



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	01	Jan	2020		31	Dec 2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name: Niokolo Network

Other names charity is known by: None

Registered charity number (if any): 1169126

Charity's principal address: 2 Alexandra Road
Cardiff
Postcode: CF5 1NS

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

- Dr Tabitha Ndiaye (Chair): 09.09.2016 - Present
- Dr Daphne Kerhoas (Secretary): 09.09.2016 - Present
- Dr Matthis Drolet: 21.12.2016 – Present
- Dr Federica Dal Pesco 10.06.2019 - Present
- Roxanna Rawson 10.06.2019 - Present
- Claire 28.02.2021 - Present

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed for a term of 2 years by a resolution passed at a convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the CIO is to promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public in economically disadvantaged communities on the periphery of Niokolo-Koba National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Danger located in south-eastern Senegal.

The objects of the charity are to be achieved through:

- The relief of poverty and the improvement of the conditions of life;
- The promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration;
- The preservation, conservation and protection of the environment by the prudent use of natural resources.

Section D

Activities and Achievements

2020 Achievements

We continue to work in close collaboration with the Senegalese CBO Kamben and with the Senegalese NGO Kamben Productions. The achievements listed here have been a team effort and we are grateful to our partners for continuing to inspire us with their hard work and commitment to our shared goals. We are also grateful to the Welsh Government's Wales and Africa grant scheme, the Peter-Alan Dickson Foundation, The Waterloo Foundation, and The Kitchen Table Charities Trust for the grant funding that enabled us to carry out the work described below. We have also benefitted hugely over the last year from the mentorship support provided by Hub Cymru Africa.

Rural communities surrounding Niokolo-Koba National Park in SE Senegal

- ❖ Production and distribution of an animated film providing information on the correct process for birth registration.
- ❖ Completion of a birth registration project, with 200 people from three villages supported to obtain their birth certificate.
- ❖ COVID-19 media campaign. Beginning the production of local-language film and music clips to provide factual information about COVID-19 and to deliver public health messages to help curb the spread of the virus.
- ❖ Handwashing facilities designed and installed in four rural communities

Dakar

- ❖ Kamben Productions were supported to maintain their small office and to continue to produce local-language educational films. With funds contributed from all of the funders mentioned above.

Wales

- ❖ Niokolo Network produced a series of five educational films to be used by Welsh schools within their home-working curriculum. These films provided fun facts on five different African countries, with each film finishing with a follow-along African dance class.
- ❖ Together with Hub Cymru Africa we undertook an organisational strengths and weakness assessment, and began work to strengthen areas of weakness.

2020 Activities

COVID-19 Impacts

It is not possible to describe the work of Niokolo Network over this last year without mentioning the impacts of the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst case numbers in rural areas of Senegal have been kept comparatively low, the Senegalese Government acted fast in putting a hard lockdown in place, and rules for social distancing and travel restrictions have had a significant impact on our work. From an early stage, we prioritised the health and safety of our project partners as well as the communities they work in by setting up community volunteer networks to minimise travel between villages. We have also switched from real-life films to animation clips which can be produced even during lockdown restrictions, and we have been increasingly looking to share these through social media and mobile phone networks instead of through rural cinema screenings. Whilst it has taken time to make these adaptations, and some efficacy is lost through a reduction in face-to-face communications, these new approaches also have enormous value in providing a cost-effective way of reaching large numbers of people, and we plan to incorporate these new tools into our work once restrictions are lifted.

As well as the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw an enormous opportunity to support efforts to curb the spread of the disease in Senegal via the rapid production and distribution of local-language films.

