

BEAKANYANG

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



BEAKANYANG 60 Sayerr Jobe Avenue Bambo, Serrekunda

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER PAGE	Page 1
ABOUT BEAKANYANG	Pages 2-4
MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR	Pages 4-5
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Pages 5-6
HUMAN RIGHTS	Page 7-18
DEMOCRACY	Pages 18-30
ENVIRONEMNTAL SUSTAINABILITY.....	Pages 31-35
BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS	Pages 36-39
RECOGNITIONS	Page 40
OUR PARTNERS.....	Pages 41
OUR REGISTERED ADDRESS.....	Page 42

ABOUT BEAKANYANG

Beakanyang is a registered not-for-profit, independent human rights, environment and development organization in The Gambia, West Africa.

Beakanyang is a local Mandinka word meaning equality. It was founded in 2001 and began full operation in summer 2004 after registration with the ministry of justice as a charitable organisation.

It was in 2016 upgraded to a local NGO and also registered with other like-minded organizations such as Network against Gender Based Violence, Child Protection Alliance, CPA, and National Youth Council.

Beakanyang currently chairs the CSO Dialogue Platform (a network of all NGOs working on human rights issues in the Gambia) under the National Human Rights Commission.

Beakanyang aims to enhance and promote the participation of disadvantaged people in issues relating to good governance and human rights and environmental sustainability, as well as women and youth development in The Gambia. The organization has been actively working over the last years along with communities to enhance the participation of young people and Women, human rights, good governance and climate change mitigation and adaptation activities at local levels.

The creation of the organization initially, was in direct response to meet the needs and aspiration of the youth and women in rural Gambia. It grew from the felt need to effectively mobilize the mass participation of young people to get off their fence and work constructively for the building of a culture of human rights, governance in the country, while promoting protection and preservation of the environment.

Programme Objectives

Our programme objectives are to mobilize youth and women across the country at the local and national levels to participate in all spheres of national development. The activities seek the holistic involvement of young people as key actors in democratic processes and social transformation in The Gambia.

The strategy the programme pursues in order to realize these objectives is to strengthen the capacities of young people and Women and to advocate and lobby to influence policies promoting and mainstreaming children, youth and women participation in local and national processes.

Overall Goals and Objectives

- To empower women and young people to serve as an effective catalysts for social transformation in The Gambia.
- To help promote a culture of peace, human rights, governance and open societies.
- To promote the participation of young people and women in making decisions that affects their lives.

- To serve as a public policy voice and advocacy mechanism on behalf of young people and women and other vulnerable groups in the society to influence policies and activities promoting rights.

Our Core Values



➤ OUR MISSION

To educate and empower citizens to know, defend and champion their fundamental human rights and development.

➤ OUR VISION

A country where rule of law, accountable democracy, human rights culture and sustainable development are attained.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is the successful end of another productive year again and we are pleased to present our annual report which highlights our major undertakings and accomplishments for the year 2019. But before going further, I would like to firstly acknowledge the support of our dedicated staff, volunteers and partners for their continue support, for without which our activities during the year under review would have hit a snag, so we remain grateful to you all.

It's through the effective collaboration and partnership with likeminded organizations and donors, coupled with the time and resources provided by our volunteers that inspired us to make a lasting impact on the lives of our people.

Our main focus for the incoming year is to raise public awareness and address on key human rights issues like: female genital mutilation/ cutting, media freedom and freedom of expression, corruption and democratic governance.

Moving on, I would like to reassure all of our resolve to continue collaborating with relevant partners, stakeholders and communities in ending violence against women especially girls, attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, and making human rights a reality for all in The Gambia.

On the other hand, we will be also beaming the spotlight on climate change mitigation and adaption at community level. The impact of climate change we all know is a serious cause for concern, hence the need to intensify efforts to mitigated adaption this challenge especially in rural areas and among vulnerable populations.

Our Areas of Focus



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Yaya Sumareh
Chairman of the board



Mr. Sait Matty Jaw
Vice Chairman



Nfamara Jawneh
Executive Director



Mrs. Dandang York
Treasurer



Gabriel Bangura
Member



Fanding Barrow
Member



STAFF OF BEAKANYANG

MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS A REALITY FOR ALL!

➤ **Ending FGM/C in a generation**

Due to the high prevalence of FGMC and other gender based violence issues, especially in URR, Beakanyang in 2019 established a gender based violence, (GBV Unit) that look into issues affecting the lives of women and children and worked closely with partners and communities towards addressing GBV. This policy focus came as a result of increased violence against women into in the country including rape and FGMC. As a result a national program officer was appointed for the unit who has since then being leading the departments activities in the communities

The organization incorporated Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting FGM/C as a program focus issue, the decision is part of Beakanyang's continued efforts towards

ending all forms of human rights violations in the country including FGM/C. Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting FGM/C has been categorized as a human rights violation by the United Nations.

