

FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA

# MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – JULY, 2024.



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# FIOHTG WRAPS UP STEP-DOWN TRAINING ON COMPETENCY BASED CURRICULUM

Future In Our Hands The Gambia through the NDOKK-Food for Education Project concluded a 2-day step down training on Competency Based Curriculum held at Regional Education Directorate in Kanifing.

The event was attended by teachers from Region one.

The objective of the training was to introduce the Revised Competency -Based Education Curriculum to be rolled by MoBSE to all FFE/NDOKK Project schools, strengthen knowledge and skills of grades 1, 2 and 3 teachers on the use of the Revised Competency-Based Education Curriculum and to equip teachers in FFE/ NDOKK Project schools to adapt and apply the revised competency-based education curriculum.

The 2-day training enabled participants to demonstrate different practical skills of teaching methods, such as competency-based curriculum, presentation on the syllabus design, assessment and evaluation and importance of feedback in the teaching and learning process, etc.

In a similar but separate engagement, The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in collaboration with Future In Our Hands The Gambia organized a day's training on Universal Design for Learning. The Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn.



# CDU CONCLUDES VDC TRAINING IN KERR MAMMA

The Community Development Unit under the purview of FIOHTG conducted yet another VDC training in Kerr Mama Cluster, Upper Niumi District in North Bank Region. The training is intended in improving the lives and livelihoods of the most valuable communities.

The training was aimed at enhancing the capacities of the VDCs for effective program intervention that will foster community development and sustainability.

Kerr Mama is one of the new VDPs that has been phased in recently. It has four satellite villages namely; Kerr Juma, Kayel, Kerr Ngumbo, Medina Sangalko.

The training focused on the following area but not limited to;

- Introduction to the concept of VDC
- Selection/ Election of VDC- separation of power
- Local Government Act, 2002 and role of VDC in decentralized rural governance
- Functions of VDC members, individual and collective roles
- Selection of subcommittees, the rationale of its formation
- Establishment of Ward Development Committees and their relationship with VDCs
- Record keeping, meeting minutes, financial records, membership register, visitors book etc.
- Constitutions and By- laws and their importance to their governance system
- Strategies of resources mobilization and planning- advocacy, networking, lobbying, and linkage creation.

The training was facilitated by Lamin Marreh and Alpha Khan from the Department of Community Development and Kerewan Area Council, respectively.

Jawo Kunda cluster in Kantora district, Wuli Barrow Kunda in Wuli West district and Misera in Sandu district also benefited from this activity.





# FIOHTG HOLDS A SESSION ON REQUEST CONCEPT NOTE

Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) through its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Unit (MEAL) held a day session with staff on the Request Concept Note Template at FIOHTG conference room in Kotu South.

The objective of the session was to holistically look at the request concept note template that outlines a project objectives, methodology, expected results and budget. At the end of the session, participants' understanding and competencies were enhanced in a bid to make request using a standardize request template.



## CDU WRAPS UP HUMAN RIGHTS SENSITIZATION MEETINGS IN JAWO KUNDA CLUSTER

The Community Development Unit of FIOHTG concluded a five-day training and community-based sensitization meetings on basic fundamental human rights in Jawo Kunda cluster in Kantora District, URR.

Jawo Kunda is one of the new phased-in communities to benefit from FIOHTG interventions for the period of three years as stated in the contract signed with them. Possibly, there can be extension depending on the need to do so.





The activity was aimed at enhancing the capacities of the communities to safeguard basic fundamental human rights that are bestowed on them by the virtue of the fact that they are human beings. In addition, they were also reminded about their responsibilities in the promotion of human rights issues in a bid to protect their rights and that of others, especially those of women and children.

This discussion focused on the right to education, health, security, freedom of expression and association, to be protected from inhumane treatment, to vote and be voted for, and to be protected from harmful cultural practices amongst others.

FGM still remains a major impediment to the protection of the rights of women in most communities in rural Gambia. The recent Women Bill tabled in a bid to repeal the Anti-FGM law enacted in 2015 has triggered intensive debates in communities as some people support the repeal, making reference to its Islamic backing. Some Muslims are seeing it as a threat to Islamic beliefs and thoughts.

In one of the communities sensitized, the Imam informed the community members that they should be careful about the issue of FGM because it's still a law and advised them to be law abiding and anything inconsistent with law shouldn't be avoided for the sake of peace and tranquility in the country.

