

Road to Recovery

Mali
Development
Group
Annual Report
2013



www.malidg.org.uk



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

John Hedge (Secretary)
50, Friars Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10
2AG 01787 311590
john.hedge@malidg.org.uk

If you would like to help financially:
MDG cheques should be payable to
Mali Development Group and sent to:

The Treasurer

26, Emanuel Avenue, London, W3 6JJ

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

If you would like to donate your time and skills please contact the Secretary in the first instance, and he will put you in touch with one of our new working group Coordinators. See page 12 for details of the groups and their activities.



A message from Linda King

Chair of Mali Development Group



This last year has continued to be a difficult one for Mali and although things improved with support from the French and the armies of other countries, the future remains uncertain and worrying. The road to recovery will be a long one, and especially in the north the process of reconciliation will be crucial. Nonetheless there are some encouraging signs, including the holding of Presidential elections recently, and the international commitments made to help fund the rebuilding of Mali's economy.

A successful civil society is absolutely crucial for Mali's future, and MDG's three Malian partners represent the strong values, commitment to social cohesion, and accountability, which makes NGOs so important for Malian development. All three have continued to work throughout the troubles of the past year, and our support of them remains very welcome and significant. What we have been able to do has not been restricted at all by the problems, though more need has been evident as some people have been fleeing the north and moving further south into the areas in which we work.

The campaigning and awareness raising work that Dan Price and a small group around him have been doing has been particularly timely. He and MDG have taken a lead role in mobilising other charities and organisations with an interest in Mali to work together around an Alliance for Mali. I feel we have been punching above our weight in the connections and influence Dan has been able to bring on government circles in this country, and more information about this work is given later in this report.

An impact, though, of the ongoing situation is that none of us have been able to visit Mali, meet with our friends there and see directly the impact of what we have been doing. We hope that this situation will change shortly so that we can resume annual trips. Meanwhile Mamadou Kone, the Director of J and D visited England last year, Kader Keita of Pensons a Demain met with Tim Hewes during a visit to Angers, Bamako's twin town in France, and again when Tim visited Bamako a few months later. Mary Allen of Sahel Eco has also visited England, being guest speaker at last year's AGM in Oxford. Some of us were also able to meet up with our old friend Sue Upton when she visited her family in the UK. Sue is a long time resident of Bamako and the inspiration behind MDG.

So despite the difficulties we have been able to talk face to face with some key players as well as continuing our day-to-day email and skype contact with Mali. We receive regular reports on all activities, and try to share that information with members and friends through our regular newsletters and briefings. MDG has always aimed though at direct personal contact- many of our members have come to us because they made a visit to Mali and were enchanted by the country- and so we hope in the coming year to resume visits and see the work we support at first hand.

We have been pleased, and a little surprised given economic circumstances, that we have done so well in the last year in generating funds to support our Malian partners. Thank you all for your continued support. So many people make donations to us on a regular or one off basis. There are also lots of you giving us time and skills that are really valuable contributions. We have had a very fruitful relationship with Guildford Academic Associates in recent years. This is now coming to an end, but they have been a generous and consistent supporter of the Reproductive Health project for young people in Bamako.

Later in this report you will hear about Mark Saade. He is the recently appointed Hon-

orary Consul for Mali in this country. This is the first time Mali has had a diplomatic post based actually in the U.K which is a major step forward. We have found Mark to be an enthusiastic and very committed advocate for Mali and he is particularly keen to promote closer links with the U.K. He has been very supportive of our awareness raising and campaign work in the past year, but was also willing to carry several reconditioned laptops in his luggage for our partners when he went on his first visit to Mali as Consul! We look forward to a long and productive relationship with him

This report includes information about our new structure, which has been developed over the past year and is being launched at the A.G.M. This has been driven by our desire to involve more people in how we operate so that we are not so dependent on one or two key people. It has been heartening that many of our original committee members from when we started about 13 years ago are still involved and enthusiastic, but we must broaden out the numbers of people running the organisation. I hope some of you will feel that you have the time and interest to get involved. One of our great advantages is that we are flexible and can really use any amount of time, however little, that people are able to give

I hope you enjoy reading about what your organisation has been doing in the last year in this report. Our thanks, as ever, to Andrea Hewes who has again put it together and designed it. Andrea's ongoing design contribution to MDG is a terrific example of the way we rely on people's donation of time and skills, enabling us to be a genuinely volunteer based charity.



