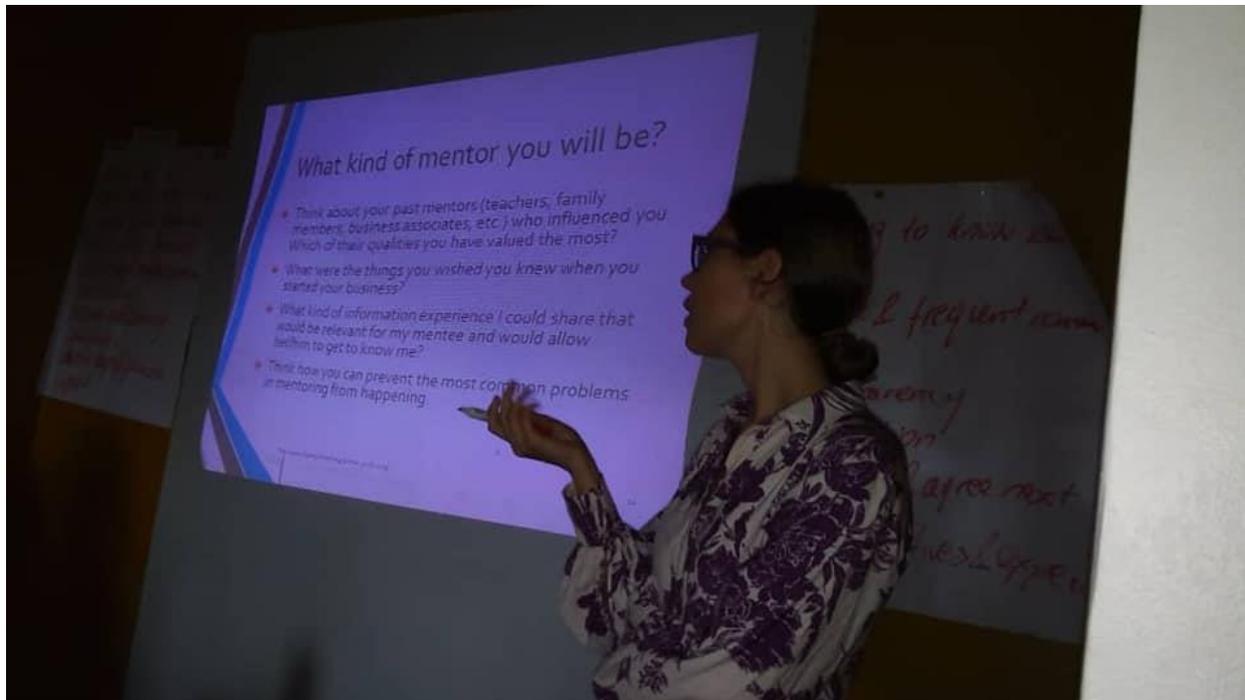


Report on Session with GYIN Gambia 2018 Mentors

The Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia Chapter) on Saturday, 8th September, 2018 organized a day-long session with the 2018 Mentors at the GYIN Gambia Secretariat in Churchill's Town.

The aim of the session was meant to brief the mentors on the programme as well as to discuss with them on how to successfully implement the programme.



Paulina Kowelle an intern at GYIN Gambia Presenting on Mentoring

Speaking at the briefing, Mamadou Edrisa Njie, executive Director, GYIN Gambia Chapter welcomed the mentors to GYIN Gambia secretariat saying that the secretariat is the "Youth Entrepreneurship Plaza".

He informed the mentors that the programme is fully funded by the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Gambia, a great partner with GYIN Gambia.

Today, "we're having this session to brief you about the programme, which includes signing a six months contract with the office which will outline your monthly allowances, transportation and monthly workshop of which mentors and mentees will be sharing experiences."

At GYIN Gambia, Njie stated that his office is happy working with all of them, saying "your CV's has spoken volumes before your final selection"

He congratulated them for accepting the offer to become GYIN Gambia mentors for the year 2018. “We definitely want to keep continue working with you in our upcoming programmes”. Njie remarked.

Last year, Njie told the mentors that the youth mentorship programme on enterprise management for 25 young rural entrepreneurs was a successful one and hope for another successful one again.

