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OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE EU FUNDED PROJECT “AGRICULTURE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND FOOD SECURITY/NUTRITION TO MITIGATE MIGRATION FLOWS”



On 28th March 2018, at the Farafenni Senior Secondary School Assembly Hall, in Farafenni, NBR, the Ministry of Agriculture along with the Minister of Basic and Secondary Education who was representing the Office of the Vice President launched the new EU Funded “Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security/Nutrition to Mitigate Migration Flows” programme.

At the start of 2017 the EU took the decision to allocate 20.5 MEUR from the 11th European Development Fund to the Gambia for a programme entitled “Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security/Nutrition to mitigate migration”. This 1.2 billion Dalasi programme is self-contained and has three components as follows.

Component 1: FAO “Agriculture for Economic growth”, Component 2: WFP “School meals and Disaster Risk Management” and Component 3: NGOs “Support to the 11th EDF agriculture for economic growth and food security/nutrition to mitigate migration programme”.

Overall the programme aims to create growth and employment opportunities, in particular for women and youth, through improved agricultural productivity as well as access to food, whilst at the same time increasing most vulnerable smallholders’ participation in value chains. The programme also recognises there is a need for enhanced information systems, as well as crises management and prevention to build resilience. In so doing, the programme is expected to mitigate migration flows to the EU. The project is to be carried out in North Bank Region (NBR), Central River Region (CRR), Lower River Region (LRR) and Upper River Region (URR).

The contracts to implement Components 1 and 2 were signed with WFP and FAO in June and July 2017 respectively. The WFP contract is of 4.1 Million Euros value and the FAO contract of 13 Million Euros value. Both contracts are designed to run concurrently for 48 months ending in June and July 2021. They share a common logframe which clearly defines and allocates tasks to both agencies, as well as indicating where the component 3 support from NGOs is expected to fit. The Call for Proposals for NGOs was already published in July last year and bids submitted in December have now been evaluated with the contracts to be finalized shortly.

The overall intervention has been designed in a way to take into account the potential the agriculture sector offers for inclusive growth, improved food security and poverty reduction. The intervention furthermore provides support to access to food via the School Meals programme, including local purchase of food commodities, as well as working with local stakeholders on improving Disaster Risk Management in the Gambia.”

THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO THE GAMBIA RECEIVES A VISIT FROM DEVCO HEADQUARTERS TRAINEES

From the 20th to 23rd February 2018 a group of six EU trainees working in DEVCO headquarters visited the EU Delegation in The Gambia. Here they share their experience.

The trip to the EU Delegation aimed at giving us a better understanding of the implementation of the EU cooperation policies in The Gambia. Thanks to the availability of the EU Delegation and the enthusiasm of partners who received us, we had the opportunity to visit implementing partners and different projects that are being developed in the country in fields such as agriculture, nutrition, youth and women empowerment, and gender. Having the opportunity to meet beneficiaries, see how development projects work in practice, discuss with NGOs, as well as international organisations, working in the field was a very interesting and enriching experience, not only learning more about the projects and the role of the EU Delegation, but also discovering the country, its people, and the culture.

During our first day, we met the EU Ambassador Attila Lajos and the Delegation staff. They provided us with an overview of the Delegation's work and main challenges in the country. The afternoon was dedicated to the visit of three implementing partners: ActionAid, SOS Children and Wassu Gambia Kafo.

“One project that stood out was Wassu Gambia Kafo because Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is such a sensitive issue to work on and they are really open to speaking about their work, including the challenges they are facing” (Trainee).

The next day was dedicated to a field visit of a school feeding programme and a farm school project, implemented respectively by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in the North Bank region. These visits were particularly rewarding, as they allowed us to have a first-hand experience of project implementation and to meet the final beneficiaries. The warm welcoming of the farm school village, with traditional dances and songs, has been an unforgettable experience.



EU Delegation



ActionAid



WFP - Farafenni Lower Basic School; school feeding programme



SOS Children's Village



Wassu Gambia Kafo



WFP - Farafenni Lower Basic School; school feeding programme





FAO - Al Jamdou farmer field school



FAO - Al Jamdou farmer field school



National Nutrition Agency (NaNA)



Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)



Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)



“One of my highlights was going to Farafenni and seeing the projects there. It was nice to meet the Headmaster of the school, the World Food Programme representatives, and the staff and children of the school to see all the different sides of the school feeding project. And of course the party that was organised for us at Al Jamdou farmer field school” (Trainee).

