



Village Aid<sup>U</sup>

Impact report 2016/17

## Welcome to Village Aid's impact report 2016/17: a message from our Chairman

Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the latest edition of our impact report. It has been a particularly exciting year, and I hope you enjoy reading more about just a few of the highlights.

Firstly, I am delighted that - through our merger with United Purpose - the work and vision of Village Aid lives on. In this report, we share updates from our 'In Search of Common Ground' project in Cameroon, along with news from the projects in Ghana and Guinea that we've continued to support.

I'm also delighted to introduce a new project in collaboration with United Purpose. 'Building Sustainable Peace in the Casamance' is an innovative project in Senegal which brings isolated communities together to build peace, conserve the forest and create sustainable livelihoods.


Lastly, I'll leave you with my highlight this year from

our 25th Anniversary celebrations at Chatsworth House. Andrew Kingman, our founder, paid tribute to us as custodians of his founding spirit.

He said;

**"It is so important to shine a light on the efforts of folk in places like Bakewell to reach out to people in another continent and say: 'We are your friends, we are with you'. That for me was what Village Aid was all about. You have helped maintain that spirit. Thank you."**

Warmest regards, and thank you once again for your continued support.



Alan Davies  
Chair of Village Aid



## Message from United Purpose

This year has been significant for United Purpose. Whilst we have continued to ensure we improve our impact, we have undertaken some changes; including changing our name and reviewing our vision. While all these changes have taken place, we have continued with the core of our work and are having an even bigger impact than ever before.

We believe passionately in our community led approach, through which we have demonstrated real and lasting transformation. People living in extreme poverty are vulnerable; we make sure no one who lifts themselves out of poverty finds themselves back in it.

We have supported 3 million people this year. In West Africa, 190,293 people now have improved crop and livestock yields; 336,400 people have a reduced 'hungry season' and 134,438 people have established or strengthened their businesses. This would not have been possible without the support from and partnership with Village Aid.

Thank you for helping us make this change happen!



Kathryn Llewellyn  
Chief Executive Officer

[www.united-purpose.org](http://www.united-purpose.org) | Charity No. 272465



## Our continued partnership: Village Aid and United Purpose

Village Aid merged with United Purpose in 2015. We retain our own independent board, and registered charity status, whilst we work together on our projects, financial processing and fundraising to reduce our overheads, share learning and increase our impact. Thanks to the merger, Village Aid has continued to deliver community led development projects with communities in Africa. Please read on to find out more about our work in the last 12 months.



# WITH YOUR SUPPORT

## THIS YEAR

**72,000** women in The Gambia benefitted from improved food security



**3,000** school children in Nigeria became “handwashing ambassadors” for their school



**68** dialogue platforms were used by **925** people to peacefully resolve farmer-grazer conflicts in Cameroon



**70** enterprise groups have been established across **32** villages in Guinea



## NEXT YEAR

**14,075** aspiring entrepreneurs in Ghana will receive training to start or grow their business



**1,200** farmers and grazers in Nkowe, Cameroon will gain access to safe water



**10** villages in Guinea will work together to improve levels of sanitation



**1,500** people in Senegal will gain access to finance to support sustainable businesses



## Update from Cameroon: In search of common ground

In North West Cameroon our project continues to reduce conflicts between ethnic groups. Conflict occurs over natural resources, like water, which are central to the livelihoods of crop farming and cattle herding communities.

The project collaborates with our local partner, MBOSCUA, to build the capacity of communities to resolve conflicts peacefully.

It uses a number of innovative solutions including **dialogue platforms**. These are community groups led by trained paralegal facilitators. The platforms provide a safe and neutral space to resolve conflicts before they

escalate to violent conflict or costly court battles.

Another solution to resolving conflict involves establishing farmer and cattle herder **alliance farming pairs** who take it in turn to access the same piece of land. This creates a win-win solution for all. The cows feed on nutritious new shoots and fertilise the land with their manure. The crop farmer then benefits from more fertile land in the growing season.

Crucially, as conflict often escalates over water, we also build **water catchment sites**. Find out more about these overleaf.

