

Bansang Hospital Appeal



Transforming healthcare delivery in The Gambia since 1992



Our new patient monitoring equipment is helping us deliver the very best care in The Gambia

A message from Anita:

It is just over 80 years since Bansang Hospital was built, 200 miles deep in the West African bush. Those first 50 years of its existence were defined by ever-greater isolation, depletion and exhaustion. Half a million of the most hospitable people I've ever had the good fortune to meet almost lost their most important health facility.

Thanks to you, these last 27 years have been a most beautiful opposite. Bansang is now a vibrant, dynamic place. Its sixteen service departments have been totally overhauled – providing some of the very best facilities to be found in any public health facility in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to our decade long staff retention and motivation strategy, the hospital's 400 staff are fulfilled, supported, and truly valued (helping us to reach a near 100% retention level over the last five years!).

This remarkable change simply would not have been possible if you, and others like you, hadn't decided to donate your time, money or expertise in support of this cause. In such troubled times, with so many countries turning against the idea of extending humanitarian support across borders, I am pleased Bansang can stand as a testament to the beautiful things we achieve when we stand in solidarity with those who need our help.

Turning my attention to 2019, this really has been one of those extraordinary years. Bansang is now the holder of

the prestigious award for 'best hospital in The Gambia for care and services'. We are also the sole facility in the Central River Division for maternal, obstetrics, neonatal services and gender-based violence support.

Thanks to you, we've renovated the male ward, added three homes for lead medics, expanded our feeding fund for vulnerable patients/families, sent huge amounts of aid/funding, secured support for a large solar array and achieved so many things besides. We have come a very long way from the days of kerosene lamps and candles!

Yet with all that positivity, I am acutely aware that our legacy is far from secure. The devastating storms of July 2019 have forced us into costly emergency renovations of our children's ward (for which we need your support to help raise almost £21,000). We've also had to suspend the expansion of our farming project owing to the second year of low and unpredictable rains. These may just be one off events. We must plan as if they are not.

Thank you for continuing to support this special place – and for bringing hope and healing to so many wonderful people. Please continue being *the* difference.

Anita Smith MBE MRG

Founder & Director, Bansang Hospital Appeal

Patrons: Mr Phil Sinkinson OBE, former British High Commissioner to The Gambia & Mr Simon Scarrow, international bestselling author

URGENT CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

£20,558 for the final phase of the Children's Ward refurbishment



The Need:

For most of its history, the staff working on Bansang's children ward have had to contend with the most awful conditions. Four to a bed, unavoidable cross infections, acute equipment shortages and candles for lighting; this was a place where only the very strongest of children had a chance to heal. That changed in 2006 when our supporters came together to fund the new 80 bed ward.

For the last 13 years, this new ward has delivered some of the best paediatric care in West Africa. With specialist burns, malnutrition, intensive care and isolation wards, it gave every child the very best chance to survive. It was and remains a wonderful, if imperfect, achievement.

The imperfections were not our intention. Back in 2005, we were limited by the materials available to us (which the devastating storms of 2018 have shown to be dangerously inferior). We were also constrained by our understanding of how best to deliver care, particularly in relation to the control of infections such as sepsis.

Those years of learning have given us immense insight into how we can improve care for our vulnerable young patients. We now need you to help us make it a reality.

The Project:

After 13 years of analysing outcomes, we are ready to put our understanding into the complete refurbishment of the children's ward. The project has been broken into three phases. The £19,000 first phase was completed in September. The £21,735 second phase is ongoing, with the cost hopefully covered by a charitable grant. It is for the final phase, costing £20,558, that I again turn to you.

With your help, we will complete the overhaul of the Aluzinc roof (which suffered extensive storm damage). We will also fit plaster ceilings to contain heat in the roof space, along with high power fans and new LED lighting. Our focus on reducing infection will see us fit aluminium screens, metal doors, porcelain floors and elbow operable taps/toilets/showers throughout the building.

