



**Mali
Development
Group
Annual Report
2011**

mdg

mdg

**Mali
Development
Group
and the
Millennium
Development
Goals**

Charity Number 1088140 | www.malidg.org.uk



If you would like to help

MDG cheques should be payable to
Mali Development Group and sent to:

The Secretary

50 Friars Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AG

Please ensure that you give us your name and address together with a statement that you want us to treat this and any other donations you make as Gift Aid donations and that you currently pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital gains Tax to cover the amounts given.

You can also access donation forms and membership forms on our web site:

www.malidg.org.uk

This also gives details of Standing Order arrangements – a great way to help us.

You can also now text a donation of £2, £5 or £10 by texting Mali22 to 70070, for example, Mali22 £5.

MDG

Committee members 2011

Linda King (Chair)

John Hedge (Secretary)

David Hedge (Treasurer)

Andy Benson

Ray Fishbourne

Janice Hedge

Andrea Hewes

Ken King

Rob Spivey

Co-opted members:

Linda Francis

Tim Hewes

Dan Price

Photo credits:

Gill Hedge

Luke Hedge

Soumaila Moro

Adrian Moyes

Becky Mulley

Liz Newall



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A message from

Linda King

Chair of Mali Development Group



over the years of our existence. Much of this has come from direct donations from our members and fundraising efforts by many of them. So thank you very much for all your money, time, creativity and hard work.

We have also engaged in some activities to share experiences with other organisations interested in Mali and have developed links politically both in Mali and the UK. This has grown particularly over the last few years and it has been a great pleasure to meet with the recently appointed UK Ambassador in Bamako, Nick Griffiths.

We remain very much a volunteer organisation and many of our members contribute in a variety of ways. The committee especially has developed and shaped us over the years. I am very grateful to all of the committee members, both current and past for their enthusiasm, efforts and good humour. In particular MDG owes a great deal of gratitude to John Hedge, who founded MDG originally, and who has continued to put so much energy and good sense into it.

Welcome to our annual report for 2011. As you will read, in this, our 11th year, we have been reflecting on our contribution, to the Millennium Development goals which have been the main focus of work for development organisations of all sizes since we started.

During the 10 years, we've grown from a very small organisation centred on South Oxfordshire to one with over 400 members throughout the country. Our links with our main Malian partner Jeunesse et Développement have been strong throughout this time, boosted enormously by regular visits to Mali by MDG members and occasional trips here by J&D staff. The last year has seen us complete a consultancy project on future staffing and structure for J&D – an example of our using the skills of members in as many ways as we possibly can. The fieldwork in Mali for this project involved interviewing many J&D staff both in Bamako and the rural south of the country. The review team were all impressed by the commitment and energy of the staff, and their faith in the probity and accountability of J&D – a true tribute to the Director, Mamadou Kone, whose contribution to the annual report is covered below.

In the last two years our focus has broadened to work with additional partners – Pensons a Demain, Kader Keita's NGO working with Bamako children in difficulty, and Sahel Eco, the environmental NGO working further north in Mali. We have also maintained our strong bond with the Malian Community Council in this country. Our main activity has been fundraising and we have sent in excess of £400,000 to Mali



A message from **Mamadou Kone**

Director of Jeunesse et Développement



As a Malian NGO, Jeunesse et Développement has over the years particularly focused with its main partners (the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF), the Stromme Foundation, DVV International, and of course MDG) on a community development approach, particularly in the rural areas of southern Mali.

That's why our range of different interventions take full account of, and work with, local political, social and economic processes in order to generate positive attitudes and support for sustainable improvements in community life. In following this approach, J&D benefits from the technical and financial support of its partners, so that we can help our partner communities achieve the change they want. This principle of inter-related partnership has enabled J&D to operate effectively over the years in different sectors of development – education, health, citizenship, governance, income generation, capacity building and so on.

However over the last two years J&D and its partners have had to deal with the effects of the world financial crisis, which, sadly, has affected the level of projects supporting vulnerable populations, and this is reflected in a variety of ways; reduction or termination of funding, and loss of funded posts are just two examples.

