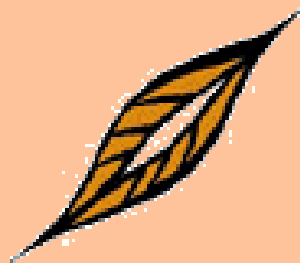


**Mali  
Development  
Group**

**Annual Report  
2024**



**Mali  
Development Group**

**[www.malidg.org.uk](http://www.malidg.org.uk)**

**UK charity reg no. 1088140**

## Introduction from **John Hedge**

This year we have been working carefully towards the ending of our 24-year partnership with Jeunesse et Développement (J&D). Several factors have been involved as we have indicated in our newsletters over the past year. The main issues have been J&D's challenges in trying to rebuild the organisation in very adverse circumstances and our own significantly reduced capacity.

We felt that it was very important to end the partnership as well as possible, with ample notice, full consultation and a commitment to meeting the financial responsibilities involved, notably to Tanty Samake, our link worker who has faithfully supported our projects and kept us informed about them over the years.

Together J&D and MDG have accomplished a great deal, and the report prepared for our celebration event on 7 September 2024, 'A Journey Shared', gives a clear picture of all that has been achieved. We hope to maintain our friendship links with the key people who have worked with us.

We are now focused on a single partner, Pensons à Demain (PAD). In this report you will see that our work to support Kader and his team has continued and that they have been maintaining their impressive work with some of Mali's most vulnerable boys and girls.

They have also been breaking some new ground with their work in the girls' prison in Bamako. We are regularly updated with information and pictures and our role as key core funder continues. We intend to continue for another two years and

then review the situation again, so that we know we can honour the commitment we have made to this important cause.

As you will see from the Treasurer's report, our ability to continue MDG's work depends critically on two things. First, the excellent fundraising activities of our catering group, 'The Babs' led by Linda King. To provide local events with good value food and drink and use the profit to support MDG is a beautiful virtuous circle and all credit to everyone involved.

The second factor is personal donations. We are generously supported by many people, but the most important to us are those regular donors giving us a guaranteed income every month. If you're one of them we offer you our grateful thanks. If you aren't will you, please, consider becoming one. It would help us greatly.

With best wishes to all our supporters.

**The MDG committee**

## News from PAD

### Sue Upton

#### ***PAD carries on...***

Kader continues to lead the PAD team in carrying out their annual programme, taking up new opportunities and responding to emerging issues, as Bamako faces new challenges. Kader recently said that the demand for PAD's services far outstrips what they can provide, and he has to make difficult decisions to ensure that they stay within their capacity, so that they can offer meaningful support to the young people signed up for activities. Insecurity in the centre and north of country means high numbers of displaced people in Bamako and extreme heat, combined with long power cuts and the high cost of living, makes daily life problematic for everyone in the city. As ever, it is the most vulnerable people who are most at risk, so more children are asking PAD for support. While the number of residential places is limited, PAD stretches support to non-residents as far as possible.

#### ***Returning young people to their families...***

14 girls and 11 boys are currently enrolled at the centre. There were 15 boys, but four, aged between 10 and 13, have recently returned to live with their families in the potters' village of Kalabougou across the river from the town of Segou. Kader told me about this successful family reunification, when members of the PAD team travelled with the boys to go home, after some time living on the streets in Bamako, and then at the PAD centre. Their families were overjoyed to see them, having no idea what had become of them. They were happy to have the boys back and donated a sack of rice to PAD to express their thanks.



Kader with boys from the centre

#### ***Sewing and tailoring training...***

The sewing and tailoring training for young mothers, supported by partners in Angers, is continuing, with a new intake this year. Kader always stresses that this can only take place because of the basic running costs for the centre that MDG provides, and he asks that MDG supporters be reminded that their generosity enables wider work to take place. Kader has asked MDG to fund some more sewing machines when possible, so that tailoring training can also be offered to some of the youths that attend the centre. The programme has been tried and tested over a number of years now, so we are raising funds to do this.



### ***Art sessions at Bollé Detention Centre...***

Kader also continues to offer several art sessions each week for young women at Bollé Detention Centre on the outskirts of Bamako. This is now jointly funded by MDG and the Director of Bollé and gives some much-needed input to the detainees, some of whom have young children.

### ***Joint workshop with INA, the National Art Institute...***

Kader is always advocating for the centre and vulnerable children. This year PAD hosted a joint workshop with students from the National Arts College (where Kader himself qualified) and PAD young people, which provided an opportunity for the two groups to share their skills and experiences.



### ***Small steps towards owning premises...***

PAD's ultimate dream is to own their own centre rather than paying for rented premises, and they moved a small step closer to this recently when a visitor from Spain purchased a piece of land in PAD's name. While it is too far out of town to be viable as a centre, it will serve as an investment that can be sold at a later date if other funds become available.



### ***Staying in touch and expressing thanks...***

Overall, it's heartening to know that the PAD team is as strong as ever and functions effectively to respond to the needs of their young people. Kader stays in regular contact and sends pictures of activities, punctuated by the occasional phone call. He and the team are endlessly grateful for MDG support and express this by naming rooms in the centre and annual cohorts of students after prominent MDG members. We wish them all the best for the coming year.

# Financial Report

## Ken King

### Financial Report for year ended 31st March 2024

MDG has continued to provide funding for the regular activities of both of our partners in Mali, up to the end of this financial year. However as noted in the introduction, MDG took the difficult decision during this year, to end our partnership with Jeunesse et Développement due mainly to financial challenges on both sides.

The accounts for the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 have been reviewed by an Independent Examiner and have been found satisfactory. The figures are below.

### Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
	£	£	
<b>Receipts</b>			
Donations legacies and grants	9,692	0	9,692
Fundraising	6,404	0	6,404
Interest	2	0	2
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>16,098</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,098</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Donations paid (transferred)	24,500	0	24,500
Insurance	220	0	220
Bank transfer charges	161	0	161
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>24,881</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,881</b>
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 8,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 8,783</b>
Cash funds last year end b/f	23,043	-	23,043
<b>Cash funds this year end c/f</b>	<b>14,260</b>		<b>14,260</b>

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**Linda King (Chair)**  
**Judith Hartley (Secretary)**  
**Ken King (Treasurer)**

**Other committee members:**

**John Hedge**  
**Janice Hedge**  
**Tim Hewes**  
**Sue Upton (co-opted)**  
**Wilfred Willey**

