



CSO WATCHDOG:

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN THE GAMBIA (STAR)

ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ITS SUCCESSOR IN THE GAMBIA

CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR YEAR ONE-
DECEMBER 2021 TO DECEMBER 2022

FINAL VERSION

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY
SAKOU JOBE: CONSULTANT – FEBRUARY 2023

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTIONS	CONTENTS	PAGE
-	Cover page	1
=	Table of contents	2
=	Acknowledgements	3
=	Abbreviations and acronyms	3
Section 1	Executive summary	4
Section 2	The methodology used for the compilation of the annual report	5
Section 3	Project achievements in year one	5
Section 4	Background information on the STAR project	6
Section 5	Project activities	6
Section 6	Implemented activities in year one	7
Section 6.1	Project staff induction on the EU operational guidelines and project concept	7
Section 6.2	Courtesy call on the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA)	8
Section 6.3	Launching of the STAR Project	8
Section 6.4	Bi-monthly review and planning meetings	8
Section 6.5	Monitoring and evaluation missions	9
Section 6.6	Development of relevant IEC materials	9
Section 6.7	Establish a Research Center and a Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee	9
Section 6.8	Establish a CSO/NGO Platform for the coordination of evidence – based advocacy	11
Section 6.9	Organize 3 annual Peer Review Journals on relevant development issues	12
Section 6.10	Capacity building of 75 CSOs on participatory monitoring and evaluation on key development issues and 25 media practitioners on evidence-based reporting	13
Section 6.11	Conduct training for 6 teams of Traditional Communicators	13
Section 6.12	Conduct radio programmes on the NDP in 6 community radio stations	14
Section 6.13	Conduct 10 sessions of Policy Dialogues	14
Section 6.14	Regional level advocacy visits at Regional Education Directorate level for the presentation of evidence-based findings on the Education Sector	15
Section 6.15	Sensitization on peace building, gender mainstreaming, environment and climate change	16
Section 6.16	Interface dialogue with CSOS/NGOS on the implementation of NDP in the Gambia	17
Section 7	Analysis of the overall impact of the STAR Project	18
Section 8	Constraints that affected the project implementation	19
Section 9	Some lessons learnt from the project implementation	19
Section 10	Sustainability of the project interventions	
Section 11	Recommendations for the completion of the STAR Project	20
Section 11.1	Recommendations by participants	20
Section 11.2	Recommendations by the consultant	21

Annex 1	Some pictures of project activities	22
Annex 2	Work plan of the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee	25
Annex 3	Work plan of the CSO/NGO Platform	26

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EU	European Union
FIOHTG	Future in Our Hands -The Gambia
FAWEGAM	Forum for African Women Educationalists, Gambia Chapter
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
RF-NDP	Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan
TANGO	The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in The Gambia
TCs	Traditional Communicators
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
MoBSE	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
MoFEA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NDP	National Development Plan
SMC	School Management Committee
STAR	Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Resilience in The Gambia
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee – a local institution mandated to coordinate village development activities based on the Local Government Act provisions

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

The project titled: Enhancing Civil Society Capacity for Increased Participation in the Implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP). It is a Civil Society Organization watchdog project intended to enhance the capacities of target groups and final beneficiaries identified for the implementation of the National Development Plan (2018-2021) and its successor, the Green Recovery - Focused National Development Plan for the period 2023-2027.

The Civil Society Organization (CSO) watchdog project is funded by the European Union (EU) and covers a duration of three years from December 2021 to December 2024. It is being implemented by a consortium of three organizations. They are Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG) as lead applicant, Forum For African Women Educationalists, The Gambia Chapter (FAWEGAM) and The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in The Gambia (TANGO) as co-applicants.

The project is designed to enhance the capacities of target groups and final beneficiaries identified for the implementation of the National Development Plan. It focuses on improving quality education, peace building, gender relations, environmental restoration and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

Overall objective: To establish a functionally effective CSO/NGO platform centred on evidence based advocacy on education and peace building by 2024

Specific objectives

- To enlighten and build the capacity of stakeholders on the status quo of education in The Gambia
- To enhance the capacity of CSO/NGO on research and evidence base reporting to promote transparency and accountability.
- To engage target groups (central and regional authorities) for the efficient delivery of better educational services especially for the differently able persons
- To advocate for peace building, gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment, climate change, environment and natural resources management, which are cross-cutting issues in the education sector development.

2. Recommendations for the completion of the project

1. The use of the consortium-type approach to fundraising and project implementation has proven to be effective, considering the advantages it has in achieving project impact. It can be promoted even further, especially in the post-project implementation.

2. The consortium members should intensify awareness-raising and capacity building efforts to adequately prepare and enable the target groups/duty bearers to be effectively engaged in the implementation of the Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan.

3. The consortium members should consolidate the establishment and operations of the Research Centre, the CSO/NGO Platform, the Grievance Redress Mechanism, the Peer Review Journal and Policy Briefs so that they can be fully operational and effective in supporting the project and future initiatives.

4. The potentials of the female Traditional Communicators should be further developed and harnessed, for them to be able to effectively support current and future projects in the country. They are fast learners as evidenced by their good performance during the Traditional Communicators' training conducted by the project in the Upper River Region. Investing in them can foster development in the communities.

5. Follow up on the project support commitments made by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and other target groups/duty bearers during the advocacy sessions as well as policy and the interface dialogues to ensure that they materialize without much delay.

6. A great number of recommendations were made by the project beneficiaries during the implementation of the various project activities in the first year of the project. Given the fact that all of them cannot be implemented, they need to be prioritized. Many of the recommendations constitute good advocacy material on the NDP and its successor and can be used accordingly in the short to medium term.

