

REPORT ON THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING L.R.R 22ND – 24TH SEPT 2017.



**SAFE HANDS
FOR GIRLS**

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GAMBIA UNESCO CLUBS AND CENTERS funded by SAFE HANDS FOR GIRLS

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

10/10/2017

INTRODUCTION

Youth form the largest cohort of our global population; their participation in all spheres of development is no more a one-off thing, but a fundamental requirement. In addition to this, both governments, international Organizations like the UN as well as Civil Society organizations have realized that youth are not only the future but also the present. As such, they are no more passive participants of development process but active partners in development. Their engagement in all development processes are more felt now than ever before as youth have the potential to contribute towards the transformation of their societies in all spheres.

The Gambia is no exception to the situation described earlier on and therefore opportunities are being created to foster skills transfer, livelihood skills as well as protect them especially the girl child from social vices and harmful Traditional practices prominent amongst which is **Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting (FGMC)**

Despite the collaborative efforts in the national front to engage youth towards attaining a nation free from **Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting**, Gambians still undergo this harmful practice behind closed doors, More so, the level of awareness among youth on the impact of FGM is still lacking at all front and the need to reinforce this with the perfect opportunity is key. The use of media and sports has and will always be a key approach in the fight against this harmful practice.

NAFGUC, from 22nd – 24th September embarked on the campaign against **FGM/C** with the use of two UNESCO Community radio stations and Soccer Jamboree which include both male and female categories in remote Gambia where this harmful traditional practice is mostly practiced during the cutting season.

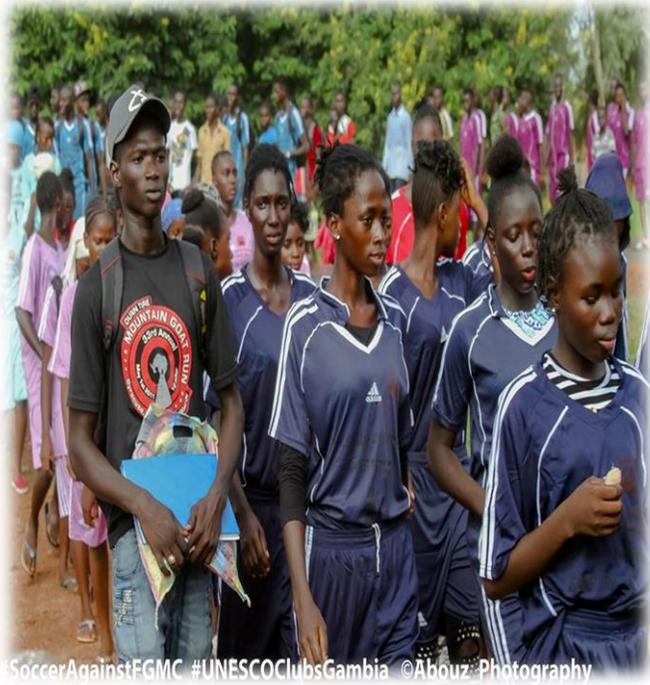
MARCH PASS

The 3 days activity commence with a march pass with UNESCO Clubs from LRR, representatives of various regional coordinating committees, stake holders in the region, all the 8 teams that were registered to compete the 3 days long tournament and a cross section of the community of Soma and the satellite villages. The match pass started from the high way at the UNESCO Sponsored community educational resource center to the football field led by the Regional Scout band



