

Yiriwaa report 2011

Introduction

In 2011 the Yiriwaa Foundation Gambia was founded in The Netherlands by Roelien Bokelmann and Ron Witjas. Purpose of this foundation is:

- to improve and support positive development in the Gambia
- to create more opportunities for education for youth who don't have enough support from their families, to improve the life circumstances and health from this youth and their families
- to give (financial) support for education to children in the age of 7-27 years
- to facilitate development in education- and training- institutes and organizations

To organize the work of this foundation, they asked in January 2011 Barbara Somers, Kawsu Sillah and Amadou Ceesay to form an executive board in The Gambia and to start with the work of the Foundation. At that moment there were 15 students in the Foundation and we decided to grow in 2011 until 30 students.

In this report we will give an overview of:

1. the structure and way of working of the Gambian board
2. the amount of students in 2011
3. the income, expense and balance in 2011
4. the activities the Gambian board undertook in 2011
5. the ideas the Gambian board has for the year 2012

1. Structure and way of working of the Gambian board

It is for every foundation extremely important to work on a clear and transparent way. That is why we undertook action to register the Dutch foundation in The Gambia. We found a lot of difficulties on that road and one of the most important one is that it was not possible to register this foundation under the name of Yiriwaa Foundation. We decided to create a new Gambian foundation with the name of Kairoh Garden Foundation. This foundation is working like the Gambian board of Yiriwaa Foundation Gambia. (Next to that, the Kairoh Garden Foundation is also working for some other charity projects). Now the Kairoh Garden Foundation is officially registered as a community based organization in The Gambia (registration nr 177/2011, tin nr. 1112151587)

We made a constitution (see attachment) which includes the rules and conditions of sponsorship for students to make clear that the Yiriwaa Foundation is only working for the really needy children in the age of 7-27 who are motivated and don't have other financial possibilities for their education. For each student the contact person looks what kind of support is necessary. In our opinion it is also important that the family of the student always give some (financial) support to the education of their children so the family also feels the responsibility for that. This way of working is for some Gambian citizens quite unusual and we had to talk a lot to clear our policy.

We divided The Gambia into three regions: east, central and west. The most possibilities for education are gathered in the western areas so that the most of the Yiriwaa students are going to school there. Each region has a contact person who is the voice of the Gambian board and who is close to the students, their family and school. They are the key persons of the Foundation.

The Gambian board and the contact persons are all volunteers and they only have some contribution in the telephone and transport costs.

2. The Yiriwaa students 2011

In January 2011 we started with 15 students and the ambition was to grow in 2011 until 30 students. A good financial policy, active contact persons and a strongly motivated board made it possible to grow up to 61 students at the end of 2011.

They are divided as follow:

Lower Basic School grade 1-6 : 19 students, 9 boys, 10 girls
 Upper Basic School grade 7-9 : 23 students, 10 boys, 13 girls
 Secondary Senior School grade 10-12:17 students, 13 boys, 4 girls
 Other type of schooling : 2 students, 2 boys

Boys, girls and region of The Gambia

	West	Central	East
Total	27	19	15
Boy	15	12	7
Girl	12	7	8

Boys, girls and grade of school

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	oth
Total	0	5	4	2	5	3	5	11	7	11	4	2	2
Boy		1	1	2	4	1	2	6	2	9	2	2	
Girl		4	3		1	2	3	5	5	2	2		
W					2	1	3	4	5	7	3		2
C		2	3			1	1	5	1	4	1	1	
E		3	1	2	3	1	1	2	1			1	

3. Financial overview

In 2011 we received from Yiriwaa Foundation Gambia the amount of E 10.000.

We spend the money as follow:

School fees and -materials for boys E 3.138
 School fees and -materials for girls E 1.896
 Costs of the Board and contact persons E 1.284

At December 31st 2011 the balance was E 3.682

Not all the school-, study and exam fees from the current students were paid at the end of 2011 because some costs where spread out in the academic year. The balance of E 3.682 will covered the remaining costs.

This year the Board made a lot of costs to start up their work:

- to register the foundation
- to open a bankaccount
- to buy office materials like files for the students
- looking for contact persons and organize meetings with them
- we bought a second hand laptop which is also available for the students to practice computer skills
- a monthly contribution in telephone costs of E 20

4. The activities the Gambian board of Yiriwaa Foundation undertook in 2011

When we had to give a motto for this first year of working in the foundation than the word Discover is very suitable. To discover what is our policy, to discover how we can make the difference from other foundations, to discover how the bureaucratic systems are working, to discover a way between control and own responsibility, etcetera.

We undertook the following activities:

- all the paperwork to register the foundation
- all the paper work to have a bank account on the name of the foundation
- to make a constitution and rules and conditions of sponsorship
- to find, select and instructed the board members and regional contact persons
- give support to the contact persons how to select the students and how to communicate with their families and teachers

5. The ideas the Gambian board have for the year 2012

For the students:

We like to organize regularly events for the students. Purpose is:

- to create a Yiriwaa feeling and -community
- to know each other and to hear and see their improvement and problems
- to give new experiences and new knowledge

In January 2012 we organize 2 events in the Western Region:

1. One of our guests from The Netherlands gave a workshop about computers and wireless communication
2. A Yiriwaa Students meeting Day where we invited a famous and inspiring person who talked about the value of education

Both of the events were very successful and motivated to the students and we saw that they are hungry to have new knowledge. We like to organize also this kind of educational meetings in the Central and Eastern Region.

For the Board and Contact persons

In 2011 we learn a lot by trial and error about working in a Foundation. To share our experiences and to give support to each other it is necessary to organize regularly meetings with the board and the contact persons. Main subject is to make a policy of the Foundation about:

- Monitoring the students
- Misuse of sponsorship
- Financial system for the contact persons