



## (DAVID POOLE) - PROJECT REPORT

Please submit your written report as an email attachment to Wendy Osmond, Student Link at [kretrust.info@gmail.com](mailto:kretrust.info@gmail.com) and ensure that you include your name on any supplementary documents.

Report writing guidance is available on our website at [www.kretrust.com](http://www.kretrust.com) but this template may be useful as a starting point.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Name	David Poole		
Place/s Visited	Gunjur, The Gambia		
Start Date	07/08/18	Finish Date	06/12/18
Climate		Communications	

### PROJECT DETAILS

*(Remember to include your emotions, thoughts and impressions along the way)*

Starting off the experience of TTV in December of 2017 we had some preliminary meetings - letting all us teenagers get to know each other, as well as starting to map out exactly what everyone's role would be within the project. I was nervous to say the least (part of TTV's mission was helping young people with teen anxieties and such issues). Meeting 12 other people I'd be working with for the next year was quite a big commitment. The first few sessions we had were a bit awkward, some people tended to stick with people they already knew, but after splitting up into our subsections (I was part of the writing group) we all just got closer and closer. Colin Heber-Percy helped me, Ellie and Joe (the other teens within our group) to feel more passionate about our creative writing and hone techniques to get us off the ground. We also held practice interviews with some locals from Marlborough to practice what we'd ask (and note-taking!) and how we'd form writing from it, when we met our proper interviewees from both England and the Gambia.

While the photography group were learning how to shoot portraits, all of us got to hear more about the Mango Project's ideas and progression. We regularly discussed difficulties and advantages in processing and providing the fruit to sellers (whether through import or export) - visiting Tangmere Pepper Farm to try and gain knowledge on the production process. We decided while in the Gambia, partly due to information given to us at Tangmere, that such strict fruit regulation and quality rules meant that processed forms of mango may be better (chutneys, dried etc). Furthermore, with such harsh restrictions on exportation, we considered the fact that, since such a large amount of money that comes to the Gambia is from tourism, is that internal growth of mango selling may in fact be the best route to start with.

Obviously my primary part of the project was interviewing people home and abroad, finding out about their lives and how they interlink with each other or differentiate - all through the medium of writing. Again it was a very nerve-wracking experience (stepping outside of my comfort zone seemed to be a large proportion of the project!) as I'd never actively interviewed people before. Saying this I met some amazing elderly people. In England, Andrew and John (John particularly was an incredibly smart and inspiring man), and in the Gambia, Fa Karamo, the lovely old man used to be a photographer... the only one for miles around at the time, and



Nyam Simba - an interesting woman, to say the least, due to her active involvement with Female Genital Mutilation within the country. Talking to both these elderly people and young people within the Gambian community of Gunjur, I got a sense of the importance that family and the elders held in their village. You lived with your parents as well as your children and respected those older than you greatly. Something so entirely different from treatment that often occurs in England.

Here's an extract from one of my English interviewees, Andrew:

" I'd been tasked to "capture someone's life" and yet what I had in front of me was the whole thing, less of a snapshot it looked to become an 800-page biography. Maybe that's why the dread of the assignment has left me till now, a few days following my return from The Gambia, rather than the days or weeks after our initial meeting (now several months ago). This has been good in part though, because clearly something about the Gambian experience opened something up within my writing. While in England I'd struggled and hesitated for weeks just over the opening lines of my work, in Gunjur I could power through both of my pieces in a matter of days, from first draft to the final piece. It's easier to 'capture lives' out there as well, when everybody you meet is so intensely alive. Strangers greet you and smile at every turn, whereas in England the depressed people of London's tubes and streets seem to blur into some dystopian isolated future. The difference in Gunjur was clear, the happiness that emanated from people was integral to catching their lives. To understand someone, you don't have to map out their entire life, from child to adult to elder, just choose the best bits, the parts that have real meaning within them."

My partner while in the Gambia, working most days in the NGO Tarud in Gunjur, was an amazing man called Binako. With his father's illness and many of his friends taking the 'back-way' to Europe, he had many life struggles - but he still maintained such a positive life view. We learnt more and more about each other over my two weeks, I even got to meet his family and friends in their shared "compound" and have a meal with them, and had great conversations about false (or sometimes true) opinions and stereotypes that both England and the Gambia would have about each other.

We got to meet with the British Ambassador for Gambia during our stay and gained more knowledge on the country's issues, I personally put forward some questions about solutions to try to remove the cultural issue of FGM, as well as help with ideas for mango selling. At the end of our time there the Mango Business Project was compiled together and given to the numerous stake holders.

Within this is the completed picture book, detailing our trip to Gunjur.

Many thanks for your kind considerations and donations to this charitable cause,

David Poole.

**Project Highlight**

Teaching our Gambian partners how to swim in the Gunjur Project Lodge pool!

Value of experience: Making life long friends, helping people and breaking down cultural boundaries



**Kempson Rosedale**  
ENTERPRISE TRUST

Value of the  
experience  
to me

[Redacted content]