

MALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1088140

Details

Other names MDG

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2001-08-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 11 Woodhall Lane
Balsham
Cambridge
CB21 4DT

Phone 01223890149

Email secretary@malidg.org.uk

Website www.malidg.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) TO RELIEVE PERSONS IN MALI SUFFERING FROM POVERTY, SICKNESS AND DISTRESS.B) TO ADVANCE FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT THE EDUCATION OF THE INHABITANTS OF MALI.C) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE CAUSES OF AND WAYS OF RELIEVING POVERTY, SICKNESS AND DISTRESS IN MALI.

Activities: MDG works closely with the Malian NGO Jeunesse et Developpement, based in Bamako, but also with other Malian partners including Pensons a Demain (PAD), Sahel Eco and others. It funds projects mainly in Bamako and the rural south, with an emphasis on the needs of women and young people. MDG is a volunteer led organisation committed to membership participation.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE INHABITANTS OF MALI.
- Mali

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£18,303	£29,749	-	-
2024-03-31	£16,098	£24,881	-	-
2023-03-31	£24,831	£31,548	-	-
2022-03-31	£35,936	£27,947	-	-
2021-03-31	£37,562	£43,144	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JANICE MARILYN HEDGE		
John Anthony Hedge		2019-08-31
Judith Andrea Hartley		2018-09-09
Ken King		2023-03-19
LINDA KING		
Rev Timothy William Hewes BDS		2023-09-16
Susan Grace Upton		2019-08-31
Wilfred Willey		2018-09-09

MALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1088140

Accounts

Mali
Development
Group
Annual Report
2022

Learning Together

www.malidg.org.uk

Mali
Development Group



If you would like to help

Mali Development Group
Charity number: 1088140

Linda King (Chair)
Judith Hartley (Secretary)
David Hedge (Treasurer)

Other committee members:

John Hedge,
Janice Hedge,
Sue Upton (co-opted)
Wilfred Willey

MDG cheques should be payable to
Mali Development Group and sent to:

The Treasurer
26, Emanuel Avenue, London, W3 6JJ

Please ensure that you give us your name and address together with a statement that you want us to treat this and any other donations you make as Gift Aid donations and that you currently pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital gains Tax to cover the amounts given.

You can also access donation forms and membership forms on our web site:

www.malidg.org.uk

This also gives details of Standing Order arrangements – a great way to help us.

You can also now text a donation of £2, £5 or £10 by texting Maliz2 to 70070, for example, Maliz2 £5.

Front cover image:

'Learning Together'
One of tenderness, as students touch foreheads. It is a reflection on a meeting of bodies and minds, with mutual respect, affirmation and learning.



A message from John Hedge

Welcome to the Mali Development Group Annual Report

On behalf of the committee a warm welcome to our annual report for 2022 entitled Learning Together. It has been another challenging year both for our fundraising activities and for our partners in Mali. As you will see, though, we have managed to maintain our planned support both to Jeunesse et Développement (J&D) and Pensons à Demain (PAD). The committee has continued to meet regularly online throughout the year, supported by our secretary Judith Hartley.

Contact with both our partners has been maintained through regular reports and phone calls, and Sue Upton has had the lead responsibility in this. Our overall 'intelligence' about Mali has also been supported greatly by committee member Wilfred Willey who visited his family in Mali for an extended trip during the year.

J&D are still recovering from the severe funding crisis reported in last year's report, and this has meant extra burdens for our link worker Tanty Samake. Her regular reports have been key to keeping us informed and the update on J&D in this report draws heavily on her recent review. We are still in discussion about our next work plan with J&D, but it will probably have an emphasis on support for community work with young people in Commune 4 of Bamako, based around the new youth centre at the J&D building.

PAD's work has been going well and the need for its services is stronger than ever. You can read in this report about recent activities, and the new work, funded by the Angus Lawson Memorial Trust, to provide follow up support to young people once they leave the

project. That is being accompanied by a new assessment and monitoring system, which will, we hope, enable PAD to have clearer data about the type of problems they are dealing with and the longer run impact of their programme.

One of our longer-term funders The Patsy Wood Trust has recently completed its work, as originally planned, after more than a decade of wonderful support to us and a host of other organisations. You can read later in the report about Patsy and the difference which the Trust set up in her name has made to us.

Once of those contributions was on a one-off basis to an organisation called Aflatoun, which provides training to young people in Mali. One of its key supporters, Violet Diallo, a friend of MDG's from the beginning, has written about it for this report. As mentioned the theme of Learning Together this year is reflected in the Aflatoun ethos which we are keen to promote.

Our own fundraising owes a huge amount to Linda King and her team of caterers, collectively known as 'The babs'. As normal life began to resume with the end of lockdown restrictions bookings for their services began to increase, and you can read about their work here. One of the great things about the group is that as well as earning money and giving a much-valued service they also tell people about Mali and what the money is for - spreading the information about what we are and why we do it is, after all, important as ever.

Finally, you will be able to read our financial report, prepared as ever by our Treasurer David Hedge. He has been in this post since day 1 making a huge contribution to MDG's work, and despite all the ups and downs always with a sense

of humour and a smile on his face - apart from his occasional battles with the bank about foreign transfers of course! It always gets there in the end.

