

TECHNICAL COOPERATION FACILITY (TCF) SUPPORTS CAPACITY BUILDING FOR GOVERNMENT STAFF



Permanent Secretaries at the training

NAOSU in November, through the TCF supported the Personal Management Office (PMO), under the Office of the President to train senior cadre of Government officials, mainly Permanent Secretaries of the various Ministries on Leadership and Change Management. The objective of the training was meant to equip these top level officials with the required skills and knowledge for better policy implementation and coordination in the context of the National Development Plan (2017-2021).

Also in November, NAOSU supported the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs (MoFEA) to train over 29 officials from

MDA’s including Office of the President on the Budget Planning, Control and Implementation Using Excel.

The objective of the training was to ensure that the participants from the MDAs have the necessary tools and skills to increase their overall efficiency in the use of Microsoft Excel in streamlining their work load, thereby contribute significantly to the development of practical skills and capabilities necessary for the planning and implementation of budgeting processes

This facility aims to support, in all phases of the cycle of operations, the effective design, implementation and monitoring of projects and programmes funded under the aegis of the EDF and other EU funds. It also aims at the successful identification, formulation and implementation of programmes financed by the EDF, and to improved capacities of the National Authorising Officer’s Unit, other involved administrations and key actors for the effective and timely implementation of The Gambia – EU Cooperation Strategy.

The TCF continues to support capacity building of government officials, NGO’s and other stakeholders on EDF Procedures; evaluations studies and formulation of projects; programming of the EDF funds; audit of programme estimates, projects and programmes funded by the EDF; and dialogue with government departments, agencies and Non -State Actors on the various programmes and projects; as well as an enhanced visibility of the EU-Gambia cooperation.

THE EU – PUTTING CIVIL SOCIETY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA



Josselin Amalfi of the EU delegation delivering a keynote speech

The EU strongly supports building a more connected and strong civil society landscape in The Gambia. We recognise the key role CSOs play in development and acknowledge the need for the EU to support the emergence of an organised civil society. As a result, we have significantly strengthened our engagement with CSOs over recent years and they are becoming increasingly important partners in EU development policy.

In 2017 the EU launched a €1 million (57 million dalasi) 'call for proposals' which focused on contributing to the fight against injustice and inequality, with a specific gender focus. The EU selected CSOs who were dedicated to promoting women's empowerment and the participation of women in inclusive and sustainable growth in The Gambia.

On October 3rd 2018 the EU organised a Joint Civil Society Launch at Fandema in Tujereng, in partnership with the four organisations whose projects were selected: Mbolo, United Purpose, Action Aid and the Spanish Red Cross and their partner organisations. The launch was attended by beneficiaries from multiple regions as well as the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Office of the Vice President.

As well as learning about each of the projects, attendees were given the opportunity to watch a live radio debate on gender equality performed by Red Cross volunteers, and a cultural show and musical performance given by women and youth who attend Mbolo's Fandema training centre and school.

Each of these CSOs projects were selected because of their clear commitment to empowering the women of The Gambia as development actors, entrepreneurs and workers.



Mbolo is an organisation implementing a €299,000 project promoting small-scale agricultural communities resilience by enhanced agro processing products using solar technology through empowering women in 6 communities in the Central River Region and 2 communities in the West Coast Region.

act:onaid Action Aid is implementing a €300,000 project aimed at promoting women's empowerment and participation by increasing women's access to and control over productive resources in the Central River Region. It aims to reach aims to reach 28,000 people.



United Purpose is implementing a €225,000 project creating entrepreneurship opportunities for rural women in The Gambia, in which at least 400 women farmers in Upper River Region will be empowered and benefit directly from increased entrepreneurship opportunities and in turn provide employment in their communities.



The Spanish Red Cross is implementing a €300,000 project that aims to empower the most disadvantaged rural women in Kiang West District (LRR) by enhancing their access to productive and sustainable resources and the social environment in which they develop their productive activities. This will help them gain economic autonomy, strengthen women's ties and raise gender awareness among men and their communities at large.



WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COORDINATION



Darrell Sexstone of the EU Delegation delivering a keynote speech

A three day workshop on Strengthening National Disaster Management Coordination and Data Management was held in October by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in The Gambia. The workshop was funded by the EU as part of an ECOWAS/ World Bank Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project.

Gambia faces a number of natural hazards, including, amongst others, epidemics, floods and drought, which can cause significant loss of life, livelihoods, and assets and require a national or international response. The population's vulnerability of is also high due, in part, to significant levels of poverty and to weak infrastructure.

The workshop provided a framework for national stakeholders to reflect on how to modernise and enhance DRR policies and to cover the whole disaster cycle. This touched on important issues related to understanding further the risks faced in the Gambia, considering how to make all Government policies perform better for disaster

prevention, examining the possibilities of increasing investment in disaster resilience, raising awareness to build a culture of prevention and, most importantly of all, working towards better coordination between the actors.

The workshop was attended by ECOWAS, the Office of the Vice President, the EUD, UN agencies UNDP, FAO and WFP, Civil Society organisations, the NDMA and government agencies active in Disaster Risk Reduction.

The EU is a committed donor and is also funding several initiatives in the Area of Disaster Risk Management in the Gambia through ongoing work undertaken by the World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as part of the 11th EDF 20.5 MEUR "Agriculture for economic growth and food security/nutrition to mitigate migration" programme.

Under the programme, WFP and FAO are assisting Government "Improve information gathering and dissemination on food security and nutrition (Early Warning System, statistics, market information system)" as well as "Improve implementation of risk mitigation measures (disaster risk reduction, including climate changes adaptation and resilience measures, disaster risk management, insurances tools, nutrition and social safety nets)."

More specifically, WFP has been working closely with UNDP, FAO and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to establish an early warning coordination system in The Gambia. WFP is focusing on establishment of early warning coordination to bring all relevant stakeholders together with a view to create a platform that will consolidate and disseminate early warning information to vulnerable communities as well as capacity augmentation of national institutions engaged in early warning