“Signing this contract with GYIN Gambia is a step in the right direction because it will serve as a guide for our programmes and we’re very flexible and our doors are open for any observation(s) for us to successfully have a good programme this year”.

For her part, **Fatou Mbenga Jallow**, Project Coordinator and Senior Technical Adviser expressed appreciations and welcome the mentors to the YEP family.



Fatou Mbenga Jallow Project Coordinator and Senior Technical Adviser

She told the mentors that the mentoring programme is an important component for YEP saying that “we need your support to help GYIN Gambia to implement a good programme for Gambian young entrepreneurs’ who are selected for the programme.

However, “if you face any challenge or challenges, lets discuss it before it get out of hands.”

For YEP, our doors are open for consultations and the project is here to support young people.

Presenting on the mentorship programme, Madam Paulina Kowelle, an intern at GYIN Gambia told the mentors that a Handbook has been developed to guide the mentors in their one-to-one mentoring.

The Handbook on youth mentorship in entrepreneurship is a comprehensive resource material on mentorship for youths. It is meant to complement and reinforce both past and on-going capacity building activities on entrepreneurship by injecting new but related aspects of the subjects focusing on critical issues affecting entrepreneurial development in The Gambia on one-to-one basis.

The handbook is designed to support existing youth entrepreneurs with requisite experience and skills in enterprise management coupled with considerable capacity on start-up skills in enterprise management.

The material is developed for the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN)-The Gambia Chapters' youth mentorship programme on entrepreneurship.

During the period, mentors shall familiarize themselves with the material through training and orientation and it shall be used as a guide during mentoring of entrepreneurs.

The handbook constitutes various elements and principles as well as basic features that are critical as far as sustainability in entrepreneurship is concerned.

Finally, this material is not a training material and hence must not be confused for one. It is a guide on how to go about mentorship and the basic elements that constitutes this youth mentorship on entrepreneurship.

Mentors wishing to use this material for mentorship must go through a structured orientation before they can effectively use it a resource material.

“All the participating individual participants involved in the mentorship program as mentees must guarantee their involvement and active participation in the programme. This is an important aspect of the whole programme since monthly face-to-face engagement of the mentees is both a continual process and process-led activity in which progress is tied to specific milestones on monthly basis.

Therefore, all participating participants in this programme should commit themselves to be part of this programme including their availability on monthly basis for an interface between them and their mentors.

All mentees shall be required to recognize the principles of confidentiality and open-

mindfulness as the basis for constructive and healthy relationship between the mentor and mentee. Both mentors and mentees are required to sign the Terms & Conditions of The GYIN Gambia Mentorship Programme 2018/2019 which clearly state all the rules and obligations.¹

The mentorship programme will comprise of five monthly weekend workshop sessions, four hours of one-to-one sessions between a mentor and a mentee per month for the duration of six (6) months and a graduation ceremony in the month six. During the monthly weekend workshops, mentors will be required to give presentations on their expertise area which are corresponding with the identified 'five basic components'

Moreover, each mentee will be given a choice of an assignment on the month's topic which they need to implement in the business before the next meeting. Mentors will be responsible for guiding the mentees and checking the assignments.

Presenting on Monitoring and Supervisions, Tim Tolle also an intern at GYIN Gambia said that 10 supervisors has been contracted for the programme.

Monitoring and supervision mechanisms that will be conducted during the implementation period of this programme will be a participatory sort of in which mentees will come up with their sets of targets and on periodic basis will provide status regarding their situation. The progress and completion of the targets will be regularly monitored.

According to him, mentors will be required to develop a comprehensive list of targets that will be correspondingly linked to that of the mentees and will be required to develop a set of methodologies in meeting such timelines with the active involvement and participation of the mentee.

On periodic basis, Tim Tolle stated that mentors will provide a comprehensive report on all the targets and milestones in a form of a status report with statistical data which will be further collated and submitted to GYIN Gambia Chapter in timely manner.

Inclusion, it is our collective desire to support young people in their efforts to establish sustainable investments in order to be self-reliant which to a large extent is anchored on not provision of a series of structured sessions for the youth.

The power and strength of mentorship lies in specificity of each and every individual participant's access to a mentor on one-to-one basis because every entrepreneur is unique and hence requiring adequate attention on one-to-one basis.

This makes mentorship different and special from conventional training in which a group of participants are train by a way of delivering structured sessions in a generic way.