If you are a member, you will have received our newsletters over the year, all prepared by our communications lead, Janice Hedge. As well as being one of the Babs, Janice has been doing a great job in keeping you as well informed as we can about the things that go well, but importantly also the things that don't. The whole idea of MDG from the beginning was to give members a closer and more direct relationship with development work than is usually possible and we continue to see that as an important priority.

This report, as ever, has been designed by Andrea Hewes, another 'long term'er! Her flair and imagination have always been important, and she exemplifies another MDG principle - that we use the talents of our members whenever possible.

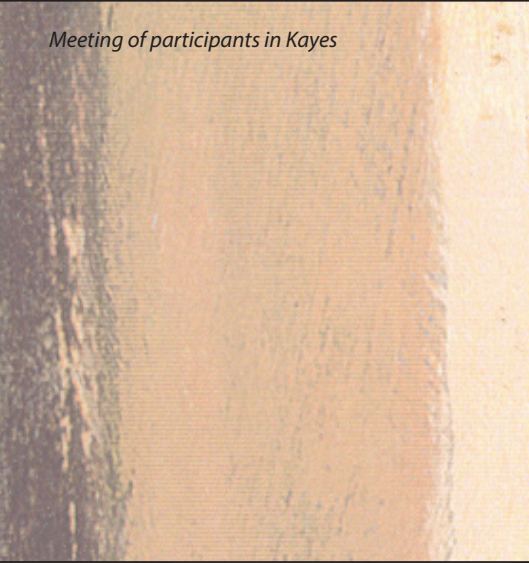
Times continue to be tough for Mali. We need to be aware that amidst other crises the threat from climate change is potentially more drastic in terms of temperature, rainfall and sustainable agriculture than almost anywhere else in the world. We all need to do our best to mitigate climate change in our own lives, but we have a duty to make everyone aware of the implications of slow response from developed countries for those parts of the world, including Mali, where people have done nothing significant to cause the crisis but face the worst of its consequences.

Thank you for all your support over the last year. We hope you will continue to help us and if you are not a member that you will want to join us.

John Hedge



Meeting of participants in Kayes



Violet Diallo, originally from England, married a Malian and has been living in Mali for 32 years. For many years Violet, whose career has included Social Work, International Administration and Evaluation, Research and a specific interest in rights of children, has been involved with MDG from the start, about 22 years.

Violet's wealth of experience and knowledge about Mali and has been a source of advice to us over the years. She has been an important figure in the setting up and rolling out of the Aflatoun programme

and we are delighted to have been able to fund some areas of the project over the last year.

Below, Violet sets out the aims of the project and how it has progressed into a valid and noteworthy scheme which we hope will continue to grow and develop, giving young people the very important life skills they need to survive and progress in our modern world.



Two young students concentrating on their studies during international money week

Aflatoun Progress in Mali 2021 to 2022

AFLATOUN with children aged 6 to 14 : in Kayes and Bamako

AFLATEEN for teenagers between 14 and 20 : in Kayes, Bamako and surrounding areas 2020 to 2022

Both groups follow facilitated learning with active discussion and activities based on the following elements:

1. Personal Exploration
2. Rights and Responsibilities
3. Saving and Spending
4. Planning and Budgeting
5. Social and Financial Enterprise

2021 took off with a very good start for Aflatoun in Mali. Thanks to a gift from the Patsy Wood Trust, a partner of MDG, we were able to print 1 000 copies of the Aflateen Programme Facilitator's Manual. This is the essential tool for teachers transmitting active methods of pedagogy materials for life skills and financial education, including an all-inclusive gender point of view. This basic document was examined by a team of experts from the Ministry of Education and other Government departments, including Vocational Training and the Ministry for Women and the Family. The Aflateen programme was validated by this committee at the end of 2020. Since 2020 it has trained 90 teacher facilitators and over 3 000 student beneficiaries with a staff of 3 and part time accounting support.

Programme trainers held our first facilitators' training sessions in Bamako and Kayes in North-Western Mali. Photographs show how volunteer teachers enter enthusiastically into activities to repeat with their own student classes.

Matters covered by the programme

- Reflecting on myself and my world, my contribution to the world, peer

pressure, self-confidence, maintaining respectful relationships within the family and community, my rights and responsibilities, inequalities, violence.

- My body - my choices, physical and emotional changes, risky behaviours, HIV/Aids, choices for marriage.
- My money - future plans, understanding finance, having money and resources.
- My business - entrepreneurship and employability.
- Reflection on future steps from action plans and choice of objectives.

Experience of the Aflateen Programme in Mali

Our earliest experiences (2006 onwards) were with primary school children in rural and urban settings. So far we have worked in Kayes and Bamako with middle and high school groups. Perhaps because there are few other organised activities, country school groups are particularly enthusiastic. An area in Kayes with about 60 small schools began a savings scheme with a local micro-finance organisation. Within 2 years they had a collective balance of over £500 all contributed in very small sums of change and handled by chosen students with volunteer teachers, making weekly deposits in the schools' account.

The primary school experience had a number of devoted teachers who held meetings with GAP support, followed annual teacher training and were the first members of the Malian Association of Aflatoun Educators recognised in 2013. Mali's political insecurity - including teachers' union strikes - made it impossible to continue the programme beyond 2018. Teachers tell us they still have children coming to their homes to ask when Aflatoun will start again. Contacts have remained intact between GAP and AMEA association.



