

SEPTEMBER 2021



A Chara

The IFSC are a group of friends that gathered together to help others, to provide much needed school facilities. This helps give hope to those that have no self hope or perceived future. We believe through education, that the youth of today can empower themselves, grow and give hope to those around them.

OUR HISTORY:

Our group came together initially at the end of 2020, to help a young girl in Gambia, Kumba Gaye. Kumba's at the time was 28 years old school teacher fighting for her life, because of a terminal brain tumour and already had lost her vision. We paid for her full medical expenses to fly to Turkey and have her life saving operations. During her recovery we as a group made Kumba a promise to build a school so that she may return to teaching one day. While the operations were successful, Kumba died on the 22nd of August, 2021, just before our recent visit.

Many of our group have volunteered for over 10 year's with the Mellon Educate Charity in South Africa, where we have constructed over 1000 houses and over 70 classrooms in the townships outside Capetown.

THE FUTURE:

True to our word we have committed to building two new classrooms in Gambia in March 2022 in Kumba's honour and formed our group the **IFSC**. Also included in this project will be the much needed renovation of the school kitchen, repairs/painting on the existing 3 classrooms, replacement of the 2000ltr community water tank(leaking) and a transformer which will provide electricity to the school for the first time since 2005. We will also construct a children's play area and renovate the "Bantan" sheltered area. The school caters for a population of approximately 7000 people with 128 children, between the ages of 3-7 years old in two classrooms. Many children in the village not having the opportunity to attend school. This is why additional classrooms are so critical.

The 22 strong team intend to leave Ireland on the 11th of March 2022 and complete this ambitious project within one week which will help the local families and community for year's to come. The funding from this is paid directly by each of the volunteers and 100% of the funds goes towards the outlined work above. We are fortunate to have the Deputy Governor of Central Rive Region, Hon. Ousman Bah, working with us on the ground in Gambia. In advance of our trip we will be sending a 20ft container from Ireland to Gambia which will contain building materials, tools, furniture, school supplies and clothing for the local community.

I am attaching the plan for the new classroom build and some photograph's from our recent visit in early September, where we met with the Giboro Village Chief, Elders and School Council. We were warmly welcomed and they are anxiously waiting our return in March 2022.

If there is any assistance that your organisation would be able to provide to our group, please do not hesitate to contact the project manager, Patrick Barry, by email - hurling@mac.com or by phone +353 872789429.

Kind regards.