Birth Registration Programme

We had previously worked with the UK charity Purple Field Productions to produce a film telling the story of a young boy and the difficulties that his father encountered to get his birth certificate in time for him to sit his end of primary school exam. In Senegal, children who are unable to take this exam have to re-do the school year or drop out of school. This film was produced in the local language of Mandinka and had been very effective at motivating parents to try to register the births of their children. But we received feedback that parents were still unclear of the exact steps they needed to take. To overcome this, our partner organisation Kamben worked with the birth registration office in the nearby Town Hall to ensure we had precise details of the correct procedures for birth registration. Kamben then wrote a script using this information which was signed off by the District's Mayoral Office. Then, with COVID-19 restrictions just starting to be imposed, Kamben Film Group switched from filming live drama to using software to produce an animated clip that portrayed the correct procedures, also in the local language of Mandinka. This animation was added to the end of the existing film, which is published with English subtitles and French subtitles on the YouTube Channel "Kamben Film"



Moustapha talks to his mum about why he doesn't have his birth certificate



Animation illustrating the necessary steps needed to declare a child's birth

A rural birth registration event was held at the end of 2019, with forms for 200 people being submitted. The early months of 2020 saw these documents going through the correct procedures for sign off at the level of the tribunal office in Tambacounda and at the Town Hall in Dialocoto. The completed birth certificates were then distributed.



These three students of CP and CE2 at the school of Dar Salam now have their birth certificate. For them, it is the assurance of being able to continue until the end of primary school without worry, and they already have the necessary paper to pass their college entrance exam. They won't have an excuse to give up along the way!



Harouna, a CM2 student, is happy to have obtained his birth certificate, At the end of the year he will be able to take his first exam which will allow him to enter college and continue learning . Even though he doesn't yet know what he wants to become, Harouna plans o continue at least until college.



Banna received her birth certificate earlier this year. Banna is shy, but if asked if she wants to stay home and cook, she replies that that is out of the question, because she will be a teacher.... Or even a lawyer!



Toutou is 28 years old. He attended school until fifth grade, but was unable to register for the exam due to a lack of birth certificate, Since then he has submitted his file 3 times to obtain his birth certificate.... Without success. Thanks to the hearing organised by Kamben, Toutou finally received his certificate and has ust applied for an identity card, Since receiving his certificate he has been able to find work as a labourer, and today Toutou and other young people from the area have teamed up to start their own farming business.

COVID-19 Health Campaign

In early 2020, the world was watching COVID-19 spread rapidly across high-income countries, with high death rates even in countries with strong health systems. Looking at these patterns of spread, The World Health Organisation warned that Africa should prepare for the worst. The Government of Senegal declared a state of emergency and imposed a range of social distancing restrictions, however very little information about the virus was reaching people in the remote areas that we work in.

In mid-2020 Niokolo Network, Kamben and Kamben Productions planned the production of four clips: we aimed for these to be produced in a local language and to help people understand what the virus is, where it came from, and how to behave to curb infection. By the end of the year we had worked with Kamben Film group to produce three local language film and music clips. These were distributed through social media channels and have been viewed over 200,000 times.



A two minute animation describing what COVID-19 is, steps to take to reduce transmission of the virus, symptoms of the virus, and what to do if you suspect you have the virus.



A music clip of just over a minute, showing how small changes to everyday behaviour can reduce risk of catching and spreading the virus.



A short music clip aimed at children, to normalise social distancing behaviour and remind about the importance of good hygiene when playing with friends.

Alongside our messaging campaign, we also looked at how to enable better hand hygiene within rural villages, where handwashing with soap is rarely practiced. This was against the background of WHO advice which was stressing that handwashing with soap is the most cost-effective way of reducing the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. We trained up a small team of local youth to be able to instal tippy taps- a simple handwashing device that works by using the foot as a lever to tip water out from a container allowing hands to be washed without touching any of the equipment with your hands. These tippy-taps were initially installed within each household in a single village. Towards the end of the year we secured further funding to replicate this work in a further seven villages with approx.. 3,500 inhabitants. We also planned to support a local women’s group to increase their production and sales of a local soap block.



A young women using a household tippy tap.



A women’s group producing solid soaps for sale



Kamben Film Group

In 2019 Niokolo Network helped Kamben Productions to establish an office on the outskirts of Dakar, where they could have reliable access to electricity and set up their equipment for the production of film and music clips. Kamben Productions also planned to start up additional activities relating to event promotion in order to make the group more financially sustainable without ongoing external support. Unfortunately the lockdowns and closures that were brought in as a result of COVID-19 prevented many of these plans to take off- nevertheless, Kamben Productions continued to cover their expenses and remain operational through film-making contracts with Niokolo Network. A great achievement for a new business working under very challenging conditions.

