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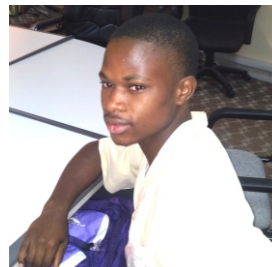
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Editorial

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT YPM



YOUNG PEOPLE, who are we? What are we? How important are we? Are we just elusive members of the society? Are we too young to make positive changes in our societies? What are our rights, roles and responsibilities? We tend to ask these questions and more but how often do we search for answers and how often do we make positive use of the answers we find. Some of us don't even border to ask ourselves these questions much more seek answers. What some of us don't know is that questions are important as they raise issues, these issues require solutions and these solutions, are found in the answers we get from the questions we ask.

WHO ARE WE? My good friend and vice president Fatou E. Muloshi would say "we are the children of today and power of tomorrow" others will always say "we are future leaders" to me just future leaders is not enough, we as young people should know that we are not just future leaders but also the present, we are great future leaders. However it should be noted that leaders are not just made in a day or two, therefore we ought to start now, we have to start behaving like leaders, doing what leaders ought to do and start making positive changes in our societies. This answers the question ARE WE TOO YOUNG TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES IN OUR SOCIETIES? Let me just say that we are never too young to make positive changes in our societies. When it comes to doing the right thing and making a positive change wherever we are, age should not at all be a hindrance. Once you are determined and focused, you achieve great things despite your age. So please if you are a young person who always say am TOO YOUNG,

I think it's high time you get out of your shell and be WHO YOU ARE. As my good friend Isatou Barry would always say be "a president, a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, a scientist, a professor etc IN THE MAKING". Meaning start being what you want to be now.

WHAT ARE WE? Some will say we are the MOST VULNERABLE which is very true but we are also THE STRONGEST, HEALTHIEST, MOST ACTIVE AND ENEGETIC members of our communities as a result much is expected from us in fact without us meaningful development cannot take place. This explains or answers the question, HOW IMPORTANT ARE WE? We are simply as important as anyone else in our society (adults/leaders), if you know how important your father, mother, doctor, president etc is, then you will know how important you are as you will sooner than you think be a Father, Mother, doctor, President and so on. If you are a father or a Mother, you can hardly hide from your children, if you are a doctor, you cannot hide from your patients and if you are a President, then you cannot hide from your subjects therefore WE ARE NOT ELUSIVE

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY we cannot be hidden, we are everywhere in fact our presence and active participation is needed for the development of our societies, nation and the world at large. This answers the question ARE WE ELUSIVE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY? We are elusive only if we choose to. It is now up to you, are you going to be hidden or will you let your light shine?

WHAT ARE OUR RIGHTS, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES? Our rights are legal entitlements meant not to make us immortals but perfect mortals, meant not to make us oppressors but defenders, meant not to make us immune to laws but protected by laws, meant not to make us rude but polite and respectful, meant not to mislead us but to guide us through the right path, meant not to make us weak but to

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Acknowledgments

YPM would like to express its profound thanks to all those who have contributed to the second edition of the Hael Newsletter. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Editorial Board, for there tireless effort in putting together the newsletter. Special thanks also go to YPM Board of Directors, Executive and the team at YPM secretariat for the technical input into the finalization of this Newsletter.

Finally, this Newsletter would not have been possible without the technical and financial support from UNICEF, and moral support from Department of Social Welfare, ChildFund Gambia, Child Protection Alliance, SOS Children's Village, Sinchu Orphanage, Le Amis, CAID, National Youth Council, Saint John's School for the Deaf and all other partners. We are grateful for their continued support to our work.

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make us strong, it is meant not to make us leaders but great leaders the list just goes on and on. Roles and responsibilities are pretty much the same in other words, once you know your roles, you will know your responsibility as well and vice versa. Some people will say "every right goes with a corresponding responsibility" others will say "there can be no rights, without responsibilities" whatever the case may be, the importance of every child's responsibility in relation to his/her rights cannot simply be over emphasized. In recent times its like almost every child knows his/her rights but very few, know there responsibilities. As far as am concern, they don't know there rights at all because you cannot claim to know your rights, when you don't know your responsibilities. If you want to know your rights then know your responsibilities just as well as you know who you are and remember you are the child of today and power of tomorrow, you are that Lawyer, Judge, Doctor, Professor, President in the making.