Vice President, NAFGUC. Randy of Photovoice The Gambia with UNESCO Club reps





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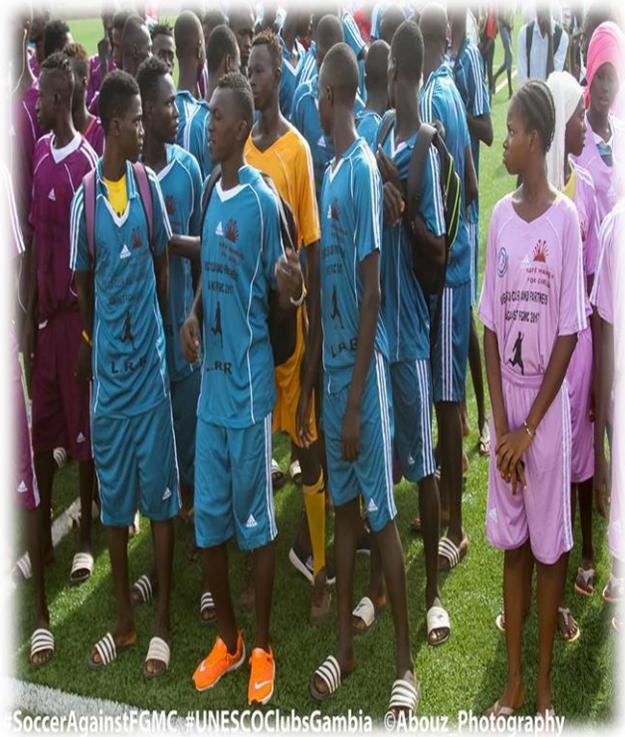
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Teams on the parade preparing for the games

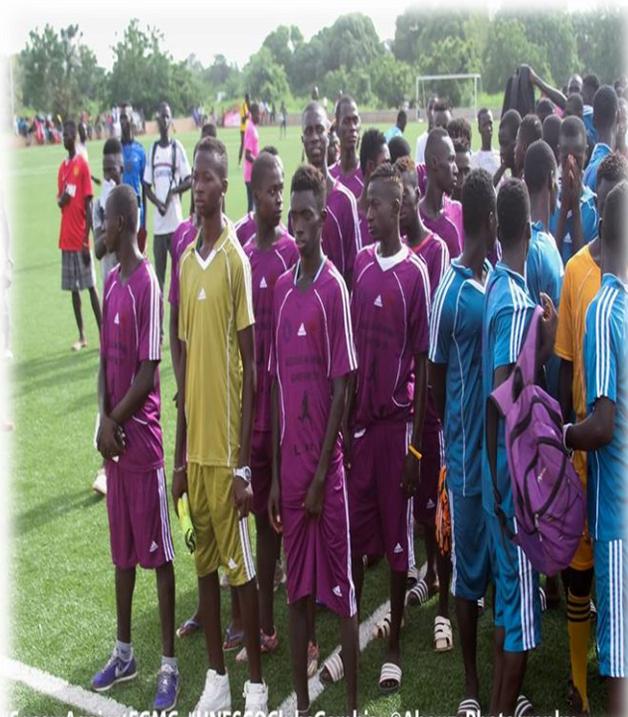
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Players from the teams Listening to the speeches on FGM/C

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

SPEECHES



The Regional Coordinator of the Lower River Region (LRR) for NAFGUC **Mr. Hatab Sanneh** welcomes the participants, elders, including the Governor of the region; He thanked participants for joining the Federation in the campaign. He highlighted on the importance of this activity siting the need for everyone to play their game in fighting against FGM/C. He Thanked **SAFE HANDS FOR GIRLS** for funding such a great activity.

NAFCUC Regional Coordinator SANNEH

In her statement for the day, the Governor of the Region **Mrs Fanta Bojang Samateh** thanked National Federation of the Gambia UNESCO Clubs and centers, the regional coordinating team and **SAFE HANDS FOR GIRLS** for funding such a great occasion. She highlighted on the importance of being a **UNESCO** Club volunteer and urge all to join the youth movement whose main functions promoters of UNESCO's ideals and activities which include supporting development initiatives in The Gambia with a particular emphasis on culture, education, communication, science as well as the culture of peace, women's issues and HIV/AIDS Amongst others. Governor Suwareh further advice the youth to maintain peace throughout the campaign and make sure the information goes far, she promised to work with UNESCO Clubs and will be available when ever needed she concluded. She went on to say all the participants should endeavor to not only enjoy the games but to most importantly listen to the lectures that will be done while the games go on. She went on to say she is very much proud and happy to be a part of this very important 3 days event and promised to be there when it ends.



