



**FINANCIAL AND ACTIVITIES REPORT OF SIKA
DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF) FOR 2023**

SUBMITTED: DECEMBER 2023

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Executive summary

For an organisation to succeed, the way it uses the funds must be prudent and in keeping with its guiding principles, the Constitution. The aim of this report is to address that fundamental requirement of the need of the leadership team to report the usage of the funds paid/donated by the members and donors over the last 12 months. SDF has three (3) accounts – in The Gambia (with GT Bank), USA (with Wells Fargo) and England (with Lloyds Bank and PayPal). At the time of writing, SDF has a total of \$12,511.31 (in the Main and Healthcare accounts) in the Wells Fargo account; £1,868.14 in the UK (joint sum in the Lloyds bank and PayPal accounts) and D166,104.20 (total in the Healthcare and Main accounts) at the GT bank in The Gambia. While these funds may appear large to some, it should be recognised that SDF is resource poor – this is in context of SDF's commitment to build a Community Clinic in Sika, which is resource-intensive. Thus, there is a need for the membership to redouble their efforts to ensure that the resources needed are available to sustain the activities of SDF.

A great deal has been done over the last 12 months. The compound where the Community Clinic will be housed is now secured (perimeter fence constructed to high specification); and an additional land was gifted to the village which will provide two separate dwellings plus outdoor living spaces, from the clinic compound, for the healthcare professionals. It is also pleasing to report that through the generous donation of an anonymous donor, a borehole was financed and the work on that is at an advanced stage. With over some 400 bags of cement cast into some 14,000 blocks, and a compound drawing produced, SDF is working at pace with the relevant Ministry and its local branch to get the building work started as soon as possible. While we wait to hear about the outcome of the GIRAV matching grant application for the Women's Horticultural Project, the leadership worked hard to acquire more land for the Women's Garden Project and is also seeking to regularise the ownership of the land.

The provision of affordable healthcare is an important objective of SDF since inception and much has been achieved in that area. Despite some challenges, the current healthcare project, which replaced the one with Ndemba Kebba Jaiteh, is providing some excellent services for the community. However, more effort is needed to improve the visitation frequency of the CHN to Sika. The outgoing Team also engaged in a lot of work to raise some funds towards the treatment of Abdoulie Sowe (Gorgie), Pa Omar Sonko (Pa Binja). The SDF membership and its leadership also played some pivotal roles in supporting the financing, and delivery of some useful projects in Sika, such as the Lighting and Water projects; but these projects were not initiated and managed by the leadership of SDF.

Being the last report of the outgoing Executive Committee, this report provides an extensive summary of much of work done over the last 12 months and before. In addition, the report contains many challenges, but resources (capital and human) are perhaps the most significant of them all. Together with the efforts of its membership and honorary members and donors, it is hoped that the registration of SDF as a 501(c)3 organisation may help in raising some funds for the Clinic project and other worthy causes. Any lawful activities that can be done by all the members to ease the resource constraints of SDF would advance SDF's capacity to achieve its objectives. So, there is much work that needs to be done by the incoming Team – in collaboration with the general membership of SDF. As the new Team goes about taking on some new assignments, it is hoped that the Team would meet to discuss and set some new strategic objectives for the coming 3 years and that the membership would do the needful and help realise those objectives.

The outgoing team sends its very best wishes to the new Team members in their respective roles; the assignment they are about to assume is an unmatched gift from our people to them. As is the case

with these kinds of work, it naturally zigs and zags some of the time. However, it is a thankful task; it feels very good knowing that one is doing one's best to make a difference in the lives of the people who matter to you a great deal.

Summary of funds received and expenses by SDF during this reporting period: The 2023 annual report.

The attached excel sheet shows quite a detailed summary of some of the expenses incurred during the term of the current executive Committee. The total expenses incurred is D682,850. In addition, SDF spent \$275 to apply for the 501(c)3 status. The total funds in the accounts are as follows: USA, \$12,511.31; UK, 1,868.14 and The Gambia, D166,104.20. Separately, an anonymous donor has committed £1000 towards the borehole and the training of a healthcare professional to serve at the Community Clinic.

The reader should refer the other excel sheet in this report for some of the additional receipts and expenses, especially those related to the funds generated from the current clinic project which provides healthcare in Sika.



Summary of
funds_expenses_repoi

Introduction

Sika Development Fund (SDF) was formed in August 2014; the SDF Constitution was adopted on August 15, 2014. This report serves to highlight some of the activities that SDF has been involved in over the last 12 months; in some places, the report also summarises some of the Team's work since taking office in October 2020.

It is hoped that this annual financial and activities report, the final for the term of the outgoing Executive Committee, will highlight some of what has been achieved over the last 12 months and more.

As dictated by the Constitution, the term of office of the Executive Committee is 3 years and a new Executive Committee was elected at the end of the previous Executive Committee's term of office in December 2023.

The outgoing executive committee, its working Groups/ad hoc committees which enhanced the operational work of the Executive Committee and made the work reported here possible- from the funds collected from the members, donors/grant- are as follows:

The outgoing Executive Committee of SDF for 2020-2023

President: Omar Janneh

Vice President: Alieu SK Cham

Secretary General: Saikou Lamin Sonko

Assistants: Bakary T. Sonko, Pa Ansumana Manneh, Manta Barjo and Bakary Gitteh

Treasurer: Sima Camara

Co-Assistant Treasurers: Bakary J. Sonko/Saikouba Ceesay

Auditor: Pa Sanyang

Co-Assistant Auditors: Lamin Anfaal Manjang/Kabiro KS Janneh

Social and Resource Mobilisation Secretary: Lamin Sonko (Nani)

Assistants: Satou Gassama, Mariama (Bonto) Jaiteh, Santa Sonko, Mariama Sawo-Kamara and Satang Sanneh

Advisers: Kemo Sonko, Sarjo Gitte, Mustapha Sonko, Sutay Janneh, Malamin Janneh (Maala)

Ad-hoc Committees/working groups set up by the Executive Committee

To help with its work, the Executive Committee also set up the following ad-hoc committees, in full compliance with the provision of **section 7.6** of the Constitution of SDF.