In short know who you are, be proud of who you are, know what is expected of you, be that positive change maker and be that great person you are meant to be.

By Eric Samuel Ketter

YPM AT A GLANCE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MEDIA (YPM)

Young People in the Media, in acronym (YPM) was established with the conviction that putting children first through effective participation by expressing, their thoughts, hopes, fears and dreams on the public agenda is fundamental for the realization of their rights and wellbeing and for bringing about lasting social and economic progress for all sectors of society.

YPM's work is based, inspired by national and universal values by putting the best interest of the child at the core of its advocacy and development objective. Its work is guided by the UN convention on the rights of the child, the African charter on the rights and Welfare of the child, Children's Act of 2005 and other relevant national, regional and international instruments on child rights promotion and protection agenda.

YPM aims to specifically advocates on child rights promotion agenda as well as to build the capacity and knowledge of children and young people to better enhance their participation effectively on decision making process; provide a platform for participation, dialogue and building the capacity of children on advocacy, Media Literacy, public speaking skills and the rights to participation ; collaborate with government, partner organizations and the civil society in the development and implementation of effective child policies and programmes on child rights agenda ; and also promote a common voice for children in the Gambia and beyond.

YPM Gambia is a legal registered charitable advocacy led organization of children and young people that support and consolidate the efforts of young people working towards promoting and protecting the rights of the Child. A joint project of children and young people advocating for a positive change on burning social issues affecting their plight and wellbeing through the mass media as a medium to disseminate and sensitize the general public on issues affecting the plight of children in conformity with the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the right and welfare of the Child and National Children's Act of 2005. YPM also advocates and raise awareness on inequalities amongst children and young people, Teenage and unwanted pregnancy, child sexual abuse and exploitation, child labor, Domestic violence amongst other social vibes hindering and affecting the lives of children and young people, pan Africanism and peace. Young People in the Media formed in early 2006, and officially launched by the Minister of information, communication and Information technology and presided over by Her Excellency the Vice President, UNICEF Country representative, Members of the Diplomatic corps, Cabinet Ministers and a cross-section of dignitaries as part of activities making the International Children's Day of Broadcasting on the 9th Dec 2006 at the Sun beach Hotel, Cape Point, Bakau.

YPM held its 3rd General Assembly & Congress

Newly Elected President calls for More Partnership and Collaboration on Child protection agenda



Eric Samuel Ketter, President

Eric Samuel Ketter, former Vice President of Young People in the Media who also double as the Deputy Head Boy of Gambia Methodist Academy was recently elected as President of the dynamic Young People in the Media.

Master Ketter the newly elected President of YPM executive, having succeeded Ms Adama Lee Bah. Mr. Ketter has a wealth of experience and remains associated and committed to the ideal and objective of the organization.

Speaking to newly elected executive members, President Ketter expressed gratitude to God and pleasure for being elected to serve as president of YPM executive and assured his colleagues and the executive of his continued commitment to the cause of his fellow children and young people towards promoting the ideal and noble objectives of YPM. He stressed that investment in children is the single most important route to secure any societies future, and called upon all sectors of society

To work towards more child-friendly initiatives and activities.

Echoing President Ketter's remarks, Mr. Abdou Jatta, UNICEF- Speak Africa Youth Spokesperson and co- founder of YPM , expressed his joy at President Ketter's election as President of the YPM executive for 2014- 2016 and added that his proven leadership will maintain YPM's momentum as the few leading led dynamic children organization on child rights promotion and protection agenda .

Bakary Badjie, Board Member of YPM noted that he was proud to be associated with the work of YPM and for the last past years has seen YPM growing into a strong and professional children organization dealing with issues of child rights protection and promotion agenda as well as advocacy on media literacy for effective child participation. He also took the opportunity to welcome President Ketter and other new members to the YPM executive.