Primary children holding their Aflatoun passbooks

It was in 2020 that discussions began between Aflatoun International - the Amsterdam base of the programme for over 100 member countries, and Dubai Cares which supports a number of educational and humanitarian projects. As a result GAP and its partner CAMIDE in Kayes are implementing Aflateen for teenagers in Mali as well as in other African countries. Aflateen has had success largely because of inclusion of its Bamako programme manager in a Malian inter-Ministry committee promoting inclusive banking thus offering a possible entry to involving Aflatoun in the national schools curriculum. It is well known in schools because of a large meeting of students at a competition called Which Change to select the most important changes Aflateen lessons have brought about in their personal handling of finances and future plans. A list of Aflateen students' selection is added below.

How Aflatoun proposes to compliment the programme for adolescents.

During work with Aflateen it became clear that children who began an Aflatoun

programme in primary school classes have been influenced by the material and active teaching approach. They are quicker to assimilate more advanced areas of finance and influence their older classmates to follow their lead, part of "child-to-child education". After consulting fellow Aflatoun promoters we are actively planning an appeal to MDG for support to redeploy primary school level Aflatoun. A first step will be to seek official validation of all Aflatoun manuals for primary classes 1 - 7.

We hope our account of activities 2020 to 2022 will encourage our supporters to continue their contribution to this realistic programme to give Malian youth better employability chances and countering potentially suicidal illicit migration.

Students' own views about how Aflatoun has impacted on their personal attitudes to material and financial planning.

Concerning life skills:

- Improved self confidence noted by several incidents of proof of reduced introspection but greater communica-

News from PAD

tion between youths and a new taste for team work and tendency to listen to others' opinions

- Lessons on family conflict or in school all leading to analysis of conflicts and the fact that everybody has rights.
- Learning to take care of one's body and state of mind.

Concerning financial education:

- Recall the rules for savings including recycling and repair of material to become clever savers.
- Limit and control your expenses.
- Learn how to draw up a Business Plan and to follow its contents.
- Self finance your own small projects.
- The importance of money for local development and social well-being.
- One day - create your own business recruiting young people and reduce their unemployment.

To sum up - "Everyone needs education like Aflateen, whether they are young or old!" Quote from a young Aflatoun student from Bamako.



Kader with youngsters on the street in Bamako – Children begging traditionally use these tomato paste tins to collect food or money

Work continues as normal at PAD. Kader and his staff are standardising their data collection and recording in order to gain a wider picture of the ongoing and changing issues confronting the youngsters they work with, and the impact of PAD's activities. MDG is supporting this and we have started analysing some of the completed records. This extra work is being funded by the Angus Lawson Memorial Trust. It is the first time that they have funded a project in Mali and we are grateful for their support and excited to be working with them. Initial analysis has been discussed with Kader and some changes introduced for the current intake of children. At the end of the year, we hope to be able to share an analysis of the nature of the problems facing the children coming to PAD, and continued tracking over time will help to assess how effective their rehabilitation has been once they have left and returned to their own communities.

Kader recently told me about a worrying situation with a young woman who joined the sewing course from her home in Manankoro in the South of Mali. Her parents were keen to arrange a marriage for her, but an advocate helped her negotiate their consent for her to complete the training with PAD, and then marry a man of her choice. However, 5 months into learning with PAD, she disappeared and no trace of her can be found. There is little

Scene of training of AFLATEEN teacher – facilitators



PAD can do in this situation other than report her disappearance to the police and follow up with them regularly.

On a happier note, the last time I spoke to Kader he had just returned from a trip to Segou when he took two boys who had been lodging at PAD back to their families for a hopefully successful re-integration at home. He will follow up with them and be available to help resolve any issues that arise.

Current PAD activities include ongoing literacy learning, making bogolan cloth, and the sewing course for young mums. Twice a week there is a session about hygiene, reproductive health and how to get on well with other people. Kader also said they started some work with two schools in July and on July 22nd there was an exhibition of the children's work sponsored by the US Embassy as a prelude to the Embassy offering some financial support for PAD. The longstanding partnership between PAD and the Dutch NGO Samu Social is working well – Samu Social refer young people that they encounter on their night runs round Bamako and cover the costs of medical care when needed.

Kader hopes that the theatre troupe funded by MDG will be able to start operating soon. They are all around and hoping to perform the skits and plays they have developed to support young people learning about how to stay safe, but COVID and consequent bans on gathering people in groups has made it difficult to get going as they planned. Kader will keep us updated.

Kader explained that the cost-of-living crisis is affecting Bamako and everything is more expensive by the day.



Youngsters on the street in Bamako



Sewing teaching in progress with young mothers at PAD

A message from Linda King

Remembering Patsy Wood

Fundraising

The band of us raising money by making cakes and related cooking has been in full swing in recent months.

We provided food for two birthday parties, both of which had been postponed since 2020 due to covid restrictions. They were a 102nd birthday lunch and a 120th birthday evening do, the result of 2 people celebrating being 60! The photos are of some of the food for the latter when we were catering for 85 people some distance from our usual base.

A new recruit to our number has started to provide supper for a local Film Club which meets monthly. This makes it a relaxing and enjoyable evening for the film goers as well as making money for MDG. Other events this year have included helping at 2 local weddings, selling cakes at a coffee morning, bacon rolls at a monthly auction, Christmas lunches and a bridge tea.

