



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

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Tallinding

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Forward



Nfamara Jawneh
Executive Director
Beakanyang

The year 2017 has been a very progressive year for Beakanyang in our quest to impact positively on the livelihoods of Gambians and non-Gambians resident in the country through our various programs and projects.

Human rights clubs were formed in various schools across the country, new partnerships were established and community projects were also initiated to fulfill rights and improve livelihoods.

We took advantage of the new democracy in the country by reengaging the ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to promote human rights education.

Our governance unit is poised to continue carrying out more activities and community entanglements it started this year such as engaging Members of Parliament on National Budget Transparency, enhancing more women political participation and decision-making and anti-corruption initiatives.

Every day, we strive to ensure and improve human rights and sustainable livelihoods in The Gambia. In a partnership between Beakanyang and Gambia Police Force, we are looking forward to placing human rights at the heart of the police force.

In this report, we also provide a brief insight into our work both at local and national levels. You can read more about our work for the year under review in the following pages:

ABOUT BEAKANYANG

Beakanyang was established in November 2004, in Barrow Kunda Village in Wuli West District, Upper River Region of The Gambia. Beakanyang is a not-for-profit, non-political and independent human rights and developmental non-governmental organization. Its operations include human rights, fostering good governance, environmental preservation, youth & women empowerment as well as other development initiatives that guarantee 'Equal Opportunities for All'.

It's registered with the Ministry of Justice and the NGO Affairs Agency as a full-fledged charitable organization with a registration number: A64 NGO, and moments later with The Gambia National Youth Council (NYC) as a national youth organization.

Over the years, the Organization has created a society of inclusive growth and meaningful development where women and young people are engaged, informed and inspired to take up the challenge to develop the country in various ways and means. Such as: entrepreneurship, skills development and political participation.

The organization is headed by an Executive Director assisted by a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who help in its day-to-day operations.

Beakanyang is also an all-inclusive and decentralized organization which strives to give a face-lift to the underprivileged people who are mostly found in remote communities, as a result, its head office is situated in Churchill's Town, Greater Banjul Area whilst its Field Office is hundred miles away in Barrow Kunda village in Wuli West District, Upper River Region. This makes outreach and implementation of programs easier, more effective and successful.

Areas of intervention

Beakanyang's main areas of intervention like mentioned in the preamble include:

- Human rights and good governance
- Environmental preservation and protection
- Youth and Women Empowerment

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Beakanyang has a penchant for human rights promotion, since it is with the conviction that human rights are key to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals, peace and natural security. To do just, the organization has been actively participating in the fight to consign to the past, 22 years of dictatorship which brought about, arbitrary arrests & detentions, extra judicial killings as well as other abuses then. Continuing its roll call for Human Rights protections, good governance and environmental protection in the Gambia, Beakanyang is working with communities, women & youth groups, government & non- government agencies to do just that.

A shining example is a lined-up of successful activities carried out in the year under review (2017), they were primarily aimed at advancing human rights, democratic governance and mitigating the effects of climate change in the country.

Beakanyang was overwhelmed by a flurry of activities during the year under review (2017). The organization was aware of the already leveled democratic plain field it worked so hard for, and didn't waste time to literary hit the road running, with its fully loaded programs.

BEAKANYANG MEETS FOLLOW THE MONEY



On May 15, 2017, Beakanyang's Executive Director Mr. Nfamara Jawneh, received in audience, Mr. Marr Nyang, the founder and CEO of 'Follow The Money Organization in The Gambia' in his office at Churchill's Town. Mr. Nyang's visit was anchored on tapping into the reservoir of knowledge of Beakanyang's Chief regarding the operations of the NGO citing numerous activities embarked upon by Beakanyang over the years to advance democracy, human rights and community development.

This according to the founder of 'Follow The Money Organization' inspired him to join the advocacy for democracy and good governance in the country, he then wasted no time to suggest possibilities of establishing collaboration with Beakanyang which was later approved off by the two parties. Responding to Mr. Nyang's comments, the Executive Director of Beakanyang Nfamara Jawneh commended him for joining the

pro-human rights and good governance band wagon as well as his visit to the organization. Mr. Jawneh assured him of his support adding that his doors remain open for possible partnership with like-minded organizations like his.