Beakanyang as a leading human rights organization in the country, deemed it fitting to add its voice to the chorus to calls of bringing to a successful end this harmful practice in a generation, and it successfully did just that in many places in the country where numerous sensitizations helped to convince many to desist from this practice.

The numerous community outreach programs organized for especially young people and women in the Upper River and West Coast Regions on the harmful effects of FGM/C are a case in point.

Airtimes were bought at various community radios to raise more awareness about the practice; this was done in partnership with the local nurses who have been sharing the health implications of the practice.

After all these activities, a new partnership was later forged with the National Youth Council through UNICEF funding, to help intensify our advocacy on FGM/C especially in URR.

However, despite many years of intervention by civil society organizations and other actors towards ending FGM/C, the practice remains very high in some parts of the country especially in rural areas, particularly URR. Beakanyang therefore wishes to carry on with more engagement on FGM/C and also calls for concerted efforts to end this harmful practice a generation.



West Coast Region Youth at our FGM/C TRAINING

➤ Taking Human Rights Education to Schools

When it comes to championing human rights education in the country, Beakanyang is the name that comes to mind, this is as a result of the numerous human rights programs it organizes at various places. The move is part of Beakanyang strategy of using the schools system to promote human rights education in the country.

Numerous workshops, seminars and lectures on human rights were held in various schools across the country were held. Through this, we have reached over twenty one thousand students across the country through our human rights lecture series.

During these events many human rights clubs were established and this has helped the organization to reach out to thousands of students with human rights knowledge. Over six thousand copies of the simplified version of UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights were distributed to Gambian schools thanks to the generous support of Youth for Human Rights International (YHRI).



This has made many Gambian students in the country to become aware of their fundamental human rights and could confidently claim their rights and defy any attempt to abuse such rights thanks to Beakanyang and YHRI.



Meanwhile according to school authorities, issues such as bullying are becoming a thing of the past in most schools in the country especially places where Beakanyang established rights clubs.



Students at these schools have been learning about the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and various local legislations promoting child rights.

Int' Huamn Rights Day; Beakanyang meet the press

On the 10th of December ever year, Beakanyang joins the world to observe International Human Rights Day; the day is meant to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which turns 71 years this year.

Beakanyang has been part of this celebration since 2011 by staging series of activities, which sometimes take a whole week.

In 2019, it started the commemoration with a presser at its office in Bambo, Serrekunda, followed by series of activities.



L-R Ms Fatoumatta Janneh (Admin & Finance Officer), Nfamara Jawneh (Executive Director), Buba S. Njie, (Program Assistant) and Mr Tumani Danjo (Program Officer) at the 2019 Human Rights Day Commemoration press conference

Several media houses including The Point Newspaper, Voice Newspaper, Standard Newspaper, DHLK Radio, Foroyaa Newspaper, Choice FM Radio and Dakar based West Africa Democracy Radio, were all in attendance.

During the press conference, the organization while acknowledging the number of strides registered by government in guaranteeing some rights, reiterated its call for the respect of all rights as contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution.

The members of the press also were briefed by various Departments of the organization on the country's human rights situation and were also informed about the prevalence of certain restrictive laws that discourages peaceful protests and criticism of authorities, not to mention the use of excessive force by security forces to disperse peaceful protesters when staged as well as gender-based.

➤ Human Rights Campaign to Markets

Cognizant of the large number of people who visit markets on daily basis, the organization in February 2019 targeted the Serrekunda Market in the Kanifing Municipality, Coastal Road Market in West Coast Region and Basse Market in the Upper River Region. The three markets were visited to sensitize people in these places about human rights.

The market outreach activities were organized in partnership with Youth for Human Rights The Gambia to enlighten the market vendors, buyers, pedestrians, police officers and all other market users about the UN UDHR as well as to encourage them to sign a human rights implementation petition banner.



During the outreach, human rights booklets were also distributed to the masses, this was followed by a short distance walk for human rights.



Human Rights Message Delivered at the Farms

During the rainy season, all roads lead to farms where people from all walks of lives gather to cultivate their crops, aware of this, the farms especially those in the West Coast Region were targeted by Beakanyang in 2019, the purpose was to sensitize them about human rights and provide them with more information as to how they could seek for redress when their rights are being violated.



Beakanyang Executive Director teaching a farmer at his watermelon farm at Tubakuta village

The visits provides an opportunity to farmers who may not have time to attend human rights workshops and seminars in their communities due to their work.

Booklets were donated to participants who also took time to express their concerns with the team. Farmers in villages like Kuloro, Mandinaba and Tubakuta hailed Beakanyang for reaching out to them all the way at their farms.



