



# Conscience International (CI)

Annual Report 2014



Financial Literacy Project  
Women Empowerment Program  
Bakau New Town Community Center  
Supported by: Virginia Gilderslove International Fund



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## ABOUT CONSCIENCE INTERNATIONAL (CI)

Conscience International (CI) is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit human rights and development organisation working in The Gambia. The organization is registered under the 'NGO Decree No. 81 of 1996' with Registration No. A107 NGO, under the 'Office of the President' of The Republic of The Gambia.

CI works with communities of The Gambia with affiliated organizations in Sierra Leone and Liberia. We plan our activities based on analysis of the socio-economic contexts and the community dynamics of the area, with emphasis on community empowerment. Our programmes are unique in the sense as it is basically directed towards involving communities in every aspect including project planning, implementation, monitoring and management.

Since its inception in July 2003, CI takes a human rights based approach to address development issues affecting the communities we serve, believing that all individuals have the right to live with dignity through the attainment of basic needs and the ability to exercise political, cultural and social freedoms. We don't give aid; we create change, empowering communities to stand up for their rights.

### ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES 2014

Following are some of the major activities of Conscience International (CI) in the year 2014:

#### **Youth Democracy and Peacebuilding Project**

The one year project which is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) started in October 2013 and targets youth coming from different communities in the KMC of The Gambia and create awareness of the basic principles of democracy, human rights and peacebuilding, as embedded in international treaties as well as Gambia's constitution. Furthermore, the action strengthened 10 youth leaders, 10 community youth groups and 5 secondary schools and 370 young people's skills in mediation, dialogue promotion, and conciliation of interests and the ability of pursuing a common goal in a structured, inclusive, tolerant and coherent way. The innovative approach of this project is in giving young people opportunities to practice democracy on field and testing their practical skills and knowledge gained at the trainings, by participating in the competition for small actions grants.

Thus, five (5) best small actions proposed by the youth teams at the competition were selected and granted funds for implementation of these actions in their respective communities.





## Global Day of Citizen Action

CI continued to offer sharing and reflection platforms at national and international levels. A Global

Day for Citizen Action forum was held at the Sisohe Guest House in Fajara, KMC, The Gambia on 7 June 2014. It was attended by over 25 people and offered CSOs and other actors space to interact and reflect on a number of development concerns. One of the major highlights of the event was the presentation on the role of CSOs in national development by the Programme Manager at TANGO, Mr. Madi Jobarteh. The event was supported by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation.



### Youth Consultations on Peacebuilding and Intercultural Dialogue Workshop

Conscience International (CI), through donations from Mr. & Mrs. Yameen Muhammed and Family in the US, organized the Youth Consultations on Peacebuilding and Intercultural Dialogue under the theme “End War, Bring World Peace”. The meeting was held in close collaboration with the International Youth Peace Group in Seoul, South Korea on 30 June, 2014. The meeting was a lead-up to the launching of the Network for Peace and Intercultural Dialogue Project on 12 July 2014.

The overall goal of the consultations meeting was to ensure that youth leaders provide a clear assessment of what progress has been made in their respective organizations in regards to the promotion of peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue. The specific objectives of the consultations were to (i) look at the trends and specific challenges posed by conflict and instability on the sub-region of West Africa and the African continent as a whole; (ii) discuss the state of youth in Peacebuilding and Intercultural Dialogue priorities; (iii) explore what changes are required to make youth more effective in peacebuilding and





intercultural dialogue, based on existing evidence and policy discussions.

### **Lifelong Vocational Skills and Financial Literacy Project**

Conscience International (CI) with the support of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) has been able to effectively launch the Lifelong Vocational Skills and Financial Literacy Project in Bakau New Town of Serekunda, The Gambia. The Project aims to create self-reliance capacity for disadvantaged young women in the Bakau New Town community of Serekunda to contribute to the labour market while supplementing local development efforts by providing



25 disadvantaged young women with vocational training in gara tie and dye and tailoring and financial literacy skills to enable them to run a business, increasing the number of financially literate women, establishing two (2) women's associations to represent women's interests, provide them with technical, administrative and logistical support and promote their products in the formal market. The huge turn-out of women and interest shown for the project indicates that there is a

need for lifelong vocational skills for disadvantaged women. Skills for empowerment training is key to guarantee women's economic independence and free them from the circle of violence.