Phase 3 will also see the installation of a premature baby unit, which will complement the specialist care provided by our other wards (neonatal, ICU, malnutrition, surgical and medical). We will also be renovating our staff room, play therapy area, office and solar power facility.

This is one of our most ambitious projects to date. Please, if you have the means, help us to make it a reality.

How You Can Help

Donate Online; www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/renovations
Or by cheque; Anita Smith MBE, 4 The Leys, Orlingbury,
Northamptonshire, NN14 1JE

(You can help in many other ways. Turn to page 7 for details)

Project Goal:

Our project will help improve care, reduce infections, and ensure the children's ward structure will withstand extreme weather

Total Cost: £20,558

MALE WARD: Rotary donate £10,000 for refurbishment



Our newly refurbished male ward, made possible thanks to Rotary

The last time the male ward saw a throng of builders and other tradespeople was all the way back in 1938. With so many competing priorities, along with a continuing shortage of funds, wiping away those years of decay has long felt like a largely unattainable dream. I am therefore incredibly grateful to the Rotary Clubs of Brentwood à Becket, Seaford, Hadleigh Castle, Billericay, Billericay Mayflower, Kelvdon & District, and Bishops Stortford for raising £10,000 for the ward refurbishment

Their generosity (in partnership with friends of the BHA) has allowed us to overhaul the surgical/medical wards, nursing station, office, toilets, shower cubicles, along with the corridors leading to the operating theatres. The transformation was summed up rather perfectly by male ward nurse in-charge, Lamin Jarjou; *“There is not a word in the dictionary that adequately describes my wonderful department, thank you doesn’t seem adequate!”*

SUCCESS: Bansang Hospital receives prestigious award



Anita with some of the wonderful staff who helped secure this accolade

As mentioned in my opening message, I am thrilled to confirm that Bansang has been recognised as the “Best Hospital in The Gambia for Care and Services”. This is a wonderful endorsement of all that we have strived to achieve since 1992. It also shines a deserved spotlight on the hospital’s 400 strong team of medics, auxiliary staff, allied health professionals and senior management. I’d also like to pay tribute to all those who have believed and supported this cause since 1992...but who are sadly no longer here to see these successes. I will forever be grateful to them, and to you, for securing this legacy.

Patrons: Mr Phil Sinkinson OBE, former British High Commissioner to The Gambia & Mr Simon Scarrow, international bestselling author

GREEN ENERGY: Power Up Gambia to install solar array



Power Up Gambia helped fit a small solar array back in 2010 (pictured)

Sustainability has been a key focus of this charity for more than a decade. It’s formed the basis of some of our largest fundraising campaigns and given us some of our biggest successes (the staff farming project for example helps feed our patients AND brings additional income). Yet there is one project that has remained agonisingly out of reach; affordable, hospital wide, solar power.

I’m therefore very pleased to announce that ‘Power Up Gambia’ will be returning to Bansang to fit a solar array and environmentally friendly battery bank. Unlike our previous solar efforts (which saw 24-hour solar power limited to key areas), this initiative will bring power to much of the hospital site. The scale of the array will allow us to sell power back to the grid, helping us become less dependent on outside funding for the delivery of care.

A big thank you to Power Up Gambia’s director, Lynn McConville, and her team. I’ve seen how transformative their work has been across the country – and can’t wait for Bansang to become a part of their remarkable story.

STAFF FARMING: Unpredictable rains impact expansion



Staff standing alongside a tractor funded by supporters of this appeal

Our staff farming association helped deliver a slightly increased crop yield compared to the previous year. However, in what may be a concerning indication of the new normal, our ambitions to expand onto new farming land have again been hit by unpredictable and low levels of rainfall. We have managed to temporarily offset the impact by purchasing more fertiliser but remain deeply concerned (particularly as 96% of the local community are subsistence farmers). We hope the weather patterns will normalise but are also determined to prepare as best we can for a potentially more unpredictable future.