A message from Mamadou Kone

Director of Jeunesse et Développement

It is fair to say that Mali has come a long way given the complexities of the crises that have had to be faced. The northern regions have been liberated and we have had two rounds of the Presidential Election. The election enables the international community to see that constitutional normality has returned and that there can be a new start for Mali's international relations.

Equally this all represents an important new beginning for the Malian people. It is very pleasing that a record number of Malians voted, electing Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (IBK) as President of the Republic. In my opinion the election of IBK is the result of many Malians seeing him as the man who has the ability to carry through realistic responses to the range of problems we face- social, political and economic.

However, although recent weeks have seen a general improvement in the situation it is clear that overall normalisation for people will take longer, especially for those who have been displaced within Mali, and they may face months or even years before their lives return to normal. It seems to me that finding permanent solutions to their problems is crucial if Mali is to avoid real damage to its social fabric. Local, national and international strategies will need to fit together effectively in tackling displacement, poverty, and its causes. Mali's civil society organisations and development partners, like MDG, will have an important role to play.

J&D has begun to plan how best to adapt some of its interventions to both the needs of northern Mali and displaced people who have come from there. But it is equally important that we sustain and consolidate our existing activities, and for that we are dependent on the energy and commitment of our partnerships- like the one we have with MDG. Unfortunately the weight of the ongoing crisis in Mali has continued to weigh down Malian NGOs, and adversely affected the funding climate- in J&D's case we have had to deal with cut backs or withdrawal of some funding.

That has a direct impact in leading to the redundancy of some members of staff.

At this difficult time in the life of J&D I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks, and all my best wishes, to the gallant women and men of MDG, not only for the moral support they provide, but also for their unflinching support in contributing to the well being of some of our deprived communities.

I hope that everyone will take from this our thanks and recognition for a partnership which is so open and constructive.

Long Live the partnership, Long Live MDG and J&D, and God Bless both Britain and Mali.

Partnership with J&D

J&D have been our partners since we began and MDG was first formed as a support group for J&D which was then a relatively new Malian NGO. It has since developed into a much bigger and very effective organisation. A recent independent evaluation of J&D's Yanfolila project on village health and women's savings, which was funded by the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) commented that:

'The decade of cooperation between MRDF and J&D has been a splendid success. This (project) has been a shining example of participatory development cooperation'

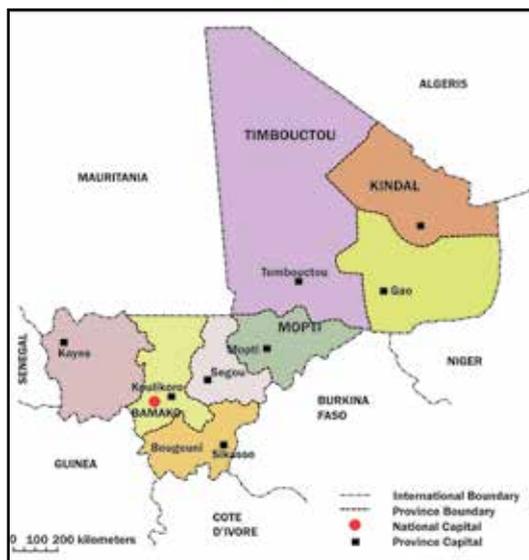
And MDG would say exactly the same. All of our projects have been based on careful planning, active community involvement and full accountability and feedback. This owes a great deal to our link worker Ida Tenin Samake (Tanty) who has worked to support MDG funded projects for over 10 years



And thanks to members and a variety of donors there have been many projects, lots of them in the Sikasso region of rural southern Mali. Key themes have been the economic development of rural women, and the health and education needs of young Malians.