**Pictured: A dialogue platform; An alliance farming pair share cola nuts; Staff at a local radio station promoting the project and peaceful conflict resolution methods.**



Natural springs are protected by traditional fencing and strong bushes, reducing surface run-off and forming a long-lasting barrier



Water collection and storage tanks are installed, ensuring a steady water supply throughout the dry season



Community members come together to dig the trenches to lay the pipes from the water source to the collection tank and beyond to taps in the villages



Water management committees are recruited and trained to manage maintenance and equitable access to water



Communities receive training and equipment to establish beekeeping on the protected land, providing an alternative source of income and encouraging local stewardship of the land

Drinking troughs for livestock are built away from the catchment area, reducing the pollution of water sources by cattle

Taps are installed close to homes, removing the need for women and girls to travel far distances to collect often unsafe water

## Cameroon: Water Catchment Protection in Action

Access to water reduces conflict and improves health. Fourteen communities have benefited from the installation of water catchment sites.



## Meet Amina



Amina lives in Baba II, North West Cameroon and she is a member of the water management committee. Access to clean, safe water close to her home has improved many aspects of life for Amina and her family. At a recent meeting she said;

“ Relationships have changed; we have a joint interest and trust has been built. Not having to carry water for an hour a day has made a huge difference to the women in our community. ”

## Update from Ghana: Securing livelihoods

This year we continued to support remote communities in Northern Ghana to develop and diversify their income through establishing and growing small businesses.

Small-holder crop farmers and aspiring young entrepreneurs in rural areas continue to be some of the most economically marginalised groups in Ghana. Many are illiterate, have limited business management knowledge and struggle to access basic financial services. Often they are regarded as 'un-bankable' due to the size, nature and scope of their economic activities. Denying people the opportunity to grow their businesses crushes ambition and entrepreneurial spirit and is a

barrier to inclusive development in rural areas.

Our project invests in small-holder farmers and mainly female micro-entrepreneurs to access small, low interest loans from community banks. They gain the business and finance skills needed to build their enterprises, grow income and improve their quality of life. With the tools and confidence to thrive, these individuals are able to define their own future, permanently out of poverty.

**Pictured: Saida from Tuobodom village is using a small loan to grow her tomato business. She is now able to invest in new techniques such as fertilisers to increase the yield and take her stock to markets in the nearby town.**





## New project in Senegal: Building sustainable peace in the Casamance

This year we're delighted to partner with United Purpose's project on conflict resolution in the Casamance region of Senegal.

A whole generation in forest-dwelling communities in the region have known only a life of conflict. Thirty years of civil war has led to fear and mistrust between isolated villages, high levels of poverty and thousands of people unsure how to come together towards a peaceful, prosperous society.

We believe the best way to simultaneously address poverty and build peace in this fragile region is to bring people together to work on small, community-

driven livelihood projects. To do this, we work closely with community organisations to provide capital funding for cross-community enterprises which address poverty, food insecurity and reverse forest degradation. By working together, communities that have traditionally been in conflict can rebuild social capital through shared value, trust and compromise.

**Pictured: A forest management committee formed from two neighbouring villages that manage their shared forest for income generation; Two women from the committee work on their garden; Aliou grows nursery plants for income generation.**





Meet Sawadatou



Sawadatou is a refugee who fled from conflict in the Central African Republic and sought refuge in the Casamance region of Senegal. Her journey to Senegal was a treacherous one, which sadly claimed the life of one of her six children. Upon arrival in Senegal, Sawadatou had nothing.

Through working with our partner organisation, Sawadatou accessed a loan of around £400 and developed the skills to open her own shop. She was able to build a new and safe life for her and her children. Our work in the Casamance is contributing towards a peaceful and prosperous future, not only for the communities that have lived through the civil war here but for those fleeing conflict in other parts of West Africa.



I had nothing until I was given a loan to start my business.

My children didn't go to school. It was a problem finding something to eat. But now I have money. I go to the market. I send my children to school. Before I didn't even have electricity at home. Now I have taps. We eat. I pay for everything.

Everything that I have is thanks to the programme. I want to say thank you. Thank you for the loan that you have given to me.



Thank you.





## Update from Guinea: Improving rural health

Guinea is one of the poorest countries in the world, and over 20% of the population live in extreme poverty.

Guinea was severely affected by the Ebola epidemic in 2014 and 2015 and continues to be plagued by outbreaks of disease. Outbreaks are often the result of poor health care provision and poor water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in rural communities.

