Future In Our Hands The Gambia
Newsletter
February 2018

News in short

- FIOHTG staff plans the next Country Strategy Plan (CSP) 2018-2022
- The construction unit at FIOHTG are building new toilets
- The School Development Unit at FIOHTG informed about civic rights and duties
- New Swedish intern at FIOHTG
- FIOHTG are planning to phase in new communities to support

Have you got a story or an event for the next newsletter? If so, we want to hear from YOU!
FIOHTG staff plans the next Country Strategy Plan (CSP) 2018-2022

FIOHTG turned into a local NGO in May 2013. Since then, the organization has been entirely managed by Gambians who are headed by a Country Director. When it gained its local NGO status with the NGO affairs, FIOH worked with FOMA consultancy firm and developed a 5 year country strategic plan 2013/2017.

During the 5 year period, the organization registered numerous and remarkable achievements most of which were all in line with CSP 1. The organization was also confronted with tough challenges which actually lead to some unfinished business in CSP 1, thereby leading the organization to develop a new 5 year strategic plan.

After series of consultation with various stakeholders like beneficiary communities; partners; members of the board and staff of FIOHTG, consultant FCK Baldeh and team designed a robust strategic plan for the period 2018 to 2022 that FIOHTG staff described as vibrant and proactive.

Finally, from Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th February 2018, the staff of FIOHTG participated in a 3 day validation workshop of CSP 2 at the office conference hall.

The new CSP 2018/2022 widens the organization’s arm to diverse funding opportunities and strengthening relationships with other sister organizations for better partnerships.

Below is the strategic aim of 2018/2022 CSP:

More detailed than a vision, but not a work-plan, this paper should be read as a statement of FIOHTG’s strategic intent for the next five years. First, it puts our work into one coherent image and articulates our position by describing our niche and theory of change, and our basic approaches to tackling causes of rural poverty. Second, it identifies a number of strategic objectives and actions towards achieving our long-term goals and mission. Third, it identifies our organizational strategies to manage the process of change. It provides specific recommendations and milestones which will guide the development of subsidiary strategies and policies in FIOHTG. Overall, by articulating a clear way forward, this strategy aims to focus all parts of our organization in a unified direction.

FIOHTG building new toilets with ISRA

The institute for Social reforms and Action (ISRA) has entrusted FIOH with toilet construction projects being implement in four Majali communities. Majalis are Quranic learning centres using the Arabic medium of teaching in which ISRA has attached teachers to provide them with conventional lessons.

The support is intended to enhance sanitary conditions of the student in this majlis. The beneficiaries are Banyaka, Sifo, Farato Bojang Kunda and Old Jeshwang. The fifth community benefited from two taps of water extension into the compound.
FIOHTG and NCCE informs about civic rights and duties

When we at Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) are not working at the office, you might find us in a village on the countryside. A couple of weeks ago we had two teams going out to villages like Brikama Ba and Karantaba with representatives from the National Council of Civic Education (NCCE). The aim of the journey was to inform and educate teachers, students and cluster trainers about their civic rights and duties. We realize the importance of an informed community where everyone carries an ID-card. In addition, to open up for discussions about problems like corruption that people around the villages faces every day and how we together can prevent it to happen in the future.

An informed citizen who aware of her/his rights are better able to have a say in decision-making processes in their villages. When there is an election on the rise, they know how and why we vote and the significance and role they all are playing. We see these interventions as key factors to be able to build a functioning and stable democracy, who will strengthen families, communities and The Gambia itself.

New Swedish intern

My name is Martin Holmberg and I will be the new Swedish intern at FIOHTG the coming 4 months. This is the first time I have the chance to visit the smiling coast and I have only been kindly welcomed with open hearts.

I am from the southern parts of Sweden but have lived recent years in Uppsala and in Japan. Through my life, I have always had a growing interest to support and help others and to prevent injustices. I graduated last year with a Masters degree in Global Health and hope to contribute with a health perspective in the work I do at FIOHTG.

Furthermore, I have past working experience from different NGOs in Sweden. I have worked for the United Nations Association of Sweden and the Swedish Red Cross Youth, to name a few. Within those organizations, I have had the chance to ameliorate my skills in project planning and to implement and evaluate programs addressing youths and decision-makers. Other than that, I like to read and hope to alternate the work at the office and in the field with some days at the beach with a good book.

I really look forward for the next 4 months here in beautiful Gambia and to be a part of the experienced staff at FIOHTG and the important work they all do.
FIOHTG are planning to phase in new communities to support

FIOHTG has been supporting integrated sustainable development projects in schools and communities since 1979, using service delivery in classroom construction and later into teacher training and school-community development activities. This was in the form of supporting community development challenges that impede education of children. Amongst others, FIOHTG is equally into Human Rights Based Approach to development. In view of this, FIOHTG intends to phase-in the following villages: Maria/Samba Nyaado, Keur Ardo, Samba Chargie, and Kaba Koto in the North Bank Region of the Gambia whilst strategic and responsible phase-out in Njolfe and Sare sarjo in LRR, Pallol and Tabanjani in CRR, and Tabajang and Sare Jawbeh in URR takes effect. The ultimate objective is: To collect preliminary information that will determine as to whether FIOHTG interventions will be extended to any of the villages and hence make a difference in the lives and livelihoods of the people. A pre-assessment exercise was conducted in ten villages predetermined at FIOHTG Head Office level. Criteria for community selection was on the basis that the village **MUST** have a school and require factors that impinge on child growth, development and empowerment of people, the poor and vulnerable amongst others that will influence the magnitude of need to phase-in to those villages. The pre-assessment was followed by a validation exercise by a different team that conducted the pre-assessment and was led by the M&E Officer. This validation of information was done in six villages identified after the pre-assessment. At the end of the exercise, the findings will be shared with the Programme Management team to participate in shared learning process for the possible selection of 4 of the 6 villages **OR**, consider phasing into all six villages. This will avail FIOHTG the opportunity to get replacements for the already phased-out six villages in other regions. To generate information from amongst communities’ members, the team engaged discussants into a dialogues guided by FIOHTG staff.

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*Pre-assessment exercises and discussions were held in ten villages by FIOHTG*