

# Hay2Timbaktu

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

**HAY2TIMBUKTU**

[www.hay2timbaktu.org](http://www.hay2timbaktu.org)



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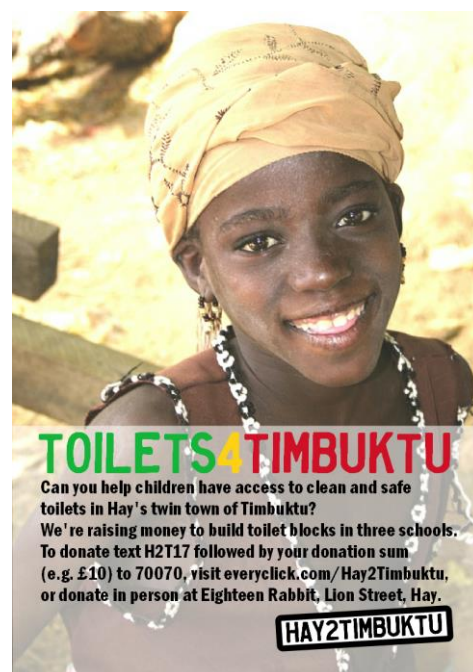
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**THE POLITICAL, SECURITY AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN TIMBUKTU** remains very difficult. Armed crime is common in and around the town, and there have been several attacks on the UN base at the airport in Timbuktu. The security situation means that it is still not advisable for visitors to go to northern Mali; but the same considerations make it difficult for people in Timbuktu to travel, with commercial flights still not operating and the road links to Bamako still being fragile and dangerous. We know that our friends in Timbuktu appreciate our continuing interest in their situation.

At the Annual General Meeting of Hay2Timbuktu in September 2017 we marked 10 years of the twinning relationship between Hay on Wye and Timbuktu with some of the people who originally made the link happen. As an anniversary commitment we launched an appeal to build toilets for girls, boys and teachers at three secondary schools in Timbuktu. This was a requirement that had first been flagged during the visit from our Malian friends in 2016, and was underlined with a set of photographs of the existing facilities and accounts from the schools of the difficulties caused by the lack of decent toilets, especially for girls.

Our target was £7,000. The project was generously supported by individuals in Hay. The Town Council kindly agreed to allow posters to be displayed in the town's public toilets reminding people of the privilege of clean toilets we take for granted. The Hay Festival provided two slots for bucket collections. Donations were made in lieu of significant birthdays. The target amount was raised in less than a year and in July (just after this reporting period) we transferred the money to AMSS, our partners in Mali. We hope to report to the people of Hay by way of photographs and messages from the schools and to give a full account of the project in our next Annual Report.



**Making bricks to start on the new toilets**

The Trustees have continued to raise the profile of the twinning link in Hay by speaking to local schools and clubs and maintaining a presence at community events such as the Christmas lights ceremony. Given the high level of need in Timbuktu, the Trustees also continue to look for opportunities to access official and charitable funds to implement activities in the town.

## EDUCATION

**DURING THE YEAR** Hay2Timbuktu supported the last of the girl student cohorts at two secondary schools in Timbuktu. The results and comments below are from evaluation carried out by the AMSS staff member based in Timbuktu.

In Mahamane Fondogoumo school, during the 2017–2018 academic year four of the five girls in the 8th grade and 11 of the 12 girls in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade achieved a pass in the annual examination. There was a similar picture in Alkaya Yehia with a 100% pass in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10 out of 11 girls in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade achieving the pass rate. The two girls who did not achieve a pass transferred to other localities in Timbuktu and were therefore unavailable for examining.

The rate of attendance in both schools was similar, between 75% and 100% in Mahamane Fondogoumo and between 78% and 100% in Yehia Alkaya over the whole year. The girls regularly attended the remedial lessons organized with few absences, all of which are attributed to illness. The Association of Mothers of students follow up on attendance to ensure the girls continue to be focused on their education and levels of motivation remain high.

During the second semester 2014–15 the schools organized an evaluation of the standards of the bursary girls in both schools and compared this to others in the schools. In grade 7 the success rate for bursary girls was 83.3% compared to 50% for girls not involved in the project. In grade 8 the difference was between 77.7% and 62.1%. In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade the girls involved in the bursary scheme recorded a success rate of 88.8% and those girls not involved 54.7%. This demonstrates the success of the bursary project in supporting girls with their studies.

The remedial lessons are organized in each school by the teachers in charge of grades 7,8 and 9. These teachers know the girls and recognise the areas in which remedial support is necessary. There is work carried out with maths, French and English where the greatest need is in grammar, spelling, creative writing and conjugation. The results demonstrate the improvement in engagement and in determination. Girls involved in the bursary scheme are amongst the highest performers in each school and in each

case occupy the first place in each grade. The school performance of the bursary girls is well publicised and is recognised by the centre for teaching and learning in Timbuktu, the Mayor, heads of schools, teaching staff and parents.

A number of lessons can be learnt from the project. A frank and fruitful collaboration has developed between the different bodies involved, AME, APE, town council, CAP-T, AMSS. The community realises the importance of the girls' education and



parents are more motivated to send their daughters to school. The girls are more motivated to attend and study as a result of the materials and educational support provided.

This project focuses on Second Cycle schools funded locally by the council in Timbuktu. No other partners focus on this level of education. The main focus from other partners is on primary education and girls drop out of school at the second cycle without the bursary support.