Other gender based violence issues such as child marriage was also discussed, reminding them that they should keep their girl child in school and avoid the practice of child marriage to earn them a better future.

A staff of the National Human Rights Commission, an institution mandated to promote and protect the rights of the citizens and residents of this country, served as the resource persons of this activity. Hiring their services has not only made the activity fruitful but also introduced these communities to the existence of NHRC and its mandates. We look forward to building a strong collaboration through an MOU.

The communities were tasked to establish a human rights subcommittee to be under the purview of the VDC to protect and promote human rights issues in their communities.

# FIOHTG, CRS REGIONAL TA TO FOSTER COLLABORATION IN ROLLOUT OF NUTRITION, WASH IN FFE PROJECT SCHOOLS

Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) through its NDOKK-FFE (Food for Education) Project received in audience regional Technical Advisors for Nutrition, Water, Environment and Sanitation held at FIOHTG conference room in Kotu South.



The delegation was led by Halimatou Bah Nutrition TA from Catholic Relief Services. The purpose of the assignment is to provide technical guidance in nutrition and WASH components of The Gambia FFE-NDOKK project. The discussion also entailed the integration of peer health educators program under the NDOKK Project schools.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Yankuba Manneh, NDOKK Project Manager for FIOHTG, expressed delight over the visit. He noted that the principal aim of the project is to improve literacy of school age children and increase the use of health and dietary practices in schools.

Kelly Macdonald, Regional TA Nutrition from CRS, said they want to integrate nutrition and WASH components at all level.

Jean-Philippe Debus- water, Environment and Regional TA added that the visit was to understand the needs, provide technical guidance and the outcome of the results in the project schools.

Ebrima Drammeh, CDU Manager, FIOHTG pointed out that the organization has done lot of activities in nutrition training, they have partnered with Community Health Nurse in the popularization of nutrition programs in the communities.

Amadou Sambou SDU Manager said his unit is FIOHTG's unit responsible for in-service teacher training, campaign for enrollment, retention and completion of the basic education cycle.



# THINK EQUAL PROJECT STAFF WRAPS UP AN ONLINE TRAINING ON CONCEPTS OF THINK EQUAL



The Think Equal Project under the purview of FIOHTG has participated in a comprehensive week-long online training focused on the fundamental concepts of Think Equal.

The training was led by its Project Manager, Aminata Ceesay along with Pedagogical Advisors and Assistants. They were given a unique opportunity by the Think Equal Team to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Throughout this training, they had the privilege of engaging with the founder and experts who developed the Think Equal curriculum.

The team was introduced to various modules and underwent assessments at the conclusion of each module.

Having successfully completing the Think Equal online training, the team acquired an understanding of the program and how it should be implemented in educational settings.

They have been certified by the Think Equal team, showcasing their proficiency in delivering Think Equal lessons effectively.

This training also equipped the participants with a thorough understanding of the Think Equal curriculum to provide valuable guidance and support to educators.

Speaking at the presentation, Jainaba T. Sarr, the Country Director, FIOHTG, expressed appreciation to the Think Equal project team for the successful completion of the training, noting that knowledge gained will enrich their CV and “we really cherish it.”

Amadou Sambou, SDU Manager expressed similar sentiment.

# FIOHTG CONCLUDES INTERFACE DIALOGUE ON RECOVERY-FOCUSED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 'YIRIWAA'



Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Resilience In The Gambia (STAR) Project on Sunday 24th March, 2024 concluded an interface dialogue with stakeholders on the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan Yiriwaa (2023-2027) held at Regional Education Directorate in Kanifing and Brikama respectively.

The CSO Watchdog Project is funded by the European Union and is implemented by a consortium comprising FIOHTG, TANGO and FAWEGAM.

The project is intended to enhance civil society capacity for increased participation in the implementation of the NDP in The Gambia.

Speaking at the event, Amadou Sambou, Manager, School Development Unit, Future In Our Hands The Gambia posited that the

interface dialogue is to sensitize stakeholders on the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan that will address our development trajectories.

"We have sensitized over thousand people in NDP and traditional communicators were also trained on the popularization of the then National Development Plan", Sambou affirmed.

He pointed out that the custodian of the NDP is the Ministry of Finance.