Legal Adviser: Solo Demba

Strategists and Liaison Officers: Lamin Famoro Sonko, Pa Amadou Drammeh and Babadinding Sonko

Water Committee: Bakary Gitte, Borry Janneh, Sainabou Kebbeh, Fatou Jatta, Yaya Sonko (aka Yaya Binja), and Malamin Janneh (aka Maala)

Members of the Sika Community Clinic Taskforce

Having taken stock of the complex nature of implementing the clinic project- from ideation to the realization of the project, a taskforce was set up and composed of the following:

- **Taskforce Chairman:** Bakary J Sonko
- **Building Construction supervisors:** Malamin Janneh (Mala) (Also VDC representative on the Taskforce), Bakary Gitte, Ousman Janneh, Mamadi Jaiteh, Lamin Fa-Omor Sonko
- **Accountants:** Bakary T Sonko & Kemo Sonko
- **Lawyer/Legal Adviser:** Solo Demba
- **Representatives for negotiations:** Alieu SK Cham, Ansumana Sanneh (PURA), Bakary J Sonko, Sarjo Gitte
- **Medical Knowledgeable persons:** Bintou Janneh Kumba, Pa Ansumana Manneh, Bakary J Sonko, Omar Janneh, Solo Demba

Members of the Sika Women's Garden project working group

- Bakary J Sonko - Chair
- Omar NR Sonko - Coordinator
- Sarjo Gitte
- Lang Manneh
- Malamin Janneh (Maala)
- Kawsu Sonko
- Ndemba Janneh (Karamba)
- Satou Gassama

Members of the appreciation taskforce

The Executive Committee set up a working group to identify SDF members worthy of receiving certificate of appreciation/honorarium from SDF. The membership of the appreciation taskforce is as follows:

- i. Bakary J Sonko- Chair
- ii. Omar Janneh
- iii. Lamin Sonko (Nani)
- iv. Sima Camara
- v. Pa Sanyang
- vi. Mariama Sawo-Kamara

Names of members co-opted to work with the Sika Water Committee

Having supported the restoration of the village water supply in 2020, SDF led the efforts to strengthen the Water Committee of the VDC. The following were suggested to the VDC to be co-opted into the Water Committee of the VDC which the Water Committee of the VDC agreed to co-opt them:

- i. Bakary Gitteh
- ii. Borry Janneh
- iii. Yaya Binja Sonko
- iv. Sainabou Kebbeh
- v. Fatou Jatta

The incoming Team should note that at the second General meeting, the following agreed to serve as SDF's Youth Ambassadors and help support SDF's efforts towards the collection of the annual subscription payments:

- i. Lamin Drammeh-Makutu
- ii. Fatou Darboe- Masira
- iii. Saffie Sonko-Sanyang
- iv. Musa Tida Sonko (Codka)

Status of SDFs funds in the different countries it operates.

The Gambia: In the Gambia, SDF has 2 accounts with GT Bank and the balance in the accounts are as follows – as of December 15, 2023:

- Main account: D150,315.45
- Healthcare account: D15,788.77

Please refer to the file below for the bank statement which captures the amounts shown above:



SDF_GT
bank_Main& HC acco

United Kingdom (UK): In the UK, SDF's funds are in Lloyds bank and the balance in the account as of December 15, 2023: £1,491.42



SDF_Lloyds.pdf

SDF also operates a PayPal and as of December 15, 2023, the balance in the account is £376.72. Below is the screenshot image of the balance in the account:



SDF_Paypal_Decem
ber 2023.pdf

United States of America (USA): In the USA, SDF deposits its funds with Wells Fargo bank and maintains 2 accounts, the Main and the Healthcare accounts. The balance in the accounts are as follows:

Main Account: \$6,511.31. Please see below for the bank statement of the main account:



SDF_Well
Fargo_main account

Healthcare account: \$6,000. Please see below for the bank statement of the healthcare account:



SDF_Well Fargo_HC
account.pdf

Projects implemented or are being implemented by SDF.

Update on the GIRAV matching grant for the Women's Garden project

Since its inception, SDF has lent support to the Women's Garden project as well as provide some support towards the repair of the village milling machine.

Having submitted the application for the GIRAV matching grant worth \$25,000 (of this, SDF needs to pay \$5,000 to the grant, if successful), SDF embarked on a lot of sensitisation efforts to ensure that the villagers are prepared to receive the assessors when they pay them a visit. Below is a selection of some photos and videos of some of the sensitisation work done in Sika by Omar NR Sonko.



Photo 1_sensitn.jpg



Photo 3_sensitn.jpg



Photo 4_sensitn.jpg



Photo 5_sensitn.jpg



Photo 6_sensitn.jpg



Photo 2_sensitn.jpg



Video

1_sensitisation.mp4



Video

2_sensitisation.mp4

At the time of writing, SDF awaits the outcome of this application. Omar NR Sonko knows a lot about this type of funding, and it is recommended that the new Executive Committee of SDF works with Omar NR Sonko to find out about the status/progress of SDF's application and if awarded, what SDF must do to ensure that SDF complies with all the necessities as the objects of the grant are being implemented.

The response of the Executive Committee of SDF to the reports of acute kidney injury to some suspect medications in The Gambia

On January 8, 2023, the Leadership of SDF took the decision to work with the Regional Health Director Mr Modou Lamin Fofana, and removed from its shelves all paracetamol suspensions as well as all cough syrups which were linked to cases of acute kidney injury in infants in the country resulting in

some regrettable fatalities. All the medications removed from the shelves were disposed of as per the recommendations of the Health Ministry.

Provision of healthcare in Sika

Access to healthcare remains a core and active objective of SDF. Thus, the outgoing team remains grateful to Omar NR Sonko for making his house available for the delivery of the existing healthcare project. To our knowledge a at least 18-25 patients are seen each time the CHN visits Sika.

Although the visitations are irregular, the service is of benefit to the people of Sika and everything should be done to maintain/sustain it.

Patients pay D25 for consultations and pay for their drugs/medications separately, but at considerably discounted price.

In addition, the CHN is incentivised through a small allowance of D700 per visit and the support staff, Mr Alhagie Njie receives D150 per visit. These are paid out of the funds collected at the clinic; the funds collected at the clinic are kept by SDF's Treasurer in Sika, Malamin Janneh. At present, Malamin Janneh (Maala) has about D8,260 with him. Please find below spreadsheet of the record of activities, e.g., income, drug costs to patients, and expenses incurred for the current healthcare project in Sika as well as for the Community Clinic.



record of activities
for the healthcare pro

Update on work being done at the compound of the Sika Community Clinic

SDF is grateful to the late Nyimanding Drammeh and her family for donating to Sika a plot of land for the purpose of erecting the Community Clinic; the site measures 75.96x42.45m. At the village level, the land has been transferred to Sika through the completion of the recognised land transfer form, which was signed by Omar Sanneh, son of late Nyimanding Drammeh, witnesses and sealed by the Alkalo's stamp. The completed, and signed document is with Malamin Janneh.

February 2023

On February 19, 2023, the meeting approved the purchase of:

- 20 tractor load of sand (@D1000/load): D20,000
- 10 tractor load of gravel (@D6000/load): D60,000

On February 28, 2023, D80,000 was sent from the account in UK for Sulayman Bajo to collect and take for Malamin Janneh (Maala) to go ahead and buy 20 tractor loads of sand and 10 lorry loads of gravel. See below the receipt of the transfer of D80,000 sent from the UK account to pay for the sand and gravel:

Successful!
 Your Transaction has been successfully completed.