SECTION 2: THE METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE COMPILATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The compilation of the annual report was based on secondary information produced by the three consortium members. The consultant undertook a thorough review of all the documents provided to him. They consisted of activity reports, quarterly progress reports, meeting minutes, the project proposal and the project logical framework. Reference was also made to the National Development Plan to obtain further information.

When the review of the reports was completed, the consultant prepared a report writing framework to serve as a guide in consolidating the annual report. A working document was created in which relevant information from the various sources was recorded. This document was updated gradually to produce a draft consolidated report.

A thorough analysis of the partner reports was made to establish to what extent the project's aim and objectives have been met and to address the other requirements of the terms of reference. These included information on the target groups and final beneficiaries, gender issues, independent opinion about the project, lessons learnt from the project implementation and recommendations.

SECTION 3: PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS IN YEAR ONE

1. Officials of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs appreciated and recognized the project as a contribution of CSOs and NGOs to the implementation of the National Development Plan.
2. All the stakeholders met by the consortium members during the courtesy calls promised to support the project in every possible way.
3. The project launch provided a good opportunity for the consortium members to share knowledge about the project and create publicity for it.
4. The production and utilization of the IEC materials (3000 T-shirts, 4 Banners, 1000 Posters and 7 Giant Billboards) enabled the consortium members to make the project visible nationwide and among target groups and final beneficiaries.
5. A total of 25 highly experienced female Traditional Communicators drawn from various communities in the URR, the majority of them from Mandinka and Pulaar speaking people, were trained to acquire the requisite skills for the popularization of the National Development Plan.
6. The project conducted 10 radio airtime sessions of one hour each in 7 community radio stations to sensitize the general public about the existence of the National Development Plan and its successor and the status of its implementation.
7. A Regional dialogue and a Participatory Evaluation of the National Development Plan were conducted in 6 of the 7 Educational Regions of the country. The activity reached 337 participants.
8. A team comprising representatives from FAWEGAM, TANGO and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs facilitated the evidence-based advocacy/policy dialogues.

9. Regional level advocacy visits at Regional Education Directorate level for the presentation of evidence-based findings on the education sector were conducted in 4 Regions, namely Basse (Region 6), Janjanbureh (Region 5), Mansakonko (Region 4), and Brikama (Region 2). The activity reached 223 participants.

10. A Regional Sensitization on Peace Building, Gender Mainstreaming, Environment and Climate Change was conducted at Wassu in Central River Region North, Kerewan in North Bank Region and TANGO in the Kanifing Municipality. The activity reached 222 participants.

11. The interface dialogue sessions with CSOs and NGOs conducted in URR, CRR, NBR and LRR, on the implementation of the NDP brought together 327 representatives comprising 206 males and 121 females.

12. A soft copy of the National Development Plan was shared with target groups and other stakeholders. This has enhanced their awareness and understanding of the document.

13. Some comments and recommendations from CSOs and communities made through various consultations were incorporated in the successor NDP during its preparation.

SECTION 4: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE STAR PROJECT

The project which is the subject of this report is titled: Enhancing Civil Society Capacity for Increased Participation in the Implementation of the National Development Plan. It is a Civil Society Organization watchdog project intended to enhance the capacities of target groups and final beneficiaries identified for the implementation of the National Development Plan (2018-2021) and its successor – named the Green Recovery - Focused National Development Plan (2023-2027).



The Civil Society Organization watchdog project is funded by the European Union and covers a duration of three years from December 2021 to December 2024. It is being implemented by a consortium of three organizations. They are FIOHTG as lead applicant, FAWEGAM and TANGO as co-applicants. The project is designed to enhance the capacities of target groups and final beneficiaries identified for the implementation of the National Development Plan. It focuses on improving quality education, peace building, gender related issues, environmental restoration and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

The capacities of institutions (target groups) are expected to be improved through the various project activities. With improved capacities, the institutions are expected to deliver services in an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable manner which will result in participatory and accountable governance, economic recovery, democracy, human rights and peace and stability in The Gambia.

They will be engaged during both the project phase and post-project follow-ups, in order to achieve increased and sustained project impact on the final beneficiaries. This will transform them into active development players and enable them to make meaningful and effective contributions to democratic governance, accountability, development and poverty reduction in the country.

SECTION 5: KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Launch the Project.
2. Conduct Staff induction Training on EU Operational Guidelines and Project Concept.
3. Conduct capacity building of 75 CSOs and 25 Media practitioners on participatory monitoring and evaluation on key development issues.
4. Establish a CSO/NGO platform for coordination of evidence – based advocacy.

5. Establish 1 Research centre and Grievance Redress Mechanism.
6. Conduct 10 sessions of evidence-based advocacy/policy dialogues.
7. Conduct 10 Interface dialogue sessions on the National Development Plan with CSOs and all relevant stakeholders across all regions.



8. Conduct advocacy visits to Government Ministries and to the Regions for the presentation of evidence-based findings on the education sector.
8. Organize 3 annual presentations of policy briefs – sharing recommendation for improvement on information access.
9. Development of relevant IEC materials.
10. Organize 3 annual peer review journals on relevant development issues.
11. Conduct radio programmes on the NDP and its successor in 6 community radio stations.

12. Produce and share 2 annual reports.
13. Conduct training of 6 teams of Traditional Communicators (TCs) on information dissemination techniques.
14. Upgrade the TANGO website and social media platforms.
15. Conduct 6 sensitization sessions on peace building, gender mainstreaming, women’s empowerment, climate change, environment and natural resources management techniques with CSOs and all relevant stakeholders across all regions.
16. Conduct bi-monthly review and planning meetings.
17. Conduct quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation Missions.
18. Conduct Project End Evaluation.