The visit then hatched plans to track the use of public funds by those entrusted with them. The move is necessitated to propel national development and inform the populace about public expenditure. The two are with the belief that, national development has been seriously undermined due to alleged misuse of public wealth and that tracking public expenditure will minimize corruption.

NYAKOI, KEREWAN BADALA CHILDREN TRAINED ON HUMAN RIGHTS



In May 2017, The Executive Director of Beakanyang and his Program Officer facilitated a training session for children of Nyakoi and Kerewan Badala Lower Basic Schools in Wuli.

The children were camped for their annual visit to the Greater Banjul Area an opportunity the organization used to train them on their rights.

It was held at Old Yundum Lower Basic School in West Coast Region where kids and their teachers had the opportunity to learn more about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

LAUNCHING OF KUNKUJANG KEITA LOWER BASIC SCHOOL HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB

Continuing its advocacy for Human Right's Protection in a new democratic dispensation, Beakanyang launched a human rights club on June 23, 2017, at Kunkujang Keitaya Lower Basic School in West Coast Region.

The launch of the first school-based human rights club by the Organization also witnessed a



lecture on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights by Mr. Tumani Danjo, Program Officer of Beakanyang.

Danjo informed students about the organization's change of policy from the teaching students about human rights to institutionalization of its programme in schools by way of creating school based human rights

clubs to enhance greater impact and sustainability. The objective of the programme was to enhance students' knowledge and understanding about their rights and responsibilities thus promoting positive social change in communities.

Human rights booklets were distributed to students who equally expressed delight at taking part in the event. The teacher coordinator of the club, Mr. Lamin Daffeh commanded Beakanyang for bringing the programme to the school. He promised to do his utmost to sustain the club thus making it the best in the school.

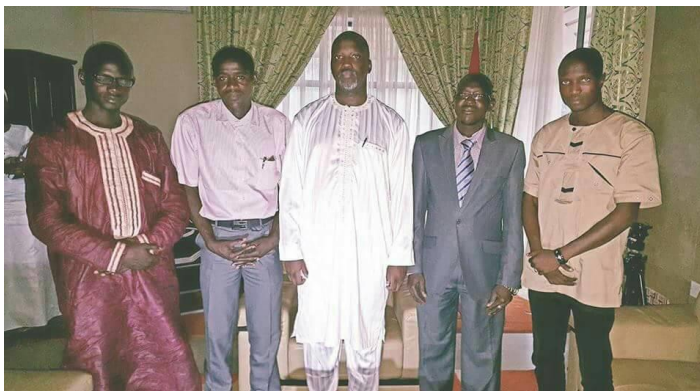
LAUNCHING OF SERREKUNDA LOWER BASIC SCHOOL HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB



From Kunkujang Katriya Lower Basic School in the West Coast Region to Serrekunda Lower Basic School. Here (in Serrekunda Lower Basic School) over 200 copies of Universal Declaration for Human and People's rights (UDHR) booklets, teacher manuals, posters and CDs were distributed to the students.

The notable attendees at the launch were Mr. Nfamara Jawneh Executive Director of Beakanyang and Mr. Ceesay Head teacher of Serrekunda Lower Basic School.

BEAKANYANG ENGAGES AUTHORITIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS



Beakanyang Officials with Minister of Justice

and frank discussion.

Conscious of the fact that the government is the primary duty bearer in protecting, promoting and upholding human rights of peoples, Beakanyang in August 2017 paid a courtesy visit to the ministers of Justice and Interior respectively.

The meetings were with the duo at their respective ministries and availed Beakanyang to engage them in an open

The two top government officials reaffirmed the regime's resolve in protecting and promoting the human rights of citizens.