Transaction Summary

Sender Name Omar Janneh (+447904658896)
Receiver Name Sulayman Bajo (+2203191879)
Delivery Method Cash Pick-Up
Payout Partner info Any Branch Collect your money from any branches of Supersonicz Microfinance, MSJ Bureau, Afro Express, Reliance Financial, Chapman Express, Easy Financial, MJ Finance, JBM, JFIN, AMM Bureau, AFIA, EJ bureau, Heewal bureau and F&M Family Bureau anywhere in Gambia
Receiving Amount 80,000.00 - GMD
Reference # (For receiver to pick the money) SZ4981504875

It is pleasing to note that SDF acquired additional land of about 20 meters – towards the side of the site; the perimeter of the extra land is not fenced. The extra land will contain 2 residences for the healthcare personnel who would work at the Community Clinic. This additional land was gifted by Lamin Drammeh-Manyima Jumburr; the people of Sika are grateful for the generosity.

Using funds generated through fundraising, annual subscription payments and MSDG project/DDF grant, the site was fenced to completion. Click on the attached file for the presentation of the work done on the Community Clinic to the sponsors, MSDG project/DDF grant. At the end of the document, there is also a link for the presentation in Mandinka.



Sika Community
Healthcare Project.p

In preparation for the construction phase of the project, as stated earlier, SDF bought several trips of sand, gravel and on 19 March 2023, SDF approved the spending of D110,000. See below the breakdown:

Given that the cost of a bag of cement at the time was bought was D420; so, the total cost of the cement, loading and transportation cost to Sika are as follows:

- a) 200 bags of cement at D420/bag D84,000
- b) Loading of 200 bags of cement in Barra (@D5 per bag): D1000
- c) Transportation of 200 bags of cement at D25 per bag by Sulayman Bajo: D5000
- d) Total cost: D90,000

The meeting approved the spending of D90,000 to buy cement and pay for the associated costs to get the consignment to Sika.

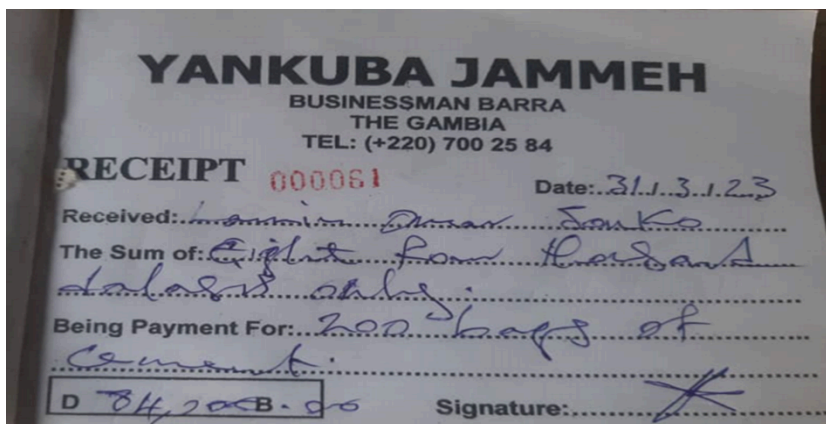
In addition, since the making of the blocks is to be contracted out to interested individuals, the Executive Committee approved a further D20,000 to be given to Malamin Janneh (Maala) so that when an advanced payment is requested by the successful bidder, Maala is about to act on the request.

Thus, the total amount drawn from the main account in the Gambia to buy cement, its associated loading and transportation costs and the D20,000 to Maala has become D110,000.00

Kemo Sonko drew the cheque of D110,000 (see below) in the name of Lamin Omar Sonko (aka Lamin Famoro Sonko)



Please find below the receipt for the 200 bags of cement:



In subsequent developments, Omar Janneh provided the following summary:

Blocks made from the 100 bags of cement: 3,450 blocks

Blocks made from the 50 bags of cement: 1,805 blocks

Total blocks made: $3,450 + 1,805 = 5,355$ blocks

Total paid for making the blocks (at D5/block): $5,355 * 5 = D26,775$

Cost of watering the blocks (at D1200/50 bags of cement moulded:

First 50 bags: D1200

Second 50 bags: D1200

Third 50 bags: D1200

Total for watering: D3,600

Grand total: 26,775+3,600 +3,600= D33,975

Note: Initially D20,000 was given to Malamin Janneh (Maala) to pay the contractors making the blocks. This means that he took D10,375 from the SDF's funds in hand to pay the contractors making the blocks.

10 bags of the 50 bags of cement left were made into blocks. The information about these 10 bags regarding cost and number of blocks are as follows:

- Cost of making the blocks: D1750
- Number of blocks made of the 10 bags of cement: 350 blocks
- Number of blocks made of the 40 bags of cement: 1,500 blocks
- Cost of making the 40 bags of cement: D7,100
- Cost of watering the remaining 50 bags: D1,200
- Total blocks made: 5,355+350+1,500 = 7,205 blocks

Previously (April/May 2023, 200 bags of cement were bought and made into blocks. The estimated number of blocks made were 7,291 blocks.

At the time of writing, the 200 bags of cement have been cast into blocks (estimated total was 7205 blocks). This plus the blocks made from the previous 200 bags of cement has now produced some 14,496 blocks, by the contractor. See the objects below for the contractual agreement between SDF and the Contractor (Omar Manneh – Ebou Manneh) to make the blocks; and some select files containing photo and videos of the blocks made. The final video file was obtained in December 2023.



Sika Development
Fund Block Contractu:



Photo of some blocks
made.jpg



Video 1_some blocks
made.mp4



Video 2_some blocks
made.mp4



Video of blocks
made_400 bags of cer

In addition, SDF worked with the Health Ministry to prepare the ground for the construction phase of the project. The relevant paperwork for the contacts made with the Health Ministry are readily accessible from the outgoing President of SDF. SDF worked with an Architect who prepared a compound plan of the Community Clinic. On October 3, 2022, SDF paid a gratuity of D7,000 to the Architect (see the object below for the transfer ticket done via APS money transfer from SDF's UK bank account).