At the end of the interface, participants expressed appreciation to FIOHTG for the well-coordinated training on the Recovery - Focused National Development Plan Yiriwaa.

The presentation was facilitated by Samba Sowe from the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs (MoFEA).



# FIOHTG WRAPS UP RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, PROPOSAL WRITING TRAINING



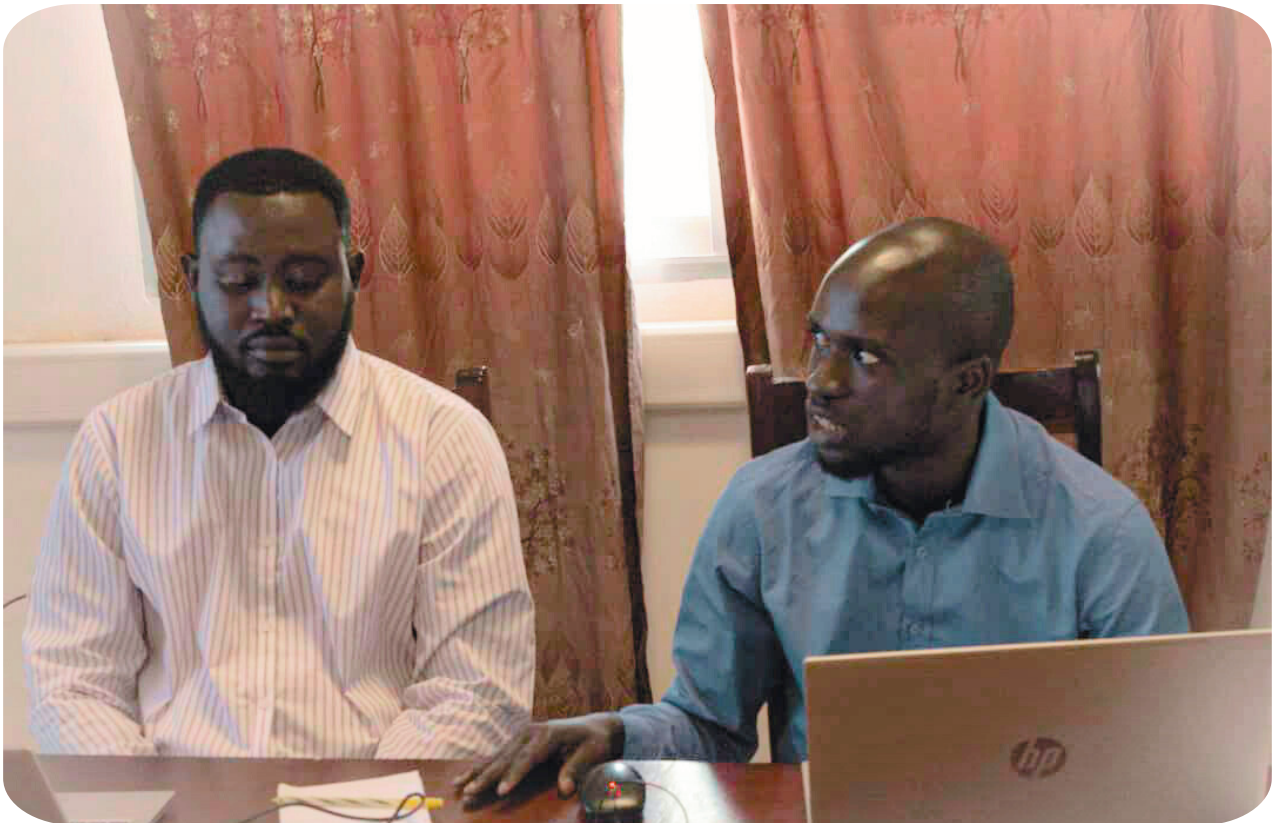
Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) on Wednesday 20th March, 2024 has concluded a 2-day training on Resource Mobilization, Proposal writing, and fundraising.

The objective of the training was to equip the participants with requisite skills and competencies in the design and implementation of resource mobilization strategies, project development and proposal writing.

Participants at the training conducted demonstration in resource mobilization strategies and proposal writing.

In a similar but separate engagement, The MEAL unit organized a day's training on Management Information System(MIS) for the staff of FIOHTG. The system will serve as a repository of information, ensuring all relevant data is accessible and available on time. The system will also store relevant information such as financial statements, and employee records amongst others.