A local garden which is open by appointment under the National Gardens Scheme uses us to provide the teas. So it gives us a good chance to raise money, have a good chat, enjoy the views and sample the product to ensure it's up to scratch!



Taking a well earned rest at a wedding reception on one of the hottest days of the year



Our friendship with the Patsy Wood Trust over the years has led to our receiving a very large amount of funding, sometimes directly, and sometimes through associated grant makers. During the past year we received £5,000 as a final payment because the Trust was completing its work. It had been established in 2008 to commemorate Patsy's life and achievements and it had always been planned to commit the available resources by this point.

Now seems a very good moment to remember Patsy Wood. An Oxford graduate in agriculture, she went on to become an innovative and inspiring ecological campaigner, winning many conservation awards. Her premature death in 2007 robbed our country and the wider world of a talent and insight which the current climate crisis highlights very poignantly.

The Trust funded a very wide range of causes and organisations both here and abroad, and MDG received help on a number of projects. The work with Pensons a Demain and Kader Keita would, perhaps, have been very special for Patsy, given the use of bogolan, as she was herself an accomplished seamstress and worker with cloth.

She would also, I'm sure, have wanted to hear about the Second Step projects and the women's groups who have worked so hard to develop their market gardens. The Trust also funded work with a former MDG partner Sahel Eco, and again the theme was helping to train farmers to grow and nourish crops in very tough conditions.

Sometimes the support was given for one-off small-scale projects, and that sort of flexibility is always especially helpful. An example is the work to support Aflatoun, which Violet Diallo writes about elsewhere in this report

Our relationship with the Trust included the moral support its trustees offered and we especially thank Sarah Buxton for all her kindness and encouragement. We hope that she will continue to take an interest in MDG's work.

So, as we commemorate another year's work for MDG let's remember Patsy Wood and the Trust with grateful thanks for all the work which their support has made possible in Mali.

Easy Fundraising

This is a reminder to our members to investigate the biggest charity fundraising site available – Easy Fundraising. It is very easy to use – just register, click on the charity you wish to donate to and then start shopping. Nearly all the big retailers are involved and they donate between 1-3% of whatever you spend to MDG. There is no catch, they don't pester you with emails and the amounts soon add up. Since we started using the site our shoppers have raised £949.81 with very little effort. A big thank you to those of you who have contributed to that total.

Financial Report

David Hedge

Finance Report for year ended 31st March 2022

As a volunteer based charity, MDG has received approximately £1.4 million since its inception in 2001. This includes funding for the regular activities of our partners in Mali plus projects.

The charity has remained in regulatory compliance. An Independent Examiner provided satisfactory financial overview.

Income:

Gross income for fiscal year 2021/22 was £32,350. This was slightly lower than in the previous year due to adverse economic conditions and the lingering effect of COVID19. This also resulted in reduced donations. Linda King successfully reinstated fundraising with various catering activities.

There were generous donations received from a diverse range of members and other stakeholders including Just Trust (£2,000), The Angus Law Memorial Trust (£12,000), Universal Music (£1,600) and from Marlene Fishbourne in respect of a legacy from her husband Ray (£3,000).

Additionally the sum of £2,104 was received from HMRC in respect of a Gift Aid refund and another claim will be processed after the financial year end.

We thank all individual, organisational and trust donors for their help in providing continued financial support.

Expenditure:

In the latest year, annual outgoings were mainly comprised of quarterly Malian bank transfers totalling £27,460 to meet agreed funding needs of our partners Jeunesse et Development (J&D) and Association Culturelle Pensions a Demain (PAD).

MDG's general overheads are modest in conformity with the voluntary nature of the charity. For monitoring purposes, MDG receives regular progress reports from our partners in Mali and this enables funding priorities to be adjusted, as applicable.

Current Financial Year (2022/23)

The income raised during the initial five months of the current fiscal year has continued to be restrained by the negative impact of the current environment. Nevertheless, MDG recorded a slightly higher income compared to last year for the same period. The largest individual amount was £2,681 from the Aspen Trust. The bulk of the remainder came from standing orders. A Gift Aid claim is being prepared and this is expected to provide a refund approximately comparable to that previously received.

The core outgoings continue to be primarily for regular PAD quarterly transfers amounting to £4,500. These amounts are in line with budgets approved for projects with our partners.

Total Bank Balances:

Current and Savings account balances as at 31st August 2022 amounted to £23,820. These accounts are maintained at Lloyds Bank for operations and Virgin Savings.

