Dear partners and colleagues in development work,

2018 was an important year for FIOHTG as it has witnessed a lot of significant developments and challenges within the project areas and the country at large.

The implementation of many of FIOTGs’ projects 2018 induced; the promotion of community empowerment through civic education, trade union capacity building, empowerment of rural women to increase their participation in the country’s political process, among others.

These project objectives among others is to support and ensure the increase of awareness and participation in decision making by women at community and national level to reach gender equality.

This year we introduced moringa farms in the communities of Chargel in Central River Region, Sare Demba Dado in the Upper River Region and Njollfen in the Lower River Region with the objective of improving the nutritional and medicinal status of the communities is in progress.

A crucial activity undertaken this year was the visit to Songhai agricultural center at Benin by two of our staff to learn about best practices on agriculture and environmental management.

Another development for the organization this year was the launch of the new five year strategic plan 2018 - 2022 which is now guiding the operations of the organization for the next five years.
With this new rule of democracy, one of the effect is the freedom of space for the civil society to operate without much interference by the state. Expectations of the new constitution being drafted are high, that it will represent the views of the people, especially the young.

Finally it is good to note that 2018 saw the phase-in of our work into the North Bank Region covering the communities of Maria Samba Njado, Kabakoto, Kerr Ardo and Samba Chargi with their satellite villages. For the first time FIOHTG was able to implement its teacher training program into their community schools.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Government of the Gambia, the board chair, board members, management team, staffs and partners in and out of the Gambia for their invaluable support and cooperation during this period. We hope that will continue with our work in this new Gambia as we look forward for more development, peace and stability. FIOHTG is also looking forward for an even stronger partnership and to higher achievements in our efforts to fight poverty.

Buba MS Faburay
Country Director FIOHTG
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In the Future In Our Hands The Gambias’ annual report of 2018, you can read about the organization, its founding ideas and projects from the past year. The annual report consists of written reports by the respective organizational unit senior administrative officer. Therefore, the style and the structure varies. The authors are written in parentheses in the table of contents.

Text edited by Dalinne Bojang.

Pictures taken by the interns Dalinne Bojang and Jeanna Isacson.
**Future In Our Hands - The Gambia**

Future In Our Hands - The Gambia (FIOHTG) is a non-governmental organisation that works with rights-based rural development through education and capacity building in The Gambia. Its main Partner is Gambia groups/Future In Our Hands Sweden (FIOHS). FIOHTG policy and developmental work are based on the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and more.

FIOHTG consists of three main units, specialized in a specific developmental area; Community Development Unit, School Development Unit and Construction and Technical Unit. The units are active in four regions, namely Region three (NBR), Region four (LRR), Region five (CRR) and Region six (URR). The FIOHTG also consist of a Fundraising Unit, Monitor & Evaluation Unit, Human Resources Unit and a Financial Unit.
**INTRODUCTION**
The School Development Unit (SDU) is working with training of in-service teachers in order to enhance the quality of education in Gambian schools. During 2018 trainings, campaigns and sensitizations were conducted in cluster centers.

**TRAINING OF TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**
Some adults in the Gambia are blinded by certain damaging cultural norms to an extent that they do not want to realize that their children have right to an education and these rights must followed. This issue prompted SDU to raise awareness and train parents and teachers in children's rights.

Almost all African countries have ratified the “African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child” but very few people are aware of its existence as a law. This unawareness include teachers whom are in contact with children on a daily basis. There is a high use of corporal punishment in most of the schools even though it is prohibited by law and considers as a very poor management skill.

**Rationale**
The themes that are discussed during these trainings are continuously used to train teachers and community members in the various clusters to better equip them with more skills and knowledge. They are being trained in professional development in order to increase the pupils engagement and encourage them in their learning process for better outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The themes during the training:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conflict Management for cluster based CSO’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Education Policy and Democracy for cluster based CSO’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sensitization on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• English Literacy Using SEGRA approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Civic Education for cluster based CSO’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Personal Hygiene and First Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Peace Education and Peace building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth Influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Environmental Awareness and Waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>These trainings brought about participants from;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Region 3: 90 participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Region 4: 140 plus 104 participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Region 5: 149 plus 78 participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Region 6: 190 plus 97 participants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation

FIOHTG cluster trainers are active in their respective training centers. At the training there were representatives from the regional offices who are our good partners. Their present always add value to the training since they are responsible for the regions. They also play a key role in the monitoring process.

During the Conflict Management training, different types of conflicts were discussed and how to resolve them. This is very relevant dire since Gambia is just out of twenty -two years of dictatorship and tribal lines which can lead to unseen conflict. Such uncertainties can trickle down to the schools and the communities and lead to atrocities if they are not well managed and educated in the matter.

The unit went further to educate the youth on how much they can influence their peers, both in a negative and positive way. They must make sure that the positive influence over weigh the negative one. Violence, substance abuse and dangerous illegal migration (back-way) was highly discussed. They were then given the task to create an action group which would spread the message. Their purpose is to act as agents of positive change. Such groups are present in almost every FIOHTG village in the Gambia.

Education policy and democracy was another theme during training. Teachers and parents are governed by policies but due to the low literacy level rate (55% in the Gambia based on a FIOHTG baseline 2019) parents cannot take part in their children’s education in the same extent.