To give an idea of what we have managed to support over the years- here is a list compiled recently by Tanty

- Sangaré Primary School- links and equipment 2001 and continuing
- Woma Grain grinding mill 2002
- Computer equipment for J&D 2002/3
- Ntentou- school classrooms 2003



- Micro projet pilots with disabled children and the Bolle detention centre- 2003
- Support for football projects in Bamako 2003
- Lemeroutoumou- mill and market garden project 2004
- The In I Che project with Toyota and Aylesbury Prison to provide a Toyota Landcruiser to J&D- 2004/5
- Reproductive Health project- Peer Education- Bamako- 2004 to the present
- Manankoro Town- Market garden 2005
- Mafélé – construction of a dam and a market garden- 2006
- Farabalé- Grain grinding mill- 2006
- Fangala- equipping a rural school to help deprived children 'catch up' their education.- 2007
- Wogona- Equipping a dispensary and health centre- 2007
- Kourou- Grain grinding mill- 2008
- Soromba- dam and bridge – 2008/9
- Bougouni- equipment and vehicle to the Health Centre
- N'tian- motor ambulance- 2009
- Bamako- support to the Bankadi group of fistula patients- training and economic development – 2009/11
- Kolondieba- construction of two wards and an administration building at the Hospital centre- 2011/12
- Kambali- grain grinding mill- 2013
- Doussoudiana- Training for women's group on shea production.

The Kambali mill was the first of our Second Step projects, designed to give women's savings groups further help in taking their plans forward and helping

their communities. This project was funded entirely by one of our Suffolk School link partners, Howard School.



John Hedge MDG Secretary receiving the donation from pupils at Howard School.

We regularly receive feedback about the impact of projects and their continuing development. Since the new wards at Kolondieba Hospital were opened these new facilities have done much to improve the medical care provided to women with complex pregnancies and malnourished infants.

A recent example is YaKouba, who arrived at Kolondieba in a seriously malnourished condition, and stayed on the ward with his aunt for over a month. He had been abandoned by his mother, and his father had been unable to help because he had been working as a mechanic in Kayes and during the occupation of the area it was impossible for him to return.



Baby Yakouba and his aunt, helped by Kolondieba.

If you would like to know more about past, present or planned projects please contact us.

A message from Daniel Price

MDG's Public Affairs work in 2012/13



During the year MDG has developed its awareness raising and public affairs work and now has a team concentrating on these activities, led by Dan Price.

This is his report.

Why this work matters

We know that Mali has a wealth of smiles, music that bewitches both ear and heart, and a society so vibrant in it's culture that those who experience it always want to tell others. Through our work we want to encourage more people to understand why Mali ensnares so many with its magic.

We want people to learn about all this but at the same understand that Mali is also a place of great hardship. Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world. Sixty four percent of Malian people live below the international poverty line, and the crisis of the last 18 months has had a huge impact on the Malian economy and, and the subsistence agriculture which underpins daily life.

The recent election of the new President, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (IBK) is certainly a real step forward but there remain many problems, some of which led to the crisis and some which followed from it. These are real wounds that need to be tended to and healed by Malian themselves, but we can assist in this process by developing better awareness and campaigning for greater support for Mali. This is the focus of the work that the Mali Development Group has been doing through its public affairs activities over the past year.

What can we say about impact of this work over the past year?

We have been working in two main ways: raising the profile of Mali with the public and encouraging British engagement and assistance in Mali. Our new volunteer team has managed to do a tremendous amount of work to make a real difference.

Sam Garbett and Will Holmes have taken the lead on awareness raising. The main way that we have started to do through is through the development of the Mali Interest Hub - www.mali-interest-hub.com.

This website aims to bring together the latest news on Mali, analysis and insight into what is happening and promote Malian culture. Sam Garbett in particular has been writing pieces of analysis, which have been highly praised by non-governmental organisations working in Mali. Sam has subsequently expanded his analysis to share his love of all things Malian and Mali music with a track of the week, which you can subscribe to and have delivered right into your inbox.

Judith Hartley has been doing excellent work facilitating information exchange between group and individual members of MDG's well-established Mali Interest Group on Facebook. This has grown to 135 members and through them information on Mali is posted on a day-to-day basis. Will, Sam and Judith have great plans for our use of electronic and social media and I look forward to reporting their progress in a year's time.

Despite the increasing creep of electronic media, there is nothing more important than talking to one another face to face. In the past year the team was present at a series of music events, including the Song Lines World Awards ceremony, to talk to people about Malian music and what was happening in the country itself. Through these events we got over 200 people to sign up to receive further information on the Information Hub and offers of support to help the public affairs team in their work. The group will be looking to continue to do this through the year, starting by building better connections with the music industry and developing our brand new calendar for all things to do with Malian culture at the Mali Interest Hub (http://www.mali-interest-hub.com/?page_id=2101)

An important piece of work that we have started on in this year, with Judith as our lead, is developing stronger connections with European organisations that work in Mali. We have already had some positive discussions with the twinning organisation in Bamako's twin town, Angers, in France. In the next year we aim to strengthen this connection and make new ones.