Governor Bojang Samateh LRR

The President of The National Federation of the Gambia UNESCO Clubs and Centers and the Master of the ceremony **Mr. Momodou M. Sarr** thanked all the youth present, He also



President Momodou M. Sarr (NAFGUC)

told the gathering that the Federation holds a strong belief in the importance and strategic role of young people in preventing and resolving conflicts non-violently, bearing in mind the crucial part being played by young people in the field of human endeavor and as the back bone of every development. The issue of the **FGM/ C** is an issue which is our collective responsibility to see that it is eliminated.

FGM/C is illegal and is against the laws of the Gambia. He further went on to say in the near future we the young people here will be the fathers and mothers and he said with the information we will be receiving all of us should make sure the practice is not meted on our young girls at any level. He thanks Safe Hands for Girls for funding this very important activity. ***“Today, I believe each of us has a shared responsibility to shape a better future for all through peace building in our own lives with special emphasis on Gender Base violence with special attention to Female Genital Mutilation”.***

The Senior Program Officer representing the donor, **SAFE HANDS FOR GIRLS, Mr. Mass** conveyed the Message on the activity of the soccer against FGM. The senior program officer and a nurse by professor gave a brief explanation of his organization Safe Hands for Girls as an NGO that aims to bring an end to female genital mutilation; it was formed by a survivor of FGM and also a Gambian by nationality in 2014. As a doctor by professor explained the serious health effects that someone can get from this harmful practice. He challenged the young people (UNESCO CLUBS MEMBERS) to disseminate the information of the harmful practice to their colleague as the future leaders and future parents not to go under this Harmful Traditional practice. Mass reminded the young people of LRR that the practice is a violation of human right. He commended the partners (NAFGUC) for the successful setting up the tournament of the Soccer against FGM Tournament. He ended his speech with the challenge to end the cycle of violence that diminishes us all”.



MASS OF SAFE HANDS FOR GIRLS

SOCCER



The tournament **kick off** was officially done by the Governor of the region Fanta Bojang Samateh. **Eight teams** took part in the tournament **four female teams** and **four male teams** from different part of the region's schools and communities and the list are as follows:

FEMALE TEAMS

1. TAHIR SSS
2. SOMA UPPER AND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL
3. KARANTABA COMMUNITY
4. PAKALINDING UPPER BASIC SCHOOL

MALE TEAMS

1. PAUL FC
2. KINTEH FC
3. PAKALINDING COMMUNITY
4. KARANTABA

MODE OF THE GAMES

Day One

The game begun with the female category with a team from Soma Upper Basic and Senior Secondary School versus a team from Tahir Senior Secondary School in Pakalinding village. It's important to note that all balloting was done on the first day before the match pass. Soma won at the end of the march automatically qualified for the final.

Under the male category Paul FC / Sateba played against Kinteh FC which Paul FC/ Soma Sateba also won automatically qualified for the final.

NOTE: During the intervals of the games, the microphone is been used to talk about the harmful effects of Female Genital Mutilation as well as the UNESCO Club members with the posters and leaflets provided went around the field to disseminate the information on FGM/C. This has been a routine for all 3 Days of the tournament.

Day Two

The soccer continue with a female team from karantaba village played against Pakalinding Upper Basic School the game ended one nil in favor of Karantaba who also qualified for the final game.

On the male category a team from Pakalinding village locked horns with karantaba village game ended one all, karantaba won from the penalty shot out.

Day Three

The final day of the soccer against FGM/C fitness tournament held in Soma LRR, on the after another kick off taken by CEO Mansa konko Area Council on a wonderful and colorful gathering the final games played between Karantaba village and Soma Upper Basic and Senior Secondary, soma UBS/SSS the game ended in favor of Soma UBS/SSS and emerge as the winner of NAFGUC first edition of its Soccer Against FGM/C.

