

Yiriwaa report 2016

1. Introduction

We made in 2015 some fundamental changes in the organization of the Yiriwaa Foundation in The Gambia. One of the most important issues was to give the local coordinators more responsibilities and 2016 was the year they start to show how they work on that. To support their improvement, we organized a special training for the coordinators.

In 2016 the Board of the Yiriwaa Foundation also decided to realize a new 5th region: Central South with Brikama Ba as the central village to coordinate that region.

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

2. The Yiriwaa students 2016

In January 2011 we started with 15 students and after growing in 2013 to 102, Yiriwaa give support to 99 Gambian students at 31st of December 2014. At the end of December 2016 we count 96 Yiriwaa students.

Lower Basic School grade 1-6 : 30 students: 18 boys, 12 girls
Upper Basic School grade 7-9 : 33 students: 19 boys, 14 girls
Senior Secondary School grade 10-12: 29 students, 17 boys, 12 girls
Higher education : 4 student, 3 boy, 1 girl

Boys, girls and region of The Gambia

	West	Central	East
Total	32	39	25
Boy	17	20	19
Girl	11	19	6

3. Financial overview

The balance at 31-12-2015 was	€ 6.623
In 2016 we received from Yiriwaa Foundation the amount of	€ 10.000
	€ 16.623
Amadou B. Ceesay paid back the loan of D 35.000 (rate summer 2016)	€ 700
	€ 17.323
Expenses made in 2016	€ 6.471
Balance at 31-12-2016	€ 10.852

Expenses 2016

	west	central	east	Total
School- and exam fees, school fund, book bills	3109	517	0	3626
Schoolmaterials, studyclasses	176	25	570	772
Transportcosts students	306	24		330
Yiriwaa groupactivities				383
Emergency costs				0
Supervising committee				1360
Total	3591	566	570	6471

4. Looking back and forward:

Grade 12 students:

Looking back:

We continued with the extra study classes for grade 12 students. Also we had to follow the students in grade 7-8-9 more frequently.

In February 2016 we had for the first time a special meeting with the parents in Region West. It was a very fruitful meeting with discussions about the different positions and responsibilities in the education area for parents, teachers and sponsors.

We discover that there are not so many qualified skill centers in The Gambia. This is also an issue at the level of the government.

The results of the grade 12 students in 2016 were encouraging. Some of them want to go to continue their education in the University, College or higher institutions. We made an application procedure when they are looking for financial support.

Looking forward:

Skill center: We see that the Gambian government wants to invest more in education in the vocational area. We follow that with high attention because we think that it is an very important issue, also for the Yiriwaa students.

Coordinators:

Looking back : In 2015 we decided to reorganize the Gambian organization of the Yiriwaa Foundation and to give more responsibilities to the coordinators. To realize that, we like to increase the education of the coordinators. We gave them good communication tools, so everyone have now a smartphone and a laptop so they can more in touch with the board members. In the beginning of 2016 we give a training to work with the new way of administration and they start to work with the new system. It was also clear that not all of the coordinators can work with the new responsibilities. So one of them stop this volunteer work and a former Yiriwaa student took that place.

In December 2016 Ron Witjas and Suzanne den Boer came to The Gambia to give a 2 day workshop for the coordinators to support them in their new responsibilities. The main subject of the workshop was how to coach the Yiriwaa students. That workshop was very successful. It was also good that all the coordinators spend time with each other. To

gather all the coordinators was a very good way to involved them more in the Yiriwaa work.

Looking forward

It is good to organize special activities for the coordinators. But to work with the new administration system is not easy for them. In 2017 we plan to do an evaluation.

Gambian organization of the Yiriwaa Foundation:

Looking back: We made a fifth region to take care that the span of control of the coordinators is not more than 25 students. We choose to expand the Central Region. Now we have Central North with Kuntaur in the middle and Central South with Brikama Ba as the central village.

Looking forward:

We are making plans to make a more strong connection with schools. The idea is that we choose some good schools in every region. We put our main focus on Upper Basic and Senior Secondary Schools. In 2017 we work further with this idea.

Tanjeh, The Gambia
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