The newly elected executive were officially inaugurated during the 5th National Child Friendly Award, on the 24th January, 2014 at Jaama Hall, Kairaba Beach Hotel.



YPM briefing on 5th National Child Friendly Award



Bakary Badjie - Board Member

Young People in the Media (YPM) recently held a press briefing on their upcoming 5th National Child Friendly Award held at the UNICEF conference room UN House, Cape Point - Bakau. The award, which will be held on 31st January 2014, is on the theme "Encouraging Our Pacesetters Putting Children First".

Speaking on the occasion, Pierre Jatta, head of Adoption and Child Placement at the Department of Social Welfare, said the National Child Friendly Award has been set aside by Gambian Children to recognize the individual institutions whose contributions have impacted on the lives of children.

He said it is important to recognize that millions of children are impoverished, abandoned, uneducated, malnourished, and discriminated against, neglected and vulnerable.

Mr. Jatta added that for children, life is a daily struggle to survive, whether they live in urban centers or rural outposts, they risk missing out on their childhood, excluded from essential services such as hospitals and schools, lacking the protection of the family and community, often at risk of exploitation and abuse. He said it is therefore hard to avoid the conclusion that the adults of the

world are failing in their responsibilities to ensure that every child enjoys a childhood. Speaking at a press briefing, UNICEF Speak Africa Youth Spokesperson, Abdou Jatta spoke of the importance of children in the society and the way they are discriminated and neglected among others.

The president of the YPM, Eric Samuel Ketter, spoke at length about the crucial role they play in advocating for the rights of the young children in the Gambia. He said their advocacy mainly focuses on early marriage and unwanted pregnancy. The theme of this year's award, he noted is "Encouraging out pacesetters putting children first".

This year's celebrations, he added, will be interactive, as it would include drama performance. "It is also part of our plans to interview children selling on the streets and doing other things that are against the Children's Act 2005", Ketter stated.

For his part, Bakary Badjie, Board Member of YPM underscored his organization's steadfastness in promoting the rights of young people.



Pierre Jatta
Head of Adoption and Child Placement
Department of Social Welfare



The three month radio programme has been quite a success in the areas of raising awareness on issues affecting children, child participation, adult participation, showcasing of talents and the huge number of people both in and outside the country that have been listening and participating in it effectively through their numerous and consistent phone calls and text messages and giving their contributions on the various topics that have been discussed. This has made both our adult and child panelists to have a deeper knowledge on the different issues being discussed. Finally the radio programme has given some young people the rare opportunity to learn how to moderate a radio programme. This is an experience of a life time that we will carry everywhere we go and we say a very big thanks to UNICEF and the Unique FM Radio Management for their proactive and consistent support to YPM especially to its proprietor and the Board Chairperson of YPM Alh Lamin Manga.

YPM Newly Elected Executives

As of December 2013, the full list of YPM's new executive is as follows:



Master Eric Samuel Ketter, President
Student & Deputy Head Boy of Gambia
Methodist Academy, GMA



Fatou E. Muloshi, Vice President
Student, Ndow's Comprehensive Senior
Secondary School.



Muhammed Kora, Secretary General
Student, SOS Herman Gmiener Technical
Senior Secondary School



Fatoumatta A. Camara, Assist. Secretary General
Student, Nusrat Senior Secondary School



Mam Fatou Cham, Information Secretary
Student, West African International School, WAIS



Jaka Ceasay Jaiteh, Assist. Information Secretary
Student, Gambia Methodist Academy



Marie Jeng, Social Secretary
Student, SOS Herman Gmiener
Senior Secondary School



Isatou Jaiteh, Assistant Social Secretary
Student, West African International School, WAIS



Ramatoulie Mboob, Treasurer
Student, West African International School, WAIS



Cherno Ceasay, Co-opted Executive Member
Visually Impaired Student,
Nusrat Senior Secondary School



Caroline Mendy, Co-opted Executive Member
Student, Gambia Senior Secondary School.