The School Development Unit has trained the parents in Adult Literacy through the SEGRA approach. The program called SEGRA (Serholt Early Grade Reading Ability) has been implemented since 2009. The SEGRA methodology has one of the best results in the country. This is a learning method that helps with reading and writing. Through this method, parents have learnt literacy and numeracy skills and have enhanced their support of children in schools. They can now assist with home work, study groups and use the new knowledge for their own personal activities.

Adult literacy facilitators using SEGRA approach in preparation for their work with the adults in their communities.
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT UNIT

There are a lot of achievements done in the school and communities to address their basic socioeconomic needs and rights of a more equitable and just society. Civic education was taken to the communities and the schools with the topic of the discussion “Who is a citizen” and the child’s right to be registered. This is key since it is a requirement to be able to enroll a child in school. This topic enabled us to embark upon the “Education for All” campaign that is done annually with other stakeholders. The purpose of the campaign is to ensure that parents send their children to school. After the campaign there is always a follow up to see the development of the retention rate.

During these trainings pertinent issues like Peace education and peace building were discussed. Peace and drama clubs were establish in the schools and the community. They use drama and songs to carry out their messages. The school groups and the community groups cooperate to ensure good intergenerational relationships. Personal hygiene and first aid are also part of the topic of discussion with the purpose to keep the children in school, safe and sound, free from common disease like malaria and diarrhea. These can be avoided through WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) management and if breeding places for mosquitoes are kept at bay. The results of these trainings are very successful.
Results
Since these awareness trainings began, there has been a great change of the parents, teachers and pupils attitudes and behavior. Nowadays parents want their children to go to school and there are only few cases of truancy and bad behavior found in the school logbooks.

Since this training started we can see big differences where parents support the schools, claim ownership of the school, help teachers with the collection of low or no cost teaching and learning materials within their environment. Regular school visit by parents can be seen in the school visitors' book. The training went better than expected, now parents have constituted working groups in the schools and in the community. They have included gender aspects and have a democratic selection of the executive members that are in charge under a specific time period.

Future projects
When personal hygiene was discussed in the schools, the issue of menstrual hygiene management in connection to education was brought to light. Through our constant monitoring we found out that a lot of school girls are missing and dropping out of school because they lack knowledge on how to manage their menstruation. They are also facing stigma, discrimination and financial issues connected to their menstruation. Many girls stay at home during their period for those reasons. Therefore, we taught of helping with a new project called “Keep our girls in school” where we are going to educate school girls, parents and teachers on menstruation, hygiene management and make the stigma obsolete.

This project will ensure that girls stay in school, uninterrupted for nine years of basic education as enshrined in the Education policy, and do not drop out because of their menstruation.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

INTRODUCTION
The Community Development Unit (CDU) is working for poverty reduction through strengthened community based organizations (CBO) and institutions in FIOHTG targeted regions. During 2018, the unit implemented various activities in collaboration with the communities as well as other stakeholders in the regions.

PHASE-IN IN NORTH BANK REGION
The unit spearheaded the Phase-in process to the newly identified communities for the Village Development Project (VDP). The 4 potential communities namely Kabakoto, Samba Chargie, Ker Ardo and Maria & Samba Njado were assessed based on a criteria that looks at various areas including livelihood challenges, institutional challenges of the CBOs, educational challenges of the children and parents, as well as the preparedness and commitment of the community to move and overcome the challenges. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was conducted for a comprehensive assessment and better understanding the issues, priorities and the potential and strategies to overcome them. Community Action Plans were developed in all 4 communities through the use of participatory approaches. The unit has begun implementation of activities in the communities.

VDC ASSESSMENT AND TRAINING IN NBR
The Local Government Act of 2002 has made Village Development Committees (VDC) central to any development effort or action at community level. The VDCs are at the base of a local government structure which also includes the Ward Development Committee at Ward level and the Technical Advisory Committee at the Regional level in an ascending manner. The unit has conducted a rigorous assessment of the VDCs in the new communities in NBR. Implementation of the activity involved some of our key partners e.g. National Council for Civic Education, the Department of Community Development and the Area Council as part of the team. In the review process, the team looked at some key issues such as selection criteria for members to ensure adequate representation by age groups, gender, ethnicity, traditional settlement patterns and structures within each community and the prevailing CBOs.

The other areas of fact finding included meetings, record keeping, financial management, individual and collective functions of members, registration with attorney general’s chambers, resource mobilization and management. General organizational problems, information sharing and communication amongst the executive members and with the larger community were all discussed.

Rationale
To address structural issues and properly identify training needs and address these accordingly through rigorous capacity strengthening as foundation for sustainable development and responsible phase out in the future. All 4 new villages were assessed and a comprehensive report prepared. Training of the VDCs on Management Best practices was done.
CBO MANAGEMENT TRAINING
VDC executives and some members were the target for this activity. The activity helped them to understand roles and responsibility of the various positions of executive committee members how to practice best practices in management, and how to raise funds for community projects. Chargel's community benefitted from this training.

INTERFACE DIALOG
This activity brings together the National Assembly Member and electorate face to face to discuss economic, political and development issues. For the first time the unit implemented this activity through Forum Syd funding. The NAM for Badibou Central Honorable Sulayman Sawo, met with the people to openly discuss issues of their constituency.

The Community Development Unit has continued to execute its mandate through forging mutual partnerships with the target communities. All activities of the unit are geared towards the realization of FIOHTG goals.

“The Existence of Empowered Communities that Make Informed Decisions to Improve their Lives and Livelihoods. This process is pursued through Just and Durable Community Development Initiatives”.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

FOOD PRESERVATION AND PROCESSING
The unit implemented this activity in the new VDP communities in North Bank Region. The new communities were prioritized as the other VDP communities have previously benefitted from the activity on many occasions. Over 80 people mostly women were trained in the 4 new communities.