Architect's
gratuity_D7000.jpg

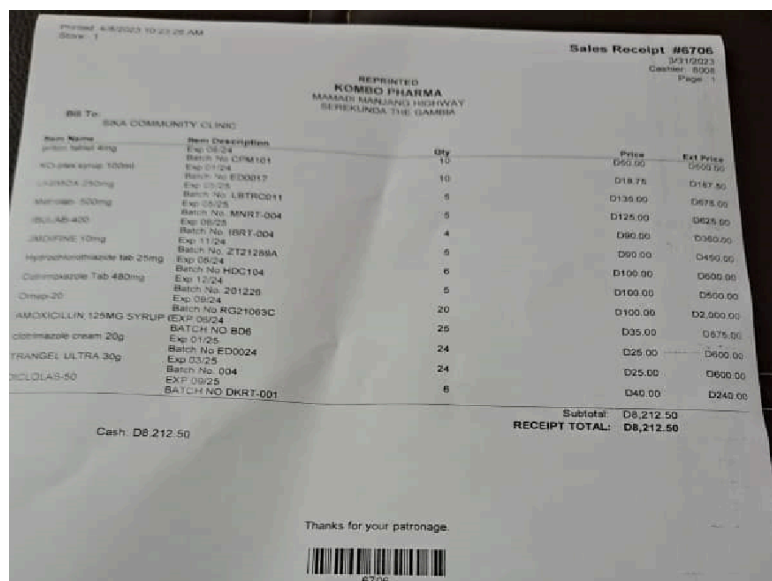
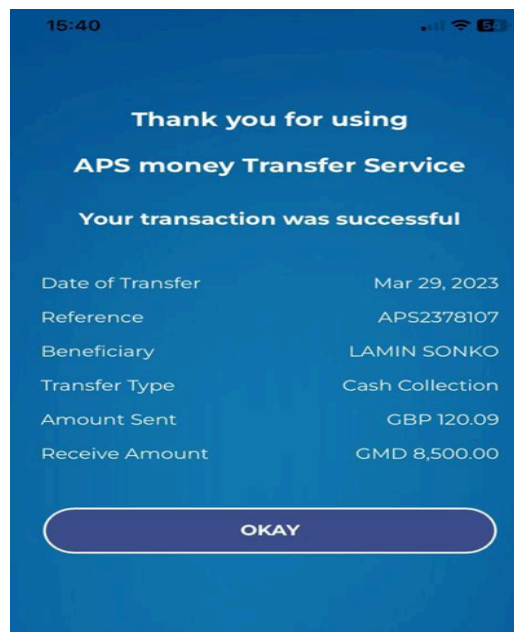
The object below contains the compound plan of the residences of the healthcare personnel. The plan can be viewed by clicking on the object below:



Compound
plan_Sika Comm Clii

The need to replenish the stock of drugs in Sika.

With news reaching the Leadership of the low stock level of the drugs in Sika, the Executive resolved to restock the drugs needed in Sika to help continue the services was recognised. To that end, D8,212.50 worth of drugs were purchased from Kombo Pharma. A total of D8,500 was sent to accommodate the out-of-pocket expenses to transport the drugs to Sika. Lamin Famoro Sonko took on this assignment for the Leadership team; the drugs were paid for from the funds in the UK account. Please find below the transfer ticket and the receipt for the drugs:



The task force also drew some measures (see below) which it hoped would allow accurate record to be kept of the drugs that arrived in Sika and the stock level after each consultation. It was recognised

that the clerks (Alhagie Njai, Janko Njai) and Malamin Janneh should all be aware of these measures and t work diligently in observing them.

The leadership decided that Omar Janneh must try and engage the CHN so that he (Omar Janneh) can resume the services in Sika by following the following guidelines issues by the taskforce:

- a) ALL DRUGS MUST be left in the open where the clerks sit. This message must be made clear to both the Clinician and the clerks.
- b) Whenever the Clinician prescribes a drug for a patient, he/she must come out and dispense the medication to the patients and then share that information of the medication prescribed with the clerks for them to record in a book purposely dedicated for that purpose. The patients pay for their consultation fee and prescription charge before they leave the premises. It must be noted that the prices for the drugs are variable, with some being more expensive than others. The clerks must ensure that the appropriate price is charged and paid for each prescription.
- c) The Clinician MUST ALSO RECORD and SHARE with Omar Janneh ALL the drugs he/she prescribes to patients during each visit, as well as other reasonable information requested made by Omar Janneh so that he can keep an accurate record of the activities at the clinic.
- d) The clerks MUST also share with Omar Janneh their record of the drugs prescribed by the Clinician during each visit. We owe this level of clarity and transparency in the way we do things to our members who finance this project.
- e) All the drugs should be clearly LABELLED and shelved SEPARATELY. The clerks and the Clinician should be able to count the number of drugs under each shelved category and record them with ease so that accurate records can be taken of the stock level on the shelves PRE-VISIT and POST-VISIT. This information should be shared with Omar Janneh when requested.

On October 6, 2023, SDF approved the purchase of more drugs to replenish the stock level in Sika. To Omar Janneh sent from SDF's UK account the sterling equivalent of D8000 to replenish the drugs in Sika. The funds were received by Pa Ansuman Manneh; click on the icon below or see below it for the transfer ticket:

<p align="center">Successful!</p> <p align="center">Your Transaction has been succesfully completed.</p>	
<p>Transaction Summary</p>	
<p>Sender Name Omar Janneh (+447904658896)</p>	
<p>Receiver Name Ansumana Manneh (+2203436654)</p>	
<p>Delivery Method Cash Pick-Up</p>	
<p>Payout Partner info Any Branch Collect your money from any branches of Supersonicz Microfinance, MSJ Bureau, Afro Express, Reliance Financial, Chapman Express, Easy Financial, MJ Finance, JBM,JFIN, AFIA, EJ bureau, AMJ Bureau, MUHAS, Unique bureau, Kharange Bureau, Porek Financial, Jallow brothers, Bigist Bureau, Gadiri bureau, YK financial, and F&M Family Bureau, APH BUREAU anywhere in Gambia</p>	
<p>Receiving Amount 8,000.00 - GMD</p>	
<p>Reference # (For receiver to pick the money) SZ7231763842</p>	

As was previously communicated, the cost of the drugs alone was D6,020; see below the receipt for the drugs purchased from Kairaba Pharmaceuticals:

Again, with much appreciation for your effort!
Omar

Omar Janneh informed the meeting that Lamin Famoro Sonko collected the drugs from Pa Ansumana Manneh and used the balance of D1680 to pay for the transportation of the drugs to Sika.

Below is the handover report of the drugs and the balance of D1680 to Lamin Famoro Sonko by Pa Ansumana Manneh:

Lameng village
Thurs - 12/10/2023.

I Ansumana Manneh (Pa Manneh)
hereby hand over the sum of one thousand
six hundred and eighty Dalas (D1680.00)
to Lamin Omar Sonko, being balance of
money from the purchase of drugs for
Sika Development Fund Health Care Project.

Handed over by
Name - Ansumana Manneh
Signature - [Signature]
Tel - 3436659

Received by - Lamin Omar Sonko
Signature - [Signature]
Tel - 3963963

The meeting expressed its gratitude to all those involved in the actualisation of the task.

Update on the funds disbursed so far towards the construction of the Sika Community Clinic: case for starting another fundraising campaign.

Although, other funds were disbursed since June 4, 2023, Omar Janneh reminded the meeting about the Team's resolve on January 9, 2022, to start the fundraising campaign for the Community Clinic when the estimated of D834,300 raised in 2020-2021 for the construction of the Community Clinic fell to about D400,000. To see if the funds spent have reached the threshold to trigger the need to start another fundraising campaign, Omar Janneh reminded the Team of the expenses incurred against the D834,300 as follows:

- D151,475 – reported in financial and activities report of 2021-2022 – for clearing of the land, several trips of 10wheel trucks of sand, gravel, cement (loading, transportation) and lunch for the community to cast the cement into blocks
- D80,000 – remitted on February 28, 2023
- D110,000 – remitted from SDF's Gambia account on March 31, 2023
- D20,000 – remitted on April 29, 2023, from SDF's UK account
- D180,000 – remitted on May 26, 2023 (refer to the WhatsApp message on SDF Executive forum of May 29, 2023)
- Total expenses: D541,475

Balance in the account for the Clinic fund: D292,825

Omar Janneh reminded the meeting that the expenses reported above do not include the D300,000 received from the MSDG/DDF grant, which were spent. Refer to the presentation done for MSDG project/DDF for how the D300,000 was spent.