Derrick Asiamah, Co-opted Executive Member
Student, Gambia Methodist Academy.GMA

BY Muhammed Kora

HUMANITY

The most tragic thing in life is humanity
 This is caused by ones Personality
 And leads to the demotion of your dignity
 If you put your life into a calamity
 You alone face the penalty
 Because no one takes the risk of your informality
 As a figure to the community
 Try to solicit the best from the society
 And rate it in the range of its density
 With people being in a state of familiarity
 That will owe you nothing but dainty
 Engrossing the power of your immunity
 Try to show your punctuality, in a form of amity
 This empowers unity; life is full of opportunities
 If you have the capacity, involved in the ownership of vanity
 Or even your personal entity
 Show your identity
 This doesn't mean you're close to insanity
 But if you are in the state of banality
 Go to the gym, jog, play around and show you physicality...



“Encouraging our pacesetters; putting children first”.

Another very important media activity, YPM has embarked on this year, is the weekly radio programme that has been going on over the past years. The radio programme was sponsored by UNICEF from January to March. The main aim of the radio programme is to raise awareness on issues affecting children and to discuss possible solutions, creating a common platform for young people from different backgrounds, to discuss and exchange ideas on issues that are affecting them and those around them. It also created an avenue for many young people both abled and disabled, privileged and non-privileged to showcase their different talents such as singing, poetry, drama, Quizzes, Debate and interviews etc. Some of the topics that were discussed from January to March were; effects of social media, interview with some of the Red Cross Gambia Association Members at the Talinding HomeLink, Interview with young artists, the Importance of appreciation, importance of child participation, gender based violence, debate on the use of mobile phones in schools, importance of the Day of the African Child, the theme of this year's Day Of The African Child: “Child Friendly, Quality, Free and Compulsory Education for all Children in Africa” etc.

YPM MEDIA PROGRAMMES

Over the years, YPM has been engaged in a lot of media activities all of which were geared towards promoting the rights and welfare of children, raising awareness on different issues affecting the lives of children and young people in and outside the country. One of the media activities was the press briefing which was held in early January. The aim of the press briefing was to inform the general public about the upcoming 5th National Child Friendly Award ceremony which was on the theme:



5th National Child Friendly Award Held'



National Child Friendly Award is a day set aside by Gambian Children and Young People to recognize the giant role-played by individuals and institution in protecting and promoting the rights and wellbeing of children and

young people in the Gambia. This is another development that contributes to the participation of children and young people in the Gambia. It encourages the entire population of the country to invest and promote child friendly activities which will bring about a standard and healthy living for all children and young people in the Gambia. Every society hopes and expects that its children will grow up to be capable and responsible citizens who will contribute immensely to the development of their societies. This can only be attained if children are brought up in an environment where they are loved, cherished and free from poverty, conflict and violence. The award ceremony also served to highlight issues affecting the lives of children and young people in the Gambia and around the world.

This year's theme aims to explore and encourage pacesetters that are doing remarkable things and taking giant strides towards advocating for a positive change and lasting impact in the lives of children and young people towards their enhancement and meaningful contribution to the socio-economic advancement of their societies and the nation as a whole. The president of the Republic, His Excellency

Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr. Yahya AJJ Jammeh was conferred with the 'Child Friendly Hero of the Year 2013' award in recognition of his stance in the promotion of the rights and welfare of Gambian children.

The award was received on behalf of the president by the deputy permanent secretary, Ministry of Information Communication and Infrastructure, Lamin Camara, during a ceremony held at the Jaama Hall, Kairaba Beach Hotel, Kololi on the 31st January 2014. Organized by YPM in partnership with UNICEF.

In his remarks, the president of YPM, Eric Samuel Ketter, praised the awardees for their tireless efforts in promoting the rights and welfare of children and young people in The Gambia. “Our gratitude goes to [those] individuals who protect, safeguard and promote the rights of children and young people,” he stated. The YPM president used the opportunity to disclose plans by his organization to stage a poetry slam that will bring together young poets from all over the country to showcase their talents. The idea, he explained, will help the youngsters discover their talents as well as build their self-confidence to realise their dreams of becoming great poets capable of participating in both national and international competitions.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Speak Africa Youth spokesperson, Abdou Jatta, said each year, the award provides the opportunity to reflect on the lives of African children and what should be done, to further improve their conditions. The child activist informed that studies by UNICEF and the International Labor Organization (ILO) have disclosed that the number of street children in the world is estimated at 120 million, 30 million of them in Africa.