Expected results

1. Increased capacities of target groups in the implementation of the National Development Plan in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner.
2. Improved capacities of CSOs and NGOs to effectively and efficiently participate in the implementation of the National Development Plan.
3. Increased capacities of CSOs, NGOs and media practitioners in performing their roles in the fight against corruption and promoting accountability.
4. Increased capacities of regional and local government authorities in providing public services in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner.
5. Increased energy, resources and synergies in the implementation of the NDP.
6. Improved educational services that embrace quality and inclusive education.
- 7 Increased socio-economic status of the project beneficiaries

SECTION 6: IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES IN YEAR ONE

6.1 PROJECT STAFF INDUCTION ON THE EU OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND PROJECT CONCEPT



— An initial induction exercise was carried out by the consortium’s members who are directly involved in the implementation of the project. They were introduced to the senior management of the three consortium members. The second induction exercise was conducted with the European Union representatives. It provided the staff

with the requisite knowledge and skills regarding the operational and financial guidelines and procedures that govern the implementation of European Union funded projects. The induction exercise enabled the consortium members to comply with the set policies and procedures (e.g. eligible or illegible spending).

6.2 COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (MOFEA)



A delegation constituted by the three consortium members was able to meet and discuss with key stakeholders whose involvement in the project is crucial by virtue of their mandates and accountabilities in relation to the issues being addressed by the project. The key stakeholders met included the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs which is the custodian of the National Development Plan.

The visits were meant to inform them about the project and the importance of their collaboration and partnership in the course of its implementation. It gave the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs the opportunity to appreciate and recognize the project as a contribution of CSOs and NGOs as valued partners in the implementation of the National Development Plan. Another outcome of the courtesy calls was that all the stakeholders who were met promised to support the project in every possible way.

6.3 LAUNCHING OF THE STAR project

Given the wide range of target groups and final beneficiaries targeted by the project, it was important for it to be launched in a formal and interactive way. The event provided a good opportunity to share knowledge about the project and create publicity for it. The people who attended the launch were drawn from CSO and NGO partners, other stakeholders, media outlets (both print and electronic) and project beneficiaries.

6.4 BI-MONTHLY REVIEW AND PLANNING MEETINGS

During the year under review the consortium members conducted six bi monthly review and planning meetings. As the three organizations are located at different places, the consortium members considered it important to meet every two months, to discuss arising issues during the project implementation and chart the way forward. The bi-monthly meetings are usually conducted at a central venue where all the three organizations will gather and give feedback to each other through reports, presentations and discussions. It is also conducted on rotational basis which gives every organization the opportunity to host a meeting.

An example of the importance of the bi-monthly review and planning meetings

A bi-monthly planning meeting was conducted on 13 September 2022 to take stock of work done so far with regard to the project and some of the challenges encountered during the period. The Research Officer did a video presentation on all the activities carried out so far in the first two quarters of the project implementation. It was agreed during the meeting to share the video presentation with all the project staff for documentation.

The programme officer of FAWEGAM did a presentation on the policy dialogue that was conducted across all the regions. The report includes the findings, challenges faced during the policy dialogue as well as some key recommendations made by participants during the dialogue sessions. It was highlighted that there was limited awareness of the National Development Plan but as a result of the project the people now know what it is all about, its contents and the achievements it has made during the period.

It was agreed to use the findings of the policy dialogues as reference material when making courtesy calls to key stakeholders in the project. The work plan was reviewed and some of the activities that needed to be implemented for the remaining period of the first year of the project were noted down by all the implementing partners. The budget was reviewed and some clarifications were made on it.

6.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION MISSIONS

In line with the project design, the consortium members successfully conducted monitoring and evaluation missions during the period under review. They enabled the consortium members to take stock of progress made and constraints encountered during the implementation of project activities as well as identify and address problems that arose. Furthermore, the opportunity was used to do joint planning and coordination of project activities. The interaction and dialogue provided synergy, reinforced collaboration and cooperation among the implementing members and enhanced performance.

6.6 DEVELOPMENT OF RELEVANT IEC MATERIALS



The project design and implementation ensured the visibility of the European Union as the donor and the contribution of the three consortium members. Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials were produced to create publicity and visibility as well as raise awareness on the thematic issues being addressed by the project. The awarding of the contracts for the production of the IEC materials was transparent and followed the EU's guidelines of contract bidding.

The IEC materials developed included 3000 T-shirts, 4 Banners, 1000 Posters and 7 Giant Billboards. These materials were printed and shared among the three implementing organizations and were used during the implementation of the project activities. The Giant Billboards were erected at strategic locations in the seven Administrative Areas of the country. They are clearly visible and indicate the names of the consortium members, their logos, the donor and the duration of the project. The production and utilization of the IEC materials enabled the consortium members to make the project visible country-wide and among target groups and final beneficiaries.

6.7 ESTABLISH A RESEARCH CENTER AND A GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM COMMITTEE

The establishment of a Research Center and a Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee is an important component of the project.

The Research Centre

The Research Center was established and housed at the TANGO Headquarters. It is an initiative intended to address and ease access to vital information that can be used to raise awareness about issues related to national development, advocacy and other empowerment-related activities aimed at target groups and final beneficiaries in communities.

The Research Center is equipped with modern materials including office furniture and equipment as well as research journals and publications that can be used as reference material for CSOs/NGOs and other stakeholders in The Gambia. A Research Officer was appointed to take care of the operations of the Research Centre.

The functions of the Research Officer include the following:

1. To coordinate and supervise the Research Center.
2. To coordinate the CSO/NGO Platform and Grievance Redress Mechanism under the purview of TANGO.
3. To receive and assist visitors to access important information they need from the Research Center.
4. To serve as Secretary to the CSO/NGO Platform Committee and the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee.
5. To Coordinate periodic committee meetings of the CSO/NGO Platform and the Grievance Redress Mechanism.
6. To write quarterly activity updates on progress and challenges encountered

This institutional facility has created a platform for access to reliable and useful information and is contributing to improved, effective and efficient participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the National Development Plan and its successor.



