fully engaged with much of the Centre's day-to-day management leaving Abdoulie our administrator to focus on policy and development. Our midwifery team continues to function well under the leadership of Isatou who is well supported by her trainees and nurses. However, it is clear that under the new government, the rise in salaries of all health workers in The Gambia, is putting pressure on our own staff recruitment. Dr. Gaye our GP has settled in well and remains very popular with his patients at his afternoon surgeries but, after 2 years, our morning paediatric specialist doctor has moved on and we now have a clearer picture of the funding issues involved for his replacement.

Our unpaid volunteers work as nursing/bedside assistants, before going on to nurse training courses, after which they return to OJHC for a salaried position. During the year Sohna Bah, one of our long serving volunteers, filled a newly created paid position as a 'clerical auxiliary' freeing up some of our midwives precious time. Sohna, who had come to us straight from school and had struggled with basic nurse training, was clearly thrilled with her new salaried position.

Apart from general maintenance Kabba is now also responsible for the ambulance and vegetable garden, doing much to encourage Momodu to be more active in his caretaking duties!

The refurbished Bantaba meeting place continues to be the busy hub where much of our community health work is delivered, including Immunisation, Blood donation, Disease Surveillance apart from the Community Health clinics.

The central area, with chairs, tables and benches is still well used as a teaching space for community health talks and Path Lab training sessions.

The 'feeding' programme, initiated to meet any acute nutritional needs, continues as does the Global Health Fund initiative using our Health Centre for the counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS.

Our dental surgery remains very popular! Following our appeal last year the dental team were very pleased to receive from a refurbished dental practise in Aylesbury two 'almost new' dental chairs, which replaced the very tatty invalid wheelchairs donated to the centre some 20 years ago!

The ambulance continues to provide key transport for patients from home to Health Centre and emergency transport to hospital. With its distinctive Old Jeshwang Health Centre logo it makes an excellent advert for our services.

We continue to work closely with the Area Public Health Officer based on our site, providing her with a new room for vaccinations in the Bantaba although her original office is now also in need of some renewal.

Pathology Lab

The lab, offering nearly 30 different tests, goes from strength to strength. The enthusiastic team of 9 staff are well led and continue to run their own training course for path lab assistants. It was good to see our investment of new equipment being put to full use.

The lab continues to make a significant contribution to the success of the Health Centre, with over 15,000 tests carried out annually, introducing new patients to all of the services on site, as well as helping to underpin the costs of our basic health care programmes.

Education

The Association continues to facilitate educational needs as they arise within the clinic, supporting staff training in specialist areas such as midwifery and bedside care. Our in-house staff training programme continues to respond to the increased difficulty of finding staff with the required basic skills.

Individual children continue to be supported at primary and secondary level through our network of sponsors and it is always gratifying when one returns suitably qualified as an employee. The relationship which inevitably builds between sponsor and a child's family, keeps all involved close to the reality of how so many families struggle with the basics of life.

Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS)

During the year a Health Advisor from Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) was able to work alongside our Gambian public health officer and other community health professionals. BSMS is encouraging her to develop new links between their medical students and OJHC and to this end there was a very positive meeting with the Head of the Teaching Hospital in Banjul and the Medical Research Council (MRC) facility based in the Gambia. The MRC continues to be a good source of expertise and support to our path lab team.

Buildings and Plant

Our generator continues to cover for the regular National Grid power outages and during the year the 'phasing' was adjusted to meet the demands of its increased running.

The greater use of the refurbished Bantaba building, the venue for many of our health programmes and where the new mums can meet and chat, has necessitated a review of the external toilet and shower block. Plans for its refurbishment have been agreed and work is expected to start next year to include a much needed small secure storage area for building materials and equipment as much of our maintenance and refurbishment work is now completed 'in house'.

The new medical store has been improved with a 'patient friendly' glazed door and air-conditioning unit. With the new store fully operational the Library is now decluttered and smartly set out for meetings and is particularly well used by the Path Lab team next door.

The replacement of the 20 year old bannisters to the front and rear ramps of the main clinic building have helped to retain its characteristic smartness.

The buildings generally remain in good condition but the cycle of redecoration and renewal is relentless.

Future development.

