

## A New School for Faala

The little hamlet of Falla in the Southwest of Gambia has a problem - it does not have a school. This is not too much of a problem for the older children who can walk a mile or two to the nearby village of Sanyang, but the journey to Sanyang is not safe for the little ones.



Faala is over a mile from Sanyang and some of the route is by the main West Coast highway, which is busy with trucks, busses and cars and has nowhere for pedestrians to walk.

Local businessman Lamin Jawla, shown here with some of the Faala mums, has donated a piece of land, where the preschool can be built.

The education system in Gambia is similar to many European systems: kids go through different schools as they progress, starting at primary level at around 5 years old.



Kids entering the schooling system at primary school are required to have a basic grasp of English language and numeracy – at least to know the alphabet and how to count.





For many young families this can be a challenge. Although English is the official principal language of Gambia, it is actually the second language of many adults and some have no English at all.

This, and the pressures of day to day subsistence living means that many infants do not receive the basic learning skills at home and can only begin their education at a preschool.

For these unlucky kids, the whole education process is put at risk. They may begin primary school late and

may do so without the skills they need to make progress. All too often these kids make little or no progress and leave school without the skills and qualifications needed to join the workforce and any potential contribution they may have made to society may be lost forever.

Jawla (as he likes to be known) and his friends are going to make sure the kids of Faala have the chance they need to get the education they deserve. The project we are planning will provide work to the local trades and a school for the kids.



All that is needed is money and determination. For our part, fundraising will be our most useful contribution.

The school needs toilets, an access road, trees and a yard and, of course, some classrooms.

The price is low – the value is not.