HOUSING: Scott Bader funded project is now complete



Anita handing over the keys to hospital CEO, Baba Jeng

UK chemicals company, Scott Bader, were one of the very first businesses to support this charity. More than 20 years later, their grant giving 'Commonwealth Fund' allocated us £25,000 in support of a staff housing project that would see a dilapidated building converted into homes for 3 doctors and their families. I'm thrilled to report that the project is complete, with Dr Touray, Dr Nyassi and Principle Nursing Officer Sherrifo Kanli now housed in beautiful new homes! This project forms part of our 'staff retention and motivation' strategy, which has helped achieve near 100% staff retention since 2014

CHILDREN'S WARD: Rotary help kickstart renovations



Maintenance team members begin renovating the roof to make it secure

A big thank you to Rick Nunley, his Rushden Rotarians, and the wonderful ladies who prepared food at a special Italian themed fundraising evening. Their efforts were in support of first phase renovations for the children's unit which was badly damaged in the devastating storms of June 2018. Special guests on the night included Jonathan Reynolds and his son James, along with guest soprano, Maddie. The total raised from this event, as well as a 60's night hosted the previous week, was more than £2,000!

As ever, I am extremely grateful to all involved for reacting so quickly to our urgent funding request. That initial money helped us secure the damaged roof above the surgical ward and begin the renovations. The total renovation cost is £20,558 – for which we are appealing for your support. If we are successful, we will be giving our youngest patients a more capable ward, with better lighting, heat reflective ceilings and improved cooling.

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SHAMBALA: UK festival makes vital contribution



Anita, granddaughter Georgia, and one of the Shambala dance troupes

We're very lucky to have long-term support from many different donors. Perhaps the most eclectic is Shambala; a sustainability orientated music/arts festival that makes a yearly pilgrimage to a beautiful country estate in my home county of Northamptonshire. As in previous years, our wonderful team of wrist-banding volunteers was headed by Victoria Rock. However, this year, the team traded wristband duties for merchandise. The team did a fabulous job under the searing August bank holiday sun, selling almost all their allotted merchandise.

Last year's donation went towards the emergency purchase and freighting of life-saving blood bags (which were in perilously short supply). A further donation of £3,450 went towards the refurbishment of our 80 bed children's unit. As ever, a huge thank you to our volunteers and to the fab Shambala management team.

NICK BRIGHOUSE: We say goodbye to a special friend



Kim, Ellie and Nick Brighouse, pictured at a Rotary fundraising event

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of my dear friend and appeal supporter, Nick Brighouse. He and his wonderful family have been a big part of my life ever since we met in 2008. As International President of the Rotary Club of Norwich, Nick was instrumental in raising funds for a dedicated burns bay in the children's ward. That 6-bed facility has helped transform care for some of our most critically injured young patients.

No words can truly bring comfort in this difficult time, or adequately reflect the extraordinary man Nick has been throughout his full life. But I hope Kim and Ellie find some comfort knowing Nick's legacy will live on in perpetuity. My thanks to you all for being such a wonderful part of my life, and such steadfast supporters of this cause.

CROWD FUNDING: Innovative approach raises \$12,000



Anita alongside Dr Theo and Mathilde Keller on their November 2019 visit

Theo and Mathilde Keller have been a continuous part of the Bansang story for more than a decade now. Their tenacity has helped galvanise the support of countless individuals and organisations in their Swiss homeland. That determination has translated into container loads of aid and pharmaceuticals being sent to Bansang; an outcome that undoubtedly helped Bansang weather the acute pharmaceutical shortages of the last few years.

The latest demonstration of their remarkable drive and fundraising ingenuity saw Theo and Mathilde using a crowd funding platform to raise an amazing \$12,000 for Bansang. The hospital's management team directed these funds towards the urgent purchase of manual and electronic blood pressure machines, heat sensitive anaesthetics and five AirSep oxygen concentrators. My thanks to Theo and Mathilde for their unwavering support, and to Gambia Experience for assisting with the freight of the blood pressure machines and anaesthetics.

LATEST: British High Commissioner visits Bansang



It was my pleasure to again welcome the British High Commissioner, Sharon Wardle, to Bansang. Her 400-mile round trip began at 7am and saw her assist with the opening of the male ward (which was filmed on national TV and attended by the regional director of health).

