

**FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA**

**NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2020**



**NEWS IN SHORT**

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## FIOHTG FINALISES FINANCIAL PROCEDURAL & PROCUREMENT MANUALS



FIOHTG has gathered its Board and Staff members to finalise its Financial Procedural and Procurement Manuals at its Conference Hall. In attendance were the Board Chairperson Mrs. Joanna Mendy, Board members Mrs. Ndow, Mr. Mendy, Mr. Gaye, and Prof. Yaffa. All programme staff were also present. The event held on Saturday 3rd October was meant to finalise the two documents that are meant to

strengthen internal governance at the organization. The new manuals will generally “serve as a blue print and a reference point in the application of financial and accounting procedures”. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson of the Board welcomed participants and urged for active participation as the rules being set will affect everyone. Mrs. Sarr had welcomed the participants and wished all a fruitful session.

The Manuals among other things are regulating the management and ceiling for petty cash, authorization, signatures of cheques, requests, approvals among others. It also establishes accountability measures in all stages of financial allocation, management and utilization. Meanwhile, a Procurement Committee shall be mandated to look at requests at a certain percentage.

The event which was coordinated by Finance Officer Mr. Sisay and facilitated by Mr. Sanyang of Foresight Consultancy was very interactive and constructive as staff and Board members raised their concerns and made amendments where necessary to ensure that a financial system that promotes and guarantees accountability and transparency is in place. FIOHTG will be going into 2021 with the new manuals added to a new Quick Books system reported Mr. Sisay.

## FIOHTG MOBILISES COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS



The School Development Unit has started its Education For All Campaign as the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education discusses safe mechanisms to reopen schools following an eight month long closure as a result of

Covid 19. The Education For All Campaign is a broad-based advocacy and sensitization initiative to ensure that all peoples have access to education. This year's campaign is aimed at reminding parents and students about the importance of remaining in schools despite a long nonpreventable absence. This year's campaign is mobilizing communities to cleanse the school premises after the rainy-season. As many schools do use the first days of re-opening of the schools to clean the schools through the help of students and teachers, FIOHTG thought that enough instructional hours had been lost, hence the need to cleanse the schools now. The exercises are taking place in Kabakoto, Samba Chergie, Darsilami, Nyawurulung, Chargel and Kiss Kiss.





## M&E UNIT EMBARKS ON A VISIT TO 74 PROJECT SITES



A team comprising Mr. Lenn the M&E Officer, Mr. Jatta at the Finance Unit and Mr. Conteh an intern at the M&E Unit is embarking on a visit to 71 project sites across the North Bank, Lower River, Central River and Upper River regions. The trip is meant to assess projects and activities undertaken in 2019 and 2020. 57 of the communities are beneficiaries of Community Development Unit's activities while 14 communities are beneficiaries of school infrastructural projects implemented by the Construction Unit, both of FIOHTG. Below are the communities and project sites to be visited.

Explaining the objective, rationale and methodology to be used the M&E Officer Mr. Lenn stated that the exercise is

geared towards measuring the level of progress against the stated goals and to find where necessary remedial measures for the activities implemented in 2019 and some ongoing projects. He added that this is a very important activity that is in line with the CSPII and the M&E Framework. It is intended at showing both the results of the programmes implemented and the challenges as seen by the beneficiaries he added.

Regarding the methodology, he emphasized that the exercise will be very participatory as required in the CSPII which states that "We incorporate people's own evaluation of their progress as an important factor in how we measure our success" (CSPII). To guide the interviews and/or discussions as well as observations, a set of 10 questionnaires have been developed as well as checklists. The 10 questionnaires developed focus on CBO Management Training, Civic Education on Democracy and Rule of Law, Climate Change, Waste Management, Food Processing, Moringa Farms, Bakeries, Advocacy Centers, Literacy centers, Basic Health and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, Business Management and Enterprise Development. The checklist on the other hand focused on the advocacy centers, climate change, waste management and gender, bakeries and advocacy centers.

Mr. Lenn concluded that every community which has been reported as a beneficiary by programme officers will be visited including school construction sites. However, there may be some challenges due to poor road networks following heavy rainfalls in recent weeks, he added.

Read our November 2020 Newsletter for a detailed excerpts from the report of the exercise.

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***REMEMBER TO TAKE ALL PREVENTIVE MEASURES,  
COVID IS STILL AROUND DESPITE LOW NUMBER OF  
CASES.***





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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!

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