# FIOHTG VALIDATES MEAL MANUAL



Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG), an organization that aims to bring education closer to vulnerable communities and strengthen their capacity to fight poverty through its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Unit (MEAL) on Monday 18th March, 2024 validated the MEAL Manual (2024-2028) at FIOHTG Conference hall in Kotu South.

The MEAL Manual will help systematize data collection, tracking, reporting, accountability processes and learning sessions. The Manual will strengthen accountability, learning, data collection, storage, utilisation and reporting.

The validation covered essential topics notably, general roles and responsibilities, reporting types and schedules, communicating results, data governance and monitoring for results etc.

Speaking at the event, Jainaba T. Sarr, the Country Director, FIOHTG expressed appreciation to the MEAL unit for developing the Manual. She stated that the Manual seeks to holistically look at monitoring, reporting and accountability processes.

The validation was led by the MEAL Manager, Muhammed Lenn.



# FIOHTG, PARTNERS DOLES OUT ASSORTMENT OF ITEMS TO HOSPITALS



Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) has facilitated the donation of an assortment of items at neonatal unit at Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital, Bundung Maternal and Child Hospital, St. James LBS in Kitty, Westfield Clinic, Bwiam Health Center, and Bansang Hospital.

The donated items include 24 neonatal pampers, shoes and clothes.

The materials were donated by Fatumah Freeman, a retired nursing sister based in Sweden on behalf of the NGO The Health Watchers Association.

According to the officials at the hospital, the donated items will be judiciously used. They expressed gratitude to the donor and FIOHTG for the kind gesture.

The Health Watchers Association since its formation has supported Gambians in myriad of

areas notably, education, clothing and health care, she has also rendered a helping hand in sponsoring some less privileged Gambian students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree at The University of the Gambia.

“The Health Watcher’s Association is an independent, non-profit organization that has been in the business of sponsoring education and health project among the less privileged particularly for women and children. Since 2012, we have created a nation drive that provides much needed items for disadvantaged children in rural communities,” Freeman stated.

She pointed out that she came to the Gambia in 1983 as a volunteer nurse to work at the Children’s ward at EFSTH. She explained: “There I felt in love with the Gambia, the Gambian people and already I decided that I will continue to live in the country to focus my efforts on children, women and the maternity ward,”

She stated that the Gambia is recognized as a successful country in education with an attendance rate that surpasses the sub-Saharan average, however the majority of schools are underdeveloped by international standards. These, she said need assistance as it is imperative for young students to become academically competitive in an increasingly technological world.

Due to their commitment and consistence in supporting Healthcare and Education in The Gambia, FIOHTG is proud to collaborate with the Health Watchers Association.



# THINK EQUAL CONCLUDES TRAINING OF CLUSTER MONITORS, ECD FOCAL POINT ON CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Think Equal Project under the purview of Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) concluded a day's training for the Early Childhood Development Focal Point, staff from the directorate of the Early Childhood Development and 17 cluster monitors within region two held at FIOHTG conference hall in Kotu South.

The training covered essential aspects such as Think Equal's origin, mission, and the significance of early childhood education.

In her opening remarks, Jainaba T. Sarr, the Country Director, FIOHTG expressed gratitude to

Leslee and the attendees for their commitment in monitoring the program and taking ownership of its success. With the support of the Ministry and government, the program is now integrated into the curriculum, setting an example for the rest of the world.

"By reducing crime rates and violence against women, we can create a safer and more inclusive society. It is crucial that we address the concerns raised at the national dialogue and work towards a country where women feel safe and empowered", Director Sarr stated.



Director Sarr extends her heartfelt thanks to Leslee the Founder of Think Equal and by extension David Suddens, the funder whose generosity has ensured that every single child across all of Gambia will benefit from this transformational programme, and all participants for their dedication and support.

She concluded that continuous training and collaboration are essential for the success of this program, and we look forward to working together to make a positive impact.

Special thanks to the FIOHTG team for their passion and commitment to spreading this important message to teachers across The Gambia.

Leslee, the founder of Think Equal, noted that

the organization's mission is to bring about global change in early childhood education through social and emotional learning for wellbeing and social justice.

She added that the importance of education in shaping a better future and highlighted the need for the education system to adapt to the challenges of the modern world.