Given that the funds left of the Community Clinic fund was D292,825, which is below the D400,000 necessary to trigger another fundraising campaign, the Executive Committee took the decision to embark on another fundraising campaign.

The start of another fundraising campaign to support the construction of the Sika Community Clinic

As the Community Clinic is a long-term project, it is imperative that funds are acquired to sustain it from the construction of the clinic to running it. To that end, a fundraising campaign was started and is scheduled to close on December 31, 2023. It may be helpful to give this campaign some additional publicity (as 36 pledges were made) so that more people can donate towards the cause. Please find below/attached the file for the pledged received and fulfilled (in bold/marked as paid) at the time of writing this report.



Comm
Clinic_fundraising_ple

Provision of emergency funds for the treatment of individuals

Separately, SDF and the membership contributed generously towards the treatment costs of Abdoulie Sowe (Gorgie) and Pa Omar Sonko (Pa Binja). See below the file containing the donations received and remitted:



Donation_Abdoulie
Sowe and Pa Omar Sc

The MSDG project/DDF grant: Fencing of the site and extending the water supply from borehole1 to the compound of the Community Clinic

The objectives of the MSDG project/DDF grant, was to fence the site of the Community Clinic and to also extend the water supply to the clinic site to provide easier access to the water supply. Using some of the funds generated through fundraising (D834,300), the annual subscription payments and MSDG project/DDF grant, both objectives were fulfilled. Click on the attached file for the presentation that was showcased to the sponsors, MSDG project/DDF grant. At the end of the document, there is also a link for the presentation in Mandinka.



Sika Community
Healthcare Project.p

Efforts towards the acquisition of medical supplies and equipment for the Sika Community Clinic

Bakary J Sonko made some contact with a not-for profit organisation, project PURE that supplies medical equipment and supplies across the world from USA to help causes such as SDF.

In briefly, Project C.U.R.E. has committed to working with SDF and have offered a 40-foot container load of medical supplies worth \$350,000-\$450,000 to SDF. The Director of Project C.U.R.E. provided SDF with an offer letter which SDF could use to seek funding to help fulfil the condition of shipment to the Gambia.

The conditions that SDF must fulfil to have the supplies are as follows:

- SDF pays \$29,000 to Project C.U.R.E.
- Project C.U.R.E. will supply the 40-foot container worth some \$450,000 of medical supplies.

The \$29,000 is broken down as follows:

- Registration fee: \$13,000
- Travel expenses for Project C.U.R.E.'s assessor of SDF's needs in Sika – they don't just pack the container with any supplies but supplies that we need. The assessors travel costs and reasonable accommodation costs are to be paid by SDF
- Travel costs of Project C.U.R.E.'s personnel: \$4,000
- Transformers for some the equipment to regularise their voltage ratings with that in the Gambia: \$2,000
- Miscellaneous expenses: \$9,500

Typical length of time needed to ship the medical supplies (to the Gambia): 8-9 months.

SDF's Appreciation Certificates and token of cash for 2023 to Malamin Janneh and Lamin Famoro Sonko

The leadership team of SDF considered it important that members who have supported the core values and objectives of SDF should be recognised annually. To that end, in 2020, Lamin Sonko-Nani received a certificate from SDF. It may be recalled that in 2022, SDF also awarded certificates to Famara Drammeh, Lamin Drammeh-Makutu, Omar A Sowe, Ansuman N Manneh for their work on the Sika Lighting Project

At the conclusion of the nomination process for the award of Appreciation Certificates for 2023, the taskforce announced to the members names of 2 individuals deserving of the certificates. These are Malamin Janneh and Lamin Omar Sonko: for their continued voluntary and selfless sacrifices for the community. The Appreciation Taskforce recommended to the Executive Committee the need to give the awardees D1000 each which was approved by the Executive Committee. Unfortunately, Lamin Famoro Sonko was not available. Kawsu Sonko received the certificate and the token of D1000 on his behalf. Find below the certificates, photos and recordings taken during the presentation of the certificates.





Find below a selection of some of the videos taken during the presentation.



Appreciation video
1.mp4



Appreciation video
2.mp4



Appreciation video
3.mp4



Appreciation video
4.mp4

The Leadership is grateful to Bakary S Sonko (aka Bambo/Da Prince) for designing the Appreciation Certificates.

SDF's efforts to regularise the ownership of the land for the Women's Garden

Over 10 years ago, the Jaiteh Kunda Kabilo donated a large piece of land (size to be determined and recorded in the transfer document which is yet to be done) to the people of Sika for the Women's Garden; recently, some additional land (size unknown, but to be also determined and included in the land transfer document) was donated for the same purpose- this is after a successful approach/effort by the outgoing Executive Committee of SDF.

Scholarship to train a Community Health Nurse (CHN) at Gambia College

An anonymous individual has committed £400 towards the training of an individual to study nursing. This money will be used by SDF to pay for the training of a CHN – this may mitigate the difficulty being encountered with the current Healthcare project. The fund is sufficient for only 1 year of the tuition fees. If no additional funding is available, SDF is committed to financing the tuition fees for the other 2 years, plus any additional miscellaneous expenses, depending on the availability of funds. This move addresses the advice of the Regional Health Director (NBR) for SDF to train a healthcare

professional who could work at the Community Clinic upon its completion. It will be the responsibility of the incoming Team to do the necessary paperwork to ensure the recruitment and success of the scholarship programme, which shall include the need to secure the necessary resources for the successful applicant to complete the programme – this is a 3-year course.

SDF evaluated the financial implications it might have to undertake to sponsor a student on the SRN programme.

The information below was made available to the Executive Committee during its meeting by Omar Janneh:

- Tuition fee for Gambians enrolled on the advanced diploma in Nursing (SRN): D21,000
- Internet fee: D1000
- Pin code to submit the application: D600 for those uploading one result and D300 for each additional result) from any Gambia Teachers Union Cooperative Credit Union Offices.
- Cost of books depends on books recommended, but most of the books are e-books so are accessible online/are downloadable.
- Fare depends on where the candidate lives/is travelling from.
- The programme consists of 12 modules and as part of the training, the students go on placements (sometimes to sites in Kombo St Marys, Bwiam, Bansang, etc.). Cost of travel to the placement sites, accommodation and feeding are difficult to determine; sometimes the class discusses, agrees on what each should pay and manage on their joint contributions.

The incoming Executive Committee will be doing a lot of work with a view to implementing the scholarship programme in 2024/2025 academic year.

