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EU AMBASSADOR TO THE GAMBIA & NAO SUPPORT UNIT HELD A STRATEGIC MEETING WITH H.E PRESIDENT BARROW & TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

H.E Ambassador Attila LAJOS together with staff of the EU Delegation to The Gambia and the NAO Support Unit held a strategic meeting with H.E President Adama Barrow including top officials of the Government at the Kairaba Beach Hotel on the strategic importance of the Gambia-EU Development Cooperation.

The meeting focused on improving the Development Cooperation that had experience very difficult challenges over the years especially on issues of Good Governance, Human Rights and non- commitment of

the past government on Article 8 Political Dialogue.

The European Union Ambassador to The Gambia reiterated the EU's strong commitment in supporting the development process of The Gambia under the new democratic leadership of President Adama Barrow.

The President of The Gambia on his part promised to govern the Gambia based on the principles of democracy and rule of law. He stressed the importance of observing all the protocols in the ACP- Cotonou Partnership Agreement especially Article 8 Political Dialogue which suffered a great set back under the former government.

EUROPEAN UNION & SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES THE GAMBIA PROMOTES PROPER HYGIENE PRACTICES THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF EFFECTIVE WATER AND SANITARY PRACTICES - WASH



Practical demonstration of the use of Tippy-Tap by students during the WASH training at Brikama-ba Lower Basic School

A three years EU funded SOS Children's Villages The Gambia Child Rights Instruments, Agents for Sustainable Change Project promotes the proper and effective use of Water and Sanitary Practices (WASH) in three lower basic schools in Central River Region. The project which is commissioned to promote children's right in The Gambia by ensuring that their rights are respected and fulfilled through the practical application of rights of children.

Due to the lack of adequate knowledge and awareness on the effect of poor sanitation and hygiene there is a high mortality and morbidity rates resulting to faeco-oral diseases especially amongst school going children.

In Central River Region South, Brikamaba, Sarebabou and Sankulay Kunda Lower Basic Schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education under its Regional Directorate, Region 5, together with the Regional Health Team of Basse, Upper River Region benefited from a training on proper hygiene practices for 23 participants targeting Heads of Schools, Student Councils, School Management Committees, and Community Child Protection Committees.

As water and sanitation are fundamental rights of children and need to be properly managed and effectively promoted, thus necessitating a training that will enhance the capacity of the selected stakeholders in areas such as staff roles to provide hygiene in schools, why WASH, how can water points be maintain, consequences of poor maintenance, handwashing critical time, procedures in handwashing, How to maintain Sanitary Facility in Schools, waste disposal system, and sanitary issues around water points.

Based on the outcome of the training the student council

resolved to consider forming WASH clubs in their various schools to enhance the promotion of Water and Sanitary Practices (WASH).

Practical demonstration of the use of Tippy-Tap by students during the WASH training at Brikama-ba Lower Basic School



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES THE GAMBIA EU FUNDED PROJECT BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF YOUNG GIRLS ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES IN FONI JARROL DISTRICT

The EU funded Women's Empowerment for Change Project SOS Children's Villages The Gambia continues to create a gender sensitive community where the rights of women and children are recognized, respected as well as protected.

Through engaging and sensitizing school going girls about their reproductive health and sexuality issues supporting them to get accurate and timely information in addressing the challenges of information gap both within the family and schools as there are not enough curricula in schools that cover these areas.

The training focused on the reduction of teenage pregnancy in schools, basic understanding of life and skills and how



Group photo of participants at the Sintet training

to develop interpersonal and communication skills as well as self-esteem for the girl child. At the end of the training, there was a demonstration of behavioral change as participants fought the culture of silence on issues considered as taboo.



ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL THE GAMBIA SENSITIZE CRR MEN ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

ActionAid International The Gambia conducted a series of sensitisation programmes for men in the Central River Region. The objective was to expose the District Authorities in the Districts, who are all men, to the same women's rights issues and messages that their wives, sisters, nieces were exposed to in order to create the necessary balance.



The programme was organised to consolidate the gains already registered by the EU funded project titled 'Promoting women's socio economic rights in the Central River Region' and attracted participants from Niamina Dankunku, Niamina Pinai and Niamina East Districts respectively. Despite the important roles men play in the socio-economic development of the rural communities, most of the interventions in the initial phase of the project targeted women leaving out men. The sensitisation of women alone on their socio-economic rights without bringing men to the same level may create an imbalance in the communities that could lead to some male resistance and withhold their valuable support to the course of women empowerment.

Men listening during the sensitization in one of the communities

The two days of sensitisation meetings were organised in each of the three Niamina districts targeting the District



Men listening during the sensitization in one of the communities

Authorities - i.e. the Seyfo (Chiefs) and all Alkalolu (village heads) of the District. It brought together 107 Alkalolus (26 from Dankunku District, 34 from Niamina West and 47 from Niamina East District) and 3 chiefs for the six days meeting.

The theme of the sensitisation was women's rights in general and a broad range of women's rights issues such as ownership of productive resources, decision making, inheritance, marriage rights, domestic violence, and sexual offences amongst many others were covered during the two days sensitisations. The audience were informed of the key women's rights laws in The Gambia - the 1997 Constitution; Women's Act, 2010; Sexual Offences Act, 2014; Domestic Violence Act, 2014 - which are the sources of these rights with the view to dispelling the misconception that women's rights are the imposition of foreign ideas.

The meetings were informally conducted in open air face-to-face format and were facilitated by a lawyer who deliberated on the legal principles underpinning such rights, explaining the rationale for according such rights to women and actively involved the audience during the entire process.