In recognition of her support over the years, CEO Baba Jeng invited Sharon to become an ambassador for the hospital, fitting an honorary plaque in her name. Given the BHA's ties to the UK, I am thrilled my home country has such a wonderful representative in The Gambia.

FORM NUTRITION: Feeding fund support is increased



With climate change and global inequity becoming touchstone issues in public debate, I feel lucky to be working with Form Nutrition; a UK company that is making a positive contribution in both areas. Founded by Damian Soong and Natalia Bojanic, Form Nutrition have been making quarterly contributions in support of what is now entitled the 'Form Feeding Fund'.

This initiative supports the well-being of destitute families who trek to Bansang with their sick relatives, but whom in previous years wouldn't have been able to afford to stay (resulting in them discharging their relatives early, often with tragic consequences). The support system provides counselling on arrival, along with a daily food, drug and baby formula fund (which is often a necessity for malnourished mothers).

Thanks to Form Nutrition's increasing success, including being voted as the "Best Vegan Protein Power for 2019", quarterly donations have continued to increase, with the project now extended onto the female/maternity wards. My thanks to Form Nutrition for helping assist our most vulnerable patients, whilst also making such a positive contribution to the plant-based food movement that has so much potential to protect the natural world.

PROJECT: Cemetery perimeter secured thanks to donor



Glenis Haynes & Burama Badjie (prior to the cemetery being secured)

A very sad situation occurred in the burial grounds used by the poor of Bansang and the surrounding district. Taking advantage of the unsecured perimeter, wild dogs did the unthinkable! To protect and respect their loved ones, the hospital's CEO requested funds as a matter of urgency. This funding request was rapidly fulfilled by the BHA in partnership with appeal supporter, Glenis Haynes

WONDERFUL LEGACY: Bob Parfitt retires after 25 years



Bob Parfitt (centre) alongside some of our wonderful volunteers

Our newsletters have tended to focus on the big projects and the donations that helped deliver them. Yet for so many years, and in so many ways, it's been the energy of a core group of supporters that has really pushed this charity forwards. Chief among them is Bob Parfitt; an extraordinary humanitarian who has devoted the last 25 years towards supporting the community of Bansang (along with many others in Ukraine, Croatia and beyond)

Bob has truly been one of the great enablers of this charity. Without his warehousing, I would never have been able to accept our 54 container loads of medical aid. Without his compassion, the Upper River Region would have been deprived of so many life enriching donations (sanitary and cleaning products, clothing, food, furniture, electrical goods and so many other things besides!). Thank you, Bob...the legacy you leave is as great as any made over the last 28 years.

DONORS: Livingstone family support helps save lives



Our new regional tanker, emptying sewage from the children's ward

Two of my biggest funding requests in recent years were largely met by just one family; the Livingstone's. The 100 KVA generator that they fully funded back in 2017 is now being utilised in around 25% of life-saving procedures (including 25 caesarean sections per month). They also part funded our sewage tanker, which is now operating throughout the Upper River Division. This is helping to improve sanitation and reduce diarrhoea (which remains the eighth largest cause of mortality worldwide). I am so grateful to the Livingstone's for continuing to make such generous contributions. It is both humbling and inspiring. It also serves to remind me, especially in these troubled times, that we can all make profoundly positive impacts on the lives of those living around us.