The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Committee

Following the establishment of the research Centre, the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee was set up. The Committee has a consultation room that accommodates complainant who come to lodge their complaints. The use of the consultation room also assures complainants of confidentiality.

Membership to the GRM Committee is on a rotational basis of six month term limit. Currently, it is composed of the five members indicated below:

Mrs. Ndey S. Bakurin, Executive Director of TANGO
Mrs Jainaba T. Sarr, Director of Future In Our Hands-The Gambia
Mrs. Yadicon Njie-Eribo, National coordinator, FAWEGAM
Mr. Lamin Fatty Director of Gambia Federation of the Disabled
Mr. Ahmed Salami, Director of Worldview-The Gambia

The Committee is charged with the responsibility of arbitrating and resolving conflicts within and between CSOs and NGOs and the wider society. This service will promote continued peace and stability as well as encourage economic stability and social unity.

The Mandates of the GRM Committee are as follows:

1. To receive and address any concerns, complaints, notices of emerging conflicts, or grievances (collectively "Grievance") alleging actual or potential harm to affected person(s) (the "Claimant(s)") arising from Project and related matters.
2. To assist in the resolution of grievances between and among project stakeholders as well as the various Government Ministries, Agencies and Commissions, CSOs, NGOs, and others (collectively, the "Stakeholders") in the context of the Project and related matters.
3. To conduct itself at all times in a flexible, collaborative, and transparent manner aimed at problem solving and consensus building.

The GRM committee conducted regular meetings during the period under review. They have developed a work plan to be used as a guide for the first year of the project (2022). Refer to annex two for the details.

Achievements of the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee

1. The concerned stakeholders were informed on the existence of the Committee.
2. The meetings conducted by the GRM helped in information sharing and in the development of the work plan.
3. The launching of the GRM was well attended.
4. Sensitization was done across all regions on the existence of the Committee and how it can be accessed.

Constraints faced by the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee

1. Difficulty in meeting relevant stakeholders to sensitize them about the existence of the Committee.
2. The reluctance of people to report their cases to the Committee for them to be addressed.
3. The reluctance of some people to fill the GRM forms, even among CSO members.

Way forward the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee

1. Increase sensitization so that the relevant stakeholders would know about the existence of the Committee.
2. Engage relevant stakeholders to complement the work of the GRM Committee.

6.8 ESTABLISH A CSO/NGO PLATFORM FOR THE COORDINATION OF EVIDENCE – BASED ADVOCACY

The CSO/NGO Platform is a very instrumental component of the project by virtue of its facilitation and catalyst role in the implementation of the National Development Plan and its successor.



The Platform comprises of five members and has the Research Officer as its secretary. It was instituted for the coordination of evidence-based advocacy in the Gambia and was required to conduct a Regional Consultative Meeting.

The CSO/NGO platform will among other things be organizing regional meetings where it will share and receive evidence-based information relating to CSO/NGO issues for onward transmissions to relevant authorities. This will enhance learning and sharing, and eventually instil confidence and a sense of ownership and belonging in the National Development Process. The members of the Platform are:

- Mrs. Ndey S. Bakurin, Executive Director of TANGO
- Mrs Jainaba T. Sarr, Director of Future In Our Hands-The Gambia
- Mrs. Yadicon Njie-Eribo, National coordinator, FAWEGAM
- Mr. Omar Badjie, Director, Action Aid The Gambia
- Mr. Ebrima Jarbo, Deputy Director, NGO Affairs Agency

The goal of the Platform

The goal of the platform is to have evidence-based advocacy on national development matters such as education, peace building, environmental management, climate change and other related issues.

The objectives of the Platform

1. To enhance the capacity of CSOs/NGOs on research and evidence-based reporting to promote transparency and accountability.
2. To engage target groups (Central and Regional Authorities) for the efficient delivery of better services, especially for people with disabilities.
3. Information gathering and sharing.

The work plan of the Platform

The CSO/NGO Platform developed and used a work plan to guide it in the first six months since the committee membership will be on a rotational basis. The work plan has indicators, implementation time frames and assignment of responsibilities for the individual activities. Refer to annex three for the details.

The official launching of the CSO/NGO Platform

The launching of the CSO/NGO platform centered on evidence-based advocacy was done on 31st May 2022 at the TANGO conference hall. It brought together different people from different institutions including the Government, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, and the media.

There was a representative each from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and the Ministry of Higher Education Research Science and Technology. These Ministries are the custodians of the implementing partners in terms of the National Development Plan and the project.

Constraints faced by the Platform

1. Difficulty in meeting relevant stakeholders to sensitize them about the existence of the committee.
2. It was not easy to meet other stakeholders because of their busy schedules.

3. The reluctance of people to report their cases to the Committee for them to be addressed.

Way forward for the platform

1. Increase sensitization so that the relevant stakeholders would know about the existence of the committee and make use of its services.
2. Engage relevant stakeholders to complement the work of the CSO/NGO Platform.

6.9 ORGANIZE 3 ANNUAL PEER REVIEW JOURNALS ON RELEVANT DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Peer Review Journal production component of the project is a vital one. It's focus is to strengthen participatory and accountable governance in The Gambia in order to contribute to efforts aimed at economic recovery, democratization, peace and stability. The initiative is in line with the overall objective of the project which is to establish a functionally effective CSO/NGO platform centered on evidence-based advocacy on education and peace building by 2024.

In implementing the Peer Review Journal production activity, a task force was set up to do the necessary research on how journal production is carried out. The task force included the Research Officer, the Project Manager, the two project officers of TANGO and FAWEGAM, a Research Adviser from the University of Uppsala, the Fundraising Manager of FIOHTG and an intern at TANGO.