Sponsorship of a borehole at the Community clinic

An individual is financing through ‘Saddaqa Jariyah’ for a borehole at the Community. The individual allocated £1,562 to this cause and SDF is also bearing some of the expenses towards the realisation of the borehole at the site. Lamin Famoro Sonko is working with Omar Janneh towards the implementation of this project. SDF is contributing towards the construction of the platform of the water tanks. This work is at an advanced stage. Now, £600 is left of the funds towards the completion of the project. It would be appreciated if the incoming team would be able to place a symbol at the borehole to indicate that it was gifted as ‘Saddaqa Jariyah’. Clicking on the object below will reveal a video of the borehole upon digging it.



Borehole at the
Comm Clinic.mp4

As could be seen in the videos, the borehole has [already been drilled](#). Since the original quote for the charitable giving was based on a steel tower (at D35,000, excluding its transportation from Jeshwang to Sika) and it has now been recognised that a concrete tower is more durable than the steel, Omar Janneh asked the Executive Committee to consider approving the difference in cost between the steel tower and the concrete tower. For the Executive to consider financing the concrete pillar, Omar Janneh was asked to tell Malamin Janneh to speak to Mr Diarrasouba about what he (Mr Diarrasouba) would charge SDF in labour cost to erect the concrete tower. After some negotiation, Mr Diarrasouba charged D40,000 and asked this to be paid in two instalments as follows:

- i. D20,000 at the start of the project
- ii. D20,000 at the end of the project
- iii. The cost of the building materials (iron rods, concrete, timber, binding wire, nails, sand, gravel, plywood, etc) will be paid for by SDF.

The Team having discussed the costs with Lamin Famoro Sonko, the costs were considered reasonable. Having considered the above, as well as having satisfactorily worked with Mr Diarrasouba previously, the meeting approved for Mr Diarrasouba to be given the contract to do the job.

To start with, D60,000 was approved by the Executive and sent from SDF's UK account for the following:

- i. D20,000 being first instalment for Mr Diarrasouba
- ii. D40,000 towards the cost of the building materials. Malamin Janneh advised that the cement for this work be purchased separately from the one used to make the blocks. He assured Omar Janneh that where possible, they would collect receipts for any goods/services in regard to this work.

Omar Janneh sent D60,000 from the SDF's UK account which Sulayman Bajo collected and delivered to Malamin Janneh to address assignments described above. See below the transfer receipt and the audios ([Omar Janneh](#) and [Sulayman Bajo's](#)) that accompanied the transfer of the D60,000 which Sulayman Bajo collected.

TRANSACTION	
Successful!	
Your Transaction has been successfully completed.	
Transaction Summary	
Sender Name	Omar Janneh (+447904658896)
Receiver Name	Sulayman Bajo (+2203191879)
Delivery Method	Cash Pick-Up
Payout Partner info	Any Branch Collect your money from any branches of Supersoniez Microfinance, MSJ Bureau, Afro Express, Reliance Financial, Chapman Express, Easy Financial, MJ Finance, JBM, JFIN, AFIA, EJ bureau, AMJ Bureau, MUHAS, Unique bureau, Kharange Bureau, Porek Financial, Jallow brothers, Bigist Bureau, Gadiri bureau, YK financial, and F&M Family Bureau anywhere in Gambia
Receiving Amount	60,000.00 - GMD
Reference # (For receiver to pick the money)	SZ3001683714

Overall, the meeting agreed for Omar Janneh to continue to work with Lamin Famoro and the team on the ground (Malamin Janneh and Mr Diarrasouba) and report their outputs to the Committee regularly.

The SDF Executive Committee advised Mr Diarrasouba to work with Lamin Famoro Sonko and melanin Janneh on the construction of the concrete tower since the former has the relevant expertise on boreholes. The object below shows the status of the concrete platform at the time of writing.



video of progress
on the platform_Cor

Construction of the concrete tower for the water tanks for the borehole

Below are reports/narratives of the expenses incurred against the D60,000 sent to Malamin Janneh which Sulayman Bajo received and took to Malamin Janneh are as follows:

- First instalment to Mr Diarrasouba: D20,000
- 30 bags of Cement: D12,000 (see the receipt in the object below)



Cement_30
bags_D12000.jpg

- Building materials: D25,000 (see the receipt in the object below)



Receipt for the
building materials for

- Transportation of 30 bags of cement and the building materials: D2500 (see the receipt in the object below)



transport cost of
materials_D2500_cer

- Malamin Janneh's return transport fare from Sika to Barra: D100
- Reported balance with Malamin Janneh: D400 (listen to the audio)

See below for audios of Malamin Janneh and that of Omar Janneh in relation to some of the above:



Maala's
audio_materials for



Omar's response to
Maala_materials for

Final updates on the construction and financing of the platform for the water tanks at the clinic compound

Omar Janneh informed the meeting that Mr Diarrasouba and team completed the construction of the platform for the tanks of the borehole. However, as this Team believed that the work would benefit from a good finish by plastering it, 10 bags of cement were bought for the plastering of the platform by Mr Diarrasouba and his team.

Mr Diarrasouba charged D4,000 for the plastering work.

The funds for the above as well as the balance of payment due to Mr Diarrasouba for construction of the platform (D15,000, see below) was sent from SDF's UK account. As usual, Sulayman Barjo received the funds, bought 10 bags of cement, paid for their loading and transportation costs (total: D4,350) and took them to Sika and gave the balance of D19,000 to Malamin Janneh to give to Mr Diarrasouba. See below the transfer ticket of the D23,350 sent to Sulayman Barjo:

Transaction Summary	
Sender Name	Omar Janneh (+447904658896)
Receiver Name	Sulayman Bajo (+2203191879)
Delivery Method	Cash Pick-Up
Payout Partner info	Any Branch Collect your money from any branches of Supersonicz Microfinance, MSJ Bureau, Afro Express, Reliance Financial, Chapman Express, Easy Financial, MJ Finance, JBM,JFIN, AFIA, EJ bureau, AMJ Bureau, MUHAS, Unique bureau, Kharange Bureau, Porek Financial, Jallow brothers, Bigist Bureau, Gadiri bureau, YK financial, and F&M Family Bureau, APH BUREAU anywhere in Gambia
Receiving Amount	23,350.00 - GMD
Reference # (For receiver to pick the money)	SZ7891776692

Summary of SDF' contribution towards the construction of the platform for the water tanks of the borehole

At the start, SDF spent (in the minutes) D60,000 on the construction of the platform for the water tanks for the borehole. Thereafter,

- Construction materials were purchased: D1,600
- Cost of 10 bags of cement including transportation, loading: D4,350
- Props (wooden) for the platform: D600
- 8mm rods (2 lengths): D700
- Cost of plastering the platform: D4000
- Money given (an advance) to Mr Diarrasouba by Malamin Janneh upon Mr Diarrasouba completing the construction of the platform: D5,000
- Mr Diarrasouba's final instalment: D15,000

Total: D91,250

Once Mr Diarrasouba and team are done with plastering the platform, Lamin Famoro Sonko would then take over to see to the completion of the project.