Program Officer Tumani Danjo addressing Women on the rice fields.

➤ **Using sports to spread the message of human rights**

From the Farms, the team of human rights educators shifted focus on sports. Since the launch of sports for human rights in 2018 by Beakanyang, the use of sports as an avenue to promote human rights among youth has been gaining momentum and expanding to various communities.

The strategy seeks to reach out to the youth who are most of the time busy playing football and consequently having little time to attend human rights workshops and conferences organize by Beakanyang.

During this engagement, football teams in Upper River and West Coast Regions were educated on human rights before and after football matches. They were also provided with human rights materials as a means of getting a grasp of what the topic human rights is all about.



**Mr Tumani Danjo,
Program Officer of
Beakanyang addressing
women farmers at their
rice fields.**

➤ Recognizing Media Partners, Human Rights Champions

In appreciation of the valuable support it continues to receive from the local media, Beakanyang in December 2019 awarded five of its media partners. The outlets include The Point Newspaper, Standard, The Voice Newspaper, QTV and Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS). These outlets were subsequently named as Human Rights Press Friendly Institutions in The Gambia.



Human Rights Hero Mr. Madi Jobarteh receiving his award from Board Members of Beakanyang

In the same vein, two human rights activists were also recognized as a human rights champion and human rights hero respectively.

The duo are Mr. Madi Jobarteh and Mr. Alhagie Jassey who were selected from a pool of shortlisted names.

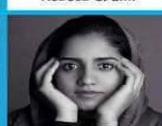
Madi Jobarteh, the human rights hero award recipient was visibly pleased with the award he was conferred on. To him the only fight worth fighting for is to ensure human dignity and respect.

Beakanyang Director Breaks into World's Top 100 Human Rights Defenders

The award is also a challenge for the Executive Director to do more for the country and mankind in general by making sure every individual enjoys his or her fundamental human rights.



COMING UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-RFT ANNOUNCES
TOP 100 RECOGNISED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS-2019 ALMANAC

				 H.E. Jacinda Ardern	 Kevin-Prince Boateng	 Femi Falana	 Syed Ali Shah Geelani
 Ms. Greta Thunberg (Sweden)	 Dr. Delois Blakely (Queen Mother)- USA	 Dr. Gballe Daniel Chidubem (Nigeria)	 Nfamara Jawno Jawneh (Gambia)	 Ms. Adama Kalokoh	 Malala Yousefzai	 Ramatu Ahmed	
 Amber Heard	 Doris G. Toyou	 Boby Wine Lede	 Rebeca Gyumi	 Joenia Wapichana Roraima	 Hillary Taylor	 Robdarius Brown	
 Khurram Parvez	 Xiuhtezcafl Martínez	 Bana Alabed	 Sonifa Alizadeh	 H.E. Amb. Munir Akram	 Jamie Marsofin	 Imran Khan	

On December 10, on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the executive director of Beakanyang Nfamara Jawneh, set an unprecedented world record. Mr Jawneh was in 2019 recognized by the International Human Rights Commission-RFT as part of the ‘Top 100 recognized human rights defenders in the world.

Jawneh has been part of the progress of the organization by offering free human rights education to people in remote communities and schools and continue to

speak against all forms of human rights violations in the country.

The groundbreaking success was a major recognition to Mr Jawneh, Beakanyang and The Gambia. It shows that despite its size, the country can always dominate headlines globally for the good reasons.

Beakanyang takes human rights to global level

The Executive Director, Nfamara Jawneh in July 2019 during the 16th annual International Human Rights Summit at the UN Headquarters in New York, addressed the world on human rights violations across the globe.

The suppression of political opponents in many African countries in particular and issues of discrimination among minorities were the main highlights of his speech.

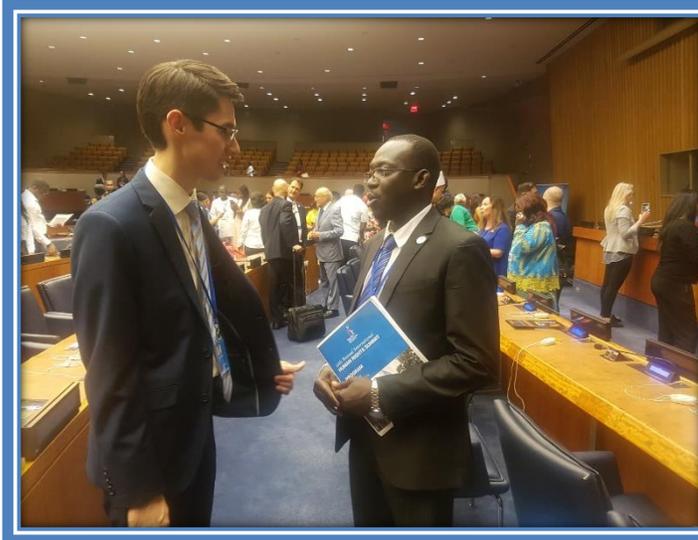
Jawneh briefed delegates about the significant achievements registered by Beakanyang in 2019 which saw a significant increase in the number of Gambians being educated about their rights through the work of Beakanyang.

