Future In Our Hands The Gambia
Newsletter
March 2018

News in short

- Forum Syd visit to evaluate the work of FIOHTG
- Several National Endowment for Democracy (NED) activities conducted last months
- The construction unit at FIOHTG held meeting with contractors
- The annual audit report is being conducted at FIOHTG
- Afrikaada Teeth Savers on fieldtrip

Pictures from the Forum Syd visit and evaluation of FIOHTG as an organisation

Have you got a story or an event for the next newsletter? If so, we want to hear from YOU!
Forum Syd visit to evaluate the work of FIOHTG

A five day meeting kick started at the office conference hall, FIOHTG staff met with the Forum Syd on a follow up trip to discuss about issues concerning the office. Subjects discussed where among other a deeper introduction to FIOHTG as an organization (including a description of the board’s role, responsibilities, strategy/priorities, partnership between FIOHTG and Gambiagrupperna, the internship program (description of how it operates) and other issues).

Tuesday and Wednesday, was a visit to Finance unit, school development unit and Community development unit respectively, to discuss about issues concerning their work basically how they operate and deliver services.

Thursday, the team also went on a field visit in Lower River Region (LRR), and visited Seno Bajonki and Sare musa were they meet the various communities. The main idea of the visit was to see what the organization is doing; the bakery at Seno was visited and they were able to see how women baked bread, sells and earn an income to support their families. Gender issues were also discussed with the villagers and they realized that it has definitely helped because men are now helping women in domestic chores. Nutrition has also improved health condition of children and women and right based approaches were also among the things discussed.

The last day on Friday were the team was meeting with the board members of FIOHTG and had a final discussion from the week.

Several National Endowment for Democracy (NED) activities conducted last months

- Community Sensitization meetings on the concept of community policing in 7 villages in the Lower River Region. Senior officers of the Community Policing Unit helped communities understand the various crimes that are committed and how to distinguish between what village council of elders can resolve at their level and those that must be reported to the police once it happens. It helps community – police relations for improved security
• Training of 25 security officers of the various security units of the Gambia was carried out by Senior officers of the Community Policing Unit on the ECOWAS protocol for the free movement of people, goods and services and the concept of Community Policing as well as feedback received from the Community.

• Youth forum was conducted in Bulock in West Coast Region to enhance the understanding of the role of youths in Democracy and national development – rights and responsibilities. The youth forum was facilitated by youth activists from ACTIVISTA (a national youth organization).

• Peace & Reconciliation meeting was held in BESSE village in West Coast Region to help people divided on partisan political sides to reconcile their differences in the interest of peaceful co-existence for national development. Conducted by the National Council for Civic Education (NCCE).

• Women’s forum was held in Bwiam village to sensitize people on the Women’s Act and other constitutional provisions guaranteeing women’s empowerment and participation in national development. Conducted by the National Council for Civic Education (NCCE).

Training of the district chief and his tribunal members on customary law and dispensation of justice was done in Sibanor village with the National Council for Civic Education to improve their capacities for improved dispensation of justice at the local level.

An interface dialogue was conducted in New Yundum village involving members of the Busumbala constituency National Assembly member and his electorate. The meeting was opened by the Regional Governor and attended by officers of the Area Council, another MP from Brikama South Constituency, women’s leaders, Community Development Officer, village chiefs and elders, youths and women. Issues discussed included accountability, transparency and probity for development of the constituency and national issues of concern. Other issues discussed were area council tax, women’s problems, market access, road construction etc.
The annual audit report is being conducted at FIOHTG

As part of a statutory requirement annual FIOHTG usually undergo audit exercise, this audit exercise is meant to independently report to the Board of FIOHTG through the Executive Director, whether in their opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the organization’s financial position as at year end and whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (i.e. NGO Act, Companies Act 2013) and adhere to GAAP. The auditing firm engaged to do this exercise is Augustus Prom.

Afrikaada Teeth Savers on fieldtrip

During two weeks we have once again visit The Gambia, and during the first week we took care of approximately 200 patients with there teeth in Soma. The picture above is showing a 8-year old girl with severe problems with her teeth and showcases the difficulties to Afrikaada Teeth Savers are facing. We have for several years been working and trying to educate dental therapist in the Gambia. Dental therapists can work with preventing problems with Gambians teeth. Their techniques are basic and their education is shorter than a dentists education. When Gambians are calling for help, dental therapists are very much needed. To only fix holes in Gambians teeth are not a long-term solution and we at Afrikaada Teeth Savers meeting with Ministry of Health the last week of our visit hoping to find a more sustainable way to promote good and strong teeth in the Gambia.