



# FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA

## NEWSLETTER

June 2019

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- Letter From Our Intern– Dalinne Bojang
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- FIOHTG Delegate Attends CCM in Region 1
- FIOHTG Conducts Reflect and Management Training

**Education For All Through Community Development**

## FIOHTG's EDUCATION FOR ALL (EFA) CAMPAIGN KICKSOFF



FIOHTG's annual EFA campaign took place in June in the North Bank, Lower River, Central River and Upper River regions. Beneficiaries included the communities of Bayaba, Samba Chargeie, Nyawurulung, Amdalai, Dongrongding and Felenkoto which are feeder villages to Darsilameh village and Kaboto just to mention a few. The theme centered on retention as both organizational and national records have shown low retention rate of the children in the targeted communities. Therefore the campaign was aimed at increasing awareness on the role of education and encouraging parents to keep their children in school. However, many other issues affecting the education sector were discussed. A burning issue discussed in Nyawurulung was poor performance in the National Assessment Test results (NAT).

Mr. Kemo S. Kinteh, FIOHTG programme officer at the School Development Unit found that Kabakoto had enrolled 104 pupils in Grade 1 about 6 years ago, but that number has dwindled to only 54 pupil who are now in Grade 6. This means that almost half dropped out in 5 years. The drop out rate for this particular class, school and year is 10 children leaving school each year which is alarming. However, programme officers of the School Development Unit namely Amadou Sambou, Kemo S. Kinteh and Chernon Ceesay are optimistic that the awareness campaign will help in addressing the issue.

It is this and similar cases which inform the campaign. Typical of FIOHTG education related activities, in attendance were the cluster monitor, EFA regional focal point, regional office representative, cluster trainers, teachers, SMC members and parents.

*“Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use to  
change the world.”*

**Nelson Mandela**



## Letter from an Intern– Dalinne Bojang

Hi

Here is a letter from me - Dalinne Bojang as one of the Swedish interns at FIOHTG in the spring of 2019. I was at Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) for almost half a year and went back to Sweden this June. I have a bachelor's degree in *Development and International Cooperation* and I am currently taking my last course of my master's programme "*Rural Development and Natural Resource Management*". As you can tell by my surname, I also have relatives here in the Gambia, so I was incredibly happy when I heard that I had been chosen to be one of two interns from Sweden for the fall 2018/spring 2019 at FIOHTG. It was the perfect opportunity for me since FIOHTG is a non-profit organization that focuses on the same area that I have studied.

When I came to the Gambia this winter in January, I was welcomed by both the Chairman of the Swedish partner organization FIOHS, Kristina Lundahl, the former Swedish Intern Jeanna Isacson, my supervisor Aminata Secka and all employees at FIOHTG. During my time here, I have learned a lot about project planning, report writing and how to practically implement a project plan. I have gotten the chance to visit all regions of the Gambia, meet a lot of amazing and kind people and eaten incredibly good food during my treks! I have been part of exciting and important projects such as "Keep Our Girls in School" which focuses on reproductive health, education and menstrual hygiene for school girls during puberty and worked with Green Climate Fund and FIOHTG new programme "Resilient Eco – Village Action Program (REAP)" as well as updating social media, writing newsletters and designing the Annual Report. I have witnessed how development work can be practiced and I have tried to critically implement everything that I have learnt through my studies. The internship was very educational as I was given great independent responsibility and was included in the work just like any other employee. They appreciated what I had to offer and challenged me by not limiting the work to areas I was already comfortable with. The best thing about this internship has by far been my fantastic colleagues. It was very sad to leave those who always make me smile and have patiently tried to teach me Mandinka every day. However, I leave FIOHTG with a lot of experiences and lots of lovely memories.

*“The internship was very educational as I was given great independent responsibility and was included in the work just like any other employee”.*

Dalinne Bojang



## FIOHTG GENDER SPECIALISTS ATTENDS AFRICA'S SUMMIT ON FGM & CHILD MARRIAGE IN DAKAR



Madam Alimatou Marong and Mr. Ebrima Drammeh, program officers of the Community Development Unit of FIOHTG were delegates at the first ever summit on FGM and Child Marriage jointly hosted by the govern-

ments of the Gambia and Senegal and organized by Jaha Dukureh, Executive Director of Safe Hands for Girls. The summit graced by high dignitaries including the Vice President of the Gambia, Dr. Isatou Touray brought over 700 participants of government representatives, gender activists, development practitioners, community and religious leaders to Dakar. Jaha Dukureh gave a passionate opening statement which saw many people in tears, as she explained her ordeal as a girl. Her story is affirmed by Ebrima Drammeh as a representation of the many troubles Gambian girls especially in rural areas battle with. Further to the significant deliberations which took place, the summit availed the FIOHTG delegates the opportunity to network with gender activists including Jaha Dukureh and CSO representatives who were present at the summit. Mr Drammeh further explained that the programme has increased their understanding about issues surrounding FGM.

*“Gender equality is critical to the development and peace of every nation. There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.”*

**Kofi Annan**

## FIOHTG DELEGATE ATTENDS CCM



Cherno Jeng, a Program Officer in the Construction and Technical Unit of FIOHTG was a delegate at the recently concluded Community Coordinating Meeting (CCM) which took place in Region One, Kanifing. The event organized by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Educa-

tion (MoBSE) took place from 17th June to 21st June, 2019. The meeting is a unique opportunity where delegates share concerns and develop mitigating strategies for the improvement of teaching and learning in the Gambia.

## FIOHTG CONDUCTS REFLECT TRAINING



Senior Programme Officer and Head of the Community Development Unit of FIOHTG, Mr. Buba M.L Camara conducted a Reflect Training for 13 facilitators from North Bank, Lower River, Central River and Upper River Regions. The training held in Jamali Ganyado was intended at developing adult literacy skills and empowerment for the trainees. The approach will enable them to reflect on their situation and adopt strategies to improve their personal lives and communities.

## FIOHTG CONTINUES MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENUERSHIP TRAININGS



A training on Entrepreneurship took place on the 26th June, 2019 in the communities of Samba Charge and Maria Samba Nyado in the North Bank Region. The objective of the capacity building is to help the youth and women to have basic entrepreneurship and marketing techniques to be able to set up and maintain an efficient business . The event was coordinated by Rose T. Mendy and Omar Cham program officers in the community development unit of FIOHTG while Saiba T Suso served as one of the facilitators.



Meanwhile, Mrs. Alimatou Marong and Ebrima Drammeh both of the Community Development Unit conducted several management training in June. In Kaba-

koto. Madam Marong had a recap of the previous day's session, followed by the ring game to practice some of the ten competencies like persistence, taking calculated risk etc. This will place the entrepreneurs on a better footing for a successful business. The items before the participants are their products which they started selling during the training signifying the practical and beneficial aspects of the training.

*“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will”*

**Mahatma Gandhi**



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