They were briefed by the executive director of Beakanyang and country coordinator of Youth for Human Rights The Gambia Mr.Nfamara Jawneh on the activities of the organization in the country.

Ba Tamedou, for his part, applauded Beakanyang for educating Gambians about their rights noting that education is key in promoting human rights. According to him, as the host of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the government would restore The Gambia's leadership role in promoting and protecting human rights.

The Interior minister Mai Fatty said the first six months of Barrow's administration has witnessed unprecedented developments with regards to respecting the rights of citizens.

He cited the mass prisoner released and improvement of their conditions, establishment of an impartial judiciary, security sector reforms and free speech being enjoyed by Gambians among others.



Beakanyang Officials with Minister of Interior

Responding to queries from Beakanyang officials, Minister Fatty said in new Gambia police do hardly arbitrary arrest anyone and they have provided unlimited access to prisons by human rights organizations to visit prisoners and observe their living conditions. He commended Beakanyang for engaging his Ministry and assured that the government would continue to protect the dignity of Gambians saying human rights is at the center of the government's development agenda.

Both ministers have disclosed that they have human rights units at their various ministries to promote human rights in the country and to handle alleged human rights cases.

BEAKANYANG ON BUDGET TRANSPARENCY



Budget campaigners at the radio station

In December 2017, Beakanyang in collaboration with Gambia Participate under the aegis of CSO Coalition on Budget Transparency hosted series of radio programs in the Greater Banjul Area.

The Panelists for the radio talk shows include National Assembly members, representatives of Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), CSO representatives, activists and journalists.

Topics discussed during the programs were; what is National Budget? What is Budget Cycle? Priorities of ordinary Citizens. The panel discussions were held at Capital FM on Kairaba Avenue and West Coast Radio in Manjai Kunda.

The objective of the program was to encourage citizens to listen to the budget speech, know more about budget and how it's been formulated and to raise their concerns and priority needs ahead of the budget debate in parliament. The callers praised the program and also asked relevant questions regarding the budget.

Radio jingles were also recorded in English, Mandinka, Fulla and Wollof and aired in the two radio stations during and after the talk shows.

The campaign was supported by the International Republican Institute, IRI country office.

BEAKANYANG HOLDS PRE-BUDGET DIALOGUE WITH MPs



On December 1st 2017, Beakanyang convened a daylong pre-budget dialogue meeting with Members of the National Assembly at the International Republican Institute, IRI Office in Fajara.

The pre-budget dialogue breakfast meeting was organised in partnership with Gambia Participate, and attracted about a dozen MPs,

community radio journalists, representatives of private sectors, workers union and CSOs.

Nfamara Jawneh, Executive Director of Beakanyang delivered the welcoming remarks and thanked MPs in particular for attending the important session.

The event was held few weeks ahead of the tabling of the 2018 national budget by Minister of Finance before members of parliament.

The objective was to lobby MPs to factor the priority needs of the ordinary citizens in the budget when debating on it.

Marr Nyang, founder of Gambia Participate, said Gambia participate is a civil organization in the country to promote the right of the Gambians and were happy to partner with Beakanyang on such an important topic.

Robiina Namusisi, country director of IRI, applauded the National Assembly Members, private sector and civil society representatives for attending the pre-budget dialogue meeting.

Honourable Sainey Touray of National Assembly was full of praises for the organisation of the event and assured that the recommendations will be put into consideration.

IRI was commended for funding the dialogue that ended up with recommendations from the participants to MPs for consideration.

It was attended by a cross section of society including key government officials notably the director of budget from Ministry of Finance Mr. Bai Mod Ceesay and program manager of Association of NGOs in Gambia (TANGO) Mr. Madi Jobarteh.

BEAKANYANG HOST YANE MERE FROM SENEGAL



Fast forward in November 2017, Beakanyang hosted its partners from Senegal who were on a two-day exchange visit to The Gambia. As the co-host of the 6-member delegation, Beakanyang facilitated a meeting between the visiting delegation and various Gambian civil society organizations such as the Association of Non-

Governmental Organizations, Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, Peace Ambassadors, Activista, Gambia Has Decided among others.