The activity enabled the communities to acquire skills in processing and preserving affordable food Crops and vegetables. Wonjo jam, pepper sauce, pawpaw jam, Banana jam, Ground/nut cake, water melon Jam, Tomato jam and Garri were made during the training. These were made from different home grown crops combined in making a good edible diet for family consumption and income generation.

The anticipated outcomes of the activity are;
* Increased household income.
* Improved health and nutritional status of the targeted populace.
* Reduced post-harvest loss.
* Reduction of malnutrition in the community as preserved products can be available whilst out of season.
* Improved physical wellbeing of household members practicing in the activity.

MORINGA FARMS
The unit has successfully established Moringa farms in 3 communities namely Sare Demba Dado in URR, Chargel in CRR, and Njolfen in LRR. A 50m Sq fenced farm was put up in Sare Demba Dado and Njolfen, whilst Chargel got a 50m x 75m which was made into 2 components; one for the skill center area and the other for the Moringa farm/orchard.
It is widely proven that the Moringa plant has a lot of nutritional benefits and therefore suitable for sustainable Community Health Improvement programs. FIOH has now for many years now been using Moringa leaves during nutrition trainings in the communities to reach our aim to end malnutrition among the people especially among children. Over 700 moringa seedlings were
Waste Management

This activity was conducted in the 4 new communities in NBR. Including the satellite villages, a total of 14 villages benefitted from the training. 160 people participated in the training which ended with the provision of sanitation tools to the VDCs for the purpose of continuing community waste management through weekly cleansing exercises. Participants were able to understand the importance of waste management and recognize the different types of waste (solid and liquid waste).

It is important to note that the participants showed keen interest in how to transform well managed waste into compost; this area was intensively explained and demonstrated to them, many began practicing it even before the training ended.

Other areas discussed were Risks and problems associated with improper waste disposal, dangers of having dumpsites in street corners in the community, the 2007 Anti-Littering regulation, and the ban of plastic bags in the Gambia in July 2015. Finally, Environmental sub-committees were established in all the VDCs as a result of the activity.

Cereal Banks

New Cereal Banks were established in 7 new VDP villages in NBR, 4 villages in CRR and 1 village in URR. 15 villages across the 3 regions, CRR, URR and NBR benefitted. Funds were provided to the beneficiary communities to buy the cereals. The project helps people to borrow cereals for food through an established scheme especially during the critical months of July, August and September when food is scarce and farming activity is intense. The unit will follow-up on the beneficiaries to verify the amount of cereals bought as well as the amount in stock.

Pilot Intergenerational Family Literacy

Due to FIOHTG REFLECT programme being implemented by CDU, the Adult and Non-Formal Education Unit of MOBSE engaged the organization to Pilot Intergenerational Family Literacy. This was funded by UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). The 4 months pilot was successfully implemented in Kalem Jawo in Changai cluster. The Intergenerational Family Literacy enables parents to support the learning of their children whilst the children also support their parents need of basic literacy and numeracy skills.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

CLIMATE CHANGE SENSITIZATION
The unit conducted Climate Change sensitization in communities in LRR namely Seno Bajonki, Misira, Sare Musa, Sumbundu. This activity is now high on FIOHTG prioritized activities. Many of the people know very little about climate change and how to adapt to its impacts. Although they are able to narrate about things being experienced now that was not known before.

The following were mentioned by them; high temperatures, disease outbreaks, food insecurity, pest infestation, destruction of settlement, draught, low crop yields, low income, reduction in both quality and quantity in fruit trees, floods, and poverty. The mismanagement of natural resources such as land and forest, indiscriminate felling of trees for the purpose of the timber business, fuel wood and charcoal are contributing factors to climate change.

Adaptation strategies
- Tree planting
- Forestation
- Attitudinal/Behavioral change
- Proper management and utilization of available resources; The Alkalos to help protect the community’s forests and other resources
- Diversification in crop production
- Live stock production
- Petty trading

AGROFORESTRY PROJECT IN FELENKOTO
Planting of various tree species was done at the Felenkoto agro forestry project. The model which is in its pilot stage was conceived by professor Jan Gunnarsson. Different tree species especially endangered ones were put in a nursery 6 months earlier.

Nursery for plants
**WELDING PROJECT**
Youths in Chargel were sensitized on the upcoming activity which will train 8 youths on welding. The welding generator was already given to the VDC. The initial one month training will begin in April to May 2019. It will be an opportunity for communities to have their farm implements repaired by their own people in the community. Such services were only accessible annually from welders on horse carts coming from across the border in Senegal.

**HAND PUMP MAINTENANCE TRAINING**
12 people from 6 villages from Chargel’s community benefitted from this important activity. They were trained on how to repair broken hand pumps and how to make water accessible to the people. The trained community members were provided with the required toolkit to enable them do their work. Now the people do not have to wait long to get the water facilities fixed. It is a highly applauded activity by the beneficiary villages.

**REFRESHER BAKERY TRAINING**
The unit conducted refresher training for the women bakers in Chargel. The objective is to introduce the bakers to new ideas and refresh their memories on best practices. 6 women and 4 men participated in the training. Various types of bread and cakes were produced. 3 of the women are already selling sweet bread as an income generation venture.