He acknowledged the efforts of The Gambia government in promoting the welfare of children, reminding that it had signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in August 1990 and September 2000 respectively. "The younger generation has the power to change the world not just for children, but for all. So let us build a better future for every child, in the knowledge that in serving the best interests of children, we will serve the best interest of humanity," he remarked.

UNICEF communication specialist, Madam Sally Sadie Singhateh, opined that the mere fact that children are accepted as "our future" should be enough motivation for everyone to ensure that they thrive. "They must be guided, protected and nurtured so that they can reach their full potential and become useful and productive members of their country. Without healthy, happy and productive children, we will have no future," she opined. Ms Singhateh quoted the UNICEF executive director, Anthony Lake, who said, "Children are not only the inheritors of the planet, they will actively shape its future, their survival, health, safety; education and wellbeing are at the core of sustainable development and every nation's prosperity".

The focus of UNICEF's country programme in collaboration with the government of The Gambia, she told the gathering, is to address health, education and protect the most vulnerable children.

The award ceremony, was on the theme, "Encouraging our pacesetters, putting children first", also saw several recipients, among them, the director of Social Welfare, Fanta Bai Secka, (Honorary Child Ambassador of the Year award);

the programme officer at the Child Protection Alliance (CPA), Bakary Badjie (Child Rights Activist of the Year); Ministry of Youth and Sports, (Child Friendly Ministerial award); The Gambia Tourism Board, (Child Friendly Innovation); and Ibrahim Ceesay, a local Film Director and Executive Director of Children and Community Initiative for Development (CAID), (Youth Leader of the Year award), Victoria Ethel Clarke ,(Child Friendly Educationalist of the Year) Jai Lowe (Differently Able Child of the Year), Eliana Jarju (Academic Par Excellence Child of the Year), Child Fund and Sinchu Orphanage Outstanding Child Friendly Institution of the Year.



Hon. Fatim Badjie, Vice Chairperson, Board of Directors YPM and Hon. Fatoumatta Jahumpa Ceesay, a seasoned child right and gender activist implored the awardees and young people present to keep up the momentum towards creating a more enabling and conducive environment for every child.

The award was punctuated with a drama performance on the theme "Encouraging our pace setters with a slogan Putting children first".

But we are abused sexually, moral and emotionally
 We are harassed and exploited
 Our souls and minds awakening
 Guardians! Adults mandated with our rights unguarded
 We ask, we question
 How can we be strong?
 When we are like a maddened predestination
 The leaders of our nations
 Are denying us our rights
 That we seek to be fellow men
 Beggars in the streets of Lamin,
 Garages of Brikama and Kartong
 You soak our eyes with tears of pain
 And tears like a fountain
 Floating down the lain
 We the children of today want to be heard
 We want to enjoy our childhood days
 We are pleading to adults to always do as they promise
 We want your love, care, and support
 We want peace so that we can have a better education
 Show us the right path and we shall walk through it

This is YPM

This is YPM, the development of children and young people that's what we represent
 We have genuine, committed and humble members, who strive for excellent
 We spend all our time to embark on child right promotion and protection with no dividend.
 In YPM, if you come you see signs and symptoms of courage and motivation to excel
 This motivates you and drives you away from doing wrong.