The delegation discussed the 'MBOKA' project concept with Gambian CSOs which aimed to further strengthen ties between our two countries. The tour began with a briefing at Beakanyang office in Churchill's Town. The delegation commended Beakanyang for the warm reception and hospitality they were accorded during their stay in the country.

The spokesperson of the team Mr. Aliue Sane also thanked Beakanyang and the Gambian Musician Killa Ace on behalf of YANE MARE for the effective coordination of their visit in The Gambia.

Beakanyang director Jawneh thanked the team for the visit and recalled meeting their spokesperson in Canada during an international human rights training where they discussed partnering in the MBOKA project.

BEAKANYANG DIRECTOR ATTENDS IHRTP IN CANADA



Still on its human rights advocacy and capacity building, Beakanyang director participated in the 38 annual International Human Rights Training program (IHRTP) organized by EQUITAS in Montreal, Canada in July 2017. The participation of the organization was in line with its quest to capacitate its members and staff for more

service delivery and better output.

The month-long training availed participants a once-in-lifetime opportunity to become personally acquainted with the Canadian human rights institutions and exchange new methods of human rights teachings in their respective organizations and countries.

The topics covered during the course of the training includes: participatory approach to teaching human rights, evaluating human rights education programs to name just few.

BEAKANYANG BECOMES CPA MEMBER

In our bid to widen up our scope of network and membership to other like minded networks, Beakanyang in September 2016 filled in an application with Child Protection Alliance (CPA) an organizations which promoting the rights of children in the country.

The request was confirmed in August 2017 and Beakanyang has since has been participating in various CPA activities for member organizations.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

BEAKANYANG ATTENDS BUSINESS PLAN WORKSHOP FOR GIRLS

Shortly after gaining membership at CPA, Beakanyang kicked-off its contribution towards promoting the welfare of girls, it was invited by Safe Hands for Girls in partnership with - Population Council to a four-day workshop on Business plan for Girls from the 12th to 15th December 2017 at Kairaba Beach Hotel.

The workshop was seen as an avenue to join and share ideas in order to make a Business plan for girls.

Jaha Dukureh the Director of Save Hand for Girls told the gathering that her organization has great concern for the wellbeing of girls. She explained that Save Hands for Girls believes strongly in working with other partners that have direct contact with communities to help address the problems of girls all over the country.

The Minister of Basic and Secondary Education Mrs. Claudiana Cole called on other players in the advocacy to ensure girls empowerment to emulate the initiative of Safe Hands for Girls noting that government cannot do it alone.

Presentations were made during the four days program, to explain how and what can be done to shape of girl's lives as a foundation for Business plan for girls by Judith Bruce, whilst Eva Roca, Salma Babu and Sophie Soares also made presentations on Reaching most Excluded populations & segments of girls & interrelated Dimensions, poverty & Ill-Health and steps in International Design on population council approach to girl-centered programming. They include highlight of key tools.

Population Council Invites Beakanyang to Roster Tools training for girls

Population Council in partnership with Safe Hand for Girls organized a two training workshop on the Roster tool from Monday 13th to Tuesday the 14th November 2017. The workshop was attended by different youth organization in the Country.

Beakanyang was represented by four staff members namely; Tuman Danjo, Alhagie Lamin Touray, Aja Barrow and Fatou Damba.

The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of the participants on the Girl Roistering tool. The term Girl Roistering tool is about finding the situation or condition of girls in their various communities. During the training participants were taught how to work on ODK Roster electronic form and how to approach people in their various communities and discuss FGM

The participants were divided into group down and were sent to the field to do a four days girl roistering (survey) for four days in two regions namely West Coast Region and Upper River Region respectively. The team in West Coast Region started on Wednesday and covered Brikama, Sibanor and Bwim.

Whilst the Upper River Region team including Beakanyang staff conducted their survey in Nyakoi Sutukonding, Madinakoto, Kerewan and Taibatou all in Wuli West District.