We strongly believe that communities should lead their own change. This project focuses on using community-led techniques to bring about

behavioural changes that lead to better hygiene and reduce disease. This includes encouraging hand washing and reducing open defecation.

**Pictured: Tippy taps are a simple and easily available device to provide running water for handwashing at the household level; 'Hygiene Heroes' at a rural primary school are groups of children that are responsible for encouraging good hygiene practice in their school; a whole community comes together to explore how health and hygiene can be improved and agree steps to help change their behaviour in the long-term.**





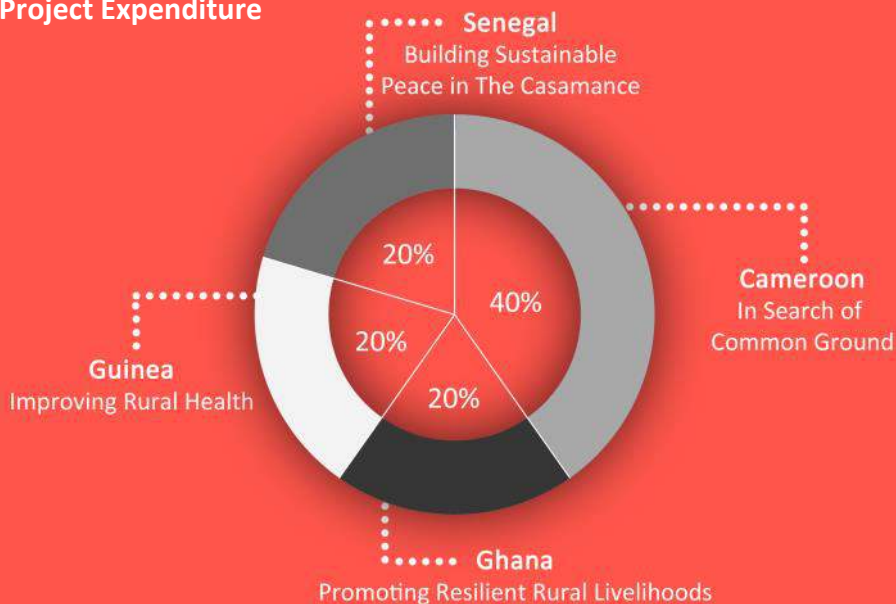
Thanks to funding from the Open Gate Trust, this year we are reinvigorating Village Aid's global education project, with expertise from United Purpose's Development Education team. Hands UP will help shape the next generation of global citizens through the delivery of global learning workshops in Peak District schools.

This is possible thanks to the hard work of our volunteer team. If you are interested in volunteering or to book a school session, please email [schools@villageaid.org](mailto:schools@villageaid.org).

## Let's talk money: Income and Expenditure 2016/17

In 2016/17, our income was £120,000. 90% of our income came from donations, legacies and investment and 10% from grants.

### Project Expenditure



You can see complete and audited financial information in our audited accounts please visit [villageaid.org/resources](http://villageaid.org/resources) to read this or any of our project documents and publications.



**'In Search Of Common Ground'**  
Mid-term evaluation published



25th Anniversary celebrations at Chatsworth House raising **£15,000**



University of Sheffield Gospel Choir Christmas Concert



Pia runs the London Marathon raising over **£2,000**



Volunteer, David Drew, publishes a blog in INTRAC newsletter  
[www.intrac.org/resources/intrac-newsletter-april-2017/](http://www.intrac.org/resources/intrac-newsletter-april-2017/)

June 2016

From marathons and mud runs, gospel choirs and open gardens and one hundred mile bike rides and all of our generous donors, we would like to thank each and every one of you who has supported Village Aid this year. You are too numerous to mention individually but without you and your considerable efforts and generosity Village Aid would not be able to undertake our life changing work.





