

+he Kambia Appeal

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20 YEARS

Welcome to our 20th Anniversary newsletter

**Founded on 28 July 1992,
The Kambia Appeal has been
running for twenty years!**

This is a significant year for us, not only as an opportunity to look back over all we have achieved, but also because Richard Kerr-Wilson, who has led the charity from the very beginning is stepping down as Chairman of Trustees.

Richard reflects – “When I was first persuaded to go to Kambia with Godfrey and Pauline Taylor in 1992, I had no idea what to expect. I certainly did not think that I would be handing over the running of a thriving charity twenty years later. However, thanks to the support of numerous people both in the UK and Sierra Leone, we have survived the civil war, learnt how to handle hurdles and

frustrations, celebrated successes and built up many friendships and relationships, which have made it all worth while. I hope that we now have established a broad enough base in the UK, and a sufficient track record, that we can look forward to the next twenty years.”

Richard hands over the reigns to Shona Lockyer, Kambia Trustee. “How do I feel about taking on the role of Chair of Trustees of the Kambia Appeal?” Shona asks. “Research by the Charity Commission shows only 17% of charities have a female Chair, so I am delighted that the Kambia Appeal is leading the way on equal representation! However, that said, I am very conscious of Richard’s achievements over the last twenty

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years. Whilst he is giving up the chairmanship, I am delighted that his talents and expertise will still be available to us as he is staying on as a trustee. If I can contribute half as much as Richard has done, I will feel I have achieved a great deal”.



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Scholarship Programme

We have funded bursaries to create new Community Health Officers in Kambia over the last few years.

We have been asked by the District Health Management Team to sponsor local health staff to study for the State Enrolled Community Nursing (SECHN) qualification. We will provide

scholarships to four trainees and they pledge to return to work as SECHNs once qualified for a minimum of three years. Our programme is a very cost-effective way to strengthen the health services in the district for the long term.



CHO Mohammed Kamara with SECHN scholars Hadja Nkoya Kamara, Veronica Dumbuya and Mariatu Kamara (July 2012)

Kambia 20 Fund

To mark our 20th Anniversary, we are launching the Kambia 20 Fund with the aim of raising £20,000 or more over the coming year from regular monthly donations from our supporters.

Although some of our projects are funded by grants from other organisations, donations from individuals remain crucial to enable us to carry out our day-to-day work in Kambia. Donations of £6 or £12 a month will give us the financial security to maintain our on-going projects in Kambia.

Without this type of regular support we are in danger of having to scale back our commitments because we will not be able to afford to put diesel in our Land Rover or pay for communication between Kambia and the UK. Running



Isatu Fofana with her grandchildren and other kids from Masselleh village in the Tonka Limba Chiefdom (May 2011)

permanent projects overseas is an expensive business, but we strive to be as efficient and cost-effective as we can to make the most positive difference in Kambia.

If you would like to help ensure the future of the Kambia Appeal, please consider making a monthly gift either online via our website (www.kambia.org.uk) or using the donation form on the back of this newsletter.

We have a new website!

The new site has been funded by a grant from DFID to help promote our long term volunteering scheme in Kambia.

As well as reading detailed summaries of our projects in Sierra Leone, you can now gain more of an insight into the lives of people living in Kambia by exploring the Kambia Community feature. Currently in its infancy, this section will grow to become a collage of images, sounds and voices from Kambia. Visit www.kambia.org.uk

Motorbike Ambulances

We took delivery of five new motorbike ambulances earlier this year to add to our existing emergency transport network in Kambia.

In July we ran a driving and maintenance school for the health staff and drivers who are in charge of the new vehicles.

With our original fleet, our ambulances are now based at seven health centres across the district serving communities in remote rural areas. Our ambulances now serve a total population of 58,000 people.



'FT' leads the driving school at the Kambia Appeal Base in July 2012

Health Partnership Scheme Long-term Volunteers in Kambia

Our first long-term volunteer doctors from the UK have almost completed their six months in Sierra Leone.

Kate Wilkinson and Suzanne Howell arrived in Kambia in July 2012 as part of our Health Partnership Scheme and will be returning to the UK at the end of January.

They have been providing clinical support at the district hospital as well as running teaching programmes for hospital staff. They were joined by Natasha Kay in September. Grace Walker and Mary Keniger begin their placements in December.



Richard Kerr-Wilson with our long-term volunteers in London for the first volunteer orientation weekend (June 2012)

As part of this three-year DFID-funded project our volunteers are the subjects of a film that will document their volunteering journeys. Look out for the first episode on our website early in January.

International Health Links Funding Scheme (IHLFS)

Our IHLFS project is now drawing to a close. Since 2010 we have been working with Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to deliver two training sessions a year for Kambia health staff on maternal and child health.

David Holmes, the coordinator of our Gloucestershire-Kambia link, has run five teaching trips to Kambia, involving over 30 NHS staff to provide training on adult and neonatal resuscitation, basic midwifery and nursing, and emergency obstetrics and surgical skills to 155 district staff.