David Hedge, Treasurer
31st August 2022





MALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP
1088140
Receipts and payments accounts
CC16a

For the period from 01/04/21 To 31/03/22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	24,422	-	-	24,422	26,974
Membership Subscriptions	810	-	-	810	830
Fund Raising Events	8,598	-	-	8,598	4,923
Interest on Deposits	2	-	-	2	8
Gift Aid Refunds	2,104	-	-	2,104	2,147
Raffle, Voucher and Card Sales	-	-	-	-	2,680
Comic Relief Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	35,936	-	-	35,936	37,562

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

	-	-	-	-	-
--	---	---	---	---	---

Total payments	27,947	-		27,947	43,144
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,989	-	-	7,989	- 5,582
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,771	-	-	21,771	27,353
Cash funds this year end	29,760	-	-	29,760	21,771

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds			
Lloyds Bank	29,505		-
Virgin Savings	255	-	-
	-	-	-
UNRESTRICTED/RESTRICTED and payments account(s))	29,760		-

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Other monetary assets

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)

Current value (optional)

Details

B3 Investment assets

Details

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)

Current value (optional)

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Fund to which liability relates Amount due (optional) When due (optional)

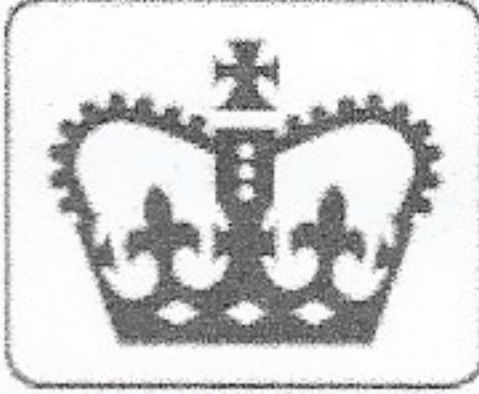
Details

B5 Liabilities

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Judith A. Hartney</i>	David Hedge	05-Sep-22

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Judith A. Hartney JUDITH HARTNEY 05-Sep-22



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name MALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP

On accounts for the year ended

31 MARCH 2022

Charity no (if any)

1088140

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

30/09/2022

Name:

J. A. GOULDEN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

MAAT

Address:

6 ADMIRAL'S MEAD
BUTLEIGH
GASTONBURY BAG 8UE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

MALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP


England & Wales - Charity number 1088140

Accounts

**We're
in this
together**

**Mali
Development
Group
Annual Report
2021**





Mali Development Group
Charity number: 1088140

Linda King (Chair)
Judith Hartley (Secretary)
David Hedge (Treasurer)

Other committee members:

John Hedge,
Janice Hedge,
Luke Hedge
Sue Upton (co-opted)
Wilfred Willey

Cover: 'We are all in this together'
Andrea Hewes

I came up with the idea while away in Wales. I spent a lot of time by and in the river, sketching and just being in it! It seems to me that the pandemic has highlighted like never before how we are all interconnected and that the river is a metaphor for Life with all of us floating around precariously in boats. Hence the pirogue taken from the MDG logo and the river taken from an image by Kader Keita. Hope it's not too esoteric! That's what happens when you spend time in a river!

If you would like to help

MDG cheques should be payable to
Mali Development Group and sent to:

The Treasurer

26, Emanuel Avenue, London, W3 6JJ

Please ensure that you give us your name and address together with a statement that you want us to treat this and any other donations you make as Gift Aid donations and that you currently pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital gains Tax to cover the amounts given.

You can also access donation forms and membership forms on our web site:

www.malidg.org.uk

This also gives details of Standing Order arrangements – a great way to help us.

You can also now text a donation of £2, £5 or £10 by texting Mali22 to 70070, for example, Mali22 £5.

A message from John Hedge

Welcome to our 2021 Annual Report. The theme this year is that 'we are all in this together'. It is certainly a fact of modern life that we are all affected by climate change, by pandemic and by the consequences of political instability and terrorism. With lightning-fast communication and an array of mass media we can see and hear the noise, shock and grieving from any quarter of the world. It has certainly become a familiar idea that all nations must be involved in addressing these problems, and especially the wealthier countries of the developed world who consume a disproportionate amount of all resources and contribute massively to the climate emergency.

So are we 'in this together'? Not really. If we take the pandemic first it is certainly fair to say that Mali's own figures suggest a surprisingly low infection and death rate. This may well be due to the unreliability of data and certainly merits more attention than it has had. It is certainly not to do with massive vaccination. At the time of writing Mali had given 260,000 doses of vaccine, just over 86,000 were fully vaccinated amounting to 0.4% of the population against a worldwide 24.1%.

The pandemic's economic effect has been compounded by Mali's political crisis leading to recession. Real GDP is estimated to have contracted by 2% in 2020, reflecting the decline in global demand, supply challenges, and domestic restrictions. This situation is compounded by the decline in cotton production and the poor performance of the agricultural sector, factors that are exacerbating poverty, particularly in rural areas. Yet wealthier countries, preoccupied with their own recovery priorities have chosen this period to cut back their development funding massively reducing the capacity of NGOs to fund work in the poorest countries. Mali is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and this is

compounded by high population growth, diminished resilience and violent conflicts. Mali is forecast to become hotter with more erratic rainfall, impacting seasonal regularity and increasing the risk of droughts and floods. Moreover, conflict, political instability and weak government institutions undermine effective adaptation to climate change. In a country where 80% of livelihoods depend on agriculture the consequences of climate change are incredibly serious.

So, 'we are in it together' may be true in theory, but it will not feel like that in Mali or any of the other poorest countries of our world. Through all this charities, great and small, have a duty to keep going, persevere, and do their best to argue for a more inclusive and outward facing approach. Small charities like MDG matter especially, because they are based on relationships and the importance of solidarity. It has certainly been another tough year for MDG. We have continued to bid for funding to grant making bodies but many more organisations are now chasing fewer funds, and our activities have been massively reduced. Yet we have been able to meet our commitments to the core funding of our two partners J&D and PAD. That is due to the enormous generosity of our members. At a difficult time in your own lives, you have given us a lifeline. Your donations, standing orders, and willingness to find some extra money to keep us going have made our survival possible, and we are regularly told by Kader Keita and Tanty Samake how much that has mattered to the work they do. We have now known both of them for over 20 years, and through their organisations a huge amount has been accomplished. Solidarity and friendship matter so much at times like this, and with your help we can continue and hopefully develop our work into the future.