Despite these difficult conditions, J&D and some of its partners, including MDG, fight continually to find the resources to fund our projects. Apart from their funding contribution I also want to underline those aspects of the partnership which support the organisational and structural development of our agency – providing crucial tools for our own management. I want to take this opportunity to thank the MDG Committee, and all members and supporters for having shown such a great commitment to the development of Mali through helping our NGO so generously, and in so many different ways.

In this blessed month of Ramadan, may the grace of Allah go with the leaders, members and partners of MDG, and with their families, in achieving their different projects, and look after them against all the unhappy events, social and natural, which shake our world.

Long live MDG and J&D, so that we can continue to develop a dynamic partnership which is, committed, sincere, open and honourable.

August 2011

**'Long live MDG
and J&D'**





The MDGs were developed out of the eight chapters of the United Nations, signed in September 2000. There are eight goals with twenty-one targets, and a series of measurable indicators for each target.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

J&D in its work with different partners has, like all NGOs, concentrated on work that delivers a contribution to one or more of these goals.

The Mali Development Group, in its own small way, has also made a contribution, usually as a complement to J&D's work. This report aims to give an overall idea of the kind of work we have funded over the years, or plan to support as soon as we can.

Goal 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

MDG funded pilot micro-projects which enabled disadvantaged young people in Bamako to set up their own businesses. The successful pilots led to a major programme which J&D ran with Comic Relief funding.

The dam at Mafele provided water all year round for sustainable crops and allowed new land to be used for growing.

The dam at Soromba enabled more crops to be grown and meant that the village was not cut off during the rainy season.

Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education

MDG supported J&D's work with 'Speed Schools' which enabled village children who had dropped out of school to receive intensive support and return to their education.

MDG supports Kader Keita's work with the most disadvantaged children in Bamako, many of whom have been living on the street.

MDG funded a new school at Ntentou and helped equip this and other schools.

Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower women

With the help of Kennington Overseas Aid MDG enabled J&D to provide support for women's organisations in Manankoro, with diesel mills, micro-credit, and market gardens in Manankoro, which improved incomes and gave hundreds of women their first stake in the village economy.

MDG financed help for women with fistula who came to Bamako because of their need for treatment and their social exclusion in their own communities. Support was provided for treatment and their businesses of laundry and indigo dyeing.

Through its current Second Step Project MDG is helping local women's savings groups in Yanifolila achieve new facilities for their communities.

Goal 4

Reduce child mortality rates

MDG has helped to fund J&D's work with malaria prevention and has provided money for nets. MDG plans to support a new initiative in Manankoro in 2012/13.

MDG has equipped local clinics with urgently needed medication and the current Kolondieba project will save many malnourished children in a very poor part of the Sikasso region by providing new wards for the local hospital – see details of the Kolondieba project later in this report.

Through support for Kader Keita's work with disadvantaged children in Bamako MDG has helped Kader save many lives by linking children with much-needed health care and shelter away from the dangers of the street.

Goal 5

Improve maternal health

MDG funded a small maternity section at a village clinic in Lemeroutomu.

The motor ambulance at the village of Thian in Yanifolila helps many pregnant women access health care when they need help.

The planned Kolondieba unit will have a ward to house women from the Sikasso region who have medical problems and face difficult pregnancies.

Goal 6

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

For the past 8 years, currently with the support of the Guildford Academic Associates charity, MDG has funded a large Peer Education project in the very poor Commune IV area of Bamako. Many local young people have been trained to help others learn about reproductive health, avoidance of pregnancy and prevention of HIV/AIDS. They also provide access to contraception for many young people – see some details of Peer Educators later in this report.

The Peer Educators regularly contribute to HIV prevention and health education Forums in Mali, and perform shows and plays to help promote the message. For a number of years MDG supported annual football tournaments organised by J&D, which promoted healthy living and health promotion.