David says, "Each and every one of the trips has been different – the teaching teams have been multidisciplinary, involving clinical and non-clinical roles. We've learned that simply repeating what we do in the UK is unrealistic and each group has adapted their teaching to the local environment. As a result we have had enthusiastic response for the courses, attendance at which has mushroomed and we cater for far more people than we are funded for!"

This project, funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), was initiated to help improve the capacity of the Kambia health staff as a way of tackling Sierra Leone's maternal and child mortality rates – some of the highest in the world. Our baseline evaluation in 2010 found the local Kambia maternal mortality rate to be 981 deaths per 100,000 live births (compared to the Sierra Leone national average rate of 857).

"We've learned that simply repeating what we do in the UK is unrealistic"

However, by the beginning of 2012, that rate in Kambia has reduced by about one third. We cannot say for certain that this sizeable reduction is a direct result of the training we have provided, but, as Dr Tom Sesay (Kambia District Medical Officer) says, "The strengthening of basic health skills of our staff working in the rural areas through the UK training has made a significant contribution to the improved health of women and



Top – David Holmes with Kambia and Gloucestershire NHS staff on a training visit in 2011

Bottom right – MCHA Kadiatu Bangura running an antenatal clinic at Barmoi Munu health centre. Kadiatu has taken part in

two annual training programmes for maternity staff as part of our IHLFS project.

Bottom right – Kambia District health staff celebrate completing of the IHLFS training in May 2011

children across the district"

David Holmes comments, "We still have a long way to go to reach the Millennium Development Goal target but a start has been made and the people who have given up their time to go to Kambia are, at the same time, proud and humbled to have been part of it".

You can watch the Volunteering With The Kambia Appeal (2012) film about the IHLFS training visit that took place in March 2012 via the Kambia Appeal website in the Gloucestershire Link section. The final IHLFS visit is planned to take place in January 2013.

Comments from the Kambia staff who have taken part in the project:
Salley Kadia, MCHA at Mafunah

CHC (May 2011) "How can we thank the doctors and midwives from The Kambia Appeal enough for coming to here to teach us? They are good teachers. I had not learned about vacuum extraction before, but Dr Lucy taught me well. I now know when it is appropriate to use this technique to help my patients".

Victor Kalie Kamara, Chief Administrator, District Council, wrote about the consignment of medical equipment supplied as part of the IHLFS - "On behalf of the people of Kambia, we want to express our delight and sincere appreciation for the medical supplies that are so needed by the PHUs and the Hospital."

Highlights of the project evaluation findings

Item	2010	2012
District wide Maternal Mortality rate (MMR) (deaths/100,000 live births)	981	643.5
District Hospital MMR (deaths/100,000 live births)	2570	2300
PHU MMR (deaths/100,000 live births)	837	184
Hospital Still birth ratio (deaths/1,000)	164	112
PHU Still birth ratio (deaths/1,000)	15	10.4
Percentage of maternal case fatality among women admitted to Kambia hospital with obstetric complications	4.11	2.3

PHU = Primary Health Unit (rural health centre)

Shona Lockyer reports on the 2012 consultation visit

In January 2012 we visited Kambia to undertake a review of our activities in consultation with the Kambia District Health Management Team (DHMT).

We reviewed our activities and achievements following the 2009 consultation, and sought feedback from the DHMT on what they want us to help them with during the next three years. It was extremely valuable and helped all of us learn from our activities and to make sure we concentrate our

efforts on sustainable development going forward.

We were able to broadly categorise the requests from the DHMT into 'new' activities and activities to 'sustain'. At the end of the visit we formalised our working relationship with the DHMT and the Sierra Leone Government Ministry of Health via a signed 'Memorandum of Understanding'.

The list of activities that we have agreed to take on or investigate further included the provision of a

speed boat for health work in remote riverine communities, an expanded UK volunteer programme, scholarships to train SECHNs and SECHN Midwives, provision of a Theatre Operating light, delivery beds and an operating table.

We also met with representatives of the Kambia District Council who expressed their sincere gratitude to the Appeal for our support and hope that we will continue to work in partnership with the Council and health services in Kambia.

New Major Project Grant from DFID

In August we were awarded a Paired Institutional Partnership grant from DFID for a second programme of training in Kambia in collaboration with Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT).

This major award will fund two years of training for 180 qualified and trainee Maternal and Child Health Aides (MCHAs). Volunteer midwifery and

paediatric trainers from Gloucestershire will create a syllabus for all MCHAs in Kambia and help senior MCHAs to become trainers themselves.

The project is designed to improve primary healthcare at the community level. In the next six months, we will be recruiting Gloucestershire volunteers to take part in the implementation of the project. The teaching visits will comprise of week-long training workshops and also contain training

for key staff in IT, data management and analysis. If you would like to participate in this project, please see our website for further details, or contact David Holmes at GHNHSFT.



The new PIP project aims to improve health for Kambia residents, such as Isatu Turrey and Madinty Bangura and their children

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