The Alliance for Mali (AFM)

One of the most effective things we have done this year has been the convening and the co-ordination of the Alliance for Mali. The Alliance for Mali is a group of voluntary sector groups, commercial organisations, and committed individuals coming together to raise awareness about Mali and influence British governmental policy on Mali. Working with the Alliance we have organised a parliamentary event with over 150 attendees, worked with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa to raise Malian issues, and started to build a network of supportive MPs and Peers.

The Mali Development Group worked closely with AFM member, the Living Earth charity, to write a submission to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee reflecting the Alliance's views on an inquiry into British government policy in North West Africa. The AFM briefing reflected the views not only of member organisations but acknowledged experts on Malian affairs, and had to be developed extremely quickly. To have achieved this reflects well on the Alliance, and this work has served to establish AFM in a 'sounding board' role with the Foreign Office on Mali.

In the coming year we will look to develop our links with MPs, Peers, and civil servants. We will also try to identify opportunities for AFM, and its widening membership, to have a demonstrable effect on British and European policy- as we did this year when the British Government provided human rights training in Mali as part of its support to Mali following the French led military intervention.

The Malian Consulate

The final element of the Public Affairs Team's activities in the past year has been working to offer support to the newly appointed honorary Consul from Mali to the United Kingdom, Mark Saade. Since Mark's appointment in October the team has looked to support Mark in his new role in whatever way we can. In the coming year the group will be involved in a steering group for a planned International Conference on Mali to be run by the Consul. We are also exploring ways of providing volunteers to assist the Consulate as it begins to develop.

Looking ahead

In the past year the public affairs group has been working very hard, Some of these activities have built on existing MDG initiatives, such as the Mali Interest Group, but some are new and have arisen from concern about Mali and its future following the crisis. We see the past year as a solid foundation for the challenges to come. I look forward to leading a very capable team in the coming year to raise the profile of Mali in the minds of the general public and policymakers to a level it has never reached before.

Some comments about MDG's work

"The last year has been a turbulent and difficult one for the people of Mali. In circumstances of change and risk, there is inevitably a temptation to 'wait for things to get back to normal, for difficulties to blow over'. It is to the great credit of the Mali Development Group, however, that its members and supporters recognised early on that the changes in context required a change in their priorities and ways of working. They have worked hard to put a new and significant emphasis on awareness-raising and advocacy, have developed collaborative ways of working with a wide range of organisations and individuals and have organised or taken part in some hugely successful events to focus attention on Mali. In doing so, they have been a model of independent thought and action - offering an informed and analytical thinking based on the needs and priorities of the people of Mali. The energy and dedication that its members have shown over the last year has been inspiring and a model of how small charities can make a big difference."

Ian Legget - Development Consultant

"Dan Price and his team at the Mali Development Group perform an invaluable service to decision makers and the general public in the UK by advocating on behalf of Mali and its people but also by clarifying and elucidating the extremely complex issues and challenges that the country faces. The great danger with Mali is to over-simplify its problems and turn everything into a simple case of black and white when in reality, there's always so much grey. MDG helps to avoid that pitfall and steer policy making towards real needs and lasting solutions. Long may their work continue!"

Andy Morgan - Journalist

"In the 10 months since my appointment as Honorary Consul of Mali in London, the country went from an all out war, international military intervention to free and democratic elections. Throughout these unsettled times the Mali Development Group engaged with the new Consulate in a plethora of activities aimed at raising awareness of the Malian conflict. Part of the Consulate and MDG's long term cooperation strategy along side partners and friends of Mali is the planning of future activities to create a platform of initiatives between the UK and Mali targeting a wide range of areas crucial to the future much needed development of the country."

Mark Saade - Honorary Malian Consul



Profiles of the public affairs volunteer team

Sam Garbett

Sam joined MDG in January 2013 as a writer for the Mali Interest Hub - using the skills acquired from his MA in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response. Topics focused primarily on the conflict and prevailing development issues in Mali. In addition to these articles, his passion for Mali's music and performing arts has led to Sam developing many new plans for MDG in this area.



Judith Hartley

Judith has been involved in MDG's work over recent years and as well as coordinating the MIG Facebook, she is working on our links to other Malian supporting organisations internationally. She has substantial management experience in the not for profit sector in the UK, and having visited Mali, wishes to contribute to the country, via its NGOs, and through helping to promote Mali's culture to the public in the UK.