One of Chargel's water pumps where the villagers fetch water

Alpha Bah, the person in charge of Chargels only bakery participated in CDUs refresher bakery trainingin. Here he is presenting the end-results of the project - freshly baked tapalapa!
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

BASIC HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING
Implemented in LRR and CRR, Various health issues were discussed during the face to face discussion where people have the opportunity to ask questions on health issues affecting them. Regional health officials facilitated the sessions in 20 communities. Malaria, High blood pressure, diabetes and kidney failures were some of the diseases people are very concerned with. People also ask questions about Ebola although it was never reported in the Gambia. This was seen as a positive thing by the facilitators, they believe that their sensitization activities are making impact.

GENDER & YOUTH SENSITIZATION
Gender workload analyses was conducted in Chargel and Kulkule villages with the use of community theatre groups. The groups have now excelled and continue the activity on their own without outside support.

Women and youth forums was conducted in 16 villages; 8 in LRR and 8 in NBR. The activity availed the youths and women to discuss issues affecting them and their communities. This was implemented in collaboration with the regional Youth and Sports office and the Women’s Bureau representatives.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOL
18 youths from the VDP communities and 2 FIOHTG staff participated in the IYSS which took place in Dakar, Senegal. The activity is an annual event organized by Peace Ambassadors Gambia. The youths participated in various forums including debates and training on various youth related themes. All participants were certificated for participation. Youths came from Guinea Bissau, Senegal and The Gambia. This is the sixth time FIOH is sending community youths to the event. The 2017 edition took place in Guinea Bissau.
MONITORING AND EVALUATION UNIT

INTRODUCTION
In November 2018 the new Monitoring and Evaluation officer named Muhammed Lenn was appointed to run the unit as its only staff member in FIOHTG. The goal of the Monitoring and Evaluation Office is to ensure that the implemented projects/programmes benefit the people they are meant for and meet national and international standards. In this regard, the unit has been mandated to help improve “programme planning, monitoring and reporting of annual (and multi-year) objectives and to develop the organizational data base for programme learning and management" as outlined in the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) II of FIOHTG.

The new Monitor and Evaluation Officer Muhammed Lenn.

M&E FRAMEWORK
Upon assuming office, the M&E officer started to lay down plans for the development of a relevant Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Through support from management, the services of Dr. Kebba Sima an M&E consultant the development of the M&E Framework was completed.

The M&E Framework was validated by staff of the organization on 18th December 2018. The Framework is in place for use and shall be used during our first quarterly monitoring for the year 2019. The unit has spearheaded/facilitated research for better programming. Barely a month after assuming office, the M&E officer joined the Fundraising Officer for a Consultative Tour which was done to discuss ways forward and assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the partners in the Green Climate Fund. The Assessment was successfully conducted in December 2018 and the report is accessible via our server/library.

Aware of the role of e-governance and management, my office deemed it necessary to promote the digitalization of monitoring and evaluation within the organisation; with support from management, a consultant has been identified to build a Management Information System (data base) which will house the M&E Framework. The system will enable programme/project staff and officers to gather information from intervention sites and immediately input it into the system, for immediate access by supervisors, donors and partners wherever they may be as far as they have user rights.

The templates have been endorsed by the staff and are now waiting for the disbursement of funds to complete the task with the IT consultant, Mr. Lamin B. Jawara of PC Craft. This will help the organization to learn lessons, track changes, and improve project and programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The systematic gathering of data for planning and programme implementation has begun.
CONSTRUCTION UNIT

INTRODUCTION
To attain Education for all, this unit provides access to Schools for communities, through the construction of structures and basic services to schools. As a strong partner to the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, the MRC Holland Foundation is providing funds to conduct large scale construction activities throughout the Country.

These activities are being implemented through a contractual arrangement, in which FIOHTG is lucky to participate. At a recent event hosted by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education it was announce that up to 15 big and medium categories of contractors are benefiting from our work.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY
During the reporting period FIOHTG implemented the construction of 6 project sites in the Sandu district and carried out rehabilitation of Armitage Senior Secondary school comprising of Classrooms, staff quarters, Dormitories, kitchens ad toilets. FIOHTG deployed 2 to 8 subcontractors to each of the sites depending on the required labour force to march the scope of work and to ensure timely completion of the project.

The work in Sandu took us 6 months to complete, there by meeting the targeted completion date whereas the work at Armitage School required all major units to be completed within a period of 2 months which were exactly the student’s holiday break.

Finishing touches such as fittings, painting of external walls, pavements etc. could then be gradually done in the next 3 to 4 months.

RESOURCES NEEDED
The process of agreeing and signing the framework contract takes a while, followed by receipt of the first disbursement, budgeting and supplier identification.

When the site was handed over to FIOHTG by the regional Construction Monitors for commencement of works, FIOHTG Identified the subcontractors and posted them to the various sites. Supervision of the sites were shared between program offices to facilitate the work of the subcontractors. Materials were made available to workers based on a balance between the disbursed funds and the require quantities in order to keep the unit financially vibrant in its activities.

There were continuous replenishments of materials based on reports submitted by the supervisors and or requisition made by the subcontractors, accompanied by maturity of disbursement payment stages which kept a regular inflow of funds to carry on with the work.
**Duration**

The projects were completed within the 6 months as the agreed period of implementation, thanks to the cooperation of all the stake holders, ranging from the host communities for their hospitality, support and understanding, the subcontractors and teams for ensuring that there was enough labour force to meet the task. The supervisors, for making sure they were available at all times to discuss with the subcontractors and plan ahead. The combined efforts of program, administration and finance in ensuring timely payments for goods and services were made to vendor, subcontractor and other specialized trades and skills. And most importantly, the swift release of funds by the client (MRCH), who always take pride in making sure that the contractor are not delayed by late disbursement of funds.

