



FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA

NEWSLETTER

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Education For All Through Community Development

NED-FUNDED ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY CDU



During the months of May and June 2019, several activities were conducted in Kiang East and West districts thanks to funding from the National Endowment for Democracy. The activities were conducted with various partners and in different villages under the coordination of Ebrima Drammeh of the Community Development Unit. As the Gambia Police Force bemoans the increasing crime rate, FIOHTG organized sensitization meetings on the concept of Community Policing in 6 villages namely: Manduar, Tankular, Kulikunda, Keneba, Sankandi and Jally. The activities were facilitated by staff of the Community Policing Unit of the Gambia Police Force.



DISTRICT TRIBUNAL TRAINING IN TANKULAR

While training of the District Tribunal members of Kiang West District took place in Tankular village, Peace and Reconciliation forum was held in Manduar village and Women & Youth forum was held in Jally village. The activities funded by NED are part of FIOHTG's contribution to the transitional justice and reconciliation process as outlined in the NDP. The activities were facilitated by officers of the National Council for Civic Education.



Meanwhile we ended the month of May with Budget Tracking sessions in Medina Sancha, Massembeh, Njolfen and Sare Samba. This activity was facilitated by officers from the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs.

Letter from Our Intern– Anfusainey Keta



Aware of the relevance of training people on the job, we recruit national and international interns. Here is a letter from one of them who recently concluded his internship.

During the last six months, I Alfusainey Keita attended an internship program at Future In Ours Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) at the Construction and Technical Unit. It was the first time I got the chance to work in an established organization. Therefore most of the work routines and experience at the office were new to me; fulfilling general responsibilities and specific project related tasks. As days and weeks passed by, things moved well with the help of staff .

When examining the work that FIOHTG does for the people of the Gambia, there are so many important projects that should be mentioned but I can only list a few of

them. The building of schools deserves to be mentioned because of their standards and construction in remote communities where access to education is difficult. The School Development Unit simultaneously helps in enhancing teachers' knowledge to improve quality of education in the country.

Meanwhile the Community Development Unit trains people on how to preserve and process fruits into mango jam, tomato jam etc. This helps to add value and increase income of communities.

Furthermore FIOHTG promotes sanitation, capacity building for communities, advocacy among others. Indeed when I said it is a big and well established NGO, it was not an exaggeration considering the work and impact it is creating in The Gambia.

I can go on and on but may I end this letter here since there are so many things I could list. I wish to thank FIOHTG for the opportunity and the lessons that I have learnt and the support from all the staff.

Thank you. Best regards,

Alfusainey Keta

“Indeed when I said it is a big and well established NGO, it was not an exaggeration, considering the work and impact it is creating in The Gambia”.

Alfusainey Keita



FIOHTG STAFF BENEFITS FROM TRAINING ON CHILD'S RIGHT AT ALL STAFF MEETING



At the all staff meeting of FIOHTG, a training on Childs' Right was conducted. As an organisation working for children especially in promoting accessible and quality education, Jainaba T Sarr, HR officer reminded staff that they are required to be cognizant of the rights of



the children in all programmes as usual. The programme was attended by all staff including the Director, Buba M.S. Faburay who implored staff to make best use of the knowledge gained. Mr. Lamin K Saidy of the Child Protection Alliance facilitated the training taking staff through the international and regional and national legislations protecting the rights of the child. However, Mr. Saidy lamented the weak implementation of Child Protection laws in the Gambia due to several factors including lack of awareness, complacency, poverty amongst others. The training was parts of events in the All Staff Quarterly meetings where units presented their activity reports for reviews, staff discussed issues affecting their welfare and work and devised means for improving their work to impact the lives of communities.

FIOHTG CELEBRATES MAY DAY

With numerous tasks and people to attend to in numerous places, bringing our staff together for fun is a difficult task. However, May Day is one opportunity for such gatherings. This year, on 1st May, staff gathered at the Poccoloco Beach from the morning to sunset



with friends and family members. The event availed the staff to interact with their colleagues' families and friends and widen their interfamily relations. The staff played several games, of course including football, horse riding etc.



“Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us”. **Maya Angelou**

FIOHTG TRAINS COMMUNITIES ON BUDGET TRACKING

FIOHTG is well aware of the role of accountability and transparency in development, thus it has been training communities on how to hold public officials



accounted. Another way in which the organisation is promoting accountability is through the 'Follow the Money'- a captivating slogan used by activists such as Gambia participates' Marr Nyang who often serves as a facilitator in such events. In May, a 'Follow the Money' forum was held in Njolfen to build the capacity of local people and their representatives at the local level on budget tracking. The event is part of the NED funded project which seeks to promote good governance, democracy and the rule of law. The programme was coordinated by Ebrima Drammeh, program officer of the Community Development Unit, FIOHTG.

SENSITIZATION ON BASIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT TAKES PLACE IN CRR

As the rainy season draws closer, FIOHTG conducted sensitizations on basic health management/first aid raining in CRR. The training organized by FIOHTG was delivered by personnel of the Ministry of Health in several villages including Sumbundu, Suma Kunda, Tabayel, Sareh Demba Dado, Chamen, Sawma, Sareh Ali, Changai Wollof and Jababa in the Central River Region. Separated by long and immotorable roads to major health centers, the organisation deemed it necessary to bring the training to these communities. The sensitization centered on malaria, diarrhea,



dysentery prevention and poor sanitation. Another theme of the campaign was to equip participants on how to handle scorpion and snake bites. Participants hailed the organisation for bringing such an important training to their doorsteps at this time of the year.



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Do you have a story or an event for the next newsletter?

If so, we would like to hear from YOU!

Thank you for your support!