



# FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA

## NEWSLETTER

July 2020

### NEWS IN SHORT

- BUBA FABURAY, COUNTRY DIRECTOR RETIRES; FIOHTG BIDS HIM FAREWELL
- BOARD UNVEILS NEW HR OFFICER AND ACD TO STAFF; PROMISES REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE STAFF
- 385 PEOPLE TRAINED ON SAFE SCHOOL FRAMEWORK BY FIOHTG

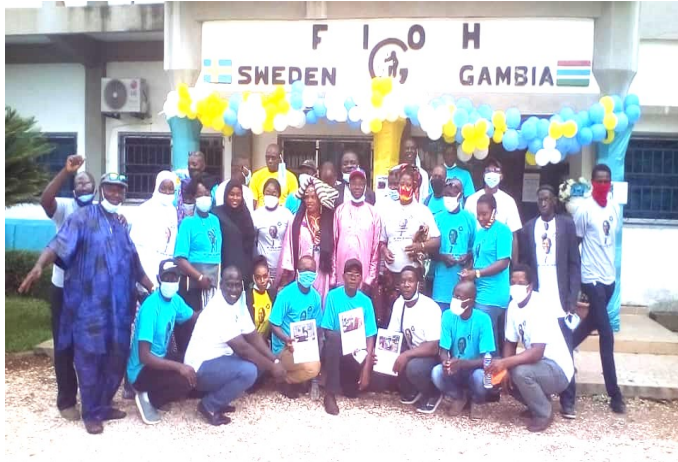


Education For All Through Community Development





## BUBA FABURAY, COUNTRY DIRECTOR RETIRES; FIOHTG BIDS FAREWELL



FIOHTG has organized a farewell ceremony for its outgoing Country Director, Mr. Buba MS Faburay who reached his retirement age. Mr. Faburay who previously worked with ActionAid for 23 years had joined FIOHTG in January 2006. Upon joining FIOHTG, Mr. Faburay held several positions before rising to the position of Country Director. In recounting this to our Editor last month, Mr. Faburay said: “I was once called Project Evaluator and my responsibility was to evaluate projects you know. That portfolio was renamed Monitoring and Evaluation and I became M&E Officer under the Planning and Reporting Unit. I became a Programme Officer and Senior Programme Officer before becoming the Director. I was also called the Ombudsman as I was tasked with mediating disputes and addressing staff grievances. I had a lot of caps. [laughs]”.

Speaking on behalf of the School Development Unit, Amadou Sambou said when Faburay told him that he is retiring, he asked him to thank God because of the successes he registered. He said it is under Faburay’s leadership that many staff benefitted from further studies. He said J.T Sarr had a BSc when she came to FIOHTG and now is an MSc holder; Kemo S. Kinteh had a Certificate/Diploma and is now a BSc holder while Cherno Ceesay, Kebba Jobe and himself are pursuing their 1st degrees. He said these are important achievements registered under Faburay. Bubacarr M.L Camara, of the Community Development Unit said he met Faburay at ActionAid and he has been a coworker and an acquaintance who is very humble and committed to the cause of rural communities. Dembo A. Bah of the Construc-

tion Unit, Lamin S. Sisay of the Finance Unit and Kemo S. Kinteh, the Human Resources Officer expressed similar sentiments while Mr. Manneh of the Fundraising Unit added that Faburay will be greatly missed. Mr. Lenn of the M&E Unit said Faburay looked at every staff with the same lens, he never silenced people based on their age. He added that he has always listened to him despite his age.

**Story continues on the next page**



*“A farewell is necessary before we can meet again, and meeting again, after moments or a lifetime, is certain for those who are friends.” – Richard Bach*

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Jainaba T. Sarr, the Acting Country Director of FIOHTG who had previously served as the HR Officer until her new appointment said working with Faburay was monumental but very educative. She said Faburay would listen diligently, think calmly and respond calmly. She expressed admiration of Faburay's diligence and consultative approach to management. Madam Sarr shed tears as she spoke about the morning discussions she had with Faburay almost daily as HR Officer. She wished the man she affectionately called "My Boss" well in all his endeavours. A statement was read by Alagie Sanneh on behalf of Kristina Lundahl, the Chairperson of Gambia Grupperna Swedish Board who expressed satisfaction in working with Faburay. Meanwhile Joanna Mendy, the Board Chairperson of FIOHTG said retirement is a time to enjoy and she wants to wish Faburay well but wouldn't bore the gathering with a long speech. She declared that "Let there be merriment". Mr. Yabo, who graced the occasion on behalf of all NGOs as the Director of TANGO reflected on his relationship with Faburay. "Faburay would always call me my boss...even when we meet at the supermarket he always pay my bill...he is a very humble man" he concluded.