On the home front: After 22 years of dictatorship during which the country witnessed gross human rights violations, Nfamara thinks people must unite to ensure such things do not happen in the country again.

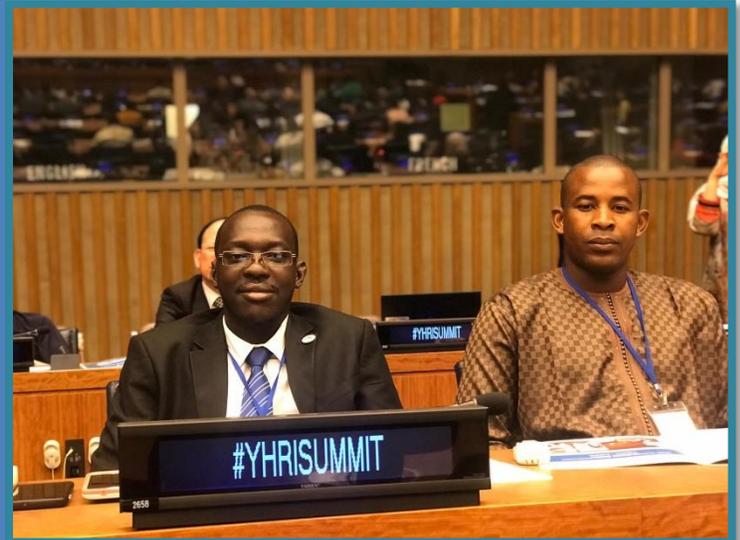
Director believes that the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission, Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC), Constitution Review Commission and Security Sector Reform processes as clear indication of a political will and commitment by the government to safeguard human rights and this is highly commendable.

However despite all these achievements and many others, human rights violations such as gender base violence, discrimination especially among the Sarahulle ethnic group, problems of freedom of assembly and peaceful protest etc. still persist in the country.

In the coming years, Beakanyang envisages at bringing human rights education to every community in the country most especially hard to reach areas.



Director Jawneh exchanging words with Mr Ruslan Khusainov, Executive Director of YHRI



Beakanyang Delegation at the International Human Rights Summit at the UN

It's however evident that the organization needs the continue support of development partners including the National Youth Council, Youth for Human Rights International and UN Agencies to keep accompanying us in consolidating the Gambia's democracy while building the culture of human rights in the West African nation.

Promoting Political Tolerance and Pluralism in The Gambia

Since president Yahya Jammeh left office in January 2017, unexpected political tension have been mounting between the ruling and opposition parties that might derail political transition progress, including the constitutional review and truth and reconciliation. To minimize the possibility of societal clashes which could spill over into the next election cycle , Beakanyang with support from the International Republican Institute, IRI, embarked on series of community engagements in collaboration with multi-party and multi-ethnic platforms-including but not

limited to political parties, regional inter-party Youth Committee (IPYCs), multi-party National Assembly caucuses, Area Councils, the Inter-party Committee(IPC) on the benefits and importance of the political pluralism and tolerance, conflict resolution and peace message development.

The multi-partisan and multi-ethnic events that brought together Gambians from diverse backgrounds and that serve to identify and address potential or festering issues that threaten community cohesion.

Activities carried under this project includes:

- Pre-*bantaba* orientation workshop for *Bantaba* facilitators and other critical stakeholders
- District Bantabas
- Radio Talk Shows
- Unity Festival

➤ Pre-Bantaba Orientation Workshop

In August 2019, Beakanyang hosted and organized a pre-*bantaba* (forum) orientation workshop for *Bantaba* facilitators and other critical stakeholders at the Regional Agricultural Office Hall in Basse in the Upper River Region.

The purpose of the event was to sensitize prospective *bantaba* speakers and facilitators on political tolerance and pluralism as well as to develop peace messages for *bantabas*.

The event was graced by deputy governor of Upper River Region, political parties, National Assembly Members, Chief of Basse, Inter-Party Youth Committee and Lady Councilors.



Dignitaries at the Orientation



Cross –section of participants at pre-bantaba

CIVIC EDUCATION; BRINING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO EMBRACE PEACE

In November 2019, Beakanyang hosted four community Bantabas across the Upper River Region. The Bantabas were held in Wuli West, Jimara, Sandu and Kantora Districts.