**Results**

As a matter of fact the achievements in the last project were anchored mainly on the drastic reforms instituted as a result of the review of the challenges the unit was previously faced with. These were in the areas of ensuring that there was adequate labour force on each site, Contractors presence on site almost at all times. The regular supervisory visits by project staff were very helpful and the fast process of reviewing approving and payment system complemented the whole stride.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr</th>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>SCOPE</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kurau LBS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 Classrooms, 5staff rooms, 2 Toilets</td>
<td>Finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sareh Fodigeh LBS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 Classrooms, 5staff rooms, 8 Toilets</td>
<td>Finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sandu Misere BCS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 Classrooms, 5staff rooms, 8 Toilets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Changally LBS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 Classrooms, 5staff rooms, 8 Toilets</td>
<td>Finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sareh Demba Toro LBS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3 Classrooms, 5staff rooms, 8 Toilets</td>
<td>Finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Touba Sandu LBS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6 Classrooms, 5staff rooms, 14 Toilets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Armitage SSS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of classrooms, Offices, Assembly Hall, Dining Hall, Kitchen, Wood workshop, Metal work, Home Science blocks, Boys Dormitories and Girls Hostels</td>
<td>Finished</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONSTRUCTION UNIT

DELIVERABLES
The finalization of the above mentioned works, made it possible to provide the beneficiary communities and schools with the following facilities.

The rehabilitation work at Armitage Senior Secondary School did not leave any stone unturned for it took care of all the classrooms, Halls, kitchen, workshops, library, Boys Dormitories and Girls hostels sum it.

The activities conducted during 2018 brought about remarkable solutions to the challenges affecting teaching and learning in Schools. At least 7 host communities have been positively impacted by this intervention, but the actual number of beneficiaries can hardly be quantifiable, considering the fact that all the feeder villages to every Lower Basic school, Basic Cycle School and Senior Secondary School are phenomenal.
INAUGURATIONS
The renovation work at Armitage was inaugurated by the MRCH Foundation Chairperson during their annual visit to the Gambia. The occasion was graced by Honourable Minister of Basic and secondary Education, the School Board Chairperson, members, the regional Education Director, Parents and local dignitaries. The celebration took the whole day and the school scout band provided entertainment to usher the delegates into the hall were the ceremony took place.

The principal of the school gave a gratifying speech where he compared the past constrained to the present solutions rendered to the school. He however did not fall short of mentioning the remaining challenges the school is facing. The donor was prompted to an mediate approval to address some of the concerned highlighted by the various speakers.

Three days later another series of inaugurations took place to mark the opening of 6 projects in the Sandu district. Each community provided presents to the donors and prepared food for the visitors and members of the communities. The delegation was indeed satisfied with the quality of the work and expressed complements to the contractor for a job well done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSROOMS</th>
<th>STAFF QUARTERS</th>
<th>KITCHENS</th>
<th>TOILETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 classrooms fitted with lights sockets, black boards, wall cupboards and tiled floor.</td>
<td>30 Staff rooms with concrete beds, ceiling, toilets and shower rooms all tiled</td>
<td>5 Kitchens with 3 cooking stoves, chimney, service table and a tiled floor</td>
<td>48 toilet cubicles, with ventilation pipes, ceramic squatting toilets, wall and floor tiles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

INTRODUCTION
During the reporting year, the Human Resources Unit spearheaded a series of activities geared towards enhancing the capacities of the employees of the organization as important change agents integral in attaining organizational vision of realizing the “existence of empowered communities that make informed decisions”.

M&E FRAMEWORK
Key among the programme’s achievements in the area of human resources management and staff capacity development during the reporting year include, staff trainings on evidence-based advocacy for improved advocacy with duty bearers, anti-corruption, Human Rights-based Approach to Development, a study tour of the Songhai Regional Agricultural Centre in Benin where best practices in organic farming, agroforestry and renewable energy generation were learnt.

The continued existence and maintenance of the resource library resulted in the continuous visit of up to five University of The Gambia students to study and conduct research work for their dissertations. During the reporting year, a competent Monitoring and Evaluation Officer was recruited and as a result, well research data collection, baseline surveys and reports are now an assured staple for the organization’s work. A Monitoring and Evaluation framework document was also established through consultations with all program staff.

A review of the organization’s financial and procurement policy manual was commenced during the reporting period. The period also saw the running of the new Human Resources and Financial Information System which as significantly improved the payroll processing system as well as employee information management and data analysis.

One service staff continues to make progress with her adult literacy classes having been promoted to the intermediate level during the reporting period. In addition, three program-level employees benefitted from higher education tuition support from FIOHTG’s funding to pursue bachelors and masters degrees in fields relevant to the work of the programme organization. This is slated to contribute significantly towards overall organizational capacity building.

FINANCE UNIT

INTRODUCTION
Finance Unit comprises of two staff members (Finance Officer and Finance Assistant). Because of the limited number of staff serving the Unit and additional functions outside the finance issues carried out by the Unit, the staff sometimes could be considered as “over-stretched”. During the year the unit had an intern working in the as part of our capacity building.

The Finance Unit is responsible for management of the organization’s cash flow and ensuring there are enough funds available to meet the day-to-day running of the organization.