Delivering his farewell remarks, Mr. Faburay who was accompanied by his family and friends recalled his first day in FIOHTG and how lovely it has been for him to serve FIOHTG. He said "FIOHTG is a family...it is not the money or anything but the relationship and the working environment we have built over the years". He thanked the staff for their support and asked them to continue working together harmoniously. He said that he has "no doubt that FIOHTG shall continue to prosper as a strong team is in place". In his vote of thanks on behalf of Faburay, Mr. Lamin Sanneh a closed friend of Faburay and governor of West Coast Region said Mr. Faburay has been a hardworking individual since childhood and he is not surprised with the achievements and the honour bestowed on him. He narrated how Faburay had taken care of his siblings at a young age. The governor who also shed tears would later write that "Family members and friends thank FIOH for been considerate in awarding Fabureh that prestigious farewell ceremony, by the same token we welcome the incoming Director, a lady of substance and wish her a fruitful tenure in office. May GOD give her the wisdom to move the Institution much higher." Earlier Mr. Faburay was welcomed by the Master of Ceremony with the following:



For those you who came here once  
For those of you came here twice or thrice  
I am sure it must had been on a workday  
Today is not a workday, but it is a great day  
Look above in the sky  
And see the beautiful clouds  
Indeed today is a great Saturday  
We are gathered here to celebrate the worklife of a man  
Who has significantly contributed to humankind  
His name is Buba MS Faburay  
His forefathers and great mothers  
His employees and employers he never betrayed  
How many people thought they have gone astray  
Until they met the poverty combatant  
And the developmental commandant  
Who has reported to work during holiday  
Even during weekends and every weekday  
A man who has neither embarrassed or disgraced  
A champion who led the developmental race  
That is why he is retiring in grace.  
Anyone ever hired  
Is either fired or retired  
And the latter is admired  
Because they inspire  
Faburay you are an inspiration  
Under your administration  
There wasn't disintegration  
But collaboration  
There wasn't a single demonstration  
But multitude of project inaugurations  
I swear, this is not an exaggeration



With this, Faburay was welcomed with a standing ovation. We wish him well in his retirement.



## BOARD UNVEILS NEW HR OFFICER AND ACD TO STAFF; PROMISES REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE STAFF

The Board of FIOHTG through the Board Chairperson on 6th July officially met with all staff of FIOHTG to unveil the new Human Resources Officer and the Acting Country Director. Madam Joanna Mendy the chairperson informed staff that she has come to inform them that following Mr. Faburay's retirement, Jainaba T. Sarr who was the HR Officer is now the Head of Programmes and Acting Country Director. Meanwhile Kemo S. Kinteh who was a programme officer in the School Development Unit is now the HR Officer. Madam Mendy who was accompanied by other Board members said as Board chair she will be frequently

engaging the staff to know their concerns and means of addressing those concerns. She urged the staff to support the change and the new leadership while assuring them of the Board's desire to guide the management. Staff were given the opportunity to ask questions for clarifications and raise their concerns. The staff had used the meeting to air their concerns and doubts. The Board Chair in closing the meeting said, such meetings will continue as this will pave the way for a stronger relationship between the Board and the staff in order to make FIOHTG for a better place for everyone.

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## 385 PEOPLE TRAINED ON SAFE SCHOOL FRAMEWORK BY FIOHTG



The School Development Unit of FIOHTG have sensitized 385 people in the Pakaliba cluster in region 4, Chargel cluster in region 5, Tumana cluster in region 6 and Ndungu Kebbeh cluster in region 3. The followed the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education's design of a framework dubbed the Safe School Frame. The framework is designed to ensure that protective measures are put in place before schools are reopen. Future in Our Hands The Gambia as a partner had pledged that it can help in the sensitization during a meeting with MoBSE. Therefore, the training was

in fulfillment of that promise and the organisation's track record in education and related matters. The training was timely as schools were about to reopen for grades 9 and 12. During the event, many issues regarding the opening of the schools were clarified. In fact some parents believed that schools are opening at all levels but this was clarified. The training attracted participants from the Mothers' Clubs, School Management Committee and school administrators.

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**TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEAT COVID-19**

**Stay home; stay safe**

**Wear your facemasks if you would leave**



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

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