

Yiriwaa report 2013

1. Introduction

In 2013 the Gambian board of the Yiriwaa Foundation was working under the name of Kairoh Garden Foundation. After a whirling and quick grow in the amount of students and activities in the years 2011 and 2012, we faced in the year 2013 that it is very important to have a strong, transparent working and motivated board and contact persons. Without that, the Foundation can't grow in a responsible way neither in quantity as in quality.

In this report we give the overview of the students, the financial overview and the activities we undertook.

2. The Yiriwaa students 2013

In January 2011 we started with 15 students and at the end of 2011 we grow up to 61 students. At the end of 2012 we count 97 students and at 31st of December 2013 Yiriwaa give support to 102 Gambian students.

Lower Basic School grade 1-6 : 34 students: 19 boys, 15 girls
Upper Basic School grade 7-9 : 26 students: 15 boys, 11 girls
Senior Secondary School grade 10-12: 40 students, 19 boys, 21 girls
Other type of schooling : 2 students, 2 boys

Boys, girls and region of The Gambia

	West	Central	East
Total	46	36	20
Boy	21	23	11
Girl	25	13	9

3. Financial overview

The balance at 31-12-2012 was € 8.465

In 2013 we received from Yiriwaa Foundation Gambia the amount of € 10.000
€ 18.465

Expenses made in 2013 € 9.330

Balance at 31-12-2013 € 9.135

Not all the school-, study and exam fees from the current students were paid at the end of 2013 because some costs where spread out in the academic year. The balance will covered the remaining costs.

Expenses 2013

In 2013 we introduced a budget for cases of emergency. Out of this budget we can pay unexpected costs for Yiriwaa students (like hospital costs) or for non-Yiriwaa students who are suddenly in need to continue their schooling, like payment of exam fees or pick up exam results.

	west	central	east	total
School- and exam fees, school fund, book bills	4263	570	1162	5995
Schoolmaterials, studyclasses	309	122	0	431
Transportcosts students	538	38	0	576
Yiriwaa groupactivities				1078
Project Internet college				309
Emergency costs				390
Board				551
Total				9330

In the attached excel sheet you can find the details of the expenses 2013. Next to the general overview we made an overview per student.

4. Looking back:

In the report for the year 2012 we mentioned the following ideas:

For the students:

- *Plan 2012: We had to make a clear policy about what happened when students are leaving the school before they are finished.*
Result 2013: we made a clear policy: when the student applies for sponsorship, they also had to sign for what will happen when they are leaving the school without an accepted reason. Then the costs of the study had to be returned by the student or their parents. If that is not possible, than legal action will be taken.
- *Plan 2012: We like to continue 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 to support the quality of their education**Result 2013: in February 2013 we organized together with ARDIS and local artists a creativity workshop at the locations in Tanjeh, Kuntaur and Basse. Next to that we organized in January 2013 in Tanjeh and Kuntaur a workshop about electricity, given by our Dutch friend Hans Schulz. Next to that, the contact person in Basse organize time to time a meeting with all the students of the eastern area.*

For the Board and Contact persons

Contactpersons:

- *Plan 2012: It is still a point of attention to invest in good communication with the contact persons. Special now the contact persons in Central and East have their own Yiriwaa budget. The board has to give clear instructions what is their authorization, and in how they had to spend the money, how to record that and how to monitor them.*

Result 2013: still this is a point of attention.

- *Plan 2012: We are thinking to divide the Western Region in Kombo North (Banjul-Serekunda) and Kombo South (Brikama). We had to look then for an extra contact person*

Result 2013: We succeed to find an extra contact person: Jongsaba Jaiteh. She will cover the students of the Kombo North area.

Board:

- *Plan 2012: We see that it is also important to see each other every month. It was our intention to do, but we don't succeed to organize that. We had to invest in a strong cooperation what is based in trust and commitment. Everybody had to know better what the meaning of their position in the board is and what their responsibility is.*

Result 2013: still this is a point of attention. When Ron and Lex were in The Gambia in September 2013, they also gave training in the most important meeting skills. That results in a Yiriwaa Board meetings protocol.

In general:

- *Plan 2012: In 2012 the Dutch board starts with the project to use internet colleges for the Yiriwaa Students. In November 2012 a volunteer started with investigation and experimentations about how classes by internet can be used to support the learning process of the students. In 2013 we like to look how we can organize this on a regular way in each region.*

Result 2013: The experiments the volunteer did with the Yiriwaa students were successful in that way, that the students and their teachers were very enthusiastic and willing to learn. The problems for realization of internet colleges can be divided in: software (the programs), hardware (laptops, electricity access) and coaching and guiding by teachers. The Dutch board decides to do more investigation to successful e-learning projects before they continue this idea.

- *Plan 2012: For every initiative we undertake, we had to look how we keep connected with the teachers (and parents) of the students.*

Result 2013: In the e-learning project, we also involved the teachers. Special in Basse area, we spend time to mobilize them. Next to that, we organized a meeting with some teachers in the week that ARDIS was visiting The Gambia. In that meeting they shared their problems and they give each other inspiration how to solve that.

- *Plan 2012: We like to promote the Kairoh Garden Foundation and Yiriwaa on different ways. Every year more persons start to know us. So it is time to promote our selves before others are doing that. One of the ideas is to invite some journalists when we organize the next student's meetings day. Next to that we are going to inform the Regional Education Officers in each region where Yiriwaa is active.*

Result 2013: We informed the Regional Education Officers about Kairoh Garden Foundation and Yiriwaa.

Looking forward to 2014

- * Yiriwaa+ program for excellent students who finished grade 12
- * Responsibilities and activities contact persons