The registration of SDF as a non-profit organisation [501(c)(3)] in the USA

SDF is now 501(c)(3) registered (USA) from August 3, 2023; this is a major coup as it has created the opportunity for SDF to engage in fundraising activities that can become attractive to corporations, individuals and many institutions that wish to fulfil their social responsibilities. This news was shared with the General Membership of SDF at its General Meeting on June 19, 2023; it cost SDF \$275 to apply for the non-profit status. This was paid out of SDF's Wells Fargo account. Please see the object below for the 501(c)(3) document:



SDF_registered_US
A.pdf

The contribution of SDF members and its Leadership towards the Water project

Just as they did in the Lighting project, the membership of SDF and its leadership played some pivotal roles in the discussion and financing, record keeping and drafting of the bylaws of the Water project. Below contains the minutes of the meeting that was called by Famara Drammeh – for the Leadership of SDF to help contribute ideas to the discussion about how to move ahead regarding the distribution of water to households in Sika. The bylaws drafted by Omar Janneh for the people of Sika is also be accessed in the objects below:



SDF ECM_September
16_2023.pdf



By-laws on the
distribution of water i

From the General Meeting of the members (September 2, 2023): The nomination of the new SDF Executive Committee for 2024-2026

At the General meeting of the members on September 2, 2023, the Chair (Bakary J Sonko) brought it to the attention of the meeting that the term of office of the current Executive Committee is about to end. To that end, the need for the eligible members, i.e., those members that fulfil their full membership rights and therefore have the right to be nominated and to nominate individuals to the leadership post to exercise that right guaranteed to them by the SDF Constitution.

Clarifying to the members the Constitutional provisions that must be fulfilled to nominate and be nominated as an Executive Committee member

The meeting brought to the attention of the members, article 5.2 of the Constitution, which reads:

Membership registration is free, but one must pay the annual membership subscription fee (see below) to exercise full membership rights (e.g., voting rights, eligibility to benefit, serve in the Executive Committee, etc.).

For clarity, the meeting also reiterated following which are in keeping with the Constitution:

- That the individual nominating must have paid their 2022 subscription to SDF
- That the individual being nominated has paid their 2022 annual subscription to SDF

- That the individual being nominated has agreed to serve in the Executive Committee of SDF, helpful if they can declare their capacity to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of the post s/he is being nominated for.
- That in the case of qualifying members in Sika, the heads of qualifying Sinkiros or qualifying individuals are encouraged to fulfil their constitutional duties regarding the payment of their 2022 annual subscription by the start of the nomination process on October 1, 2023. Lamin Famoro Sonko has volunteered to collect the nominations of qualifying members or heads of Sinkiros in Sika.
- For the benefit of all, the meeting sought to also clarify article 7.4 of the Constitution which states:

The term of office for members of the Executive Committee shall be three years and the members are eligible for re-election. Any person nominated to the Executive Committee must not have more than one-year membership subscription arrears to SDF before taking up a position in the Executive Committee.

This means that the Constitution is silent on how many terms of office any member of the Executive Committee or the whole Executive Committee can serve, but that it places a lot of emphasis on the need for qualifying nominating members and those qualifying members being nominated to be regular in the payment of their annual subscriptions to SDF. Further, it also suggests that it is up to the eligible members to nominate qualifying members (be it qualifying members in the outgoing Executive Committee or new qualifying members) they think can carry out the duties and responsibilities required of them as provided for by the Constitution.

In strengthening this point, the provisions in articles 7.3 and 7.5 of the Constitution were also mentioned at the meeting. In this regard, the last 2 sentences of article 7.3 state:

The Executive Committee has the freedom to co-opt members into the Executive Committee should it be necessary. However, the Executive Committee must exercise due diligence before co-opting any member into the Executive Committee. Such due diligence work must involve, among other things, whether the individual has paid their annual subscription, are willing and able to observe the functions of the Executive Committee (as described below) as well as their track record in advancing the core vision and mission of SDF.

And the last sentence of article 7.5 states:

If it is considered that the membership of the Advisory Committee may enhance the operational efficiency of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee has the freedom, under this constitution, to co-opt the membership of the Advisory Committee into the Executive Committee.

Overall, these provisions are progressive facing to not only allow, but also enhance the smooth running and operational efficiency of the Executive Committee.

Decisions taken by the General Meeting of September 2, 2023 regarding the nomination of Executive Committee of SDF

- a) Recognising the constitutional provision contained in article 7.4, the meeting decided that all members who paid their subscription in 2022 would be eligible to nominate and be nominated by those who are also eligible to nominate. To that end, the meeting decided that members who wish to exercise their full membership rights as provided by article 5.2 of the SDF Constitution be informed on the Bantaba to make good their annual subscription payments for 2022 by September 30, 2023 – that is before the start of the nomination of the leadership team which will begin on October 1, 2023.

- b) The meeting considered it necessary to publish on the Bantaba the names of members who paid their 2022 annual subscription and who are therefore entitled to nominate and be nominated into the Executive Committee. The nomination committee taskforce which was constituted at the meeting will have the responsibility to administer the entire nomination process. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that only valid nominations are captured, and that the outcome of the nomination process captures the names of those who are willing to serve in the Executive Committee. For clarity, the period between now and the start of the nomination process is to allow individuals to pay their 2022 annual subscription by September 30, 2023, so that they can exercise their full membership rights guaranteed to them by the SDF Constitution.

About when to announce the start date of nominating the new SDF Executive Committee members and how to submit one's nominations

The meeting constituted the membership of the nomination taskforce, and they are as follows:

- a) Alieu SK Cham
- b) Lamin Sonko-Nani
- c) Lamin Famoro Sonko
- d) Sima Camara

It was agreed that prior to the start of the nomination process, the taskforce members would list the names of the positions in the Executive Committee for qualifying members to nominate qualifying individuals to. Once qualifying individuals have completed filling out their preferred individuals into the available posts, they would be required to submit their nominations to any of the above taskforce members. The meeting also discussed and agreed on the following events and their associated timelines/dates:

- Start date for nomination to begin: October 1, 2023
- End date of the nomination process: October 15, 2023
- Announcement of the outcome of the nomination process: November 1, 2023
- Date the new Executive Committee takes over from the outgoing team: December 1, 2023

The meeting considered it necessary that the outcome of the meeting be summarised for the members on the Bantaba and if possible, for the zoom recording to be also shared on the Bantaba. FOmar Janneh took up the assignment to summarise the outcome of the meeting in Mandinka on the Bantaba.

Click the underlined text to [listen to the recording of the meeting of September 2, 2023](#).