On Friday 30th September 2022, the task force had its first meeting. The meeting was convened to brainstorm on the steps that were needed to be taken for the Journal production and the Thematic Areas that needed to be covered in the Journal. The Thematic Areas identified were Education, Climate Change, Women, Youth Empowerment and Peace Building.

A notice was drafted and sent to all TANGO social media platforms and the TANGO website for interested writers to send in their abstracts. It was also sent to individual writers and institutions (university, higher education, etc.). Publications were sent to the Point and FOROYAA newspapers for the general public to know about what the STAR Project is doing and interested individuals were invited to send in their abstracts.

The abstracts received from interested authors were reviewed by the task force and finally, three of them were selected for publication. In the end, only one Journal was published.

Achievements on the Peer review journal production

1. The peer review Journal encouraged young writers to write, most especially the new graduates from the university.
2. The journal production gave the public the opportunity to write on different themes with regard to development issues and other related matters.
3. This is the first time a project has an activity for the production of journals.
4. The general public was able to know more about the project because of the publication of the request for abstracts for the Journal production.

Constraints that affected the peer review journal production

1. During the final review, only three articles were good for publications.
2. Journal writing in the Gambia is new, thus there were some challenges experienced.
3. It was difficult to scout a Language editor.

6.10 CAPACITY BUILDING OF 75 CSOS ON PARTICIPATORY MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND 25 MEDIA PRACTITIONERS ON EVIDENCE-BASED REPORTING

The activity which deals with the capacity building of 25 media practitioners on evidence-based reporting was carried out on 22 October 2022. Thirty four participants were targeted for the training but 29 people attended.

They came from the following media houses: QTV, Fatou Network, Paradise FM, FOROYAA Newspaper, the Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS), the Standard Newspaper, the Voice and Nova Scotia-Gambia Association (NSGA).

The training was facilitated by an investigative journalist and another resource person from QTV. It has enhanced the capacity of the trainees on evidence-based reporting which is a very important aspect of their work including reporting on development issues. The beneficiaries are expected to use their expertise and the knowledge gained from the training to contribute to the implementation of the STAR project.

6.11 CONDUCT TRAINING FOR 6 TEAMS OF TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATORS

The Traditional Communicators (TCs) are effective community groups that can easily and effectively spread messages in the communities including those dealing with development issues. It was noted that the majority of Gambians consider that the implementation of the National Development Plan is the sole responsibility of the Government. This can be attributed to the low level of awareness of the plan and the high level of illiteracy in the country. Another important reason is the limited extent to which the National Development Plan was disseminated to the various categories of people in the country, especially in the rural areas.

Future In Our Hands-The Gambia's project team conducted a training of traditional communicators at the Regional Education Office conference hall in Basse in the Upper River Region for a period of 5 days. The training aimed to equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills in composing and structuring messages, lyrics and songs for the popularization of the National Development Plan.

It was attended by 25 highly experienced female traditional communicators drawn from various communities in the URR, the majority of them from Mandinka and Pulaar speaking people. It was facilitated by an expert trainer from the Ministry of Health (the Regional Health Promotion and Education Officer) who has been training traditional communicators on information dissemination techniques.

The training was very participatory and mostly consisted of practical sessions. The participants were grouped into 5 teams of 5 members, (3 Mandinka groups and 2 Pulaar groups) according to the villages they came from, as working groups. It involved group work, rehearsals and plenary sessions during which the larger group including the trainer and the project team members would listen to the contents of individual group songs and lyrics and give their comments.



Messages prepared on various thematic areas include:

1. Health - early ante-natal booking, care during pregnancy, institutional delivery, immunization, exclusive breast feeding and good eating habits for both pregnant mothers and children.
2. Youth empowerment - sense of responsibility, involvement in life skills that enhance independence and avoidance of risky journeys to Europe.
3. Agriculture - support for farmers, involvement in livestock rearing, poultry farming, community and backyard gardening and involvement in local food production.
4. Education - early childhood education, encouragement in enrollment and retention, promotion of girl child education and inclusion of live job training education in schools.
5. Women's empowerment - avoidance of harmful traditional practices such as early marriage,
6. FGM/Cutting, avoidance of domestic violence and allocation of land to women for agricultural production.

Achievements

The training has enabled the Traditional Communicators' groups to understand a lot about the NDP. This process enabled each and every individual group to come up with songs and lyrics aligned to the NDP.

The Traditional Communicators' groups are willing to go beyond their communities to spread messages about the NDP to generate positive outcomes.

They promised to further take up the sensitization and information dissemination on the NDP in their future engagements as traditional communicators and as individuals, anywhere and at anytime.

Constraints identified from the training exercise

1. There was no Traditional Communicators' group from a Sarahule community.
2. The number of participants selected was too small to cover the whole region.

6.12 CONDUCT RADIO PROGRAMMES ON THE NDP IN 6 COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS

The radio sensitization component of the project played a very important role in raising awareness about the project country-wide. The project conducted 10 radio airtime sessions of one hour each in 6 community radio stations. The programmes were meant to inform the general public of the findings concerning the successes and gaps identified during the implementation of the NDP and progress made on the development and implementation of its successor. They were also intended to inform citizens and non citizens' resident in the country of the role they should play in the implementation.



The panel discussions took the form of phone-in programmes where people had the opportunity to call and ask questions or give their comments on the issues being discussed. A panel of three members were always drawn from the target groups in all the communities in which the radio programmes were held. Among them were the Regional Education Directorate, Senior Education Officers, Regional Community Development Officers, Government Departments' Regional staff and the STAR Project Officers.

The sensitization and discussions during the radio sessions were centered on the outcomes challenges and recommendations of the education sector highlighted during the Regional engagement conducted in June 2022. During the discussions, participants gave their perceptions about both the progress of the NDP 2018 -2021 and recommendations for consideration in setting priority areas of the education sector in the successor plan.

