Future In Our Hands The Gambia
Newsletter
October 2018

News in short

- SDU at FIOHTG collecting data and need assessment in the North Bank Region
- FIOHTG is coordinating leadership training
- TANGO meeting with IMF
- The new Swedish intern
- Interface dialogue for democratic development between duty bearers and right holders

Picture: Active participants at the Interface dialogue forum in Jokadou and Central Badibou constituencies respectively

Have you got a story or an event for the next newsletter? If so, we want to hear from YOU!
On the 3rd October, FIOHTG arranged a planning-meeting with partners for the forthcoming training of head teachers and deputies in government basic and secondary education in regions 1-6. The program will start on various locations simultaneously on the 15th October and is the first of its kind.

The purpose is to provide the participants with better understanding of their roles and responsibilities as head teachers and deputies of school management teams. The delegates will attend five days with activities, discussion and groupwork on topics regarding Mission & Vision as well as School Improvement Plans.

For one week the office, usually, filled with program officers from School Development Unit have been empty and quite. Two teams went on data collection and need assessment-trek in the regions 3 in the Ndungu kebbeh cluster, region 4 in the pakalibba cluster, region 5 in the Chargel cluster and region 6 in the Tumana cluster. This thorough and expansive trek aimed to establish the actually pedagogical training need for the teachers in these areas.

During this exercise the team in region 3 were caught in a severe flooding incident in Samba Chargie. This is a new FIOH Village Development Project (VDP), which according to eyewitnesses has been denied lessons to proceed for a number of times due to inadequate buildings. The school has very poor and dilapidated constructions and classrooms that are not safe for children.

Funding is needed to help the school with new buildings. This situation needs urgent attention from civil society, philanthropies and the government.

The School Development Unit at FIOHTG collecting data and need assessment in the North Bank Region

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FIOHTG is coordinating leadership training

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Picture: SDU meeting with representives from Ministry of basic and secondary education and experienced head teachers
The new Swedish intern – Jeanna Isacson

About two days after my arrival in The Gambia I was sent away, or more specific I was sent out on trek to participate in the interface dialogue conducted in the North Bank Region. That is exactly why I wanted to come to FIOHTG. The possibility to get first hand experience and be involved in local civil society programs to build community development.

Trek is not only a way to learn more about the objectives of empowering individuals and communities by FIOHTG but it is also a chance for me to see more of the country’s beautiful nature.

I am originally from Gothenburg on the west coast of Sweden; so I really enjoy the ocean, swimming and eating anything from the sea. My aim is to buy a bike so I can easily access the beach.

In January 2018, I graduated with a BA in Human Rights Studies from Lund University, which I hope will be complementary to the work FIOHTG does to educate right holders and duty bearers. Additional to that I have studied a semester abroad in Australia and taken classes in leadership, organisational behaviour and marketing. Moreover, I have worked, had internships and also been board member of several NGOs like Save the Children and the Swedish National Committee for UN Women.

I am looking forward in working with my experienced co-workers here in the office for next five months. Hopefully it will be filled with new knowledge, experience and friends. Finally I am always looking for new places and food, so get in touch if you know where to find the best benachin!

TANGO meeting with IMF

On the 25th of September FIOH attended a meeting with IMF arranged by TANGO. IMF is visiting the Gambia due to a previous Staff Monitor Program review and they are now conducting a shadow arrangement. The IMF highlighted the important role of NGOs and their expectations in the governmental process and to utilize the knowledge that exists in these forums.

Picture: Jeanna Isacson in front of the compound yard
Interface dialogue for democratic development between duty bearers and right holders

On the 22nd and 23rd September interface dialogue forums were held in Kerr Amadou and Salikene in Jokadou and Central Badibou constituencies respectively. This is a series of event under the NED PEACE PROJECT PHASE III: Promoting Political and Economic Advancement through Community Civil Education.

The National Endowment for Democracy and Forum Syd funds the projects which enabled FIOHTG to bring the National Assembly Members and Councillors closer to their Electorates. This way of communicating between duty bearers and right holders raised a lot of issues, questions, problems and common concerns in both constituencies.

This included roads and problems regarding access to communities and rice fields, as well as the cost of the new national identity cards (D450), which was considered to be an expensive price tag for the new ID card. This attracted intense debate in both forums and challenged the NAMs to pick the issue up with relevant authorities.

These forums were followed up on GRTS radio program, “The Assignment” on the 24th September and on “Gambia Today” the 26th September. FIOHTG’s Fundraising manager, Mr. Yankuba Manneh, was the special guest and shed light on the importance of the interface dialogue and how it can allay prejudice, misconceptions and resentments of the people.