A message from John Hedge

(Cont'd)



Fatoumata Diawarra



Kader presents certificate to PAD graduate



Young mothers - students on PAD's sewing and tailoring course

There have been several unexpected bonuses as well. We have been receiving a year's donated royalties in quarterly instalments via Universal Music for a track on an album by Disclosure which features Fatoumata Diawarra. At a very tight time for all charities this contribution has been really valuable, together with generous sums from several trusts and grant making charities who have been regular supporters over the years.

Kader Keita and PAD have had a very effective year operating at full capacity to rescue and rehabilitate some of Mali's poorest children. The courses for girls are now well established and although the theatre troupe which MDG supported to help Kader promote awareness of child protection issues has been in abeyance because of COVID it is hoped that this work can begin again soon. Kader himself had a nasty road accident, and his trusty three-wheel motorbike was wrecked. We were able to help get him back in the road and he is now fully recovered. That kind of one-off payment can sometimes make all the difference and as a small and flexible charity MDG has always tried to respond in this type of crisis. Kader now wishes to develop the service to provide more follow up work with children who leave the project after their stay, and this will certainly help develop evidence of the impact of PAD's work. Sue Upton is working on bid writing to secure the money to do this, and we are hopeful that we can make it possible.

It has been another tough year for J&D. As a Malian NGO they have always worked in partnership with a number of international donors from different countries. Those projects have gradually come to an end and with the decline in development funding and a general retrenchment it is proving hard to find now funded programmes. This has led to massive cutbacks in staffing and at the moment Tanty Samake, our link worker is the only funded worker, though she is supported

by Madou Diarra, another old friend and founder member of J&D. As a respected international development consultant Madou is well placed to give that support. Some of the Second Step projects have been operating, and we are well aware of the need for more once we can find sufficient money to resume the programme. For now, maintaining Tanty's post is our top priority, though recently we have also been able to help with equipment for the Youth Centre which is still planned as part of the community provision within J&D's headquarters building. We are in regular contact, and it is also good to hear that Mamadou Kone, the former Director with whom we worked for so many years has now re-joined the J&D council. We hear fairly regularly from Tanty about the longer-term sustainability and impact of earlier projects. Generally, and with Tanty's long term encouragement they have continued to do well and make an impact. We have also heard about the Mutuelle health insurance programme in Yanfolila, which despite all the difficulties has managed to survive and we hope that they can grow and thrive in the future. As a mark of gratitude for the support they provided as the Mutuelle became self-sufficient the committee named the meeting room in their new Headquarters after Andy Benson our former chair. The room has a picture of him and of Judith Hartley and Michelle Chadwick who worked with Andy at a critical time in the Mutuelle's development.

MDG has always relied heavily on the skills and talents of its members, and many of them have been supporting us since we began- Andrea Hewes continues to produce these reports and our newsletters and it is a major contribution to our ability to stay in touch with members and funders. In the last year three of those contributors have sadly died. Earlier this year Heather Bolitho who helped with fundraising as well as visiting Mali in her 70s. More recently Martin Freeth, the film maker, who went to Mali and made a pro-

A message from Wilfred Willey

motional film for us, and Trevor Cowlett, who donated the costs of a small ambulance as well as running musical events for us in Kennington. We remember their commitment and enthusiasm, which was inspiring.

The committee has operated online throughout the year. Judith Hartley as Secretary has strengthened our financial planning; David Hedge has continued to serve as Treasurer and has been there since Day 1; Janice hedge, as communications secretary has enabled us to keep contact with members throughout the year; Wilfred Willey has played an important role in the past year keeping us all in touch with political and economic realities in Mali; Sue Upton has continued to give us direct contact with both our partners and has helped us navigate the development issues and dilemmas. Luke Hedge is standing down this year after a prolonged period on the committee and we are grateful for all his efforts, including participation as a delegate on several Mali visits. Linda King has continued to lead our fundraising efforts, though sadly little has been possible in the past year. As Covid 19 restrictions have eased she and her team are now resuming their catering- bookings are now coming in and if you have a special 'do' or party coming up do think about asking the MDG Catering Corps to help. They offer a terrific service.

Thank you to all our supporters. Each of you should know that whatever the wider issues of the pandemic and climate emergency- all those huge challenges- there are people and partners in Mali who know that you are trying to make that ideal of being 'in it together' actually mean something on a human scale.

Mali in 2021 - Politics, Pandemic and Basketball.

The year 2021 has been quite eventful in Mali. Amidst a difficult social and political situation and a precarious security environment, the country found itself in the limelight again in May 2021, all down to another coup. Yes, another change of head of state without elections, the second one in nine months! Although this time, it was an internal re-adjustment, not a putsch. The vice-president Col. Assimi Goïta deposed the transitional government led by President Bah N'Daw and Prime Minister Moctar Ouane, accusing them of not consulting him before a cabinet reshuffle that would have seen two of his close colleagues and fellow officers - the Defence and Security ministers - replaced. We remember that back in August 2020, mass street protests had led to the military overthrowing the elected president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in a bloodless coup. A transitional government was put in place at the time but came under a lot of criticism from the public, political, religious and union leaders.