FUNDING
As part of financing its activities, the organization normally receive funding from various donors. Management and reporting of such funds is governed by the respective Financing Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding and/or any other documents prepared and agreed to in that regard.

During 2018 FIOHTG received funding from the following partner’s; Forum Syd, MRC Holland Foundation, National Endowment for Democracy, International Republican Institute, Women Democracy Network, Solidarity Center and (I)NACT.

Future In Our Hands Sweden being our great partner organization, annually send their Finance Officer from Sweden to The Gambia as part of capacity building for Future In Our Hands The Gambia Finance Staff.

ACCOUNTING
As part of a statutory requirement, FIOHTG annual 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.
FUNDRAISING UNIT

INTRODUCTION
The unit works to secure donors, projects and successfully implement planned projects across the regions. 2018 was sadly not as successful as the previous years in term of fundraising. However, despite challenges, the unit was able to secure and implement the following projects.

INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE (IRI)
A six month project referred to as “Promoting Community Empowerment through Civic Education”, aimed at enhancing the political participation of rural communities, especially women’s participation. The project was conducted in LRR, CRR and URR.

WOMEN DEMOCRACY NETWORK (WDN)
A six month project referred to as “Women Economic and Political Empowerment Project”, aimed at enhancing women’s economic and political status for effective participation in nation building. The project targeted and reached out to 100 women in LRR, NBR, CRR and URR.

SOLIDARITY CENTER (SC)
A three month capacity building project for Gambia Trade Union Bureau (GamTUB) executives and affiliated members for effective trade unionism in The Gambia.

Maron Baldeh speaking on Truth, Reconciliation and Reperation Commission during the Youth Advocacy "bantaba" in Chargel
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

A twelve month project referred to as “Promoting Political and Economic Advancement through Community Civic Education (NED – PEACE Project Phase III), aimed at empowering communities for increased accountability, democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law.

Funding

The cumulative funds raised from the above mentioned projects are estimated at the tune of 3, 286, 718 Dalasis only. Out of this amount, 64% was received from NED, whereas 16% came from IRI and WDN each and 4% from SC. These projects have had a life – changing impact on the lives and livelihoods of project beneficiaries.

On the other hand, there were other projects that the unit raised and could not secure funds for. This included the project referred to as “Keep Our Girls in School”. This project was raised through the crowd funding platform promoting increased learning outcomes in rural Lower Basic Schools in The Gambia, submitted to WFP.

It is important to recollect that during the year under review, the Fundraising officer also benefited from a very successful networking visit to Sweden and attended networking days for supervisors of interns in Härnosand and an member meeting of the FIOH Sweden in Gothenburg.

The cumulative funds raised from these projects are estimated at the tune of 3, 286, 718 D.
NEW FIOHTG VILLAGES

INTRODUCTION
In the first quarter of 2018 demographic information was collected through a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Exercises conducted in the 4 new villages: Kabakoto, Samba Chargi, Keur Ardo, Maria and Samba Nyaado. The collected data act as the basis for the information presented here.

Food Production
The inhabitants of the villages are mainly subsistence farmers who engage in rainfed agricultural production on annual basis. Crop production and productivity have generally been on the decline due to limited farm tools in combination with poor soil conditions and erratic rainfall patterns. Vegetable production has not reached desirable levels due to poor water reticulation & delivery systems. Many households suffer from many months of food scarcity particularly from June to September each year. These months are usually referred to as the hungry season. A significant number of households has however engaged in the plantation of cashew tree orchards which might spur the development.

Community Based Organizations
There are several community Based organizations in the villages, including traditional welfare groups and development oriented ones such as the Village Development Committees, School Management Committees and Mothers’ Clubs etc which require institutional capacity strengthening for sustaining the development process in the long term.

Language and Culture
Due to the close socio-cultural ties between the different ethnic groups in all the villages many of the villagers are fluent in the various local languages used in the villages. People communicate and interact freely thanks to years of living together in peace and harmony.

SAMBA CHARGI
Samba Chargi village is located in the Jorkadu district in the the North Bank Region of the Gambia.

Total Population: 409
Female Population: 187
Male Population: 222
Compounds: 31
Households: 35
Ethnic Groups: Fulani
Spoken Languages: Fula, Wolof, and Mandinka
Children at School Age: 225
Girls at School Age: 97
Boys at School Age: 128
Children Enrolment Rate: 191
Girls Enrolment Rate: 92
Boys Enrolment Rate: 99

Issues in the Community - Order of Priority:
- Lack of quality infrastructure at the Lower Basic School
- Weak local Institutions
- Low income levels among women and youths
- Inadequate farm inputs and implements
- Soil Erosion affecting roads and farmlands
- Inadequate portable water supply
- Inadequate storage facilities for the community
**Kabakoto**

Kabakoto village is located in the Upper Nuimi district in the North Bank Region of the Gambia.

**Total Population:** 692  
**Female Population:** 354  
**Male Population:** 338  
**Compounds:** 52  
**Households:** 56  
**Ethnic Groups:** Majority is Fulani and the minority is Bambara  
**Spoken Languages:** Fulani, Wolof, Bambara and Mandinka  

**Children at School Age:** 220  
**Girls at School Age:** 114  
**Boys at School Age:** 106  
**Children Enrolment Rate:** 195  
**Girls Enrolment Rate:** 105  
**Boys Enrolment Rate:** 90

Kabakoto is the village where the Basic Cycle School for the cluster villages is located. There are 8 other feeder villages within the cluster.