Goal 7

Ensure environmental sustainability

Through the Tree Parties (an organisation under the umbrella of MDG) we are beginning to support the work of Sahel Eco and its Greening the Sahel initiative which promotes conservation and more sustainable farming methods in the Malian Sahel.

The dams at Mafele and Kolondieba have provided local people with sustainable fish stocks.

Enabled improved access to water and sanitation in both these areas.

Goal 8

Develop a global partnership for development

MDG has developed an information network for organisations involved in Mali to share ideas and knowledge, and has run conferences in collaboration with other organisations such as the Malian Community Council to promote awareness of Mali and its culture.

MDG campaigns both for Fair Trade and a fair deal for Mali in UK Government Development funding.

MDG has provided IT equipment and support for its partners and Malian schools through the donation of equipment and members' skills.



Reproductive Health programme



Sékou DOUBIA in action, in his 'grin' the Malian word for an informal group



Issa receiving his certificate after training

J&D's Reproductive Health programme funded by MDG is now in its 8th year. In the second quarter of this year over 1,000 young people participated in group sessions or individual counselling. Earlier in 2011 another successful round of training introduced 30 new young people to become peer educators on the scheme, with an equal balance of boys and girls. Those proportions are reflected also in the young people taking part in sessions. Over 8 years the impact on general levels of awareness among young people about health, contraception and responsible behaviour has massively increased in Bamako's Commune IV – a very poor area with a high proportion of young people, and a population equivalent to the size of an English town like Reading. Here are three pen pictures of young men involved in peer Education; two recent recruits, and an 'old hand' from 2009.

Sékou Doumbia is a new Peer Educator recruited in 2011. He says that joining has changed his life a lot. When he started he was not well known in his area but now since his training he has become something of a 'saviour' for other young people in his home area. He gives them clear information about sexual and reproductive health but can also enable them to have contraceptive products. His parents and his friends are very positive about his contribution.

Issa Fane also joined this year. He is in his 8th year at school and he is the Peer Educator who sells more contraceptive products than any of the others. He values the information he got from his training a lot.

The small amount of commission he receives from his sales helps him buy his clothes, and also enables him to help his parents who are very poor, so he certainly contributes to the needs of his family. He is very grateful to J&D for this opportunity.



Gaoussou Doumbia is an old hand who trained as a Peer Educator in 2009. Today he is a soldier in the Military Engineers. Gaoussou says that he owes his success in joining the Army to the Peer Educator programme. Although he passed his recruitment test he lacked any other qualifications. In his uncertainty about what to do he remembered that he had been given a certificate of training after he completed the Peer Educators course. He wasn't very optimistic, but presented this certificate to the Recruitment Commission and he was taken on for training! After a time he was taken on by the people providing Reproductive health training for the Army - as Gaoussou says.....

"I was put forward by our Company Commander, and after testing my knowledge they got me working with other soldiers. Each week I was allocated time to do this work and later I was contacted by the Central Directorate of the Army Health Service to undertake more of this work – actually I am in a bit of a dilemma now because I had really wanted to do music in the Army!"

MDG's top priority
Kolondieba Hospital



‘the most pressing need is for more space to accommodate increasing numbers of pregnant women and highly vulnerable babies’



Temporary shelter

Kolondieba is in the far south of Mali about 180k from Bamako. It is the main town for a ‘cercle’ of about 30 village communities within the administrative region of Sikasso – the map shows Sikasso, and Kolondieba is not far from the border with Ivory Coast. The only significant health centre is the one at Kolondieba, which serves a mainly rural population of 200,000 people.

The centre was built quite recently but already lacks sufficient capacity to house the referrals it receives, especially for two key categories – women with high-risk pregnancy and infants with malnutrition. The Hospital has 5 Doctors and works hard to keep up with demand, but the most pressing need is for more space to accommodate increasing numbers of pregnant women and highly vulnerable babies.

At present women and children come to Kolondieba and are treated somehow as nobody is turned away, but they have to live in very unsatisfactory conditions. For

some time they were sleeping in out-buildings and even in the mortuary at one stage. The hospital has constructed a temporary shelter but wants to have the two new buildings as soon as this is practical, since referral levels are still on an upward trend.