On Saturday the 18th of October, the team went to Gambisara also in URR for the same exercise.

THE ROISTERING (SURVEY) OUTCOMES:

The roistering for girls in Nyakoi shows that: many girls in Nyakoi went to School but few or none of them are involved or participating in any program organized by any organization which means a lot is needed to involve them in advocacy programs

The roistering for girls in Gambisara too shows that many of the girls are not attending English schools and are not also involved in any program from any organization.

The survey also reveals the high prevalence of early marriage and pregnancy Gambisara.

Meanwhile, this is a great concern for Save Hand for Girls and they would like to collaborate with other organization to design or come up with programs that can help the girls in Nyakoi and Gambiasra to be up-to-date

BEAKANYANG AT FFHC CAPACITY BUILDING ON LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE INTERVENTION APPROACH

On April 11th 2017, Beakanyang was invited at a day's forum in GEF OP6 Landscape/Seascape intervention approach for CSOs and NGOs. The program was organized by Freedom from Hunger Campaign (FFHC) and was held at Mansakonko Pakalinding TransGambia Lodge.

Wuri Jallow assured very educative and interesting and didn't fail, it was indeed educative and interactive.

Kebba Bojang and the deputy Governor of the area expressed delight at the turn out of the participants likewise the collaborate efforts of the Groups that are invited to these very important training.

Mr Bojang and other resource persons gave presentations on landscape/seascape conservation approach which was followed by an interactive discussions, question and answer sessions.

BEAKANYANG ATTENDS GREEN CLIMATE FUND SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP

Beakanyang Acting Director at the time, Mr. Tumani Danjo, represented the organization at a sensitization workshop about the Green Climate Fund. The program was organized by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MOFEA) through the Budget Directorate as the National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

In his welcoming remarks Madam Bolaki United Nation representative pointed out for concerted efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate changes at all level. She however invited NGOs to send in their project proposals in order to get funding for climate changes on time.

Lamin Jawara, Permanent Secretary Ministry of National Environmental Agency and Climate Changes said the Gambia has experience drought in the past decade due to that Rural/Urban communities has loosed properties and other goods. During the rainy season he went on, people leaving is disaster prone areas are often affected by flash floods

Yaya Drammeh Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance and Economic affairs said 60% of the population is depending on agriculture so due to that, ten(10)Million dollars for the availability of Green Climate Fund to be given out to NGOs and other partners.

WELCOMING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



Sait Matty Jaw

In July 2017, Beakanyang appointed Sait Matty Jaw as the vice chairperson of its board. Mr.Jaw replaced Mr. Lamin A. Jarju who went for overseas studies. Mr. Jaw holds an MA in Public Administration from the University of Bergen, Norway. He also holds an MA in African History from The University of The Gambia as well as BSC in Political Science from the same University.

With a cumulative experience in youth policy formulation, research, human rights, governance, couple with his academic credentials; Mr Jaw's coming into Beakanyang family has already started to impact positively on its work.

2017 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION IN GAMBIA



Annually, Beakanyang joins the rest of the world to commemorate International Human Rights Day. On December, 10, 2017, during the year under review, the organization commemorated the day with a match pass, lecture and later launched a human rights chapter at Tallinding Annex Lower Basic School in Kanifing Municipality.

Nearly two hundred school children from Tallinding Annex, Nusrat Senior Secondary School and Masroor Senior Secondary School

took part in the colorful celebration.

The procession started from Churchill's town petrol station to the Tallinding Annex Lower Basic School. It was led by Bijilo/Sukuta Scout Band.

In his welcoming remark, Mr Sanyang, the head teacher of the school hammered home the need to promote human rights especially in schools. He reminded the gathering about the need for one to know his or her rights human rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

The Executive Director of Beakanyang, Mr. Nfamara Jawaneh informed the gathering about Beakanyang's activities especially in promoting human rights thanks to the support of partners like the US Embassy, Youth for Human Rights International and Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education.