The four Bantabas were attended by 410 participants including 120 females and 290 males, 195 youth and 215 adults from diverse backgrounds within the districts including representatives of different political parties active in the region such as GDC, GMC, APRC, GMC, PDOIS, NCP and NRP. Meanwhile, religious leaders such as Imams, village chiefs known as Alkalolu, IPYC members, youth groups etc. were also in attendance.

It was vividly clear that there have been a sharp increase in conflict amongst the supporters of different political parties in all the Districts thus the purpose of the Bantabas. The Bantabas (dialogue forums) seek to promote political tolerance and pluralism in the The Gambia and was funded by International Republican Institute (IRI).

The Bantabas began with formal opening ceremonies by local dignitaries followed by open and frank discussions among participants. It also provided a unique opportunity for dialogue and reconciliation in the communities. The victims of former regime and perpetrators used the forums to seek for forgiveness.



High table at Wuli Banataba L-R Mr Jawneh, MP Hon.Seedia Jatta of Wuli West, Imam Kemo Touray of Kuwonkunding



Kantora Bantaba at Fatoto



Jimara Peace Bantaba at Hella Kunda



Sandu Peace Bantaba held at Diabugu Village

Using Culture to promote Peace and Social Cohesion in URR

In November 2019, Beakanyang with support from International Republican Institute, IRI organized a Unity Festival in Sutukonding Village in the Upper River Region (URR) of The Gambia to promote political tolerance and social cohesion in the region.



Sutukonding showcasing traditional married



Mandinka Masquerade from Kanubeh, Jimara District of URR



Cultural Display

The festival first of its kind in the region was called URR Unity Festival #URR Kankiling and attracted participants from all over the region.

Held on November, 28th, 2019, the festival attracted hundreds of spectators and cultural groups from across the Upper River Region.

It attracted participants from various political parties, tribes, young and lasted till late in the morning with various cultural and tribal groups displaying their rich cultures.

During the festival, peace committee of Wuli West, Jimara, Sandu and Kantora that were elected at the peace bantabas were formally inaugurated.

Festival Testimonies

Alhagie Jambo Camara-PDOIS: *“We are very excited to host this event here in Sutukonding. We thank Beakanyang and IRI for the initiative. We are indeed inspired to maintain peace. We must learn to tolerate each other and that has always being the stand of our party”.*

Ousman Jallow-GMC: *“First of all congratulations for having a successful festival and bring together all political actors and tribes in the region to discuss about political tolerance and celebrate diversity. He urges all participants to take the festival very seriously and make good use of the messages coming from the speakers. He finally advises the participants of the festival to unite because are the only way to bring and maintain peace.”*

Banding Trawalleh-UDP *We are happy to grace this occasion and we thank you for your foresight. We actually need more of this kind of events in the region if possible every year. I would like to encourage the Peace Committees you formed in various districts to be very proactive and continue the conversation from where Beakanyang stopped.”*

Jarega Sabally-GDC: *“I want to thank the Alkalo of Sutukonding and elders for their support to make the festival very successful. This festival alone is a clear manifestation of Beakanyang efforts in uniting the people of Upper River Region and the Gambia at large,”*

Meanwhile, live radio coverage of the festival has also helped in reaching out to hundreds of listeners from across URR and beyond.

Various speakers used public address system to address the festival participants in delivering their peace messages while the cultural groups use drums and songs to communicate their messages.

For the people of the region, the unity festival will go a long way to promote peace and settle internal conflicts in Upper River Region (URR). - Promoting peace through our diverse culture is amazing and shall be meaningful.

Several cultures there were not known to many people in the region where showcased to the amazement of spectators.

Various people from different ethnicities and political parties for the first time interacted and rejoiced together at the festival.

Political parties and tribal groups present at the end of festival pledged their commitment to maintaining peace in the region.

Most festival participants narrated that the festival has no doubt increased knowledge and understanding of political tolerance and pluralism among them. At its review meeting, the organizing committee rated the festival to be 98 percent successful while for some participants like Mrs Manneh Kijera, a women leader, its 100 percent successful.

Activity Reached

Women	261
Men	211
Youth	189
Persons with Disability	4
Total	401



Sutukonding showcasing traditional married



Cross-section of spectators and women cultural groups from Bajonkoto



Representatives of Political parties seated behind and in front of them are Bajonkoto Cultural group

Notable participants at the festival include; representative of the Head Chief of Wuli West Mamadou Jallow, Alkalo of Sutukonding Mawdo Jatta, Alkalo of Taibatou Mbemba Jabby, Councilor of Sutukonding Ward Mr Alhagie Kijera, Mr Alieu Kebbeh Chairperson of URR Inter-Party Youth Committee, Mrs Mariama Trawalleh, Female Representative at Basse Area Council, Mr. Abu Saho, Manager GRTS Radio Basse, Mr. Kebba Sillah Executive Director of Wuli and Sandu Association for Development, Director of Tumana Agency for Development Mr. Muhammed Drammeh, representative of the director of TOSTAN Mr.Kaw Kanteh and Nfamara Jawneh, Executive Director of Beakanyang as well as regional and district chairpersons of various political parties.

