

# **FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **JANUARY 2021**



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**Education For All Through Community Development**



## FIOHTG'S PARTICIPATORY GENDER ANALYSIS KICKSOFF; COMMUNITIES EXPOSED TO UNFAIR HEAVY-WORKLOADS ON WOMEN/GIRLS & STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME IT



There has been numerous sensitizations and discussions about the gendered stereotypes and imbalances between males and females especially in rural-areas. However, many of the stereotypes and imbalances are still in place. This could be attributed to many factors including the expert led deliberations which is sometimes seen as biased by rural dwellers.



In recognition of this, FIOHTG has been using the participatory gender analysis approach to help communities exposed the gender issues in their communities. With the help of tools like the seasonal and daily workload schedule/calendars, participants including both men and women, together, graphically show their workloads, the activities which consume most of their times. Following this, they by themselves explain the impacts. The end result is often a debate and an agreement on the unfair heavy workload on women and girls. In order, to address the issue, gender committees are formed in the communities to intensifying the breaking of gender stereotypes and unfair labour relations resulting from these stereotypes.



The Community Development Unit has kicked off its new year activities with the participatory gender analysis in the Upper River and North Bank Regions. In Fatako village, in the Upper River Region, the session started with “the introduction of the concept of gender, gender based violence as well as violence against children especially the girl child. It is expected to... go a long way in helping them desist from the stereo typing practice, unequal treatment and get into things that would bring positive change in homes and communities. A ten member task force committee has been formed for continuity” reported our Programme Officer. A similar activity was held in Kulkuleh and Kisskiss. Madam Marong concluded that “findings as ever, revealed that men's work , unlike women is tedious but less time demanding. Women work like creatures with very very little of resting. They are the first to be up from bed and also the last to go to bed at night”.



Reporting from Wellingara and Woyawor villages in the Central Badibou district in the North Bank Region, Mr. Drammeh observed that the “analysis of gender issues...provided the platform to devise strategies on how to improve gender relations for effective community cohesion and action which includes the formation of gender committees and work plans for follow up activities”.



***And who among you will deny  
that women and girls have been  
victims of gender stereotypes?***





## OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT: FIOHTG & ALLIES SHOCKED WITH THE SUDDEN DEATH OF ALAGIE JALLOW



On 17th January, FIOHTG got news that our beloved Alagie in Maria and Samba Lower Basic School has passed away. Mr. Drammeh who broke the news stated that “it is with great sadness to share the sad story of the death of Alagie, a young boy in Maria Samba Nyaado, one of the most brilliant students of the school. According to Camara, the deputy head of the school there, the sad event happened this morning in the village” he added. Seen on the wheelchair in the photo with friends, Alagie has been receiving support from the Helsing Group in Sweden who saw the need to support him as a special needs boy.

In fact, his new wheelchair was to be delivered on the 17th when his death was announced. Mr. Drammeh went on to add that “the Helsing group members are so devastated by the news.



Am sharing this because we are all partners in development and this is a boy the Helsing group hold so dear and they previously supported him with books and other materials just to make him excel. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace and Janatul firdaws be his final resting place Ameen”. Reacting to the sad news, Mr. Lenn said “it is indeed sad. I remember when I met him. He was calm, confidence and full of life and knew what he wanted. He would have been a great asset for his community. May Allah grant him Jannah. Ameen”.

Alagie was a testament that being a person with special needs has nothing to do with excelling in life. He was a smart boy who valued learning. Both his teachers and friends would definitely miss him.



Mr. Ebrima Drammeh seen on this photo with the red cap, met the family on behalf of FIOHTG and the Helsing Group to pay our respect and condolences to the family. During the visit he handed over donations from Helsing Group and FIOHTG to the family. Present were two female teachers, the VDC chairperson was with the SMC chairperson, the two Alkalos of both Maria and Samba Nyaado community were also involved. We continue to pray that Alagie rests in eternal peace.

***“To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.”***

***J.K. Rowling***



## TRAINING TEACHERS TO BETTER MANAGE CLASS-ROOMS



The School Development Unit started its activities of the year with a training for “senior teachers on time management and monitoring strategies using the Classroom Observation Tool (COT)” said Programme Officer Kebba Jobe from the field. As you read this, have you been in class and felt that the teacher or lecturer is giving you personal stories that have nothing to do with you?

Well, he may be wasting your time. You may have even noticed this. Although time wastage can happen at all levels but it can be more endemic at the lower levels and rural communities. In closely knitted communities, social and religious ceremonies as well as school sanctioned or recognized activities can all contribute to this. According to Mr. Jobe, this “hinders the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education target of achieving 880hour”. With all the hours lost as a result of COVID-19, any additional lost will be tragic.



In order to address this, FIOHTG brought senior teachers together to guide them identify activities that can waste time in their schools and to help them develop “strategies to use to compensate the lost time and to minimize the further loss of time”.



The trainings by the unit have been held in Tuma and Pakaliba clusters and Ndungu Kebbeh clusters. It is expected that the trainings will raise performance of pupils as headteachers develop better monitoring tools and administrative skills in ensuring efficient delivery of lectures.

*“He who every morning plans the transactions of that day and follows that plan carries a thread that will guide him through the labyrinth of the most busy life.”*

*Victor Hugo*

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### COVID-19 CASES ARE SPIKING, NEED FOR VIGILANCE

There has been a spike in Covid-19 cases according to latest reports by the Ministry of Health. As of 5th February, there were 217 confirmed active cases, in fact 53 new cases were recorded on a single day. We therefore urge all to continue observing the preventive measures. **STAY SAFE**



## TRAINING OUR INTERNS THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION



Educationists are unanimous in the recognition of practice as the most effective way of learning. That is why we put practical engagements at the heart of our internship programmes. Past interns who have benefitted from our programme are currently handling key positions and tasks at governmental and nongovernmental organisations. Some of them have gone to pursue higher qualifications. To continue exposing students and new graduates to practicals, late last year, FIOHTG opened its office to 4 final year UTG students, Lamin Conteh, Malick Ndimballan, Naffie Jatta and Oumie Singhateh who are now graduates. Since then, they have been exposed to numerous office and field exercises to

broaden their understanding of tools they may have learnt in schools and others at the core of FIOHTG's rural development approach. This month, we bring you fascinating photos showing two of them, Oumie Singhateh and Malick Ndimballan leading sessions on Gender Analysis. We understand that students spend more time in classes, learning theories and approaches. At FIOHTG, we spend more time applying theories and tools. Both Oumie and Malick can be seen passionately leading the sessions in the photos above. See our subsequent newsletters for fascinating stories about our present and former interns.

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