Wales- educational activities

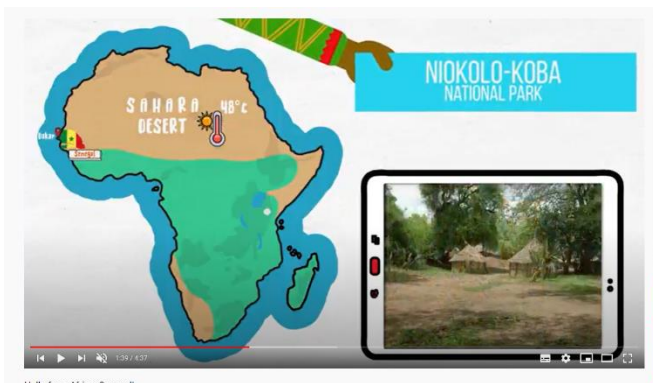
We had planned to accompany our work in Senegal with global education sessions including live African dance lessons within primary schools in Wales. Due to COVID-19 however, we had to adapt our plans and rather than delivering educational sessions within schools we worked with a local film producer to develop a series of five videos providing fun facts about five different African countries followed by a follow-along African dance class with Idrissa Camara. We have made these videos freely available on YouTube and shared them with local schools and other groups we thought might be interested. We have received positive feedback from teachers who have agreed to include these films as part of their home-education resources packages.



The "Hello from Africa" series



Presented by Oumar Ndiaye



The Senegal episode



A follow-along African dance class with Idrissa Kamara

Hub Cymru Africa – Mentorship support

In early 2020 Niokolo Network was selected to take part in a mentoring programme run by Hub Cymru Africa. We began by carrying out an assessment of how Niokolo Network was being run, and highlighted a few areas to focus on and improve. Over the course of the year we have reviewed and considered how best to strengthen our:

- Financial Management Procedures
- Safeguarding measures for Wales and Senegal
- Communications strategy
- Theory of Change

Next steps

In 2021 we look forward to:

- Continuing our support of birth registration in rural villages around Niokolo-Koba National Park, so that no child misses out on an education due to this easily solved barrier.
- Continuing to produce COVID-19 messaging to reduce the impacts of the virus in Senegal
- Replicating our handwashing work in additional villages and ensuring that affordable locally-produced soap is available
- Maintaining our support of Kamben Productions and Kamben Association and seeking opportunities to strengthen their ability to carry out the valuable work they do.
- Ensuring that Niokolo Network continues its growth as a competent and responsible registered charity.

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At the current time Niokolo Network is a relatively new charity with a very small annual income. We do not have any governance costs and it is the decision of the charity's trustees that no commitments to support charitable activities should be made until the necessary funds have been secured. As such, at the present time trustees are content that it is not necessary to hold any funding in reserve, but that this should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Section F Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

Dr Tabitha Ndiaye	Dr Daphne Kerhoas
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	Secretary
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Date

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Niokolo Network	1169126
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.01.2020	To	Period end date 31.12.2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds 2020 to the nearest £	Restricted funds 2020 to the nearest £	Total funds 2020 to the nearest £	Total funds 2019 to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Donations				
Grants		8,700	8,700	8,309
Sub total		8,700	8,700	8,309
A2 Asset and investment sales				
None				
Sub total				
Total Receipts		8,700	8,700	8,309
A3 Payments				
Charitable activities		8,959	8,959	3,443
Governance costs				41
Sub total		8,959	8,959	3,484
A4 Asset and investment purchases				
Sub total				
Total Payments		8,959	8,959	3,484
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>		(259)	(259)	4825
A5 Transfers between funds				-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13	4,825	4,838	13
Cash funds this year end	13	4,566	4,579	4,838

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

		Unrestricted funds 2020 to nearest £	Restricted funds 2020	Total funds 2020
B1 Cash funds	Cash in bank	13	4,566	4,579
	Total cash funds	13	4,566	4,579
	Details	Cost	Current value	
B2 Assets retained for the charity's own use	None	-	-	-
B3 Liabilities	None	-	-	-

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

	Signature	Date of approval
Tabitha Ndiaye		
Daphne Kerhoas		

