

SUPPORTER REVIEW 2020



It has been an unprecedented year for Village Aid. In the face of enormous global challenges, we are delighted that our work is continuing to have a hugely positive impact on the communities we work with in West Africa. We hope that you will enjoy reading these snapshots of some of our key achievements from 2020.

Mission and Vision

**WE WANT TO LIVE IN A
WORLD WHERE PEOPLE
IN AFRICA ENJOY A
PEACEFUL SOCIETY, A
PROSPEROUS ECONOMY
AND A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT.**

We work with people in Africa to secure long-term positive change. We achieve this by developing strong working relationships with local community-based partners, supporting them to build independent and sustainable futures.



our achievements

At home...

We continued to deliver outreach work across the Peak District and received a number of generous donations from local churches and community groups.

We continued to generate income from our retail line which included cards, tea towels, notebooks and our own Village Aid Christmas puddings.

We were invited to prepare our own Well Dressing for the Bakewell Blessing of the Wells festival, which was a wonderful way to engage volunteers, raise awareness of our work and continue to have a significant presence in the Bakewell community.

Image credit: Annie Spratt



In our projects...

Cameroon – Bridging the Gap

Following the end of our project ‘In search of common ground’ which helped to reduce farmer-grazer conflicts in North-West Cameroon, we started a new project to build on its successes: ‘Bridging the Gap’. The aim is to promote intercultural dialogue and influence public policies to become more responsive to the rights of the minority Mbororo-Fulani ethnic group.

The project saw some exciting developments this year. We produced a drama called ‘Let’s heal old wounds’ that was shared on film, national TV and radio – and it led to the creation of a youth acting group, Youth for Cultural Diversity, as an incentive to produce more films on socially relevant topics. The project was also placed under the patronage of the Ministry of Arts and Culture, demonstrating a high level of national recognition.

Image credit: UP Cameroon



Ghana – Northern Ghana Shea

About 900,000 rural women in Northern Ghana depend on the production of shea butter for their main livelihoods. Northern Ghana Shea is a social enterprise that we are supporting to improve the management and commercial sustainability of shea butter resources – and economically empower the women producers. In the past year, we:

Assisted

280 women

to plant 1,200 new shea seedlings

Trained

1,092 women

in **14 communities** on shea nut production, butter processing, environmental sustainability and human rights

Registered and trained

1,049 women

to participate in the Northern Ghana Shea organic certification programme, which will lead to increased production and income

Image credit: Jason Florio



Senegal – Sustainable forest management

Senegal has lost more than 1 million trees since 2010, mainly due to illegal logging and the timber trade. Our project is contributing to forest protection efforts in the Ziguinchor, Sédhiou and Kolda regions of Senegal, and it is strengthening the capacities of local communities to protect the environment. In the past year we:

Established and trained

16 new community forest management committees

which led to a 66% reduction in forest fires, as well as improved awareness of illegal farming and 'green' jobs

Made sub-grants to local organisations that will support

25,000 people

to create 'green' jobs over the project's lifetime

Established five nurseries within community forests and grew a total of

18,000 plants

as part of a re-forestation initiative

Image credit: Jason Florio

Thank you

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our donors, supporters and volunteers. We'd like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you for your time, donations and goodwill.

For more information, please visit: www.villageaid.org

