

XXII Annual Conference
Qadriyya Association – Gambia

Bushara NGO projects in The Gambia
Hosted by Qadriyya Association

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Firstly I'd like to start by thanking Sheikh **Muhammad Haydara Yilani and Qadririyya association** for allowing us to present Bushara to all of you here today and for having hosted, supported and guided us from the very beginning of this adventure.

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Bushara is a **non-governmental and non-profit association** based in Granada (Spain) which aims to work in the development and promotion of health and education within the West Africa region, especially The Gambia.

It was founded by **a group of old friends**, as a platform from where to plan and develop missions and humanitarian projects.

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10 years ago, we came for the first time invited by **Sheikh Muhammed and Dr. Omar F. Abdullah** with the intention of visiting the people of The Gambia and getting to know the reality of this beautiful land. From the very beginning, we saw immense potential for Qadriyya Association and Bushara to collaborate.

Since then we have been coming every year to provide free health and dental care. More than 5000 patients have been treated so far.

Zayn Al-Abidin primary school has been built in Kenbuye (Brikama) and has had up to 500 hundred students.

And now, God willing, we are in the process of building a health centre in Serekunda.

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KEMBUYEG SCHOOL PROJECT (BRIKAMA)

Our first objective in The Gambia was to build a school . Advised by Qadriyya and after visiting **a few locations**, Kembuyed was chosen as the ideal place for it.

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In January, **2012** Bushara and Qadriyya signed an agreement to cooperate in the building and management of Kembuye Primary School.

The school was inaugurated in April **2013**. Just a year after the inauguration we were surprised by the **number of applications**.

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The school facilities were **not big enough** to accommodate the increasing number of students. So Bushara decided to build a **2nd pavilion**, that was finished at the end of 2016.

Currently the capacity of the school is **for 320 pupils**, although the number of students is over 500, so it's hugely exceeded its capacity.

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Future educational projects:

- To build a **3rd pavillion**, for reception students, because at the moment they are having their lessons under sheet metal sheds. So we would like to improve the well being of the students at the school to the best of our abilities.

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- To increase the **number of teachers** for core subjects in English and to adapt and update the teaching content.
- To **replace furniture** and to cover maintenance costs.

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SEREKUNDE CLINIC – HEALTH CENTRE

Since our first visit to The Gambia in **2010**, we have been providing health care to locals. The service started in a very **organic** way.

This activity has continued every year until now.

Since then more than **5000 patients** have benefited from free medical, nursing, and dental care.

Provided by **professionals from** Spain, UK, Argentina, The Netherlands USA and from The Gambia itself.

Since 2017 **local doctors** have been joining and helping the Bushara team, adding a great value to the project.

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Doctor Bashir, our medical director and the head of Bushara during his clinical practice.

We cover a wide range of conditions, chronic as well as acute.

Africa is very rich when it comes to languages,. One of our challenge during our clinical sessions is to understand some of our patients. In our conversations you can hear either Spanish, Wolof, French, Fulani, English , Pular or Mandinga.

The type of treatments will depend on the medicines and consumables that are available at that time.

Advice in healthy life habits and prevention have always played an important role in our clinical sessions.

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Pictures:

- Medical and dental **check-outs** at the Kembuye school
- Consultations

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Dental Care Service provided by Abdullah and Gustavo.
In their very successful and much-needed service.

They have treated more than **2000** patients so far, with great results.
In The Gambia dental care is a rare luxury.

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Great professionals and an amazing results even working in a very basic setting and facilities.

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Pharmacy

Most of our medicines comes from donations from a network of pharmacist in South Spain that collaborate with us or are brought along by the volunteers.

Every year, we need to do a stock cheking and categorize them . So we can dispense them in a easier way.

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Eye Health

This year we **have an optician** for the very first time.

Eye issues are a very common problem among our patients

Here we can see Sidi Lamin wearing his new pair of prescribed eyeglasses.

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Waiting area and appointments managing

Some of our patients come from very far and remote rural areas. Some of them arrived very early in the morning and wait for hours to be seen.

On our first day, a patient list is created, some of them are contacted to come for follow-ups or to collect their medications.

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Due to the **high demand** and growth of the health service, the idea of building a health centre seemed to us the right way forward.

An **ideal scenario** would be to have the new clinic open all year long, run by local health specialists and supported by periodical visits from foreign volunteers.

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Objectives:

- To offer **free health care service** for all of those who don't have financial means.
- To practice a type of medicine that prioritises **teaching healthy food and hygiene habits**.
- To resort, whenever is possible, to **traditional and less aggressive remedies**, avoiding dependence on conventional medicine.
- To **encourage cooperation between volunteers from other countries** and professionals from The Gambia, for the continuity of the project and the benefit of the local communities.

In 2017, the construction of the health centre started on a piece of land **granted by our host Al-hajji Kinteh**.

After a few technical drawbacks during the first year, we continued with the project on our last visit at the beginning of 2018.

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The health centre consists of a two-storey building with a built area of 280 m² :

On the **first floor** there will be one dental cabinet, a nursing room, a treatment room, one obstetrics and gynaecology room, a labour ward, one bathroom and outdoor and indoor toilets.

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On the **second floor**, there will be 3 treatment rooms, a multi-purpose room, one bathroom and two toilets.

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Current situation of the clinic:

This is our work Budget plan for the health centre. – Currently we are at **Stage 4**

Total Budge: £ 60.909

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We are finishing the building framework and we are starting the brick and roof work and inshAllah if Bushara has **financial means**, the aim is to finish the health centre by the end of **2021**.

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In Bushara, we are open to any type of collaboration and cooperation:

- **Professional and/or volunteering,**
- **Donations** including clinical equipment and furniture
- **Brainstorming** to help us improve

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For instance, at the moment some members of IMANA (**Islamic Medical Association of North America.**) have contacted us for a future collaboration, so they can use the new health centre for their missions in The Gambia.

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So far the funds for Bushara have come mainly from:

- Private **donations**
- 15% of our funds from Bushara **memberships**
- **Fundraising meals** at Mezquita de la Vega Mosque and Rahma's house
- **Charity market**: selling cosmetics and handicraft made by some of our members.
- "Africa en la Otra Orilla" a photographic **book** whose author José Luís García García, has won international awards, donated its profit to Bushara projects..
- A network of pharmacists in Granada (Spain) who have been donating **medicines** and consumables.

I'd like to mention that in Bushara 100% of our funds and donations are use entirely to our proyects. We don't have offices or staff of any kind. All our work is done by volunteers and we don't cover travel expenses or accomodation. Everyone is self-paid.

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Here you have different ways to **contact us**, if you are interested in receiving more information about any of our projects or would like to collaborate in any way.

At the moment, our **website** is in the process of being updated and translated. We hope to have a new, more user-friendly and fresher image soon, in **Spanish and English**, to make it easier for those who want to contact and follow us.

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I don't want to finish my presentation without saying thank you to all the people that have been supporting Bushara during all these years. Surely without them, we wouldn't have been able to bring any of these projects alive.

Especially to **Sheikh Muhammad Haydara** for his guidance, wisdom, and support, always with the best of the manners and to **Al-Haji Kinteh** who has been our closest and dearest friend, host and guardian on every single of our visits to this blessed land.

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I'd like to end by saying that at Bushara we have always felt that our work in The Gambia is just the minimum we can do to give back all we have been given from this land.

FiamaniAllah

Thank you very much,