Will Holmes

Will has worked in campaigning across a few different charities, as well as working on the Obama campaign in 2012. He is very much looking forward to working on the MDG social media presence and recruiting more volunteers for MDG.



A message from Mary Allen

The Partnership with Sahel Eco 2012/13

As Sahel Eco's work is based further north in Mali, near Segou and Mopti the organisation was at greater risk during the conflict last year. To their credit local staff managed to keep working, and the year has seen some important contributions from MDG to Sahel Eco's work

One such contribution is the Mali Shea Tulu project which has been working with the women shea producers in Tominian in Mali to identify and develop markets for their highest quality shea butter.

Shea butter is used locally for cooking oil, soap, medicines and moisturiser and more recently exported for use in cosmetics and confectionary. Fairtrade shea body butter from West African countries first arrived in the UK four years ago and this prompted Sahel Eco to explore the potential for Mali.

Sahel Eco had already trained 400 women in 19 centres in the improved production methods which have opened up markets for producers in Burkina Faso and Ghana. They have also linked shea producers to buyers in Ségou and Mopti using a highly innovative mobile phone based marketing system called Radio Marché. But while Radio Marché works well for honey and other products for which there is already high demand in these two urban centres there were still difficulties in accessing the markets for high quality shea butter. These tend to be in the capital, Bamako, in neighbouring West African countries or overseas.

Funding via MDG from the Patsy Wood Trust paid for the training of trainers in improved shea butter processing techniques. 6 women from 3 Cooperatives took part and then provided training courses for 180 local women in July this year.

Through the Funding Network, and the support of long standing MDG member Sue Raikes, Sahel Eco has also been helped to recruit an experienced marketing agent, Madeleine Dembele. She is now working with the women in Tominian to set up a sustainable plan to increase the income generating potential of shea. She is also exploring ways in which Radio Marché could be further developed in conjunction with local radio to extend markets and communications. Sahel Eco had to delay Madeleine's recruitment after discovering in April that the women had no high quality shea left to use as samples, but as soon as the 2013 shea nut harvest got underway in July, Madeleine

began work by joining three of the Patsy Wood funded training courses. This enabled her to learn about the techniques in detail as well as getting to know the women, their experiences and ambitions. In August and September she is visiting potential clients with samples of the shea butter produced during training, getting a laboratory analysis to demonstrate its high quality and helping the women to plan and organise themselves to secure and fill a major order.

This is one example of the way in which funders like the Patsy Wood Trust and the Funding Network can, via MDG, help to achieve real change at a very local level through the work and local experience of Sahel Eco.

In the coming months, through the MDG newsletter we will keep members informed about the progress of the work, including, news we hope about a breakthrough major order.





The partnership with Pensons à Demain

A message from Tim Hewes

The last two years have seen major developments in the organisation founded to help children in difficult circumstances by Kader Keita.

During 2012 the organisation moved into a rented Centre, allowing much more space for a wider range of activities, and for the first time enabling children to live in if they have nowhere else to go. The TIMSUEJOHN Centre is in Lafiabogou, in Bamako's Commune IV. The activities form the basis for children being rehabilitated. The main activities are:

- Bogolan training – Learning how to make the classic Malian mudcloth
- Literacy work
- Music, dance and drama

The Centre works closely with other agencies and is particularly noted in Mali for its very child centred approach. It has developed excellent working links with other agencies. The past 18 months have been difficult for Pensons a Demain. The conflict in the north of Mali caused many families and children to be displaced and this increased demand for services greatly, without PAD having the resources to respond. The conflict also, at a stroke, ended tourism- one of PAD's income sources was from the selling of Bogolan work to visitors.

The Centre is now helping about 100 children a year and since the organisation started it has literally been a lifeline for many hundreds of young people in desperate circumstances.

Kader's energy continues as strongly as ever. During the last few months he and Sue Upton sought help on a one off basis for an extended family living nearby who had fled from the north leaving all their resources behind. MDG was glad to be able to help. Kader is extremely tightly connected with his community and everyone knows him- a real strength for the organisation.

In recent years however the structure and management of Pensons a Demain has been developing, and as part of MDG's support we have been funding the training of Sogoudougou, Kader's Deputy.

Tim Hewes has made a major contribution to this work with his personal support, encouragement and guidance.