He announced plans to distribute human rights educational materials to schools and organize national inter-schools human rights quiz competition and training of teachers. Mrs Rose, the teacher coordinator of the Tallinding Annex Human Rights Club, commended Beakanyang and partners for the human rights education support rendered to their school.



UNVEILING OF NUSRAT SENIOR SECONDARY HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB



As part of a six months human rights education project being implemented by Beakanyang with support from US Embassy in Banjul, Beakanyang on Friday 24th November 2017, in collaboration with Youth for Human Rights International and Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education launched a human rights club at Nusrat Senior

Secondary School in Bundung.

The ceremony was graced by Mrs. Sima, Principal Education Officer (PEO) from the Regional Education Directorate Region 1, and Mr Alagie Jarju, Program Officer from Gambia National Youth Council (NYC) and staff of Nusrat.

During the opening ceremony Mr Gaye the teacher coordinator welcomed Beakanyang and dignitaries to the school on behalf of the principal.

He also thanked the organization for choosing the school to benefit from the project which he said was timely and relevant to the students. He further promised that he will work hard to make the program successful in the school.

Alagie Jarju, who represented the NYC Director, hailed Beakanyang, as one of the proactive youth-led organizations in the country that is affiliated to NYC to promote the youth agenda and the council is proud of the organization and its achievements.

Nfamara Jawneh, the executive director of Beakanyang and country coordinator of Youth for Human Rights The Gambia lauded the US Embassy for funding the project as well as the Ministry of Basic Secondary Education for the comprehensive MOU signed between Beakanyang and the Ministry to promote human rights education in schools.

The program targets ten schools across the country and will teach students about their rights and responsibilities.

The project activities include launching of human rights club in schools, distribution of human rights booklets, CDs, posters and manuals, training of Teacher coordinators, international human rights day celebration and a national inter-schools human rights quiz completion.

MASROOR SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL JOINS BEAKANYANG HUMAN RIGHTS FAMILY



In December 2017, Masroor Senior Secondary School joined the Beakanyang human rights family to launch a human rights club in the school.

The establishment of the club was supported by the US Embassy through Beakanyang's promoting human rights education

in schools project.

The club also seeks to help promote culture of peace, human right, good governance and open societies and to serve as public policy voice and advocacy mechanism on behalf of young people and women to influence policies promoting their effective participation in national and regional agenda.

Beakanyang's Executive Director Nfamara Jawneh promised to empower young people to serve as effective catalyst for social transformation in the country.

He further outlined the Organization's agenda for the year, which includes the use of participatory approach to human rights education which is more about learner centered and will involved role plays, games, poetry and quiz.

Mr Jawneh thank American Embassy for funding the project for Beakanyang, Ministry of Basic and Secondary education for their partnership and youth for human right International in USA for the provision of human rights educational materials.

He later made a presentation on human rights which covers topics such as 'what are human rights?' Principles of human rights, Types of human rights and Who is responsible for human for upholding human rights?, etc was made by Mr. Nfamara Jawneh.

The vice Principal Masroor Senior Secondary School Mr. Richard indicated that human rights are inalienable rights which should be guaranteed. He however challenged everyone especially students to known their rights and responsibilities in society.

Fanta Darboe the president of Masroor Senior Secondary School human rights club in her vote of thanks commended Beakanyang for enlightening them about their rights and promised that the program will be successful in the school.

SOME CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY BEAKANYANG

BEAKANYANG ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE TOUR



The 22 years of Jammeh government instilled fear among Gambian families. The regime presided over series of human rights abuses ranging from torture, long-term imprisonment, disappearances or execution.

With the coming into office of the New

Democratic dispensation under President Adama Barrow, a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC) to investigate these abuses is highly commendable.

In the framework of the UN intervention, Unicef is helping the Government and other stakeholders to put in place the building blocks for establishing a child sensitive transitional justice process thus ensuring that children are not left out in this important process.

As part of its intervention, Unicef is provided support through the National Youth Council to conduct series of workshops with children nationwide on the transitional justice process.