**Issues in the Community - Order of Priority:**

* Inadequate access to health facilities  
* Food scarcity and insecurity  
* Inadequate CBO management and organizational skills  
* Inadequate access to safe drinking water  
* Deforestation  
* Inadequate access to markets for the producers  
* Inadequate/Poor retention of children in school  
* High illiteracy especially among women  
* Regular disease outbreaks among small ruminants  
* Inadequate income generating skills among women and youths

The main farm tools, equipment and livestock include: 45 seeders, 46 sine hoes, 22 horses, 73 donkeys, 19 oxen, 16 horse carts, 18 donkey carts, 68 cattle, 69 sheep and 115 goats.
KEY VILLAGES

Kerr Ardo village is located in the Lower Badibou district of the North Bank Region of the Gambia. Kerr Ardo is among the newly phased villages on the North Bank Region which has a Lower Basic School. It has only one feeder village namely Toro Tayam.

Total Population: 1166
Female Population: 610
Male Population: 556
Compounds: 87
Households: 97
Ethnic Groups: Majority is Wolof and Fulani
Spoken Languages: Fulani and Wolof
Children at School Age: 410
Girls at School Age: 210
Boys at School Age: 200
Children Enrolment Rate: 359
Girls Enrolment Rate: 189
Boys Enrolment Rate: 170

Kerr Ardo’s big water tank containing around 40 000 liter of water. The VDC chairman Salifu Saho on the top right picture and the VDC vice chairman Fatou Touray in the bottom left picture.
**Maria and Samba Njado Villages**

Maria and Samba Njado are two small villages barely separated by the main road between them. Although each of the villages have a separate head or village chief locally referred to as Alkalo, the people share a lot in common due to their close proximity to each other. They cooperate through several measures including the functional Village Development Committee, Mothers’ Club and their School Management Committee.

The two villages are located side by side in the Central Badibou district in the North Bank Region of the Gambia.

**Total Population**: 343  
**Female Population**: 177  
**Male Population**: 166  
**Compounds**: 19  
**Households**: 19 (number of households in Maria alone is 6 whilst that of Samba Njado is 13).  
**Ethnic Groups**: Almost an equal number of Fulani and Bambara. There are two households with people of the ethnic group Naar who are traders migrated from the republic of Mauritania.  
**Spoken Languages**: Fula, Wolof, Bambara and Naar.  
**Children at School Age**: 113  
**Girls at School Age**: 53  
**Boys at School Age**: 60  
**Children Enrolment Rate**: 107  
**Girls Enrolment Rate**: 52  
**Boys Enrolment Rate**: 55

Maria & Samba Njado Village being the key village is the location of a Lower Basic School and continues to register school children from 9 other feeder villages within the cluster. The school has been engaged to some in the improvement in water supply which has helped the village.

The main farm tools, equipment and livestock include: 16 seeders, 20 sine hoes, 19 horses, 34 donkeys, 7 oxen, 11 horse carts, 3 donkey carts, 71 cattles, 34 sheep and 60 goats.

**Issues in the Communities – Order of Priority:**
- Inadequate access to safe drinking water
- Low soil fertility in farming areas
- Inadequate farm inputs and implements
- Low incomes especially among women
- Inadequate labor saving devices for women
- High illiteracy rates among women
- Regular outbreak of livestock diseases
- Inadequate grazing areas for domestic livestock
- High youth unemployment rates
**LETTER FROM THE SWEDISH CHAIRPERSON**

**Dear readers,**

2018 meant a change in the composition of FIOH Sweden. We have previously consisted of several groups spread over Sweden but since the 1 January 2018, one does not need to be a member of a specific group but can join the central organizational group. However, it does not mean that the groups and their work with spreading information about the Gambia in Sweden and raising money for the central group to get grants from Forum Syd has disappeared.

FIOHS received a new member group during 2018, namely Eivor Björkman Gambia Aid, which is based in Stockholm. At the same time the Green Gambia group in Enköping closed because their driving force moved from the area. This means that we still consist of 16 groups from Hälsingland in the north to Malmö in the south.

During the year, our partner organization FIOHTG received the Swedish organization Forum Syd, which came to do a evaluation of the work we commonly carry out. The report was mostly about the cooperation between the two organizations and even thought the report does not reflect it, FIOHS and FIOHTG have a fantastic collaboration that has been strengthened in 2018.

During the year, a three-year application was also made to Forum Syd, which we were granted for 2019 - 2021. Unfortunately, we did not receive as much funding as we hoped for, but we now have a safety to continue to conduct our work in the following years.

Forum Syd wants to see more of advocacy work aimed at the rulers of the Gambia, at the new government and the democratic values that are emerging increase the opportunity to work with this. In Sweden, we need to work with influence, the opportunity and the space for the needed small organizations in civil society to be strengthened. We can see a trend that requests and reports

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Kristina Lundahl
Gambia Groups/FIOH Sweden’s Chairperson
FIOHS’s work in Gambia to inform tourists about Swedish aid has been very successful. During the autumn of 2018 Ving’s trips to the Gambia expanded and it has given us more tourists who want to take part in our excursion and learn more about developmental work. Our tourist guide Alagie "Aladdin" Cham is an asset and he does an excellent job of catching the tourists' interest, which has meant that more tourist wanted to become members of FIOHS than usual. The possibility of becoming to an individual member has made membership more interesting for people.

