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Celebrating World Day of Social Justice

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Celebrating World Day of Social Justice
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Omega Foundation,
Busia Road, Milimani Est.
P.O. Box 3246-40100,
KISUMU- KENYA.
Tel: 0716 527990
0734 527990
info@omegafoundation.or.ke
www.omega-foundation.org

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of most at risk populations. Here is the speech of UN Secretary General on the occasion of the celebration of the World Day of Social Justice- February 20th 2013:

“As we mark World Day of Social Justice, we see far too many places where there are increasing opportunities for a few and only rising inequality for the many.

Growing inequality undermines the international community’s progress in lifting millions out of poverty and building a more just world. The fault lines are visible in falling wages for women and young people and limited access to education, health services and decent jobs.

We must strengthen and build institutions and develop policies that promote inclusive development.

In adopting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), world leaders committed to create a more equal and just world. Much progress has been made in enhancing decent work opportunities, strengthening social protection and improving public services.

Despite these advances, billions of people desperately depend on our focused and tireless efforts.

We must accelerate our work to meet the MDGs by the 2015 deadline and also look beyond by beginning to define new goals for sustainable development.. As we seek to build the world we want, let us intensify our efforts to achieve a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable development path built on dialogue, transparency and social justice”.

BAN KI MOON

UN-Secretary General on the event of the World Day of Social Justice

FANIKISHA SMT at OF

FANIKISHA SMT was again at OF to monitor the progress made in the project so far and consult with OF SMT on how best to strengthen its capacity and that of its affiliates.

Led by Henry Kilonzo the MERL Director, the team applauded OF for passing the Rapid Organisational Capacity Assessment with flying colours and qualifying for programmatic grants. The team was also impressed with OFs approach of involving as many relevant staff as possible in the mentorship sessions thus creating ease of transition in case of staff departure.

BoT validates policy documents

OF Board of Trustees recently took part in the validation process of various policy documents developed to systemize and institutionalise program and organisational processes at OF.

Mr Julius Gwada, who chairs the board led the progress of a keen critique of each document with the consultants as well as OF staff and FANIKISHA advisors. The process provided insightful advice for the conclusion of the documents.

During the validation, the Job Evaluation Policy,

The visit also sought to introduce new technical advisors into the FANIKISHA team that is, Edwin Gichangi and Beatrice Odede the Communication HR advisors respectively

“OF has demystified the assumption that it was a CBO rather than a national CSO by doing so well since this partnership begun and we look forward to working with you to better the lives of the communities you work with”, said Mr. Kilonzo.

Omega Foundation graduated into the next cycle of FANIKISHA IS project; being among the 4 CSOs who have shown exemplary determination in growing institutional systems. OF is poised to handle about US\$2.5million in this grant delivering community health initiatives across Western Kenya.

OF has responded to the RFA released for the purposes of bidding for these funds.

“This is an important exercise that will see OF move to the next level in its evolution as an organisation” the BoT Chairman reiterated.

FANIKISHA Advisors who were instrumental in the development process of the policies and strategies also encouraged OF to ensure airtight and practicable documents arise from the engagement with consultants and to assure effective implementation. They further advised that the documents should be exposed to regular review to keep them updated with

OF facilitates workplace HIV intervention training



Water Resource Management Authority staff keenly follow the proceedings during the training.

Because the spread of HIV in the workplace is a reality that cannot be wished away, OF was approached by the Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) -Western region to facilitate a workplace HIV intervention training.

HIV education and awareness as well as counseling and testing were conducted where over 12 staff members were counseled and tested out of the 20 staff who attended the training .

During the training participants appreciate that as much as HIV awareness seems to have reached a large percentage of the population, there is still dire need to deepen the understanding on care and treatment because some misconceptions still expose individuals to risk situations.

"This training has opened our eyes to many HIV related issues that we thought we knew", said Bernard Omuya WRMA Sub-regional Manager.

OF, PPEFA finally close gap

After months of anticipation and waiting OF has finally signed a KES.41m contract with Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) that will run for two years.

PPFA a US-based health organisation that aims to provide comprehensive reproductive and complementary health care services in settings which preserve and protect the essential privacy and rights of each individual, to advocate public policies which guarantee these rights and ensure access to such services .

Present during the signing were OF CEO Wilfred Owuor, Programmes Manager Harun Kodiaga and Finance and Administration Manager Paul Maher as well as PPFA's Pamela Onyango and Njeri Wahome.

This projects theme is: "Closing the Gap: Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Delivery and Advocacy in Southwest Kenya."



OF CEO Wilfred Owuor signs the OF/PPFA contract. Looking on are PPEFA's Pamela Onyango and Njeri Wahome and OF's Paul Maher

OF in networking training

OF staff recently attended an Organisational Network Analysis (ONA) training aimed at assessing the extent to which organisations network with each other with a view to improving network effectiveness and collaboration.

The two-day training was facilitated by FANIKISHA's Advocacy Technical Advisor Sam Mulyanga who took the participants through understanding the ONA survey, conducting the survey and understanding the ONA software.

The participants practiced mock surveys using the ONA software with the guidance of the facilitator. OF will use the knowledge acquired during this training to critically review its relations with other CSOs both locally and internationally in a bid to strengthen the bonds.



OF Economic Empowerment Officer Sharon Atieno had something to add at the ONA training. Besides her is Elizabeth Awuor, a Social Worker at Kochogo Feeding Centre.

"It's long been accepted as fact that the availability of family planning services saves lives. Where women have access to these services, children and families are healthier, and society at large benefits."

Martha Plimpton