



Annual Report 2024

Dear friends, sponsors, and donors,

As usual, the board is once again looking back on our work in The Gambia this year. And we have made significant progress! Our main goal for the year was to purchase land for our own center, and we more than succeeded. We were even able to start the first construction activities.

Our existing connections with various foundations and organizations supporting people with disabilities have been strengthened, and we have established a partnership with Wilde Ganzen. The local VDC (municipal council) of Tujereng has also pledged its support!

Once again, we were able to place several clients with employers and provide new microcredits. The first training sessions in our temporary center started in 2024. To transport many trainees, we purchased a bus in the Netherlands and shipped it to The Gambia.

We are pleased that we were able to support 41 clients this year by finding them employment, providing a microcredit, or offering training. Below is an overview of our activities in 2024, along with our goals for the upcoming year.

Collaboration

In 2024, the foundation worked closely with the following organizations and foundations:

1. **Stichting Small Steps 2 Success Gambia** (responsible for all projects).
2. **Wilde Ganzen Nederland**, as part of a small project.
3. **MDI Kanifing** (Management and Development Institute).
4. **GOVI**, the umbrella organization for people with visual impairments in The Gambia, with whom we signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

5. **GADHOH**, the umbrella organization for people with hearing impairments in The Gambia.
6. **O.S.D.I.V.I** in Westfield, a general interest group for people with disabilities in The Gambia.
7. **Stichting Second Home** in Kololi, The Gambia.
8. **Stichting Future for Young People** in Tanji, The Gambia.
9. **Stichting Talokoto** in the Netherlands.
10. **Stichting Care Foundation The Gambia**, focusing on a farming project in Jiboro.
11. **Disability Africa** in Gunjur.

Results in 2024: Overview

This past year, the foundation supported ****41 people with disabilities**** in finding work or receiving training. New microcredits were issued, and new employment opportunities were created. The focus in 2024 was particularly on developing and financing the construction of our center.

Income Sources

1. Recruiting Sponsors and Donors

Since its inception, the foundation has had several regular sponsors. In addition, donations are received on a regular basis. We are pleased that in 2024, we were able to secure multi-year sponsorship agreements.

2. Support from Foundations and Churches

- The PKN Lelystad donated €2,500.
- The Hoffknecht van Vuure Foundation donated €5,000, designated for training in the center (education and vocational training).

3. Markets and (Personal) Fundraising Events

- The foundation participated in the Ontmoetingsmarkt Buiten in Dronten and the Christmas Market in Zwolle/Westenholte.
- In November, a sponsored organ concert was held in Emmeloord.
- A school community in Zwolle donated several laptops.
- The foundation also organized an end-of-year fundraising campaign.

New Microcredits Issued in 2024

- In Tanji, a man with a physical disability received a loan to trade rams for the Feast of Sacrifice. With his earnings, he started a small poultry farm.
- In Tujereng, a woman with a physical disability received a loan to start a charcoal trading business.
- In Sanyang, a man with a physical disability started a business selling seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- In Yundum, a young woman with a hearing impairment received a loan for a clothing business, purchasing stock in Senegal and selling it locally with her sister.
- One of the trainees from the Hairdressing & Make-Up training program received a small loan to start her business in her hometown.

Microcredit Goals:

- Clients should independently run their businesses.
- 50% repayment of the loan.
- In 2024, one microcredit was issued using repaid funds from previous loans.

New Employment Placements in 2024

- Cleaning Project:
 - In Kololi a young woman with Down syndrome was hired as a cleaner at a home for children with disabilities.
 - In Tujereng, a man with a mild intellectual disability now works at the local hospital.
- Hospital Project:
 - In Jiboro, a young man with a hearing impairment works as an Assistant at the local Health Center.
- Garden Maintenance Project:
 - In Kartong, a young man with a physical disability works at a lodge, maintaining the garden.
- Security:
 - In Tujereng, a man with a physical disability was hired as a watchman for our new site, receiving financial support.

Training Programs in 2024

- Hairdressing & Make-Up: (6 participants)
- Tailoring: (4 participants)

The costs for trainers, materials, transportation, and partially breakfast were covered by sponsorship funds.

Bus Purchase

Thanks to a donor, we purchased and shipped a transport bus to The Gambia. The bus is used weekly to transport trainees, as many are unable to travel independently.

Construction of the Center for People with Disabilities in Tujereng

In 2024, land was purchased in Tujereng, near the highway, making the center easily accessible.

- In October, the site was cleared for construction.
- A contractor with extensive experience was hired.
- The entire 35x35 meter site has been fenced and secured with a Gate.
- A septic tank and borehole with a solar system were installed.
- By December, the watchman's house was completed.

Partnership with Wilde Ganzen

In 2024, agreements were made with Small Steps 2 Success in both the Netherlands and The Gambia.

- Project funding: €6,000
- The Wilde Ganzen contribution will be used in 2025 for training programs in farming and cement block production.

Goals for 2025

Promotional Film

A promotional film is in production to showcase our work. We aim to gain more recognition and attract sponsors in both the Netherlands and The Gambia.

Agreements have been made for TV recordings with Q-TV.

Collaboration & Government Relations

- We seek to maintain partnerships with existing organizations.
- We will reach out to ministries in The Gambia, particularly those responsible for employment and social affairs, to secure government support.

Clients

- In 2024, we supported 41 people.
- We aim to maintain this number in 2025, ensuring sufficient funding from committed sponsors.
- Additional participants will be enrolled in the new training programs from February 2025.

Center Construction

- The goal is to lay the foundation of the main building (estimated cost: €27,000).
- The new training programs will start on-site.

Fundraising

- PKN-Lelystad has pledged €2,500.
- The Westerkerk diaconate in Amsterdam is exploring annual support.
- We will apply for additional grants, attend local markets, and partner with supermarkets for deposit collection campaigns.