GIFT AID: Please help us to maximise your donations



I'm sure many of you will have heard of Gift Aid. It's a UK government scheme that allows our appeal to claim an additional 25 pence for every £1 you donate. To collect Gift Aid on your behalf, we need to ensure the following;

- ✓ **You are a UK taxpayer who has paid or will pay an amount of tax (income and/or capital gains tax) for each tax year that is at least equal to the Gift Aid claimed on your charitable donations in that year.**
- ✓ **You have completed, signed and returned an enduring Gift Aid declaration form allowing us to reclaim Gift Aid on your behalf (the Gift Aid form can be found on the last page of this newsletter).**

If you are a regular donor who has not signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please consider doing so as this will maximise your donations. If you have already completed a Gift Aid form, then we also need your help to ensure your declaration is valid and our records are accurate. If any of the following applies to you, please get in touch;

- ✓ **Your name or home address has changed.**
- ✓ **Your circumstances have changed, and you are no longer paying sufficient UK tax on your income and/or capital gains to cover all Gift Aid claims.**

Thank you for your continued support – and for helping us maximise your donations. It really makes a difference

TENTH YEAR: Chris and Jeannette return to Bansang

I often remark on the extraordinary dedication of the staff in Bansang. The same can certainly be said of Chris and Jeannette Payne who have been volunteering at the hospital for the last 10 years. As a specialist neonatal nurse, Jeannette has been at the forefront of improving infection control, kangaroo/developmental care, CPAP, resuscitation techniques and the effective use of our new, sustainable technology (supplied by Diamedica UK)

Chris has again been spending his time in support of the maintenance team. His big project on this trip was fitting tensioned wires throughout the newly renovated male ward (allowing us to fit mosquito nets and privacy curtains). My sincere thanks to them both for making such a sustained and lasting contribution to Bansang.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Children's Ward Refurbishment

- HOW YOU CAN HELP -



We are hoping to raise £20,558 for the final phase of children's ward renovations, helping us to;

- Make the ward safe against extreme weather by replacing the original, inferior building materials
- Dramatically improve care using our 13 years of treatment analysis and improved understanding
- Significantly reduce infections such as sepsis through the use of better materials and technologies

For those of us who are fortunate to have everything we need, what better way to share in the values of Christmas than by extending our hand to the vulnerable children of Bansang. If you're in a position to do so, please help us give the children in our care the very best chance

www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/renovations

You can also support our work in many other ways;

DONATE MONTHLY: Monthly donors are the lifeblood of this charity. The financial assurance they offer helps us make long-term strategic plans. If you are able to contribute in this way, please get in touch

FUNDRAISE: Running a marathon? Swimming across Scotland? Scootering across the Sahara? Whatever the idea, we'd love to support you!

LIKE ON FACEBOOK: Liking us on Facebook helps spread the Bansang story to all your friends. It doesn't cost you anything, but it helps us no end! So please click the like button on our [Facebook page](#)

FOLLOW ON INSTA: We've just opened an Instagram account, and will be posting pictures to it regularly. If you'd like to see our pictures, please follow us [here](#) (and share with your friends and family)

RAISE AWARENESS: If you work or socialise in a place that would be happy to highlight this charity, please get in touch. We have lots of information leaflets and fundraising boxes that you can take with you. They may just help us reach someone that becomes the difference in future years.

CONTACT US: Anita Smith, MBE MRG. Bansang Hospital Appeal, 4 The Leys, Orlingbury, NN14 1JE
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With your support, more children will be able to leave Bansang feeling healthy and happy



Our renovated children's ward will offer improved burns care



Anita handing over the Keller funded pharmaceuticals to Burama



Handing over new patient monitoring equipment to CEO, Baba Jeng



Help us build a brighter future for the wonderful people of The Gambia

Patrons: Mr Phil Sinkinson OBE, former British High Commissioner to The Gambia & Mr Simon Scarrow, international bestselling author



Gift Aid Declaration - Bansang Hospital Appeal

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Donating through Gift Aid means charities and community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donations to Bansang Hospital Appeal you must tick the box below;

☐ Please treat all donations I make or have made to Bansang Hospital Appeal for the past 4 years as Gift Aid donations until further notice.

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year then it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My details: *(please note we can only accept your home address)*

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____ Surname _____

Home Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Email *(optional)* _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Join us:

Would you like to be kept informed via email about our latest news and campaign updates?

Yes please ☐

No thank you ☐

Please notify Bansang Hospital Appeal if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return the completed form to:

Anita Smith, 4 The Leys, Orlingbury, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN14 1JE

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