Tough Mudder teams tackle twelve miles of obstacles and raise thousands



The new Friends of Village Aid Society kicks off with music fundraiser 'Village Aid Live'



Volunteer and trustee David Phillips visits MBOSCUA in Cameroon to collect data to inform the next phase



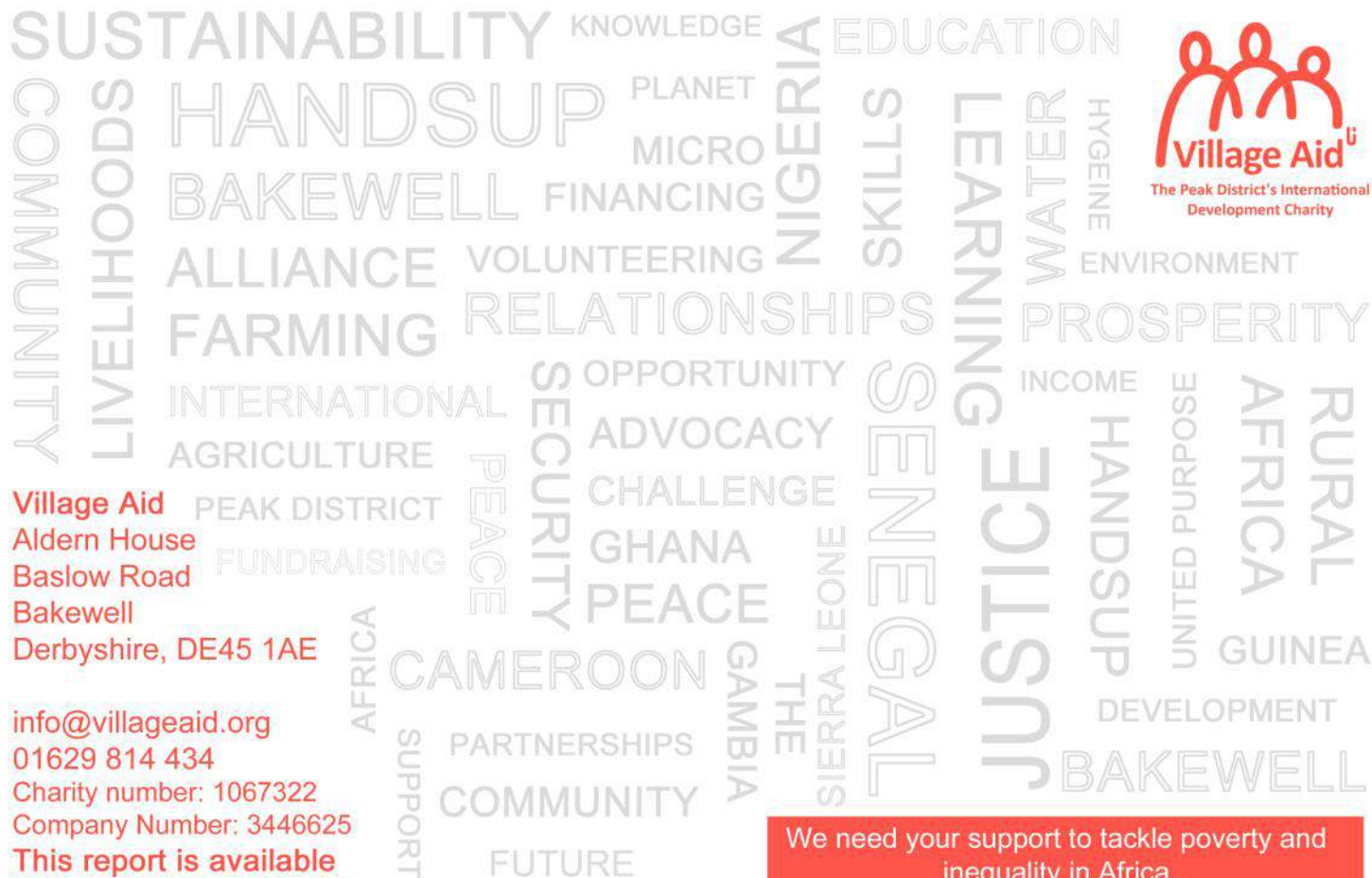
Long-term supporter Peter hosts his annual Open Gardens



Our Ride London teams take on the 100 mile bike race

July 2017

**A very special thank you to...** Chris Shepley, The Open Gate Trust, and volunteers David Drew, David Phillips, Veronica Wigley and our summer intern Amy Paterson who designed this review for us.  
**We'd also like to thank two new local business partnerships..** The Private Chef Company and Cathy Bower Photography.



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United Purpose  [unitedpurpose.org](http://unitedpurpose.org)



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