Dr. Keita, the Director needs two new wards. Each one will care for 10 patients. The total value of the project is about £23,000 sterling equivalent.

We are being helped greatly in this project by fundraising being done by the staff of two firms who are working closely with us; Brothers and Sisters, a creative agency in London’s West End, and Gifford the engineering firm with whom we have had a close association over the past 5 years. We will still require help from members, though, and the need to complete this project is so urgent that the MDG committee has made it our top priority.





Financial Report

for the year ended

31 March 2011

David Hedge, Treasurer MDG

Income

Gross income amounted to £45,060 for the latest financial year and, whilst this sum was lower than the prior year, MDG was able to proceed as planned despite a difficult economic climate. Some key developments related to income, are as follows.

Donations and subscription

These were largely unchanged at £37,450. This included regular and largely unchanged Member payments, individual/corporate/trust donations, and partnership income plus continued valuable funding received from Gifford. Funding for the Reproductive Health programme came from the generous donations totalling £20,000 made by Guildford Academic Associates (GAA) and this was crucial to sustaining that programme.

Fund raising

Proceeds were lower than the prior year reflecting the general economic scene, but approximately £1,500 was received from the holding of a Fun Quiz, nearly £2,000 from the annual Christmas Raffle plus pudding sales (both arranged by Linda King), and a range of other activities and events, ranging from concerts and film showings through to book sales and barbecues!

Gift Aid tax refunds

These refunds from the Inland Revenue, amounted to an important £1,558.91. Although this was reduced from the previous financial year in line with refundable contributions. An outstanding Gift Aid refund submission claiming £2,687 should strengthen the charity's financial resources in the near future.

MDG Partners

As well as funding for Jeunesse et Développement, revenue continued to be generated for the two other MDG partners – the Malian Association for

Hope and Culture (MACH), set up to assist disadvantaged children, and Sahel Eco, which carries out important environmental work. Excluding the impact of Gift Aid refunds, approximately £1,845 was raised during the accounting period for MACH, which operates within the UK management of Tim Hewes.

Funds raised since inception

MDG has raised approximately £415,000 since it commenced activities, at the start of 2001. The charity believes this to be a substantial achievement for our voluntary based charity and a sound basis for future development.

Expenditure

Outgoings amounted to nearly £42,400, principally comprised of Malian transfers. Those directed to J & D represented 74.5% of this total with 11.2% pertaining to the work and support of the MACH partnership activities. Outgoings are based upon agreed priorities and are subject to approval by the Executive Committee of MDG. In the case of J&D this is based upon the approved 3-year Work Plan.

Payments & Transfers

These are made to J&D and MACH on a quarterly basis, coinciding with the Malian Calendar Financial year (January to December) Transfers to J&D totalled £31,600 in the last financial year and MDG receives regular progress reports from them so funding priorities can be adjusted based upon both feedback and new information.

Other costs

These comprised a modest level of overheads & payments in line with the charity's volunteer based approach and principles. Expenses cover such items as secretarial expenses, general overheads, project support and fund-raising expenditure, public liability insurance premiums, printing & similar costs.

Annual surplus

This realised £2,670 for fiscal year 2010/2011 and, therefore, cash holdings at 31st March 2011, remained strong at £13,408 prior to transfers.

The Current Financial Year (2011/2012)