Ooh yes we will progress
 Because the solidity of our rights we will buttress on
 To put our hand together and become one
 Because no matter how large YPM is we are all equal to one,
 Love each other and never miss out the fun
 As well as being selfless servant for YPM
 We should all take good care of this group like a father to his son
 A soldier to his gun or a worker to his job
 In life the days set are first, second and third
 These are yesterday, today and tomorrow
 Our futures are bright though the route is narrow
 We possess all the hope but we don't know what's coming up tomorrow
 If you look you will see yourself in the mirror
 But don't get too excited because life is full of sorrows
 Two heads are better than one lets move like a wheelbarrow
 Answer to each others call like sows do to their furrows
 Something comes to you like a sensation
 This is at times caused by temptation
 If you look into your destination
 What you see is your location
 I will now give my conclusion
 Though it's not easy saying bye
 But I will prefer it to telling a lie
 So many people feel shy
 To express their feelings until they die
 I will rather stop here because I don't know much than I do to mine
 Life is a test and the end is hard to find
 Every thing done is the work of the mind
 Never mind people who talk behind you
 All they do is to spoil and if you give them the chance
 They will climb on top of your head just to tramp you down.....

amongst us to create the bond of cordial relationship and mutual love as brothers and sisters.

The day ended with joy and happiness shown on all their faces as that was the first time we met them but we made great impacts in their lives. It was a learning experience for most of us in our life it was our first time to visit an orphanage and the fond memories we shared will always be remembered.



PEOMS

By Mariama Cham

The Disable and the society

Disable disable
 I cannot see how things are
 They say I am disabled
 I cannot hear, they say I am disabled
 My hands could not help me
 They say I am disabled
 My legs could not carry me
 They say I am disabled
 I became a victim of deprivation
 I became an object of isolation
 Because I am disable
 Should I be a beggar in the society?
 Should I be a subject of pity?
 Can I perform my role in national development?



I am in the ranks of disable
 That should not robe my dignity
 So give me each and every opportunity
 Don't make my progress crippled
 Just because I am disable

By Marie Jeng

Child Rights

Oh children!
 What a great right given to us
 A right which makes us feel that we are humans
 Our brothers and sisters
 Didn't enjoy this facility
 Some died of hard labor
 For nobody endeavored to bring light to such splendor
 I am happy as my heart is dinning
 In joy it is winning
 For I have right to my very life
 And right to education is like a treasure to all African children
 A right which makes us hails
 And nobody wail
 It was set on us
 The total of all sorrows
 And set on our heads the right which I hope would bring light
 For our senses are now open
 To the splendor of our rights
 From all springs of ill-fortune



By Oumie Jallow

Who will wipe our tears?

They call us the future leaders
 We are the young ones, the energetic
 And the strong like Angelic Feathers
 The promised pace setters
 We are the leaders in the making



YPM, Celebrates The International Children's Day Of Broadcasting



International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB) is the day when broadcasters air quality programming for and about children. But more importantly, they allow children to be part of the programming and production process, to talk about their hopes, dreams, fears and challenges in life. Since TV and radio play a vital role in raising awareness on child rights issues and a critical role in shaping children's lives.

YPM in partnership with UNICEF, Childfund Gambia and UNIQUE FM Radio Station celebrated the International Children's Day of Broadcasting on 9th March, 2014 at the Unique FM Radio Station. The programme was a whole day activity that attracts lots of YPM members and other Children and young people from various schools within the greater Banjul areas to produce and present programmes on issues affecting them in their daily lives and to take charge of the airwave.



YPM Members took the airwave at 8:00am in the morning, first with an introduction and highlight the significant of the day to the listeners, this was followed by the Christian programme

called the church service, the children perform the usual Sunday Christian sermon and prayers. The following activities were done in the morning, (Sapalima), Request Show, Debate and quizzes on child rights issues, Poem recitation and singing, Quick Reaction Thinking amongst other.

One of the most important sessions in the morning was the panel discussion on the theme of the ICDB Children of Today Power of Tomorrow . The discussion was interactive and participatory it avail the panelist the opportunity to shed lights on issues affecting them in society and school as well as within

their family set up in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The panelists comprised of YPM Members and students from various schools

within the greater Banjul area to dilate and exchange ideas on issues affecting them. The format for the panel discussion was open and was moderated by the children themselves and listeners were given the opportunity to call and give their views and opinion on the discussion.

The afternoon programme which brought together parents, stakeholders, civil society, media personnel and young people themselves to debate on the theme of this year's ICDB "Children of Today Power of Tomorrow". This event took place at the Marina International School grounds in Fajara.