Aminata Ceesay, Think Equal Project Manager emphasized the importance of working together with stakeholders to increase awareness of the program.

She urged all cluster monitors to collaborate closely with FIOHTG Pedagogical Advisors and Assistants to ensure that every child in the Gambia benefits from the program.

## FIOHTG, CRS WRAP UP COMPETENCY BASED CURRICULUM TRAINING



Future In Our Hands The Gambia, through the Food for Education Project (NDOKK) in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on Wednesday 29th February, 2024 concluded a 3- day Training of Trainers on Competency Based Curriculum held at a local hotel in Bakau.

The event attracted participants from FIOHTG, CRS, CREDD, INSET, AMAANA, Gambia College, SQAD, PMED (Assessment unit).

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the skills of the participants in acquiring

knowledge and the most suitable approaches to the teaching of the Competency Based Curriculum as well as identify and developed methods of assessing the competency based curriculum.

At the end of the 3-day training, participants demonstrated the practical skills of different facets of teaching methods, notably demonstration of different assessments, evaluation methods, scheme of work and lesson plan, etc.

## **FIOHTG, PARTNERS VALIDATE TEACHERS' TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS**



Future In Our Hands The Gambia, through the Food for Education Project (NDOKK), on Thursday 1st February, 2024 concluded a 2-day review and pre-testing workshop on teachers' training needs assessment tools held at FIOHTG conference room in Kotu South.

The event attracted staff of the FFE Project, Catholic Relief Service (CRS), FIOHTG, Special Needs Unit, INSET, AMANAH and CREDD.

The objective of the workshop was to review the assessment tools in addressing gaps of teachers for improved literacy outcomes in the project schools.

Speaking at the event, the Project Manager, NDOKK Project, Mr. Yankuba Manneh indicated that the aim of the workshop was to review the training needs of the teachers across the country.



He added that the project's objective is to improve the literacy of school-aged children and increase the use of health and dietary practices in the project intervention schools.

"We have a tool that is recognized for data assessment and the data generated from the assessment will be used for our consumption," Mr. Manneh stated.

The Country Director, FIOHTG, Jainaba T. Sarr, noted that this is an important workshop earmarked for the training needs of Teachers as well as capture their critical needs.

Muhammed Jobarteh, Literacy Technical Advisor, CRS explained that the project is integrated as it covers two components notably school feeding and literacy.

## CDU EMBARKS ON CAPITALIZATION OF COMMUNITIES CEREAL BANKING IN CRR



FIOHTG through its Community Development Unit has successfully embarked on an engagement with its Village Development Projects in the Central River Region for the capitalization of the newly phased-in communities to start a cereal Banking scheme.

The scheme is aimed at strengthening the food security of these VDPs in a bid to reduce hunger, mostly from July to September.

Four out of the nine new VDPs are capitalized to commence the scheme through the buying and storage of the coos-- for its abundance

and cheapness during the seasonal period.

The communities are: Prince in NBR, Medina Sasita in LRR and Daru and Jallow Kunda Mat Mbaye in CRR. Accordingly, the initiative is in line with FIOHTG programme strategies, that is enhancing communities' livelihoods through food security.

The beneficiary communities hailed the gesture and commended FIOHTG describing it as "one of the most important support received from donors".

They further promised to make the best use of the opportunity by ensuring its growth and sustainability.

Equally, other existing Cereal Banking schemes in Chargel and Changai cluster were monitored by the team. According to them, they are waiting on the thresher machine to thresh their coos, and immediately that's done, the community will collect them from the

concerned people. Since being capitalised, there have been improvements in the scheme because most of them are able to generate additional bags from the little interest paid.

The Village Development Committees and the Cereal Banking Committees of the various communities all expressed commitment towards expanding the scheme for a wider coverage in the communities.

## GAMBIA GROUPS, FIOHTG INAUGURATE CEREAL BANK IN KERR ARDO



The Gambia Groups from Sweden in collaboration with Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) on Tuesday 23rd January, 2024 inaugurated a cereal bank store in Kerr Ardo funded by Berte Qvarn and Future In Our Hands Sweden.

The cereal bank which is a community -based food management strategy will pave way for the community of Kerr Ardo to be more food self-sufficient and financially independent.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Director, FIOHTG, Jainaba T. Sarr said that the cereal bank will help the community to be self-reliant and enhance their lives and livelihood.