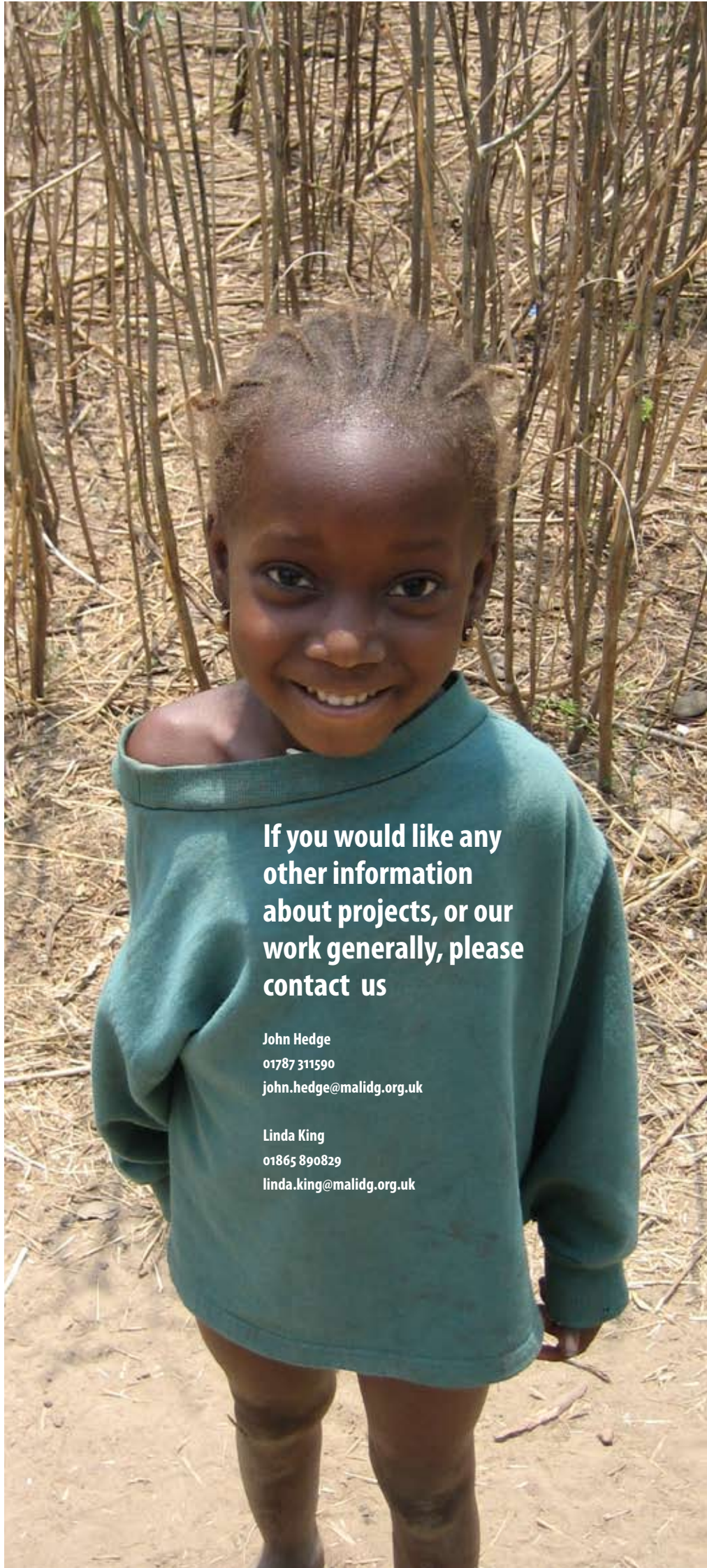
The first five months of the current year reveal income of approximately £14,920 which is in line with expectations and, whilst lower than the prior year, reflects the current UK economic environment. These receipts principally consist of normal standing order payments, donations, some fund raising activity plus £ 6,089.50 from The Funding Network of Oxford in respect of a successful bid by MACH.

The current major funding priority for J&D is the Kolondieba project, with a forecast and planned costs of £23,000.

In response to the more difficult financial environment, MDG has adopted a more detailed process for financial planning against its commitments in the agreed 3-year Work Plan, and this includes closer dialogue with Malian partners.

The charity's total bank current and savings account balances, as at the end of August 2011, amounted to approximately £29,150. However, significant transfers to Mali are due in the immediate future whilst other monies are held for the Reproductive Health project, the MACH partnership and the Kolondieba project.

September 2011



If you would like any other information about projects, or our work generally, please contact us

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Image on front and back cover:
<http://visibleearth.nasa.gov>



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