Throughout the year individuals and groups have continued to visit our clinic to give specialist support in midwifery, primary health care and building maintenance. The retention of high standards in all these areas remains a priority and continues to be commented upon by both visitors and new patients to the Centre.

Old Jeshwang (OJ) Management Committee

After some 25 years it was inevitable that some of the inaugural members of the Gambian management committee would fall away. The role of the management committee has also changed over the last 10 years as the success of the Health Centre created the need to move from a largely volunteer workforce to paid professionals.

To meet these challenges Abdoulie Sowe our administrator, is now ably assisted by his deputy Cherno Yaddi who retains a good team spirit and continues to strengthen our staff structure to meet the demands of the Health Centre's increased use.

Sihou our well experienced accountant is now fully engaged in furthering our plan to make the Centre's self-generated income meet the everyday running costs, ensuring that UK funding can be more focussed on refurbishment and development. He is now ably assisted by a new cashier - Mr Good!

Their system of monthly reporting continues, enabling us to respond more accurately to changing circumstances at the Centre where staff still work in an uncertain economic climate but seemingly in a more stable political atmosphere.

Risk Assessment

Although OJHC has operated independently since 2009 the trustees of AOJA have continued their supporting role within the original TESITO project structure. This position was re-affirmed with representatives of the new government and the Gambian Health Authority at face to face meetings during the year.

The trustees have identified and are aware of potential risks to which the Charity is exposed and will keep this under constant review to establish procedures to mitigate those risks.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Stephen Doerr
Chairman.

31st July 2019

Ardingly Old Jeshwang Association
Charity Account No. 1024627
Receipts and Payments Account

1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019

<u>Receipts</u>	2019	2018
Individual donations	120	220
Gift aided donations and tax relief received	24324	23823
St. Peters Church donations	895	1725
Gift Aided Donations for Sponsored Education and oncosts	1198	909
Gift Aided Donations for Travel	1550	-
Fundraising Income	573	482
Bank Interest	27	28
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Total Receipts	28687	27187

Charitable Activity Costs

Repairs and redecorations	1584	198
Equipment Repairs	408	
Pathology Laboratory	400	
Sponsored education and costs	1267	913
Salaries and wages – Clinic		15494
Operating Expenses – Clinic		3307
General Operating Expenses	19671	
Insurance (two years)	338	
New Generator and oncosts	598	1153
Mary's Store		31
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	24266	21096

Administrative Costs

Travel Expenses (note 9)	2933	728
Computer annual maintenance and Other costs	156	156
Bank Charges	15	61
Telephone and internet	568	360
Stationery, printing and postage	353	128
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	4025	1433
Total Payments	28291	22529
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<u>Balance of Receipts over Payments for the year</u>	£396	£4658

Capital

Cash funds as at 1 st July 2018	21363
Balance of receipts over payments	396
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	£21759
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Represented by	
Barclays Bank plc Current Account	5467
Deposit Account	16292
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	£21759
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NOTES

1. The day to day management of the Health Centre was officially handed over the Old Jeshwang Health Centre Management Committee (The Gambia) in 2009
2. Old Jeshwang Health Centre Management Committee (The Gambia) now account separately
3. Manual cash books and partially computerised accounts are kept at Old Jeshwang Health Centre (The Gambia) for their own accounts
4. Income tax has been recovered on gift aid payments
5. Professional services are donated free of charge
6. Payments for staff and materials by the Ministry of Health, The Gambia have been omitted as these are received directly by the Old Jeshwang Management Committee (The Gambia)
7. Exchange rates have fluctuated during the year
8. Redcoat Express Ltd ships equipment for the Association without charge
9. The majority of travel expenses for Committee Members visiting the Clinic are met fully by individual Gift Aid donations and expenses for Committee Members travelling to the Clinic on a frequent basis for specific tasks were partly met by specific Gift Aid donations
10. Donations from St. Nicholas Church Brighton are included

Ardingly Old Jeshwang Association
Charity No. 1024627

Period: 1st July 2018 - 30th June 2019

I have examined the Cash Book, Receipts and Payments Accounts together with the bank statements from Barclays Bank, and have found that the Receipts and Payments Account is correct as presented



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W. Bearchell, Hon. Examiner.
20th October 2019