Director Sarr affirmed that the Gambia Groups from Sweden has invested in Kerr Ardo since its operation by setting up the skills center whereby the children learn skills to be productive.



"I will extol my staff for their commitment and steadfastness for their continuous support towards the people of Kerr Ardo for timely completion of the cereal bank," Director Sarr stated.

Lisabeth from the Berte Group who doubles as the funder of the cereal bank pointed out that the cereal bank will help the community towards sustainability.

She added that, the family business, Berte Farm will continue to develop and enlarge their farm and milk in a very sustainable way for many generations.

Kristina Lundahl from the Gambia Groups stated that the cereal bank will serve as a good source of nutrition to the children.

The chairman of the Gambia Groups, Sven Nordqvist said Kerr Ardo will continue to be prosperous and developed.

Pa Mansa Secka, a VDC rep, Alhagie Joof, councillor Kerr Ardo Ward and Awa Jobe both expressed their appreciation to the benefactor for the inauguration of the cereal bank in their community.

In a similar but separate engagement, the visiting delegation visited Kerr Werico, a GCoL learning centre, the bakery and Prince Community Garden.

## THINK EQUAL PROJECT CONCLUDES TRAINING OF 300 ECD TEACHERS ON SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Think Equal Project concluded training for three hundred ECD level 2 teachers in the West Coast Region.

The training covered essential aspects such as Think Equal's origin, mission, and the significance of early childhood education. Additionally, it focused on narrative development and positioning teaching strategies that align with the project's goals.

The holistic approach taken during the training emphasizes the importance of integrating Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) into the curriculum to nurture pro-social competencies, including empathy, self-esteem, and respect for the dignity, value, and equality of others. Some of the teachers have started implementing the programs in their various schools.

Aminata Ceesay, the Project Manager, Think Equal Project expressed appreciation to the Country Director and the management of FIOHTG, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and the Regional Focal Point for their continuous support towards the realization of the training of ECD teachers in social justice and social emotional learning.

Think Equal is a global initiative which addresses the root causes of human rights violations across the world by breaking the cycle of violence, negative stereotypes, and discrimination through a preventative intervention.





## FIOHTG INAUGURATES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) has recently inaugurated a new board that will steer the affairs of the organization in the next two years. The event was held at FIOHTG complex in Kotu South.

The new board members are professional people of reputable standards, high integrity and self-esteem. Their input will pave way for the growth and development of the organization in its quest to bring the much needed support towards the organization's strategic objectives.

Below are the new board members;

- Mr. Abdoulie Sowe
- Mrs. Awa J. Peters
- Mr. James Furmos Gomez
- Mrs. Mam Kumba Ndow
- Mr. Momodou Jeng
- Dr. Saffiatou Drammeh Gitteh
- Dr. Saikou K. Gassama
- Honorary Members
- Mr. Bubacarr M.L. Camara
- Mr. Daniel FM Mendy





## FIOHTG CONCLUDES BAKERY TRAINING IN PRINCE



Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) through its Community Development Unit has concluded a weeklong baking training for the community of Prince in the North Bank Region.

The bakery will enhance food security and generate income for the community. The bread was baked using our local cereal - coos.





# SDU SENSITIZES TEACHERS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY



Future In Our Hands The Gambia through its School Development Unit (SDU,) concluded a sensitisation workshop for teachers on government policies at a workshop held in Daru, Central River Region; Jawo Kunda and Barrow Kunda in the Upper River Region.

The trainings were aimed at enlightening teachers on the significance of government policies, specifically on the General Orders and the Code of Conduct for Gambian Civil Servants.



Throughout these discussions, organizers were able to address certain misconceptions, and digital copies of the policy documents were distributed via WhatsApp for easy access.

Additionally, the workshops were dedicated to classroom observations and the development of additional educational materials. This initiative was a crucial step in ensuring that civil servants are well-informed and equipped to carry out their duties effectively.



# FIOHTG CONDUCTS WALK FOR HEALTH



In a bid to promote the physical well-being and healthy lifestyle of staff, Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) on Tuesday 4th June, 2024 organized the first edition of 'Walk for health'.

The walk for health began at the office complex in Kotu South to a local hotel in Senegambia and drew excitement and enthusiasm among staff in the pursuit of a healthier lifestyle.