The radio programmes succeeded in raising people's awareness of the National Development Plan and its successor. They raised a lot of interest among the audience many of whom made phone calls to participate in the programmes. They asked pertinent questions, received answers and made valuable contributions to the discussions. However, some proposed panellists were reluctant to participate in the programmes and sometimes, participation in the radio programmes was limited due to the lack of fixed schedules.

6.13 CONDUCT 10 SESSIONS OF POLICY DIALOGUES

The NDP makes provision for citizens' involvement in its implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework. For this reason, the Government as part of its critical enablers recognized civil society as a valued partner in national development. The CSO coalition through FAWEGAM, in collaboration with the Directorate of Development Planning, under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, conducted evidenced-based regional advocacy and policy dialogues in six regions of the country.

They are: Region one of the Greater Banjul Area and the Kanifing Municipality, Region Two of the West Coast Region, Region Three of the North Bank Region, Region Four of the Lower River Region, Region Five of the North and South of the Central River Regions and Region Six of the Upper River Region. The activity reached 337 participants.

The activity was intended to build upon the momentum already generated in previous advocacy exercises. It targeted actors in the Education Sector such as Mothers' Clubs, Cluster Monitors, classroom teachers, students, Head Teachers, Education Officers as well as Regional Technical Advisory Committees, the media and Local Government Authorities.



The advocacy and policy dialogues focused on the following:

1. Raise awareness about the NDP and advocacy for the active participation of local actors in its implementation.
2. Update participants on progress made by the Gambia on the implementation of the NDP and to enable them get feedback from stakeholders regarding its priorities and how they can be better involved in its implementation.
3. Strengthen future working relations between target groups/duty bearers to ensure that the National Development Plan is well understood and implemented effectively.

It provided the opportunity for participatory evaluation of the NDP by CSOs and to document their perceptions on the progress made on its implementation. The advocacy and policy dialogue sessions enabled participants (target groups and final beneficiaries) to better understand the NDP, assess progress registered, challenges encountered and development initiatives implemented at community level with reference to it. In rating the performance of the National Development Plan, the participants said that it was not very successful in the context of poverty eradication because poverty has risen in the Regions. Presentations were made and discussions were held in all the regions.

The areas discussed were: access to quality education, gender equality, women and girls' empowerment and environment and climate change. The intervention enabled target groups and duty bearers to provide input for the implementation of the NDP and the development of its successor – the Green Recovery –Focused NDP.

6.14 REGIONAL LEVEL ADVOCACY VISITS AT REGIONAL EDUCATION DIRECTORATE LEVEL FOR THE PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED FINDINGS ON THE EDUCATION SECTOR

This activity was implemented by FAWEGAM to sensitize players in the Education Sector on the implementation and evaluation of the 2018-2021 National development plan (which was extended to 2022) and on progress being made in the development of a successor medium term plan. The activity also aimed to enhance the involvement and participation of education practitioners and other stakeholders in the implementation of the NDP successor (Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP)).

The exercise engaged a wide range of stakeholders (target groups and final beneficiaries) in order to obtain their perceptions on the implementation and formulation process and strengthen involvement and ownership in the planning and implementation processes. It was conducted in Basse, Janjanbureh, Mansakonko and Brikama and reached 223 participants. Similar to the advocacy and policy dialogues, evidenced-based advocacy materials were presented and discussed in detail. The presentation on the National Development Plan was done by the facilitator who is personnel of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

The stakeholders who participated in the various sessions included the following:
Regional Education Directorate Officers and Cluster Monitors, School authorities, students
Regional executives, Mothers' Clubs and School Management Committees
Governor's office, Technical Advisory Committee and Village Development Committees
Local Authorities (Area Councils, District Chiefs, Village Heads)
Civil Society Organizations and Inter- party Committee, People with Disabilities
Media practitioners (media houses),
Farmers' Platform and Local women leaders

A diagnostic overview of the Education Sector implementation within the context of the National Development Plan was done. It covered infrastructure development, curriculum development and review, human resources development, quality assurance and key constraints. Main achievements in Basic and Secondary Education and Tertiary and Higher Education (backed by vital statistics) were also presented and discussed. Priority areas to be implemented during the implementation of the successor NDP were presented and discussed with reference to Basic and Secondary Education and tertiary and higher education. Recommendations were made for follow up with relevant authorities.

6.15 SENSITIZATION ON PEACE BUILDING, GENDER MAINSTREAMING, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A Three-day Regional Sensitization was held at Wassu in Central River Region North, Kerewan in the North Bank Region and at TANGO in the Greater Banjul Area. It was intended to enhance the involvement and participation of CSOs and the private sector in the implementation of the successor NDP for the period 2023 - 2027, with special attention to some cross-cutting issues such as Peace-building, Gender mainstreaming, environmental restoration and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.



The wide range of stakeholders (target groups and final beneficiaries) listed below, were involved in the activity.

Regional Education Directorate staff, Cluster Monitors, School Authorities, Students, School Management Committees, Mothers Clubs

Local Authorities, Governors' Office, Technical Advisory Committees, Area Councils District Chiefs, Village Heads, Village Development Committees, Farmers' Platform

People (women, children and people with Disabilities)

The media (Community Radios), Interparty committee, women leaders

Forestry Department, Department of Community Development

Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations

Achievements

The activity reached 225 participants as targeted. They are now better equipped to play greater and more effective roles in dealing with peace-building, gender mainstreaming, environment and climate change in their respective localities individually and collectively. Misconceptions concerning gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment were cleared and best practices were recommended and promoted. The analysis of election results revealed the extent to which women are under-represented in the political governance of the country.