Aladdin and the FIOHS also make an effort for children in the Gambia by informing tourist about the consequences children may face when they are sent out to the beaches to sell goods instead of going to school.

Unfortunately, we must also inform them that sometimes people travel to the Gambia with different intentions than to have a sunny vacation. We inform them to contact us if they see that children are being exploited or are ill. Information we wish was unnecessary!

For the future, we now hope to interest more contributors for our work in the Gambia and in this way be able to expand our commitment to the development of the Gambia’s bright future!

Finally, I would like to thank all the members who has made our work possible throughout the years and especially in 2018.

Kristina Lundahl
Chairperson of FIOH Sweden
MULLSJÖ GAMBIA GROUP

The Mullsjö Gambian group originates from the trip to the Gambia that Ingrid and Arne Holmqvist did in December 1981. They had read an article by Barbro Eketorp about the Gambia. There they read they that there was a vocational school in Bwiam who tried to educate people in woodworking, but they had very few tools. Arne who had contacts in the tool industry arranged some tools to bring to the Gambia. Once back home in Sweden, they began to talk about the Gambia in their community and raised funds for the Bwiam school which was run by the Catholic mission. Ing-Britt and Olle Filipsson also got involved and raised funds by cutting down trees in peoples gardens. For a few years, an art exhibition and a café was run in a barn by Ingrid and Arne to raise funds.

Their work influenced others. Soon, several new groups were started, amongst them another group was started in Mullsjö “Mullsjö school’s Gambia group” by Ann-Marie Eskilsson. It was started on the basis of solidarity act from the primary school in Mullsjö. The children were involved and money was collected for school building, writing materials and football equipment. The group invited a guest to the school almost every year to talk about the projects and show pictures of the life in the Gambia. In 1997, the group travelled with 4 pupils to visit the sponsored schools, including Sotokoi. They stayed with different families in the village for one night, which was a great experience. All in all, the group has sponsored fifteen schools in the Gambia.

The two groups in Mullsjö became a group in 2013. Nowadays, the group no longer sponsor schools, but villages through different projects, such as women’s projects.

FUNDRAISING

Over the years, Mullsjö Municipality has helped to deduct SEK 25-50 per month from the salary for those who wanted. This provided a basic funding of the school group of up to SEK 2000/month. In addition, coffee, lunches and evening activities were arranged. Sponsors also came from ICA Ljungqvists. There are still some people there who have standing transfers to the group. When the group meets, we put SEK 50 each for snacks and every year we organize a lottery. Some painters usually contribute with paintings and the lots are sold to friends and acquaintances. Ever since the new members from Falköping joined, we have also sold lottery tickets and small sculptures on their Christmas market and distributed information. This year we plan to stand at Lions spring market in Mullsjö. In addition to lottery tickets, we also sell bags from the Gambia and a small candle holder whilst distributing information.
LETTERS FROM INTERNS

Jeanna Isacson

In September 2018 I joined Future In Our Hands Sweden (FIOHS)/The Gambia (FIOHTG) through an internship program funded by Sida/Forum Syd. Directly after my arrival I accompanied program officers’ from CDU and the Fundraising unit to assist in the PEACE project interface dialogue. These were held in Kerr Amadou and Salikene, North Bank region. The interface dialogue encouraged political development and promoted mutual trust between the duty bearers and right holders by bringing politicians from local and national government closer to their electorates.

Early in my internship I became engaged in the Green Climate Fund (UN) to provide resilience against the effects of climate change in rural communities and strengthening their livelihoods by enhancing food and water security.

I have also supported SDU, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, regarding their preparation and training on roles and responsibilities for head teachers and their deputies.

In the beginning of November 2018 I accompanied CDU for agriculture and environmental training in Chargel (CRR), Sare Demba Dado (URR) and Njolfen (LRR). I assisted in the workshop which consisted of establishing vegetable gardens, seed nursery beds, creating natural compost and follow up on the previous project “moringa tree-farming”.

During my internship I consistently documented activities from both field- and office work closely through photo and text. This was communicated into articles, newsletters and directly on social ‘media for both FIOHTG and FIOHS.

Living, working and interacting with different communities in a post-colonial and post-dictatorship context that have different beliefs, values and worldviews come with their set of challenges. However, it has led me to be more understanding and respectful to the multiple ways people think and experience in life. I am most thankful for my time with FIOHTG and Gambiagrupperna and how well I have been included in the FIOH family.

Tobo Kande with the intern Jeanna Isacson in Chargel Swedish Intern at FIOHTG
LETTERS FROM INTERNS

Binta Cham

I graduated from the University of the Gambia with a BA in Development Studies. I did my internship program at FIOHTG from the 1st November, 2018 to 31st January, 2019. Upon arrival, I was posted at the Community Development Unit which consists of six program officers (two women and 4 men). FIOHTG is the best training center for interns because of the welcoming staff and their involvement in team work. That is one the thing that I have learnt and admired in the organization. All the officers were very coordinative and interactive towards one another, which helped me to gain more knowledge and skills during my training. Also, they were always willing to share information whenever needed.

Finally, I got a job at the government due to the skills that I gained from FIOHTG. I would like to thank the entire management for their support and a job well done. Bravo!

Regards,
Binta Cham.

Martin Holmberg

Swedish Intern at FIOHTG spring of 2018.
CONTACT INFORMATION

“Education for all through village development”
FIOHTG is a non-governmental organization in The Gambia, working for enhanced access to quality education and strengthening rural communities in order to fight poverty.

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