He hopes, together with John Hedge, and Sue Upton, all of whom are proud to be associated with the TimSueJohn Centre to make a joint visit one day soon to see how the work is progressing.

A place at the Centre costs approximately £200 per year. If you would like to support this vital work by funding a place or supporting fundraising for PAD please contact linda.king@malidg.org.uk or phone 01865 890829.



Ride London

Patsy and Kirsty turn it on for MDG



We are always looking for new ways to finance MDG work. This year we had 2 places in the inaugural Ride London event, which started in the Olympic Park and covered 100 miles along the Olympic route to end near Buckingham Palace. Over 20,000 people were involved.

Congratulations and many thanks to Patsy Howe and Kirsty Wear who finished with good times and together raised a massive sum of over £2,300 through sponsorship.

Next year we will have 2 more places so we are already looking for volunteers. If you would like to be considered or have any fundraising ideas you would like to suggest Linda King would be very pleased to hear from you- 01865 890829 or linda.king@malidg.org.uk



Patsy (top) and Kirsty



MDG's new structure

The new structure comes into place from the 2013 Annual General Meeting. The Committee has been working on this plan over the past year and is now ready to launch the new approach- based on the need, given the range of MDG interests, to broaden the number of people sharing responsibility, and maintain our good links with members. MDG is keen to retain its identity as a volunteer led group and the plan is based on that assumption.

The committee will continue to be elected, as our constitution requires at the AGM. The Committee will be made up as follows:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

These 4 officers will share responsibility for the coordination of work overall and the operation of the committee, but in future most of the detailed work will be done within 4 working groups- formally speaking sub committees of the organisation. Each will have a Coordinator who will also serve on the committee, making 8 committee members in all, and a Deputy who will assist with the management of the work. Each working group will have a number of active members to share the workload.

All four groups will have a common responsibility for contributing to

- Future work plans
- Producing content for newsletters and annual report
- Recruiting new members

Good luck to all those taking on these responsibilities, and we hope that as many members as possible will help take MDG's work forward in 2013/14.

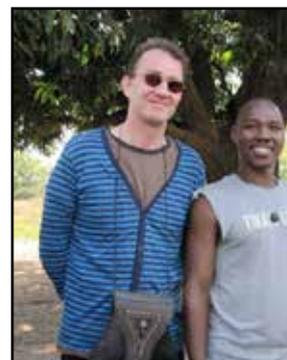
The four groups are as follows:

Project work

Coordinator designate Luke Hedge
(on left in photograph)

Key tasks

- Implementing work plans with partner organisations in Mali
- Liaise with partner organisations about the progress of projects, and the planning of future work
- Support link projects in the UK which are connected with work in Mali



Fundraising

Coordinator designate Linda King

Key tasks

- Liaising with treasurer about the overall MDG budget and availability of funds
- Identifying sources of funding and applying to them
- Developing and supporting corporate links
- Running fundraising events and activities



Communications

Coordinator designate Janice Hedge

Key tasks

- Production of newsletters and annual reports with material produced by other groups
- Keeping website up to date
- Keeping membership list up to date
- Emails and ad hoc communications to members



Public Affairs

Coordinator designate Dan Price

Key tasks

- Implementation of Public Affairs strategy
- Liaison with UK and relevant international organisations
- Links with U.K. and Malian government departments and representatives
- Raising awareness of Mali with the general public



Financial Report

David Hedge, MDG Treasurer



During the year, MDG continued to meet its financial objectives whilst keeping appropriate records and complying with stipulated guidelines such as the maintenance of minimum financial resources. In compliance with requirements, annual accounts are subject to review by an Independent Examiner who, following the year-end, agreed to continue this function.

It is pleasing to note that our volunteer based charity has successfully managed to collect in excess of £550,000 since inception in 2001.

Income

Gross income for the latest financial year exceeded £96,000 and this represents a very significant increase compared with the £40,100 received in 2011/12. This outcome is considered to be a highly creditable achievement within a difficult economic environment and funding of specified Work Plan objectives was met.

Incremental revenue generation saw donations and subscriptions markedly rise to over £89,000. This included regular standing order and other contributions from members, separate private donations plus individual, corporate and trust donations as well as significant amounts as identified below.