On the 7th of June, Col. Goïta was sworn in and replaced Bah N'Daw as the new interim president. Since then a new, more inclusive government has been appointed and things seem to be moving forward slowly but surely. Talks with the teachers' unions that had stalled under previous governments have resumed recently; several corruption cases have been transferred to the Prosecutor's Office for trial and more importantly the military are fighting the jihadists groups on the ground. There have been some reports recently of attacks on villages and on military convoys in the centre of Mali. The government forces are also fighting back and with better equipment, winning several battles with the terrorists. But this is seldom reported on, as it does not sell well in the mainstream media. The UK deployed 300 or so troops in June to assist the UN and French "Barkhane" forces

fight terrorists further up in the Northern regions.

The COVID pandemic still lurks in the background, but the situation is more or less stable according to the official reports. There is no popular craze for the vaccine, so the uptake is low as a result. The restrictive measures of last year (semi-lockdown, curfew, mandatory masks in public places) fizzled out. In a country whose economy is mainly based on the informal sector and where everything happens outdoors, getting people to stay at home for any prolonged period of time is quite frankly suicidal. There are talks of an imminent and more violent wave, fuelled by the now famous Delta variant, sweeping through Mali and its neighbours. However, the alarm bells have not been ringing yet and Malians seem to go on about their business as usual, knowing that previous predictions of a hecatomb across Africa due to COVID-19 by the WHO did not materialise. Thank goodness!

I'm glad to say that it is not all doom and gloom in Mali, despite the serious challenges it has had in recent years and the ones it will face in a near future. The country is still standing and people, like myself, keep faith and believe in a brighter future for Mali. And why not?

In July and August 2021 the Malian male and female youth basketball teams took part in the World Cup and African Cup of Nations in the U19 and U16 categories respectively. The U19 boys finished the competition in 13th position while the girls finished 4th out of 16 national teams.



Malian female youth basketball team

A message from Linda King

A message from Sue and Tony Sloggit

Elsewhere, the U16 teams did better in the African Cup of Nations. The girls beat the host nation Egypt in the final to take the continental crown for the 7th time in a row, while the boys narrowly lost to the same Egypt (83-81) in the final to finish runners-up!

This may seem insignificant news, but it means a lot to a great many Malians who are used to seeing a lot of negative news about their country in mainstream news sites and social media. These kind of events contribute to brightening up a sky that's otherwise darkened by a lot of issues over which they have no control but which affects their lives nonetheless. They too aspire to a better life.



Pam and Wendy selling cakes in Summertown, Oxford recently

Babs in Lockdown

For some years I've been coordinating some of our efforts at fundraising. In last year's Annual Report, I gave an account of the many and varied things that we have done to bring money into MDG. In more recent years these have tended to involve cooking or catering of some kind. A few years ago, we helped serve and clear up for a wedding and became known as the Babses. This was because the guests wanted to call us by name and so we decided to all be called the same thing, Babs, so it would be easy for them to remember! She was a character in Acorn Antiques! We had been building up a reputation in South Oxfordshire for our catering and help and so at the start of 2020, we had a number of activities in our diary, some of which, like the Ramblers Christmas lunch, a 100th birthday party and a 50th wedding anniversary would have brought in sizeable amounts of money. Despite several of the events being rearranged, they were all eventually cancelled and the sale room where we had been selling bacon rolls and hot drinks on a monthly basis did all their auctions on line. The Burns Night that we catered for in early 2020 was so successful we were booked immediately for 2021, but unfortunately that didn't happen.

More recently things are slowly getting going again. A local garden where we are the supplier of teas and cakes has had some visits booked, so we have been in business again there. We are booked for the Ramblers Christmas lunch and are optimistic that more things will come. The Babses always enjoy meeting up for our events and of course have to taste the cakes etc in order to ensure they're up to par!



Our introduction to MDG was at the lunch party in John and Gill Hedge's garden in Didcot twenty years ago at which the Group was founded, and so we have been involved right from the start. John's enthusiasm was both convincing and effective, and in the early years Sue was a committee member. We both have happy memories of meetings and parties at the Hedges' and the Kings', where we met Kone and other visitors from Mali and learnt more about the country, its people and its problems, as well as hearing fascinating accounts of members' visits there.

An additional reason for our initial interest and our ongoing support is the fact that Sue was born and brought up in Africa, and Tony had made several extended visits there, so we were always aware of some of the issues facing African countries. Those issues are as great or greater now than when MDG was founded, and given such factors as the reduction in government overseas aid that we have just seen, it is all the more important to maintain the contributions of charities such as ours, both to provide much needed, if modest, support and to show nations such as Mali that they are not forgotten by all in the West.

Tony has played for several years in the annual cricket match between MDG and the Bank of Montreal, and when the passing of time made this too challenging, switched to umpiring the match, which he still does. Sue meanwhile has got fully involved with Linda's Catering Corps, and has provided both food and service at many events. (Tony has occasionally been allowed to attend to serve the drinks!). We will continue to support MDG in any way possible, and wish the Group every success in the future.