Translation of the summary of the meeting will be added to the minutes for our records once that is done by Omar Janneh

Mandinka translations (in 9 audio files) of the summary of the meeting can be listened to by clicking the icons below:



Audio 1.m4a



Audio 2.m4a



Audio 3.m4a



Audio 4.m4a



Audio 5.m4a



Audio 6.m4a



Audio 7.m4a



Audio 8.m4a



Audio 9.m4a

Outcome of the democratic process to nominate a new Executive Committee of SDF for 2024-2026

Please find below the names of the incoming leadership team of SDF and the positions they occupy:

- President: Kemo Sonko
- Vice President: Satang Sanneh
- Secretary General: Omar Janneh
- Assistant Secretary General: Alieu SK Cham
- Treasurer: Sima Camara
- Assistant Treasurer: Lamin Anfaal Manjang
- Auditor: Saikou Lamin Sonko
- Assistant Auditor: Kabiro KS Janneh
- Social and Resource Mobilization Secretary: Lamin Sonko (Nani)
- Assistant Social and Resource Mobilization Secretary: Lamin Famoro Sonko

The outgoing executive would like to recommend to the incoming team to consider constituting working groups as well as beef up their Executive Committee so that their workload can be shared, and their outputs maximised.

Expression of appreciation to honorary members and anonymous donors

The outgoing Team would like to express its profound thanks for the support given to SDF by Dr Karima Zitouni and an anonymous donor; such support has gone a long way in enabling SDF to fulfil its objectives over the last 3 years.

Challenges/work to be done by the incoming Leadership Team

As this is the last activities report of the outgoing Leadership Team it is important to reflect on some of the broad challenges of SDF. But first, it is important to state that over the last 12 months, SDF has performed well despite limited resources. Indeed, the Leadership did very well over the last 3 years. This work could not have been done without the members backing; it is their support, subscription payments, donations from the members and from SDF's friends that have allowed SDF to achieve so much over the last three (3) years. To continue to do so, the new Executive as well as all the members of the organization, needs to stay committed, have a lot of patience and be able to enthuse each other to do our very best. Some of the things that the new Executive needs to pay special attention to include, but not limited to, the following:

Address the reduced visitation of the Community Health Nurse (CHN)

The agreed number of visits by the CHN to Sika is 2 visits per month. Unfortunately, the village sometimes does not get any visit in the month or at best only a single visit in the month. Thus, there is need to improve the frequency of the CHN's visit to Sika. The low visitation rate has caused some of the drugs to become expired – causing loss of valuable income; and the potentially sick and needy not benefitting from the medications.

The incoming Team should continue to do everything they can to make the visitation by the CHN more regular. This could be done by improving the communication between the CHN and the team in Sika as well as finding out from the CHN if there is anything that could be done to improve the visitation frequency as well as the CHN's time of arrival in Sika for the clinic to commence.

The need for vigilance in monitoring the level of stock of drugs and the prices for the drugs

The incoming Team should be aware of the need to not only be in constant touch with SDF's representatives in Sika about whether the visitation by the CHN is happening, but also whether the stock level of the drugs is optimal. If the level of the stock of drugs is low, the responsible individual (currently the outgoing President) must bring this to the attention to the Leadership Team with a view to getting approval to restock the drugs, get them to Sika and price them. Clearly, this is labour intensive; requires planning, communicating with individuals such as Lamin Famoro Sonko, Babadinding Sonko and good record keeping ensuring the accurate reporting of the expenses and income generated by the healthcare project for the consumption of the Executive Committee and the SDF membership.

The need to work on the transfer of the extra land to Sika for the Community Clinic and the Women's Garden

The income Team should seek to work with Lamin Drammeh-Manyima Jumbur, appropriate witnesses and the Alkalo/representative so that the gifted land of about 20 meters can be transferred to Sika.

The incoming Team needs to do a similar paperwork that ensures that the land gifted to Sika by the Jaiteh Kunda Kabilo is transferred to Sika; for completeness, the paperwork must carry the size of the land gifted.

Continuation of the work towards the acquisition of the GIRAV matching grant funding

The new Team should continue to work with Omar NR Sonko in the background to feedback to the Team the status of SDF's application for the GIRAV matching; and if successful what could be done to ensure that the funds are used in a manner that is compliant with the purpose for which it was awarded. Since SDF must contribute \$5,000 to the GIRAV matching grant, if successful, it is important that funds are available to SDF to help it fulfil this requirement.

Ongoing efforts to acquire funds to ship the medical equipment and supplies from the USA to Sika

Bakary J Sonko has made good inroads regarding identifying an agency (Project CURE) that has shown their commitment to donate a 40-foot container load of some \$350,000 to \$450,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment to the Community Clinic upon completion. The estimated shipment cost of shipping such a container is about \$29,000. Bakary J Sonko is continuing to solicit sponsorship for the shipment of the items; in this regards he is working with Rotary International, through its local Branch in Colorado. Of the work he has done so far, there seems to be some interest in the Local Rotary Branch supporting the funding for such a grant. Much work remains to be done; the incoming team is recommended to work with Bakary J Sonko towards the submission of a grant to fund the shipment of the medical supplies.

Resource mobilisation – both human and capital

Except for the donations that SDF receives from some members and friends of SDF and last year, recently the DDF grant, the only source of income for SDF is membership subscriptions. Therefore, it

goes without saying that to be able to survive, SDF needs to reach out to all its members more effectively to make sure that everybody pays their subscriptions in a timely manner. The fact that SDF has members in three continents makes this a challenge. The new Executive needs to look at ways to reach out to and recruit members and collect annual subscriptions from them more effectively. Social media platforms such as WhatsApp may be a way to deal with this.

It is noteworthy that some Executive Committee members do not pay their subscriptions; this is in contravention of the Constitution. Executive Committee members who do not pay their annual subscription after June should be removed from the Leadership team, as per the SDF Constitution they have signed up to.

There is an embedded PayPal button (<http://www.sikadevelopmentfund.com/about-us/payment-of-annual-subscriptions>) to the SDF website to help members and donors, especially those in the diaspora pay their annual subscription and/or donate to SDF.

SDF is heavily reliant on the volunteerism of its members to help deliver its objectives; to that end, it is important that all members, not just the Leadership Team, participate fully in doing the work of SDF. This would lighten the load on the Executive Committee members.

Need for receipt books for the payment of annual subscription by the members in Sika.

At present, there are no receipt books for the issuance of receipts to members who pay their annual subscription to SDF. The issuance of receipts upon payment of e.g., annual subscriptions legitimise and give confidence to the members upon paying their subscriptions. So, the incoming Team should get this addressed as soon as possible. It may be recalled that during the term of the first Executive Committee of SDF, several copies of receipt books were printed and given to some of the Team members for the purpose of issuing receipts to individuals upon paying their annual subscriptions. The Team could contact some of those Team members to find out if any of them have any used or unused receipt books in their possession which could be sent to Sika.

SDF website and Facebook page need attention

Since assuming office in 2020, a lot of great work was done by the outgoing team. Unfortunately, none of the excellent works have been publicised beyond Sika Bantaba, and in only once instance on MSDG Project/DDF showing casing event. There is need for the new Team to do what they can to change this; if the outside world cannot see any new newsworthy items on our Facebook page and website, they will stop visiting our site/page. Clearly, low traffic could mean low reach, and which could affect our impact in terms of generating positive publicity with a consequent effect on our potential income-generating stream.

With very best wishes for the future!

The Outgoing Executive Committee of SDF