### Some of the girls

**Bollo Alhadji** is a pupil in year 9 in Yehia Alkaya school.

She is from a poor family like most of her classmates. Bollo is a courageous girl and engaged in her studies because she has an aim, which is to go next year to continue her studies at the Lycée.

**Wany Traore** is 18. She lives with her family in the Abaradjou area of Timbuktu. She has lost her father. She is in year 9 at Mahamane Fondogoumo. The project has been very useful to her friends and her on many different levels, as she explains:

*“I began to receive help from the project in year 7; every year I get exercise books, biros, pencils, a pencil sharpener, math books, French and science books, a school bag and a slate. We get remedial lessons every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. I didn't think that I would carry on with my education at one time because I was always busy with housework. When I finish school at lunchtime, I meet my mother in the market to help her sell her small condiments. In year 6 my mother asked me to stop school, but I could see my friends going to school every morning, so I carried on to finish year 6. It's from year 7 that I started getting help from the project.*

*I have all I need to study to study which has put me in the first three pupils in my class since year 8. Thank God today I am 1<sup>st</sup> of my class out of 76 pupils with an average of 15.42.*

*I am very glad and I attribute this to the benefits of AMSS and its partner Hay2Timbuktu, because without this help, I would not have carried on my education. My whole family is proud of me. I wish good luck to the project.”*



### Girls who transferred to other learning establishments following their bursary

**Kadidia Toure:** *I am a student nurse at Santé Bouctou on a 3-year course. Last year was my first year, there are 33 student nurses and I came second in our last exam with 13.45. This year will be my second year and I am sure I will finish my studies without difficulties, because AMSS [with help from Hay2Timbuktu] is taking in charge the cost of my school.*

**Alhousna Cisse:** *I am a student now at the Lycée. I got 14.35 as a general average. This year I will be in the 11th grade. I am always top of the class.*

**Aichatou Toure:** *I am going for the 11th grade this year. I got 11.55 as a general average. I am little bit weak in Maths because it's different from the Maths my previous school but I manage with other subjects. I won't get big troubles at the Lycée. Great thanks to Hay2Timbuktu, we won't forget.*

**Fatouma A Maiga:** *From the beginning at the Lycée to now I did not meet a problem because had a good education in the second cycle. The courses we got were a great help for us. I got 13.18 and I am 4th in a class of 73 students.*

**Arafa Tandina:** *I found my place really here at the Lycée. I manage to get a good average, 12.14. I am committed to long-term studies because nowadays I understand my way, thanks to Hay2Timbuktu I know I can do more.*

## HEALTH

**THE CURRENT HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITY** supported by the Medics4Timbuktu group is the provision of funding to allow two girls who attended the secondary schools supported by Hay2Timbuktu to attend midwife training. Hadidiatou Abdou Salam and Kadidia Touré have completed their first year successfully. The training school reports that they have worked hard, that their grades have improved and that they are proud of their results and determined to do even better next year. We wish them all the best. Fees to the end of the course are covered by previous fundraising by Medics4Timbuktu.

We were very grateful again to Elizabeth and Booth's cafe for allowing and supporting another successful supper and talk in autumn 2017. We were fortunate to have Charlie English travel to Hay and generously give his time to talk about his new book about Timbuktu *The Book Smugglers of Timbuktu*. This tells both the tale of the historical race to find the 'mythological' city as well as the story of how many ancient manuscripts were saved by people in Timbuktu during the recent troubles in 2012. The evening provoked some good discussion and people enjoyed the delights of our local midwife Rachel's cooking.

Using photos of local doors in Hay (with thanks to Marie-Jeanne Winstone's son) and doors in Timbuktu (from various sources), we produced an attractive calendar pairing these and celebrating the twinning of our two communities. The calendars were sold through a variety of outlets in Hay to raise funds for medical projects.

We were planning to have our usual Africa Market Day during Hay Festival and Rachel had booked and arranged most of this. Unfortunately, very shortly before the festival the church hall where we always hold this was suddenly closed for refurbishment and we were unable to secure another venue.

The medics group has always been part of the Hay2Timbuktu charity but has used the separate name of Medics4Timbuktu as an identity for the medical projects and had a separate Facebook page presence. This has always caused some confusion and we have decided now is the time to close that separate identity and integrate our activities within the Hay2Timbuktu structure. Further medical projects may be undertaken by Hay2Timbuktu as needs arise and the funds can be found.

## FINANCIAL

### Hay2Timbuktu accounts

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#### Financial statement for the year to 31 May 2018

This statement was approved by Trustees on 13 July 2018

	2017-18	2016-17
Opening balance	3,595.63	2,436.91
<u>Income</u>	11,786.68	13,200.46
Festival collections	1,760.60	1,383.01
Other fundraising	3,360.46	130.00
Medics fundraising	1,481.00	1,300.20
Waterloo Foundation grant	4,640.00	7,360.00
Subscriptions, donations, gift aid	544.62	1,012.25
<u>Expenditure</u>	6,108.53	12,041.74
Girls education transfers to AMSS	4,640.00	7,360.00
Maternal health transfers to AMSS	1,192.53	1,500.00
Communications/fundraising	86.00	391.00
Insurance	190.00	0
Bank charges	0	0
Closing balance	9,273.78	3,595.63
<u>Funds held</u>		
Education general		22.31
Education girls		277.39
M4T maternal		10.12
M4T general		2,113.96
General fund		1,240.51
Designated		5,609.49