Activity Reached

Women	261
Men	140
Youth	189
Persons with Disability	4
Total	401

➤ Civic Education; using Community Radios to Promote Peace

Throughout the month of November, Beakanyang hosted hour-long radio talk shows radio stations on political tolerance and pluralism in The Gambia at Basse community radio in the Upper River Region (URR).

The live phoning programmes were held at outlets such as: GRTS Radio in Basse, URR, they gave listeners the opportunity to participate in the peace advocacy efforts being spearheaded by Beakanyang in the region with support from our long standing partner, the International Republican Institute, IRI.



Beakanyang staff members at the studio



The programs featured panelists including; National Assmby Member for Wuli West Hon. Seedia S. Jatta, National Assembly Member for Jimara Hon. Alhagie Sowe, Mr Alieu Kebbeh Chairperson of URR Inter-Party Youth Committee, Ms Tida Damba of Inter-party Youth Committee (IPYC), Mrs Mariama Trawalleh, Female Representative at Basse Area Council, Mr. Abu Saho, Manager GRTS Radio Basse, Mr Tumani Danjo Program Manager of Beakanyang and Nfamara Jawneh, Executive Director of Beakanyang.



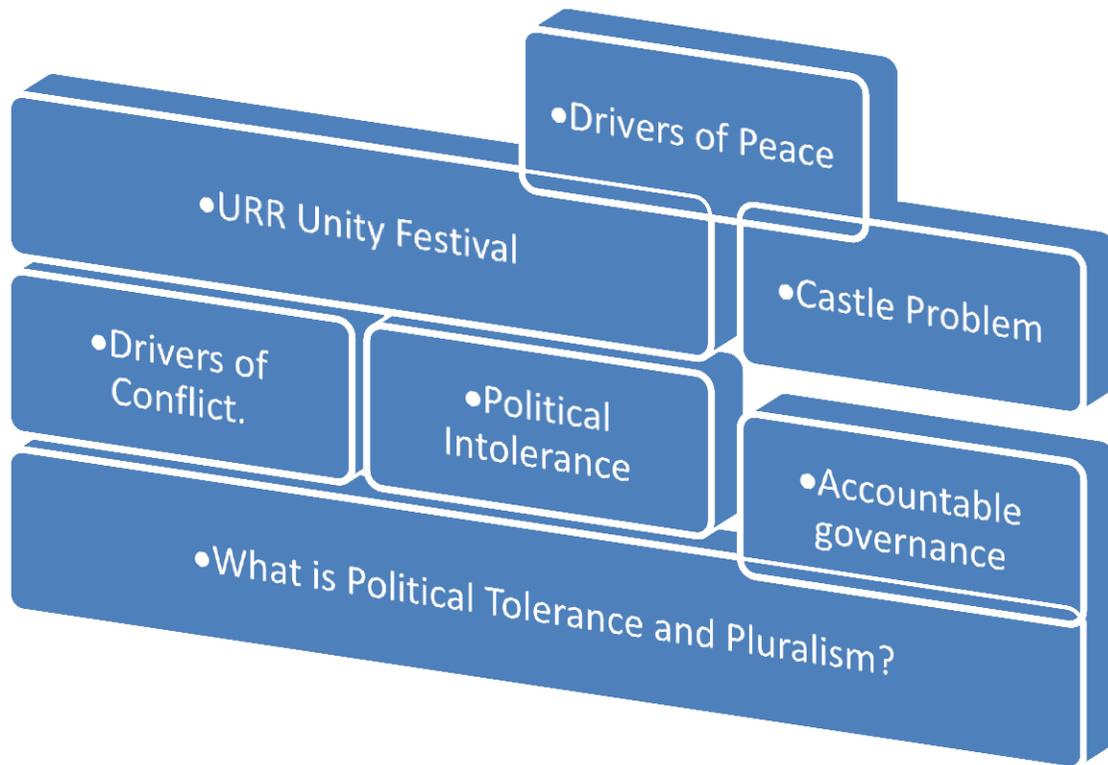
Meanwhile, several callers including both men and women from across the Upper River Region contributed to the shows.