The event also culminated to bid farewell to Mr Lamin Njie Senior Program Officer, CDU who recently joined the National Human Rights Commission The Gambia as well as the interns who recently concluded the internships.

Their farewell is a testament of their unwavering commitment and dedication in promoting the organization's strategic

objectives. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Speaking at the event, Jainaba T. Sarr, The Country Director FIOHTG extolled the contribution and dedication of Lamin Njie for his contribution to FIOHTG, this she added paved the way in promoting the organization strategic objective, and thematic areas.

Director Sarr pointed out that we wish Njie and the interns all the best in their future pursuits.

Mr. Ebrima Drammeh, manager, Community Development Unit, Mr. Amadou Sambou, School Development Unit Manager, Kemo S. Kinteh, the Human Resources Manager and Muhammed Lenn, MEAL manager expressed similar sentiments.



# FIOHTG CONCLUDES TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON EARLY GRADE READING ABILITY



Future In Our Hands The Gambia through its NDOKK-FFE Project on Wednesday 29th May, 2024 kick- off a 3- day Training of Trainers on Early Grade Reading Ability(EGRA) held at Mansakonko in Lower River Region.

The training intended to build the capacity of trainers on EGRA for improved foundational reading and writing skills of school age children

and consequently increased educational outcomes in the FFE NDOKK Project schools.

During the 3-day training, participants explored various teaching techniques such as blending, sounding, sentence construction, classroom management and reading comprehension amongst others.

## FIOHTG CONCLUDES QUARTERLY MONITORING EXERCISE





Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) through its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Unit (MEAL) commenced its quarterly monitoring exercise on Monday, 20th May, 2024, focusing on cereal bank capitalisation in Prince Village and VDC training in Kerr Mama in the North Bank Region. This initiative aligns with FIOHTG's strategic objective to assess the activities conducted within the organisation, monitor the progress and generate feedback of beneficiary communities participating in the Village Development Project (VDP), and identify successes and areas for improvement. This monitoring exercise is crucial for ensuring accountability and transparency in tracking the progress of project interventions.

By visiting these communities, FIOHTG aims to gather insights on the short term impact of the implemented activities and to provide timely solutions to any challenges faced by the beneficiaries.

The cereal banks are expected to play a significant role in enhancing the lives and livelihoods of the community members, contributing to increased crop production and promoting self-reliance.

The monitoring team extended their visits to other beneficiary communities in the Central River Region (CRR) and Upper River Region (URR).

## FIOHTG DIRECTOR ATTENDS PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON GIRLS' EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA



Jainaba T. Sarr, the Country Director of FIOHTG attended the African Union's first Pan African Conference on Girls' and Women's Education in Africa in Ethiopia with the theme "Prioritizing girls and women's education: A strategy to increased access to inclusive, lifelong quality and relevant learning in Africa".

The confab centered on thematic areas such as high-level dialogue on gender equality in education, the draft report on the status of girls' education in Africa and Education sector planning amongst others.

# FIOHTG PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY TRAINING

Future In Our Hands The Gambia has participated in a 2-day Communications and Advocacy Training organized by the Catholic Relief Services.



The training held at a local hotel in Senegambia was aimed at equipping participants with the requisite knowledge to effectively communicate and advocate for shared goals.

At the end of the 2-day training participants demonstrated skills in video ads of popular brands, introduction to communication, storytelling, photography and elevator pitch amongst others.

## NATIVE OF CHARGEL REJOICES OVER BOREHOLE PROJECT, EXTOLS FIOHTG'S EFFORTS

Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) continues to make a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities through their Village Development Projects (VDPs).

During a quarterly monitoring exercise in Chargel, Central River Region, we spoke with Musa Jawo, a native of the village, whose community recently benefited from a borehole project facilitated by FIOHTG.

Jawo expressed his gratitude, highlighting that the borehole, equipped with eleven taps, will significantly alleviate the community's water scarcity issues.

"The community is immensely happy with this benevolent act. They have recommended forming a water committee to manage the borehole," Jawo stated.

He also acknowledged that the adult literacy and REFLECT facilitator training conducted by FIOHTG played a crucial role in enabling the community to benefit from this substantial gesture.

FIOHTG's commitment to improving living conditions in vulnerable communities is evident through projects like the one in Chargel, which provide essential resources and empower residents through education and training.







# FIOHTG

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