During the year, the Jeunesse et Développement (J & D) Reproductive Health programme was funded via £30,000 generously provided by the Guildford Academic Associates (GAA). This major contribution guarantees funding of the project until September 2014. Additionally, funding of the partnership with J & D benefitted from assistance provided by companies, such as Ramboll, the worldwide international group. Gifford Engineering had supported MDG over many years in various important ways and this has continued since the company became part of Ramboll.

Other substantial financial contributions were gratefully received for J & D from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust (£7,500), Just Trust, the Funding Network and monies raised by The Howard Middle School in Bury St. Edmunds, (£2,264). Significant amounts (£6,054) were also received from the African Workshop.

Our partnership with the Creative Agency, Brothers & Sisters, also yielded valuable funding through their charity events, that produced approximately £2,000 in 2012/2013 and further funding has been received since as part of their on-going commitment.

The partnership with Kader Keita's organisation Pensons à Demain benefited greatly from the co-ordination and generous funding of Tim Hewes. Additionally, St Helen's Church, Abingdon donated sums totalling an annual £1,250, with 2013 being the final calendar year of a 3-year commitment to Pensons à Demain, whilst the partnership also received £500 from Just Trust. From a budgetary aspect, this revenue, combined with an accumulated surplus from prior years, comfortably accommodated planned quarterly transfers to Mali.

Funding for our third partner, Sahel Eco, included £7,983 income via the Patsy Wood Trust plus £5,827 with respect to an award made by the Funding Network and £1,500 received from Just Trust.

We are grateful to all regular donors, both individual and organisations. Such commitment from organisations like Just Trust, GAA, Ramboll and the Birchwood Community is particularly helpful in underpinning our work and providing a strong foundation for our own fundraising activities.

Regarding fund-raising, there was a good range of varied activities that saw many



Financial Report

David Hedge, MDG Treasurer

members and supporters being involved and most of these benefitted from the experience and organisation skills of Linda King. Income included approximately £2,500 with regard to Raffle and Christmas sales and over £800 generated by Bank of Montreal's sponsorship of a summer cricket match with MDG.

Gift Aid tax refunds rose by 29% compared with 2011/2012 to a total of £3,766 as we benefitted from a higher level of refundable contributions. A further Gift Aid refund submission will be made in the near future for a sizeable amount that will supplement the charity's resources.

Expenditure

Outgoings rose by 25% to £64,727 during the 2012/2013 financial year and they principally consisted of Malian bank transfers in accordance with Work Plan priorities. Those directed to J & D represented 53.7% of this total with 18.5% being distributed to Pensons à Demain and 22.5% transferred to Sahel Eco.

Transfers are based upon agreed and identified needs and, in accordance with standard requirements, were subject to approval by the Executive Committee of MDG. In the case of J&D they are based upon a jointly agreed 3-year Work Plan and details of this are mentioned elsewhere. This methodology will also be developed with the other two partnerships.

J&D and Pensons à Demain transfers are made on a regular quarterly basis, normally to coincide with the Malian Calendar Financial year of January to December. MDG receives regular progress reports from both organisations and funding priorities can be adjusted based upon both feedback and new information. MDG's other costs and overheads, such as partnership support outgoings, secretarial & treasurer expenses, insurance and printing, continue to be modest and this reflects the volunteer based focus of the charity.

The Current Financial Year (2013/2014)

The first four months of the current year produced income of £13,100 with receipts including a £5,000 contribution to the MACH partnership, £2,500 from Ramboll UK Ltd in connection with Second Step funding, £925 made available by the Funding Network and a further instalment from Abingdon PCC (St Helen's Church).

Outgoings during the first three months of the financial year have mainly been in respect of quarterly transfers to Mali. These are represented by remittances of £9,500 to J & D comprising £7,000 to meet normal on-going requirements and an additional £2,500 relating to Second Step projects. Also, £3,250 has been forwarded to Pensons à Demain to cover their quarterly needs.

MDG continues to focus on developments within Mali and upon the progress of relevant projects during the current uncertain times. Accordingly, we continue to work very closely with our partners and recognise that support by the charity is very important given the particularly challenging environment in which they operate.

The Charity's total bank current and savings account balances, as at the end of July 2013, amounted to approximately £33,000 with funds being held via Charity Deposit accounts with Virgin Money (instant access) and Scottish Widows Bank (7 Day Notice) in addition to the current account held with Lloyds TSB for operating purposes.

David Hedge, Treasurer



**Mali
Development Group**

Charity number: 1088140

