



# **FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2019**

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**Education For All Through Community Development**



## FIOHTG CONDUCTS LAST TEACHER TRAINING IN 2019



FIOHTG has concluded its last teacher training exercise in 2019 as schools are about to close for end of year. Dozens of teachers in the Ndugu kebbeh and Kiss Kiss cluster in regions 3 and 6, have benefited from the normal in-service training. During the training teachers were trained on POWER STRUCTURE and PEDAGOGY for effective lesson delivery. Speaking about the importance of the training, Mr. Jobe, Programme Officer at the School Development Unit of FIOHTG said the training will help teachers to understand power structures which will help them to understand the dynamics of power and how to communicate better with school authorities, parents, fellow teachers and students. He added that understanding power structures will prevent conflict and improve teaching and learning for the children to be productive in the future. A similar training was conducted in Pakaliba and Chargel cluster amongst others on Sunday the 17th November, 2019. Since its foundation, FIOHTG through its School Development Unit has been training teachers in all the communities where the organisation operates.



**“We give them the right tools  
And educate the teachers to achieve  
better learning for the children.”**



## FIOHTG COMPLETES ARMITAGE CONTRACT



Future In Our Hands The Gambia is on track to complete the Armitage Contract which it won from MRCH Foundation and MOBSE to give the historic Armitage School a remarkable facelift. The Construction and Technical Unit of FIOHTG which is nationally recognized for constructing standard classrooms and school facilities has completed 20 rooms for Girls Dormitories with a total of 80 concrete beds with lockers underneath the beds. There are 20 toilet cubicles each fitted with a squat, water tap and a mirror. The complex is divided into two each 10 rooms and 10 toilets forming a quadrangle and an open space in the center.

The Country Director of FIOHTG Mr. Buba Faburay accompanied by Board Chairperson Mam Kumba Sanneh and Board Member Mr. Dan Mendy who is a construction engineer visited the site to inspect the buildings. The team express satisfaction over the quality of work they have seen. The team were taken through the site by Mr. Augustine Manneh, Programme Officer at the Construction and Technical Unit. The delegation visited other sites including Dankunku, Choya, Jissadi, Demba Wandu where projects sponsored by MRC Holland Foundation are ongoing. Reporting to the Senior Management Committee following his visit, Director Faburay said that he is happy that the Construction Unit is maintaining the brand of FIOHTG. He urged the team to continue the good work FIOHTG is known for.



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## 40 WOMEN AND YOUTH TRAINED ON FOOD PROCESSING & PRESERVATION



40 youth and women in Felenkoto, a village in Lower River Region has benefitted from a five day training on food processing and preservation organized by the community Development Unit of FIOHTG. The main purpose of this training amongst others is to: prevent postharvest lost, increase household's income levels, and improve living standards in rural communities. The training is a core component of the CDU's programme in intervention areas. The lack of agro industries in the Gambia and the lack of basic processing and preservation skills in many communities contributes to post

harvest lost as women are unable to sell all their products at good prices. To prevent farmers from selling their products at a give away price or to left it spoilt, FIOHTG is equipping communities with the knowledge to preserve and process as well as earn better income from their products. Madam Alimatou Marong program officer of the community development unit of FIOHTG led the training. Participants expressed satisfaction at the training.



## **M&E OFFICE EVALUATES UNITY FESTIVAL & CARAVAN TOUR; SAYS BOTH EVENTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL**

An evaluation exercise was conducted in North Bank and Central River Regions targeting 18 communities across the two regions, 10 being in the North Bank Region and the 8 being in the Central River Region. The exercise was meant to assess the conduct and outcome of the Unity Festival and the Caravan Tour which were funded by the International Republican Institute to promote political tolerance, pluralism and unity. Therefore, respondents were asked about their level of participation in the festival and caravan tour; the impact of the festival and the caravan tour and their satisfaction or otherwise with the festival and the caravan tour.

The results revealed that most of the respondents (88%) were attending a festival for the first time. Furthermore the targeted turnout was 1000 but we ended recording 2518, which is 251.8% representing 151% beyond target. Attendance of the bantaba forums stands at 85%. This corresponds to an 85% of respondents who stated that their awareness on political tolerance and pluralism has improved after the festival. However the results show that 6% of respondents perception remained unchanged about political pluralism as they would not treat political opponents well. Generally all respondents were satisfied with the organisation and conduct of the festival except that 13% of respondents stated that the timing was not favourable as it coincided with the Gamo (Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday) and the harvesting season.

The second part of the evaluation focused on the caravan tour which was held in Central River Region. Only 7% of respondents were ever reached by a caravan tour before FIOHTG's. The remaining 93% stated that FIOHTG's caravan tour is the first one to reach them. 72% of those reached by the caravan tour stated that they have received the messages delivered by the tour which led to an improved understanding of political pluralism and tolerance. In fact an additional 7% had partially understood the message delivered. The remaining 21% stated that they did not get the message because they were busy with their clients. Generally, both the festival and the caravan tour were found to be satisfactory. Despite this, key recommendations emanating from the evaluation was increasing the duration of the project for better organisation. Respondents recommended a better timing in consideration of the season calendar of the project beneficiaries. Finally, it is hoped that the project will be replicated in other places. A festival as FIOHTG's and the caravan tour are effective means for promoting political tolerance and pluralism.

Mr. Muhammed Lenn  
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer,  
Future In Our Hands, The Gambia.  
December 2019



HAVE YU HEARD ABOUT OUR WEEKLY QUOTES? HERE WE REPRODUCE TWO OF THEM

## FIOHTG WEEKLY QUOTES



"For any society to achieve the pinnacle of its potential, its women must be empowered and all barriers to the upliftment of their status removed. One key barrier is violence against women and girls. In spite of all the beautiful legislation that exist in the Gambia to protect women and girls, the prevalence of GBV is deeply concerning. According to UN Women, the incidence of Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence nationally is at 20%; and the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting is at a high of 75%. The time is now to ACT on the laws."

**JAINABA T. SARR, HR OFFICER - FIOHTG**

NOVEMBER 2019

## FIOHTG WEEKLY QUOTES



*"Accountability and transparency is very paramount in any given institution. It eliminates the time and effort people spend on activities and unproductive behavior, because they are accountable for their actions. Moreover, it can build a culture of trust, which leads to better relationships and stronger employee-employer relationship. Therefore all institutions need a vibrant accountability and transparency system and practice."*

**LAMIN S. SISAY, FINANCE OFFICER - FIOHTG**

NOVEMBER 2019



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