NYC, equally invited Beakanyang to join forces with them in facilitating the workshops nationwide. The organization was represented in this crucial tour by its executive director Nfamara Jawneh.

The first workshop was held in Kerewan in the North Bank Region with over one hundred children and youth from various schools across the region.

The objective of the workshops was to give space to children to relate their past experiences, express their vision of a future Gambia and their fears and aspirations.

The techniques used by the resource persons to facilitate the sessions during the sensitization include presentations on Transitional Justice, child rights, games and reconciliation songs. These were followed by discussions, questions and answers sessions. Children asked series of questions about transitional justice, truth and reconciliation commission, child rights and also some of the human rights abuses they knew, witnessed or heard about the former regime. The questions were all answered by the resource persons from ministry of justice and CPA as well as officials from Unicef.

The official opening statement was delivered by the governor of North Bank Region Mr.Ebrima S.K Dampha. He welcomed participants to his region and urged children to take the sessions seriously.

He welcomed and thanked the participants for attending the workshop and reminded them about the objectives of the workshop.

Governor Dampha told children gathered at the workshop that as future leaders of the country their participation in decision making process is essential. "As children you also need to have confidence in yourselves," he said. He concluded by saying that children needs to know their rights and responsibilities and must have a voice in nation building. He urged participants to share the knowledge gained from the training with their peers back home.

Shab Nass from Unicef said Children's rights are human rights. They protect the child as a human being. As human rights, children's rights are constituted by fundamental guarantees and essential human rights. She told participants Unicef is a leading UN agency tasked with the responsibility of promoting the overall development, rights and well-being of children across the globe.

Mr. Husanou Thomasi made a presentation starting with a brief introduction of transitional justice and TRRC which he said would establish by government next month. He told participants that during the past 22 years the government we had was described by many as a dictatorship and as such many bad things happen thus the need for new government to spearhead the healing process and unite the country and to ensure that there is justice for all who were one way or the other affected.

He also defines reparation as a form of compensation to victims in order to help them rebuild their lives while saying that reconciliation is about unifying the nation. He used the slogan 'One Nation, One People One Gambia! It was repeated after him by children for many times.

Sheriff Kijera from the Victims Centre also made a brief introduction about his institution and said that they are a body comprising victims of the former regime. He said that they have over 400 registered members including direct and indirect victims.

He urged participants who might have been victimized during the past regime to come forward and join the center to have their concerns addressed by the government and other relevant stakeholders.

At the end of the workshops, participants made some strong recommendations such as the need to create more mass sensitization on transitional justice process.

Children used the opportunity to express their understanding of the New Gambia as well as their expectations for the years to come. Some defined New Gambia as an era for freedom, peace and stability, democracy and rule of law.

BEAKANYANG ATTENDS CPA TRAINING ON LEADERSHIP

Child Protection Alliance, CPA, with funding from Save the Children International, from 20-21 November 2017 organized a three-day capacity enhancing workshop on “Leadership and Organizational Management” for Heads of CPA member organizations and Board Members:

Beakanyang participated in the training workshop which was aimed at enhancing the leadership and management skills and techniques of participants. The two-day training was held at Baoba Hotel in Kololi and attracted over twenty member organization heads including Beakanyang director.

BEAKANYANG AT YOUTH-ANTI FGM WORKSHOP



The Gambia is a developing country full of cultures and traditions which are handed over from one generation to another with different ethnic groups.

In that regard, there could be many harmful traditional practices in The

Gambia and among the most notable ones are child and Forced marriage, gender based violence such as FGM.

As such the Youth Anti-FGM Network solicited support from The Girl Generation to train police officers and prosecutors to enable them better understanding the effects of FGM and other GBVs for them to take concrete steps in their daily work in dealing with such cases.

On November 1st, 2017, Beakanyang director facilitated training for police officer on Female Genital Mutilation at Tango office in Fajara. The event was organized by the Youth Anti-FGM Network The Gambia and was attended by twenty five participants.