Speaking at the event, Eric Samuel Ketter, president of YPM, said the aim of the celebration is to bring young people together to share ideas with one another. The day, he noted, was also set aside for young people to debate on issues affecting them and come up with solutions.

He added that the theme of this year's celebration is very timely, "because if you are a child today, people look at you as the power of tomorrow, it is up to you to live up to the challenge and strive hard to make sure that you become the power of tomorrow". He said as a child you cannot become the power of tomorrow without being serious with your school work. He added that discipline is also very important in everyone's life, particularly a child's, adding that without discipline even if you have the best grades, this is nothing admirable. He urged his fellow young people to be determined and strive hard today so they can be the power of tomorrow.



Hon. Fatoumatta Jahumpa Ceesay, in her remarks on the occasion, advised: "If we want a better generation to take care of us we have to nurture the children to today". There is need for parents to inculcate "our norms and values in the children", she added. Parents have to discipline and train their children based on our religions, she continued, and urged the parents to always monitor their children to know what they are up to.

Mrs. Jahumpa Ceesay further advised the children to be mindful of the way they dress and of peers that will tempt them into doing bad things.

Ya Sainey Gaye from Childfund said helping children is what Childfund does. "Childfund wants to work with everybody to ensure the betterment of children, because that is what we stand for," she declared.



Introducing Ishmael Beah UNICEF advocate for Children Affected by War



Founder of the Ishmael Beah Foundation Ishmael Beah was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa in 1980. When he was eleven, Ishmael's life, along with the lives of millions of other Sierra Leoneans, was derailed by the outbreak of a brutal civil war. After his parents and two brothers were killed, Ishmael was recruited to fight as a child soldier. He was thirteen. He fought for almost three years before he was removed from the army by UNICEF and placed in a rehabilitation home in Freetown the capital of Sierra Leone. In 1997, he fled Freetown due to the increasing violence and found his way to New York City in 1998 where he lived with Laura Simms, his new mother. In New York City, Beah was later chosen as one of two children to represent Sierra Leone at the United Nations First International Children's Parliament.



His heartfelt account of the violence he faced and his testimony of the existence of thousands of children like him moved the UN. Beah attended the United Nations International School. After high school, he enrolled at Oberlin College in Ohio and graduated in 2004 with a degree in Political Science. Beah is the New York Times bestselling author of *A Long Way Gone*, *Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, about his experiences in the war. The book has been published in over 40 languages and was nominated for a Quill Award in the Best Debut Author category for 2007. Time Magazine named the book as one of the Top 10 Nonfiction books of 2007, ranking at number 3. His work has appeared in the New York Times Magazine, *Vesper* tine Press and LIT and *Parabola* magazines. He is a UNICEF advocate for Children Affected by War, a member of the Human Rights Watch Children's Advisory Committee, Advisory board member of the Center for the Study of Youth and Political Violence at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Co-Founder of The Network for Young People Affected by War (NYPAW). He has spoken before the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations and many panels on the effect of war on children.

Culled from Ismeal Beah Foundation



YPM Embarked on an outreach activity



Twenty one (21) children and young people notable from YPM, friends and some counterparts embarked on a half day journey and outreach program which was held at the Sinchu Orphanage on Sunday 30th March 2014, the outreach activity was part of our Reaching the Unreached Campaign geared towards mainly giving support and interact with the wider communities especially vulnerable children to know and learn on their daily experience and the issues we discussed on our weekly YPM radio show courtesy of UNICEF and see how best we can better strengthen our programs with our peers and the wider communities.

The YPM family visited the Orphanage, met their fellow children and spent quality time with them to share joy, affection, passion and their stories. This was a great experience and serve as an eye opener as a group and individuals advocating for children.

We took along some valuable gifts and foods substances which were essential to our brothers and sisters at the orphanage, they were so glad to be with us on that day, we played games with them, ate together, helped some do their home works, braided some of their hairs, we almost spent 5 hours with them and at the end we made a raffle of each of them to have a Pen Pal friend