There was unanimous agreement that women need to be given the opportunity to partake in national development especially in matters that concern them. The women were tasked to support their fellow women who are competent enough to compete with men in securing and occupying positions of authority as a catalyst in promoting their wellbeing.

Issues pertaining to environment and climate change raised much discussion and engagement because of the ways these factors affect the lives and livelihoods of the participants. Many of them expressed their concern for the Government and all concerned authorities including community members, to take firm steps in addressing the impacts of climate change and the degrading environment.

The chief of Niani District in his contribution emphasized to the participants to recognise the fact that the environment around them belong to them and that they should be responsible for managing and protecting it. He further argued against the widespread belief that the forest belongs to the Government and therefore can be abused. Even in cases of bushfire outbreaks, only few people in the communities participate in putting them out which is a violation of the environmental protection laws. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of each and

every citizen to play their part in environmental protection. He explained that last year, he charged three communities for failing to respond to bush fire outbreaks in their localities.

6.16 INTERFACE DIALOGUE WITH CSOS/NGOS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NDP IN THE GAMBIA

The one-day interface dialogue sessions with Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations were conducted on the implementation of the National Development Plan. It involved CSOs and NGOs representatives from Upper River Region, Central River Region, North Bank Region and Lower River Region. The activity reached 327 CSOs representatives comprising 206 males and 121 females.

The sessions were hosted and coordinated by the Regional Education Directorates in all the four regions. The opening ceremonies were presided over by the Governor in the NBR and Deputy Governors in URR, CRR and LRR. In the North Bank Region, the Chairman of the Kerewan Area Council was in attendance.

This high profile participation indicated the importance the regional leadership, particularly the Education Sector and the Local Government Administration have attached to the implementation of the activity. As custodians of the NDP, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs was invited to lead the facilitation of the interface dialogue sessions in all the Regions.



The achievements, challenges and the way forward for the NDP were discussed in detail. It was noted that the design process of the NDP was consultative but not sufficiently interactive, partly due to the silo approach that characterized the identification of its priority areas. Some significant milestones were achieved across several Strategic Priorities and Critical Enablers. After three years of implementation, 60.0% of all outcomes were already achieved or were on track and were expected to be achieved by end of December 2021.

It was stressed that the involvement of CSOs, NGOs, target groups and final beneficiaries is indispensable for the successful implementation of the NDP and its successor. The facilitator assured the civil society representatives that the Government has plans to strengthen the capacities of CSOs to ensure that they are well positioned as a representative, dynamic and credible consortium. This will be done through:

1. Capacity building.
2. Coordination and information sharing at both organizational and community level.
3. Ensuring social accountability mechanisms.
4. Making improvements in the legislative and policy environment through research and advocacy for an appropriate NGO Act.

The participants were given the opportunity to come up with their own issues that relate to key areas of the project's focus, i.e. education, gender, peace building, environment and climate change. The issues highlighted by the four Regions affect lives and livelihoods and are so important to the project that they will form the basis for evidence-based advocacy for policy dialogue in the subsequent activities.

Many participants claimed to have attended consultative meetings and sensitizations on the National Development Plan before, but have never received such clarity on it. The participants promised to disseminate what they have learned about the NDP to others who have not had the opportunity to attend the interface dialogue sessions. They attested that the forum was a very relevant platform for raising the awareness of Civil Society Organizations and final beneficiaries on the implementation of the National Development Plan.

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THE STAR PROJECT

This section is based on a detailed analysis of the rich body of information generated and achievements made by the STAR project in the first year of its implementation. The wide-ranging nature of the project interventions is an indication of its importance and relevance to the socio-economic development of the targeted project beneficiaries.

The strong emphasis laid on understanding and participating in the National Development Plan and its successor by both target groups and final beneficiaries is a clear reflection of the need for all stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to national development to address poverty and its causes and effects in the country its people.

The project has targeted a wide range of target groups and final beneficiaries. It has also facilitated and enabled fruitful interaction between the two groups (duty bearers and rights holders) through the implementation of the various project activities.

Major of the target groups includes institutions such as the Ministries of Finance and Economic Affairs, Basic and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Environment, Interior, Gender and Children's Affairs. National Assembly Members, Regional and Local Authorities, Technical Advisory Committees, CSOs, NGOs, media practitioners and the Inter Party Committee. The final beneficiaries includes all the administrative regions, Village Development Committees, Ward Development Committees, traditional communicators, women, youths, children, People with Disabilities and students/school children.



The consortium partners have been able to engage most of them during the first year of implementation. The successful mobilization of such a diverse force is a big achievement. It is clear that the targets set by the project for the three-year duration are quite ambitious and demanding to implement in terms of the required resources. Despite this fact, an assessment of progress made in the first year of the project shows that at least one third of the set targets have been reached.

The impact of the project interventions can be seen in many instances. There is greater understanding of the National Development Plan among the target groups and final beneficiaries. There is also increased commitment by project beneficiaries to be involved in its implementation as well as that of its successor. For example, many beneficiaries who attended consultation and dialogue sessions and trainees including the Traditional Communicators, promised to disseminate what they have learnt about the NDP in their communities.

Given the opportunity to discuss matters related to national development and their living conditions through policy and advocacy consultations and dialogues, the final beneficiaries have been able to come up with a great deal of recommendations to improve their welfare, irrespective of gender and social status. These include the rights of People with Disabilities, who continue to face unresolved challenges of rights to have a good education and employment opportunities.

Another important achievement of the intervention is the ability of beneficiaries to discuss matters of accountability, corruption, poor governance and holding duty bearers accountable. The commitment of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Governors, Regional Education Directorates and other duty bearers to support the project is a big achievement.

However, consortium member should make concerted follow up to ensure the commitments are fulfilled. The work of the CSO platform and the research centre will play a big role in facilitating and enhancing the implementation of the project.

