



Unique Foundation The Gambia (UF) is a charitable organization founded in 2013, incorporated in 2014 under the 2013 companies Act of the Republic of The Gambia with the registration no: 2014/C699. The Foundation works with vulnerable children, youths, women and rural communities; focuses on the right to good health, qualitative education, creating awareness on environmental hygiene and social issues. It also engages in Women's rights: the right to education and employment, family planning and fighting against child marriage. The mission of UF is to assist the needy and less privileged, to empower women and youths with income generating skills (especially those in the rural).

The vision of UF is to see a Gambia where all children will have access to sound education and ability to discover themselves in order to bring out the best in themselves and in building a society where many generations to come can call home. Since inception, major activities of UF include raising awareness about the importance of education through programs such as workshops in schools, communities, groups and individual counseling and dissemination of media publications. These activities have successfully reached a sizeable number of students in The Gambia and have helped to prevent at risk students from dropping out of schools before completion of senior secondary school (grade 12). UF has also successfully collaborated with other local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in The Gambia to provide life skills on information and communication Technology (ICT) training for rural youths in villages around Tanjeh. The outcome of the program was successful that some of the beneficiaries are now self-employed in graphic designing while others further their studies in ICT-related programs.

In The Gambia, the level of education has considerably improved; still, illiteracy is so rampant. Over 36.1% of male age 15 and above and 52.4% of female age 15 and above cannot read and write on their everyday life. In 2015, the government through the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) gives free education in public schools from primary to secondary levels, excluding studying materials such as textbooks, writing pads and writing materials. Enrollment rates at the primary school level are close to 97%. Yet quite a number of students who start primary school never finish because of the high rate of poverty many underprivileged families are faced with realities of making decision about the opportunity cost of paying for the hidden cost of education (e.g. text books and other learning materials) or putting food on the table. Majority of people living in suburban slums and rural areas are in condition of extreme poverty and consequently they have no possibility to afford the costs of basic needs, such as decent shelter, education, good healthcare and food. The majority of the families have an average number of five children per household and they struggle to survive by doing odd jobs. Therefore, all the family incomes are basically oriented to first needs and in most cases they cannot afford paying for school

materials for the children. As a result most of these poor families' children underperform in exams. Poor performance of children in exams is one factor contributing to children lost of interest in school and increase in dropout rate and illiteracy. Some other children who are exposed to money at an early age, especially orphans with no one to take care of them, taking up responsibility of caring for their other siblings instead of attending school, the boys become aprety (bus conductors), and girls become street vendors.

In many cases, teaching of subjects such as English, mathematics and sciences are inadequate because of insufficient supply of textbooks. The recent 2016 West African Senior Secondary school Certificate Examination result released is an indication of growing demand for the need to improve the learning achievements of children. Out of 11,659 Gambian pupils who sat for the West African Senior Secondary Certificate exams only 444 scored five or more credits, including English, science, or mathematics and certainly, most of these children who obtained credits are from private and faith-based operated schools, and not from public schools. Children from poor families attend schools that have no libraries or opportunities for research. Yet these very children are examined together with the rest of the better off children who have access to good schools with all the necessary facilities. The extreme consequence of this is that the children that are in need of a scholarship to continue their studies, are the ones without possibilities to obtain it. The opposite is true, that it is the well-off children who after attending very good schools perform better and are eligible for free higher education at university level. Based on the alarming issues stated, Unique Foundation was founded to assist tackle these whirling problems in the society in order to save the ignorant and innocent children from a bleak future.

Over the years, there are several partners who have been our organization's backbone and have contributed immensely with their time, efforts and donations to our programs and projects of building the society.

The partners include:

- The Pollination Project (USA),
- Book Aid International (UK)
- The Uniform Mission Project (USA)
- Conscience International (The Gambia),
- Christ Embassy (The Gambia),
- Kanifing Municipal Council (The Gambia),
- The Rotaract Club of Fajara (The Gambia)
- The Nigeria Community (The Gambia) etc.

Please list organization's board members:

- Mr. Solomon Ifeanyi Nathaniel - Director/CEO, a social worker and class room teacher for lower, upper basic and senior secondary school.
- Ms. Oley Jallow - Chairperson, Medical doctor, The Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital, Banjul, The Gambia.
- Ms. Anna Marie Sambou - Vice Chairperson, owner, Annmaies Enterprises.
- Mr. Pwanobato Bondima – Accountant, Banker, GT Bank Gambia Ltd
- Ms. Jariatou Jallow - Member, final year medical student, the school of medicine, University of the Gambia.
- Ms. Hassatou Jallow - Member, customer service, Qcell GSM Company, Kairaba Avenue, Serekunda.
- Mrs. Haddyjatou Hydera - Member, manger, Olutech Enterprises, Serekund, The Gambia.

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Names and qualifications of key individuals involve with Unique Foundation programs & projects:

- UF Director: Mr. Solomon Ifeanyi Nathaniel. Post graduate Diploma in ICT, Advanced Diploma in web design, Diploma & Higher National Diploma in Social work, Bsc in education and Post graduate Diploma in gender and development (in view)
- Project Coordinator: Great Akah Ottuduoma. BA in English & Literature and post-graduate diploma in International Relations and Politics. He is a lecturer & Head of Department, in Mass Communication of Startford College of Management The Gambia.
- Secretary: Ms. Cynthia Anaele, Diploma in Nursing, and a registered nurse, working at Serekunda General Hospital and pursuing a Bsc in nursing profession.
- Treasurer: Ms. Ifechuckwu Joy Nwamah. pursuing a Bsc in marketing; she has a diploma in marketing, a certificate in insurance, and three different certificates in entrepreneurship.
- Public Relations Officer: Mr. Renidy Azangisa. a diploma in International Business; he is the chartered president of Rotaract Club of Banjul District 9101 and a graphic designer at The Africare group.
- Ms. Oley Jallow, Bsc in Science, MBChB (Bachelor in Medicine & Surgery) and Diploma in French. Medical doctor
- Dr. Felix Oyejide Omotosho, PhD Comparative Studies and Governmental Affairs, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of The Gambia, The Gambia.
- Mr. Asinmiyu Adeniyi Oluokun, B.ed (Guidance and Counselling, M.ed Counselling psychology, QCG, PGD, M.sc in Career guidance and development MICG United kingdom. Lecturer, Gambia College. The Gambia.
- Mr. Idika Kalu Idika, Diploma in social work (UNN), Bsc (Hons) UNN, M-SC (in view). Assistant Program coordinator/lecturer SOS (RMATC) Bakoteh The Gambia.