Hon. Seedia Jatta, NAM for Wuli West & ED Jawneh at the studio

The callers highlighted the need to organize such programs on radio stations, to sensitize the masses about the importance of peace. The talk shows also provided an opportunity for people to engage their National Assembly members on critical national issues.

Some of the topics discussed during the talk shows include:



Activity Reached

Women	11,500
Men	16,700
Total	28,200

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ON DRAFT CRC CONSTITUTION

In December 2019, at St. Perter's Technical Senior Secondary School in Lamin, Beakanyang with support from International Republican Institute, IRI, convened a daylong draft constitutional review meeting for youths in West Coast Region and Kanifing Municipality respectively.

Over 120 participants mainly school going boys and girls attended the interactive forum led by Mr. Gabriel Bangura, Beakanyang's Legal Adviser.

The review of the draft by citizens came following the release of the first draft of the constitution by Constitutional Review Commission, CRC in November 2019, which opens a window of opportunity for Gambians to review the draft and send in their contributions.

This is was rear opportunity for all Gambians to partake in the drafting of the new constitution and forms parts of our collective efforts to consolidate democracy in this country. The participants were also encouraged to attend CRC public consultations in their communities in other to put across their views, since this is an opportunity to review the draft and have their views and comments send to the CRC for consideration



Legal Adviser of Beakanyang Mr. Gabriel Bangura addressing participants

Meanwhile, during the review participants deliberated extensively on topics such as age limit, qualification for office of president, educational and work experience qualifications, representation in elective offices, rights and freedoms, elections, and all other sections relevant to the youth. At the end of the forum, a youth position paper was developed and submitted to the CRC for consideration.

Activity Reached:

Number of Female	78
Number of Male	39
People with Disability	3
Total number of participants	120

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The Environment Unit of Beakanyang in 2019 implemented a series of activities under the project dubbed: Promoting Economic Empowerment and Strengthening the Capacity of Women with Disabilities to Adapt to Climate Change in Wuli.

The project supported by the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Program of UNDP targets 100 disable women in 10 communities across Wuli West and Wuli East.

Activities implemented under this project include:

- Training of Traditional Communicators on climate change messages disseminate.
- Training of women with disabilities on Omo and Soap Making.
- Provision of startup capitals to disable women as a revolving fund.
- Climate change awereness raising campaign caravan.

Traditional communicators on Climate Change Communication

Cognizant of the important role traditional communicators' play in information and message dissemination, Beakanyang focused this training of 8 traditional communicators mainly women with disabilities on climate change message dissemination and behavioral change communication.

The training held at Nyakoi Upper Basic & Senior Secondary School in Wuli West district of Upper River Region lasted for four days.



Climate change is real and communities must take a proactive role in addressing the challenge posed by the climate change. Community actions by the grassroots organizations like Beakanyang in its climate change mitigation and adaptation is crucial.

The windstorms that destroyed several houses and claimed lives in Wuli and other parts of URR and CRR at the beginning of the rainy season, as some of these effects, could be attributed to climate change impact; as a result, these participants have noted with great pleasure the importance of this training.

Traditional communicators are well known for their creativity and ability to effect change through their powerful messages, songs, drama and dance, their involvement in this event could help in the dissemination of the message of climate.

The Gambia Association of the Deaf and Head of Hearing (GADHOH) for instance, has been providing the necessary technical support towards the successful convening of the training.

The training was conducted by a retired agricultural expert Mr Mustapha Sanneh who is also a trainer of traditional communicators.

Activity Reached

Women	7
Men	1
Youth	2
Persons with Disability	7
Total	10

➤ Livelihoods Skills training for women with disabilities

Some 100 women with disabilities from at least ten communities in the Upper River Region benefited from a livelihoods skills training courtesy of Beakanyang. The trainings were held at Baja Kunda in Wuli East and Madina Koto in Wuli West respectively.

Participants include the physically challenged, visually impaired and hard of hearing women from communities such as Barrow Kunda, Banjonkoto, Sutukonding, Kussy, Manakoto Keita, Chamoi Bunda, Baja Kunda, Taibatou, Jah Kunda and Boro Knada Kasseh.

The activity is in fulfillment of the project objective of providing women with disabilities with relevant entrepreneurship skills to become economically independent so as to adapt to climate change.



Disable women at the training

The training provided women with new livelihood skills and also empowered them to become economically independent.

It has been realized that persons with disabilities especially women in the two districts lacked sufficient information about

climate change, yet they continue to bear the burden of its effects and therefore needs to be actively involved in both mitigation and adaptation at community level.

Persons with disabilities, PWDs especially disabled women must be active participants in planning, implementation and monitoring of climate change policies and actions. Barriers to active participation must be removed and capacity-building programs like this one must be scaled up.



