News in short

- Village Development Committee Training in North Bank Region
- CTU’s new commitment for school expansions
- Monitor and Evaluation Framework Validation
- Waste Management Training

Have you got a story or an event for the next newsletter? If so, we want to hear from YOU!
Following the enforcement of the local government Act 2002, CDU staffs under the supervision of Mr. Ebrima Drammeh took the lead in conducting **Village Development Committee (VDC) Training** in North Bank Region. The purpose of the training was to strengthen the members of the VDC and train them in adequate functions as well as their roles and responsibilities. The training also touches the aspects of decentralization, reformation and re-establishment of VDC.

We started our journey on the 29th November 2018 and the participating villages were Maria Samba Nyadou, Kerr Ardo, Samba Chargie, and Kabakoto. Various group assignments, brainstorming, and simulation exercises was done during the training for the participants to comprehend the activity of the VDC training. Alongside this training, I participated in a food preservation activity under the supervision of Alimatou Marong at Maria Samba Nyadou. We trained the women how to process fruits such as tomatoes, watermelon, bananas, pawpaw in to jams for consumption and commercialization. This enables the women to create and raise their income for them and their families.

By Binta Cham

**CTU’s new commitment for school expansions**

Education is the key to success so it plays a big role in development of the nation building. To access quality education the need of well-maintained buildings is vital. The Construction Unit at FIOHTG visited two schools, old Jeshwang and Bakoteh in region one, which are in need of expansion. The current classrooms are must undergo reparation and they need to be bigger because currently the classroom does not fit all pupils. Some students arrive in the morning and some to come in the afternoon due to limited space, which may interfere with the children’s access to quality education. With the assistance from MRC Holland, a charitable foundation based in Amsterdam, FIOHTG is partnering up to sponsor the school expansions. In Old Jeshwang 18 new classroom will be built and Bakoteh will be provided with 9 news classrooms next year.
Monitor and Evaluation Framework

Tuesday the 18th of December FIOHTG’s staff members gathered in the Conference Hall to review and validate the drafted Monitor & Evaluation Framework. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Kebba Ngumbo Sima, Sasakawa African Association (SAA) who expressed the importance of creating a mutual understanding of the frameworks and equally own it. The M&E Framework consists of areas covering: Democratic governance, Human Rights and gender, Agriculture and environment, Community development and Emergency prevention of conflict and natural disasters. Key indicators, measures and results were discussed as focus points as well as which strategic goals and objectives are to be tied to the areas. The evaluation of the framework will continue so the next five years with the M&E structure will work as a support for reporting and reference for the FIOHTG staff.

Waste Management Training

The need for waste control is highly needed throughout the Gambia. Lack of proper management threatens to affect the lives and livelihoods of people due to health risks without appropriate hygiene commitments. Environmental priorities are also a driving force for socio-economic development. FIOHTG is sensitizing communities on waste management in efforts to change people’s attitude toward environmental issues and risks to human health. Sustainable training was therefore carried out in Kabakoto and Samba Chargie communities between the 12th to 17th December by Program officer Rose T. Mendy at CDU. Activities include guidance in the varieties of waste, how to sort out waste, disposal methods and potential health hazards. Emphasizing on individuals roles and responsibilities as well as increasing the general awareness in maintaining a clean environment is a high priority, which FIOHTG together with stakeholders are working towards.