The Network through its chairperson Modou Lamin Davis acknowledged the financial support of The Girl Generation towards the successful hosting of the training without which it would have been difficult to convene such an important and successful training.

He also recognizes the efforts of its members and chairperson in particular towards the successful convening of the training.

The techniques used by the resource persons to facilitate the sessions during the sensitization includes PowerPoint presentations on FGM, GBV, the laws; discussions on case stories, questions and answers sessions.

The topics covered included; the definitions, forms, settings, causes and consequences of FGM, GBV; presentation on provisions from both national and international legal instruments such the Women's Act 2010, Sexual Offences Act 2013 and the Domestic Violence Act 2013, CEDAW, UDHR.

He reminded participants that there are laws in the Gambia prohibiting FGM in all its forms and manner. He encouraged participants to take the training seriously and finally declared the four-day training officially opened.

BEAKANYANG AT NAYCONF



Mr Jawneh at NayConf

At the invitation of National Youth Council, NYC, Beakanyang directors attended the National Youth Conference and Festival, NAYCONF held in Base, Upper River Region from 17-21, December 2007 .

During the national youth gathering, Mr.Jawneh made series of presentations on human rights and also inspired many young people who expressed their interest in joining the group.

Some of his presentations were also featured in the Nayconf official newspaper, called Nayconf DAILY.

BEAKANYANG LAUNCHED NEW PROJECT IN KEREWAN



Group members at the launching

The community development unit of Beakanyng in December 2017 launched a 12-month garden project for the community of Kerewan in Wuli West District of Upper River Region.

The project is being supported by the Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Program of UNDP.

In his launching speech, Nfamara Jawneh, Executive

Director of Beakanyang congratulated the community through Beakanyang Kerewan Chapter for securing the grant.

He said the project will provide the community with a solar powered water system to provide adequate water source for the women gardeners, fence the entire garden, and provide reservoirs, seeds and tools to boost production. The objective of the project is to improve livelihoods and mitigate the impact of climate change in the community.

The project will also provide women with training on organic fertilizer production and best garden techniques.



Speaking on behalf of *Beakanyang officials and village elders at the launching*

beneficiaries, Beakanyang Kerewan Women President Mrs. Jaka Dibbasy thanked Beakanyang for facilitating the project.

She promised that they will ensure a successful implementation of the project while calling on members to participate fully in its activities.

Field coordinators of Beakanyang in Kerewan and Barrow Kunda, Mrs Naba Jabby and Alhagie Lamin Touray respectively said that the project would enhance the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

The Alkalo of Kerewan Mr Sillah thanked Beakanyang and its partners for the project and noted that as the head of the community he will give maximum support to the project.

The ceremony was also graced by Mrs. Kinti Sidibeh, President Barrow Kunda Kambeng Kafo in Wuli and her deputy Mrs. Jarai Touray.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FOWARD

Cognizant of the fact that The Gambia is a young democracy coming out of 22 years dictatorship, it's imperative to put all hands on desk to nurture and promote rule of law, human rights and foster grassroots development.

Unlike previous regime, government and rights organizations like Beakanyang should work together for the attainment of national and sustainable development goals.

Meanwhile, we would like to thank all our partners and donors especially US Embassy, GEF/ Small Grant Programmer of UNDP, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and Youth for Human Rights International for their continue support and partnership especially throughout 2017 and we encourage more organizations and institutions to join them in supporting our work.

Beakanyang will continue to advocate for human rights and fundamental freedoms, sustainable environment for all while promoting youth empowerment and women advancement especially at grassroots level.

BEAKANYANG KAFO

(Equality for All)

MOTTO: ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS IN RURAL GAMBIA

PROGRAMME AREAS

Our work is divided into seven programs



Public Advocacy
Education & Capacity Building
Environment
Health Promotion
Human Rights
Democratic Governance
Women & Youth Empowerment

VISITING ADDRESS

Head Office

**No: 103 Kombo Sillah Drive, Churchill's Town
Kanifing Municipality
The Gambia**

Field-Office

**Barrow Kunda Village
Wuli West District
URR**

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