Financial Report

David Hedge

Financial Report for year ended 31st March 2021

As a volunteer based charity, MDG has received approximately £1.3 million since its inception in 2001. This includes funding for the regular activities of our partners in Mali as well as a limited number of projects.

The largest project was funded by grant monies received from Comic Relief (CR) for a health initiative developed by J&D in southern Mali. Overall, CR funding for the project amounted to £365,943, with MDG acting in a liaison role between CR and J&D. As projected in the last Annual Report, MDG did not receive any such funds in the latest financial year as we have concluded involvement with the Comic Relief (CR) sponsored Community Health Insurance Scheme.

The charity has remained in regulatory compliance. An Independent Examiner provided a satisfactory financial overview.

Income:

Gross income for fiscal 2020/21 was £37,562 and this was slightly lower than in the prior year due to the absence of CR funding following conclusion of the project. Donations increased and MDG's financial position remained sound with reliable standing order income that currently equates to £500 per month (£6,000 annually). Also, there were generous donations received from a diverse range of Members and other stakeholders including Just Trust (£3,500), Migulay Prewell Trust (£1,800), Sarah Buxton (£5,000), Universal Music (about £6,000), Birchwood Hall Community (£750), Tim Hewes (£500) and Dr Hilary Wise (£900).

It should come as no surprise to report that fund raising activities remained difficult in 2020/21 due to the restrictions of COVID19. Given the importance of this valuable and diversified source of revenue in recent years, MDG will concentrate on

reinstating fund raising activities that have been very effectively managed by Linda King.

Additionally, the sum of £2,147 was received from HMRC in respect of a Gift Aid refund and another claim will be processed at the financial year-end.

We thank all individual, organisational and trust donors for their help in providing continued commitment. This provides assistance in underpinning our work and gives a strong foundation for our own fundraising activities.

Expenditure:

In the latest year, annual outgoings were mainly comprised of quarterly Malian transfers (totalling £42,225) to meet agreed funding needs of our partners, J&D and Association Culturelle Pensons A Demain (PAD).

MDG's general overheads were modest in conformity with the voluntary nature of the charity and regular quarterly transfers to J&D and PAD are made within all our agreed requirements. For monitoring purposes, MDG receives progress reports from our partners in Mali and this enables funding priorities to be adjusted, as applicable.

The Current Financial Year (2021/22)

Income:

The income raised during the initial five months of the current fiscal year has continued to be restrained by the negative impact of the current environment. MDG recorded total income of £5,350. During this period, the largest individual item was for £1,817 from Universal Music for a royalty contribution and the bulk of the remainder came from standing orders.

Gift Aid tax:

A claim is being prepared and this is expected to provide a refund comparable to that previously received.

Core outgoings:

These continued to be primarily for regular PAD quarterly transfers (£3,500) and J&D remittances (£10,620) in line with planned requirements including any identified projects. We continue to work closely with partners, and recognise that our on-going support is important in achieving their agreed priorities.

Total bank balances:

Current and Savings account balances, as at 31 August 2020, amounted to £12,100. These accounts are maintained at Lloyds Bank, for operations, and Virgin Savings.



www.malidg.org.uk



Charity Name MALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP	No (if any) 1088140
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/20	To	Period end date 31/03/21
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts		-			
Donations, Legacies and Grants	26,974	-	-	26,974	16,900
Membership Subscriptions	830	-	-	830	850
Fund Raising Events	4,923	-	-	4,923	9,069
Interest on Deposits	8	-	-	8	15
Gift Aid Refunds	2,147	-	-	2,147	2,432
Raffle, Voucher and Card Sales	2,680	-	-	2,680	3,797
Comic Relief Grant	-	-	-	-	8,185
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,562	-	-	37,562	41,248
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total receipts	37,562	-	-	37,562	41,248
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A3 Payments

Donations Paid (Transferred)	42,225	-	-	42,225	29,662
Support Costs	-	-	-	-	2,706
Overheads	284	-	-	284	259
Bank Transfer Charges and related expenses	238	-	-	238	224
Other Expenses	397	-	-	397	-
Comic Relief Project Transfer	-	-	-	-	8,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	43,144	-	-	43,144	40,851

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	43,144	-	-	43,144	40,851
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Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,582	-	-	- 5,582	397
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	27,353	-	-	27,353	26,956
Cash funds this year end	21,771	-	-	21,771	27,353

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank	21,516		-
	Virgin Savings	255	-	-
		-	-	-
	UNRESTRICTED/RESTRICTED	21,771		-
	<i>Total cash funds</i> payments account(s))	OK	#VALUE!	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<i>Other monetary assets</i>			
B3 Investment assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)

Current value (optional)

Details

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Fund to which liability relates

Amount due (optional)


When due (optional)

Details

B5 Liabilities

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature		Print Name		Date of approval
		David Hedge		04-Sep-21



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

MALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP

On accounts for the year ended

31 MARCH 2021

Charity no (if any)

1088140

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/03/2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: J.A. Golden

Date: 29/10/2021

Name: J.A. GOLDEN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

MAAT

Address:

6 ADMIRAL'S MEAD
BUTLEIGH
GLASTONBURY BAG 8 UE

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the examiner to provide details of items to be disclosed. The box is currently blank.