On the third day we met other implementing partners,

two of them focused on nutrition and food security, the National Nutrition Agency and FAO, and the last one focused on youth empowerment, the International Trade Centre, implementing The Gambia Youth Empowerment Project (YEP). We concluded our trip back at the EU Delegation with a meeting with the Ambassador where we shared our experience and discussed the EU cooperation in the country, its challenges and possible developments.

ADVOCACY MISSION TO EUROPE ON THE GAMBIA’S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2018 – 2021)

In preparation for the International Conference on The Gambia’s National Development Plan scheduled for 22-23 May 2018 in Brussels, the Government of The Gambia embarked on an advocacy mission to Europe from 20-30 March 2018. This was intended to present the plan to development partners in order to enhance understanding and galvanize support ahead of the conference.

The delegation travelled to the selected European capitals and held meetings with the European External Action Service (EEAS), DEVCO, Government officials, heads of institutions, and private sector players during which the delegation presented and discussed the NDP and its

priorities, and undertook site visits. The Government of The Gambia and the EU through Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) funded mission. The delegation was headed by the Hon. Amadou Sanneh, Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs & NAO of the EDF in The Gambia and accompanied by Mr. Lamin Camara, Permanent Secretary, MoFEA, Ms. Alice Colley, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MoFA, Mr. Alagie Fadera Director, Directorate of Development Planning, MoFEA, Mr. Baboucar Jobe, Director, Directorate of Economic Policy and Research, MoFEA, Mr. Ibrahima M.B.S. Kinteh Principal Planner, Directorate of Development Planning, MoFEA Mr. Mutarr Jammeh, Programme Analyst, NAOSU, Mr. Andrew Sylva, Operations & Liaison Officer, NAOSU



HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS WOMEN IN THE GAMBIA

International Women's Day is a chance to remind ourselves that sixty one years ago, equality between women and men was embedded in the Rome Treaty as one of the European Union's (EU) fundamental values. Today, the EU remains committed to gender equality and to breaking the vicious cycle of gender discrimination. This has been translated into the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 which is an ambitious political commitment that places gender at the heart of what EU does and, most importantly, it holds us to account on its delivery.



Rose F Manga, the founder of RozAfric; an entrepreneur supported by EU funded Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC)



Jankey Jassey, a solar installer, supported by EU's implementing partner 'Mbolo'



Mam Kaddy Ceesay, a business woman who participated in the EU funded Business Management Skills training implemented by Action Aid

In 2017 the EU in The Gambia launched a 1 million EURO 'call for proposals' to support civil society organisations promoting women's empowerment and the participation of women in inclusive and sustainable growth. This built on 1 million EURO in 2014 provided to promote democracy and children rights and 400,000 EUROS in 2013 to support civil society in promoting gender equity and women's rights. Through these funds we are supporting a range of partners and initiatives which include;

Wassu Gambia Kafo; received 300,000 EURO from the EU for their project that aims to contribute to reduce gender base violence against children and women, notably Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, in The Gambia.

Mbolo Association; an organisation implementing a 299,000 EURO project promoting small-scale agricultural communities resilience by enhanced agro processing products using solar technology through empowering women.

Action Aid; implementing a 300,000 EURO project aimed at promoting women's empowerment and participation by increasing women's access to and control over productive resources. It aims to reach aims to reach 28,000 people.

In addition to this, with our UN and NGOs partners, we have a portfolio of over 40 million EUROS that supports rural development and food security, much of which directly supports women including;

The 3,000,000 EURO 'Building Resilience through Social Transfers for nutrition security in the Gambia (BReST)' implemented by UNICEF in partnership with the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) which provides a monthly cash transfer of GMD600 (EUR10) to 6,000 women with children under-2 years .

A 11,500,000 EURO "Post-Crisis Response to Food and Nutrition insecurity in The Gambia" project being implemented by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF. This aims to build resilience and reduce malnutrition through supplementary feeding of 40,000 children, promoting good nutritional practices and nutrition climate smart agriculture by farmers and a 'Cash for Work' programme already employing over 500 women.

The 13,000,000 EURO 'Agriculture for Economic Growth' project being implemented by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture. Amongst others, this project aims to promote the role of women in the agriculture value chain.

This demonstrates only some of the ways that the EU in The Gambia is responding to the call to action to #PressForChange. We know that gender parity won't happen overnight, but we refuse to wait the estimated 200 years until gender parity.