On the male category, Pakalinding locked horns with Soma village team or Paul FC, the game ended two goals to one in favor of Pakalinding who also won the first edition of NAFGUC soccer against FGM.

All the marches played fairly and both teams (male and female categories) perform with high sense of maturity and discipline as requested by the President and The Governor of the region during their opening remarks.

During the football marches, the sensitization continue with young people of the UNESCO Clubs went round the field with placards, discussed with their fellow young on the issue of the FGM/C.

PRIZES

It is important as well to mention that all the 240 members of the different teams all went home with medals, the winners went home with D3, 000 while runner ups went home with D2, 000



RADIO PROGRAMS

Radio plays an integral role in information dissemination at all level and this campaign is no exception. During the Soccer against FGM/C we planned to have radio programs on FGM/C accompany the campaign but this wasn't possibly due to storms that put the radio in soma to be off air, this hasn't stop us from making sure that all the programs are done and in the best strategy of radio panel discussion using key members of the society like a Health worker, youth leader, UNESCO Volunteer, Religious leader as well as women leader. The programs focus on key areas of interest like the effects of the practice, the history of FGM in relation to Islam, the cultural dimension as well as the provisions made about it in the laws of the Gambia. The said programs are done at our UNESCO Community radios in Lower River Region LRR- Soma as well as Central River Region CRR-Bansang.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media has continue to play a key role in the sharing of information to the world and as a group of young people working towards getting the people aware of the harmful effects of FGM/C, we have used social media as yet another platform in the crusade against FGM. With our social media platforms on Facebook and twitter, we are able to keep the world informed of our campaign as well as tag other relevant social media sites in the fight against FGM most especially our funding partner Safe Hands for Girls. The reactions to the activity have been very welcoming and lots of shares have been done both on Facebook and twitter.

The radio programs we wanted to get them live but due to financial constraints we could not do so.

INDICATORS AGAINST ACTUALS

NO	TARGET	ACTUAL	VARIENCE EXPLANATION
1	Conduct 10 radio programs	10 radio programs done	
2	Reach 200,000 people (reached 200,000 estimate)	Reached 200,000 (estimate)	
3	5000 in field spectators	Over 5000	Publicity was amazing

CONSTRAINS

Generally, the activity went on very well but there have been key constrains we would want to share

- ✚ Budget short of tight
- ✚ There were key activities that were not funded like the training of the Club members for the activity for the effect dissemination of the messages on FGM/C
- ✚ Key actors were not included in the approved budget which makes it hard to make the job easy (Referees, water for the players, First Aid materials for the red cross, facilitators)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program went really well and we have come up with a list of recommendation we would want to put to your notice. We recommend the following;

- ✚ Soccer against FGM/C be done regionally in all regions of the Gambia.
- ✚ Budget to be increased to cater for other item lines that are salient and crucial to a successful implementation
- ✚ Trophies be provided
- ✚ Film shows on FGM/C be done during the nights of the activity and NAFGUC have the capacity to do this if the finances are provided.
- ✚ Training of UNESCO Clubs on FGM across the Gambia.

Report signed

Momodou M. Sarr

President, National Federation of the Gambia UNESCO Clubs and Centers. NAFGUC

GALLERY



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MASS EXPLAINS WHILE FATOU AND UNESCO CLUBS VOLUNTEERS LISTEN (COMPLICATIONS OF THE FGMC/ C WAS MASS TOPIC OF DISCUSSION



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Volunteers ready for sensitization

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"



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UNESCO CLUB MEMBERS WENT ROUND SENSITIZING WHILE MASS SHARE GIFT WITH GIRL CHILD



Even elders listened to the young advocates

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President Sarr was also part of the tour in sensitization

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See the logo of SAFE HANDS FOR GIRLS



The Vice President and Team on the field tour

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March Officials take a break while Red Cross medic team preparing their medication



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Volunteers do not only sensitize but also gave out gift to young people

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NAFGUC executive members tour the field with Randy of Photovoice

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Commentator of the soccer against FGM/C