Climate Change Orientation Session ahead of skills training sessions

Climate change programs also must help in removing barriers such as inaccessible communication and information, stigma, physical access and, at the same time, addressing specific requirements through more individualized support.

The access to climate change information through innovative means PWDs will also continue to remain active in the climate change mitigation and adaptation actions at the local level and beyond.

The Beakanyang is of the view that disable women have to be involved in the climate discourse like this one, so they will be able to generate income to adapt.

Participants were equally pleased with the training, they believe it will help them to venture into their own businesses and make more income.

Activity Reached

Women	100
Men	4
Youth	10
Persons with Disability	100
Total	114

➤ Annual Tree Planting

Annually, Beakanyang through its Environment Unit, plants hundreds of fruit and non-fruit trees in various communities across Upper River Region.

This year, the annual tree planting exercise began at the Kerewan woodlot. The 2- hectare wood garden was established with the support from Beakanyang way back in 2018.

Women taking the lead in the reforestation efforts



Community members especially women and children joined the Beakanyang team which include board members for the exercise.



Women were happy to participate in the restoration of the environment while helping to reduce greenhouse gas emission.

Engagement with Government

In line with its tradition of ensuing proactive engagement with the government, Beakanyang, met with various senior government officials to discuss issues of common concern as well as to brief the about the work of the organization.

Several high profile courtesy calls were made during the year under review, they include a meeting with the Vice President Dr. Isatou Touray at the State House in Banjul, before then there was another meeting with the former vice president Mr. Ousainu Darboe. The team also met with the Minister of Youth and Sports Hadrameh Sidibeh at his office in Banjul. Other officials present at that meeting include the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports and Deputy Permanent Secretary of Youth and Sports, Mrs. Ndey Marie Njie and Mr. Abdoulie Kah respectively.

The organization also while attending the International Human Rights Summit in New York, USA had an audience with the Gambia's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, H.E Lang Yarbou. The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss the work of Beakanyang, particularly human rights, good governance, respect for rule of law and environmental sustainability.



Beakanyang staff with former VP Ousainou Darboe



Director Jawneh handing over human rights booklets to former vice president Darboe

The new dispensation under the leadership of President Adama Barrow seems ready and fully committed to protecting and promoting human rights if what these officials have said is anything to go by. The various reforms going on in the country such as TRRC, CRC, NHRC, Security Sector reform etc. are some of the examples to this.



VP Dr Isatou Touray with Beakanyang delegation

Government also reaffirmed government's commitment in creating an enabling environment for civil society organizations like Beakanyang to complement her development endeavors. Beakanyang was especially commended for working with schools and providing them with human rights educational materials to help in building human rights culture in the country.



Jawneh with NYC ED Lamin Darboe L-R Omar Wally media aid to Beakanyang, Hon. Ambassador Lang Yarbou & Nfamara Jawneh, ED Beakanyang

Continuing our engagement with government on key policy issues, we also met with the Executive Director of the Gambia National Youth Council and the Deputy Governor of Upper River Region in their respective offices.

The meetings accorded us the opportunity to discuss the intervention of the organization in URR and in the area of youth empowerment.

Deputy Governor Samba is very much appreciative of the NGO's intervention in the region especially in empowering women and youth.



Minister of Youth & Sports Hrammeh Sidibeh, Nfmara Jawneh, ED Beakanyang

During a meeting with the Gambia National Council, NYC, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two organizations to further strengthen cooperation.



Deputy Governor of URR Mr. Samba Bah with ED Jawneh

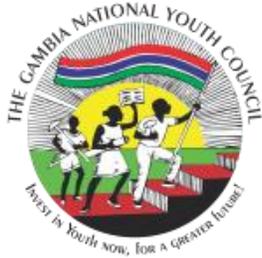
Beakanyang Director Named among World's Top 100 Human Rights Defenders

COMING UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-RFT ANNOUNCES
TOP 100 RECOGNISED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS-2019 ALMANAC



			
H.E. Jacinda Ardern	Kevin-Prince Boateng	Femi Falana	Syed Ali Shah Geelani
			
Ms. Greta Thunberg (Sweden)	Dr. Delois Blakely (Queen Mother)- USA	Dr. Gbulie Daniel Chidubem (Nigeria)	Nfamara Jawno Jawneh (Gambia)
			
Ms. Adama Kalokoh	Malala Yousefzai	Ramatu Ahmed	
			
Amber Heard	Doris G. Toyou	Bobby Wine Lede	Rebeca Gyumi
			
Joenia Wapichana Roraima	Hillary Taylor	Robdarius Brown	
			
Khurram Parvez	Xiuhtezcaltl Martinez	Bana Alabed	Sonita Alizadeh
			
H.E. Amb. Munir Akram	Jamie Margolin	Imran Khan	

Our Partners



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