SECTION 8: CONSTRAINTS THAT AFFECTED THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The following are the major constraints that affected project implementation:

1. Difficulty in meeting relevant stakeholders to sensitize them about the existence of the Grievance Redress mechanism committee because of their busy schedules.
2. The reluctance of people to report their cases (complaints) to the GRM Committee for them to be addressed.
3. The reluctance of some people to fill the GRM forms, even among CSO members.
4. Some proposed panellists were reluctant to participate in the radio programmes and at times there was inadequate participation through phone calls because of the lack of fixed schedules.
5. There is inadequate knowledge and experience in the writing of academic articles. This has affected the production of Journals.

SECTION 9: SOME LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project was designed to be implemented as a consortium of three organizations, all with comparative advantage. The combination of these specialized organizations, target groups and final beneficiaries, contributed a great deal to the success registered so far by the project.

The allocation of project activities to individual consortium members based on their specialization and comparative advantage was in order and is a learning point in project design and implementation. The synergy created by the approach and its positive effects that no single consortium member could have achieved alone, is another important lesson to be learned.



The selection of target groups and final beneficiaries was very inclusive. This approach has contributed positively in creating ownership and active participation in the implementation of project activities in the project areas irrespective of gender. It is a lesson worth nurturing in project design and implementation in communities.

The highly participatory and interactive atmosphere created during advocacy, policy dialogues and trainings, empowered participants to engage actively in the activities. The beneficiaries are also encouraged to take ownership and play lead roles in the implementation of project activities.

Similarly, the involvement of target groups to serve as resource persons or coordinators of project dialogue sessions in the regions has fostered commitment and ownership regarding the project. This move will motivate them to participate keenly in the implementation of the project.

SECTION 10: SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

The project is pursuing an aggressive and proactive process of inclusive awareness-raising and capacity building for a wide range of target groups/duty bearers and final beneficiaries (rights holders). The assessment of the project implementation shows high commitment and involvement of duty bearers and final beneficiaries in support of the project as well as the National Development plan and its successor. The commitments made by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Regional Education Directorates and local authorities serve as good examples.

Their participation in the project activities include serving as resource persons and coordinating the project advocacy events and training sessions. The consortium will support the target groups and final beneficiaries to make active follow up on the recommendations made during the various project interventions that have so far been implemented together.

The synergy created by the consortium members will be maintained and improved during and after the project. With the increased awareness of their rights and responsibilities, the final beneficiaries will become increasingly empowered to hold the duty bearers accountable. Their actions will include proactive fundraising from Government, bilateral institutions and other sources, demanding services as rights holders and promoting transparency and accountability in their various forms.

Institutional sustainability will be achieved through continued commitment of the duty bearers, the consortium members and the final beneficiaries through the various structures put in place by the project and by reinforcing current partnerships and forging new ones that have comparative advantage to achieve and sustain success.

The knowledge, skills and experience gained in the course of the project implementation will encourage the target groups and final beneficiaries to be more committed to work together as partners and sustain the project gains. They will do this by advocating for development plans, policies and regulations that will enhance quality education for all categories of beneficiaries as well as strengthen participatory and accountable governance in order to contribute significantly to economic recovery, democratization, peace and stability in The Gambia.

Environmental sustainability is being addressed as a major aspect of the project implementation. With increased commitment, awareness, knowledge and relevant skills in relation to the environment, the target groups and final beneficiaries will have the capacity to successfully carry out activities aimed at protecting, enhancing and sustaining the environment.

SECTION 11: RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

11.1 Recommendations by the participants

1. Establish good modern TVET institutions decentralized in all the Regions of the country.
2. Evenly distribute qualified teachers in specialized subjects to schools in the rural areas.
3. Improve the provision of teachers for children with special needs education in schools in all the Regions.
4. The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education should come up with a policy that encourages bilingual education in schools to enhance quality education.
5. There should be more life-skills education in communities to improve self-employment opportunities.
6. Provide improved access to financial services for women and girls through the Women Enterprise Fund and review the disbursement of enterprise funds to women to make it more affordable for them.
7. Provide entrepreneurial skills and non-formal education schemes for women and girls.
8. Institutionalize a quota system for women representation in parliament and cabinet and create awareness through women groups.
9. Support more advocacy programmes that are geared towards addressing climate change and environmental protection and enhancement.
10. The Government and other stakeholders should continue to encourage and support reforestation initiatives.
11. The Government should promote transparency, accountability and discipline in all sectors to foster growth and development in the country.
12. Efforts should be combined at all levels from the grassroots to the leadership of the country in the fight against corruption and corrupt practices.
13. Improve the provision of healthcare delivery throughout the country, especially in the rural areas.
14. Promote agricultural production activities, provide storage facilities, markets and reduce the prices of basic commodities to make them affordable.
15. Use Alternative Dispute Resolution at Regional level to address delayed court cases that are potential sources of conflict in the communities.
16. The interface dialogue team should follow up on key issues highlighted by respective Regions with relevant authorities for possible solutions.

11.2 Recommendations by the consultant

- 1. The use of the consortium-type approach to fundraising and project implementation has proven to be effective, considering the advantages it has in achieving project impact. It can be promoted even further, especially the post-project implementation.**
- 2. The consortium members should intensify awareness-raising and capacity building efforts to adequately prepare and enable the target groups/duty bearers to be effectively engaged in the implementation of the Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan.**
- 3. The consortium members should consolidate the establishment and operations of the research centre, CSO/NGO platform, Grievance Redress mechanism, the peer review journal and policy briefs so that they can be fully operational and effective in support of the project and future initiatives.**
- 4. The potentials of the female Traditional Communicators should be further developed and harnessed, for them to be able to effectively support current and future projects in the country. They are fast learners as evidenced by the Traditional Communicators' conducted by the project and investing in them can foster development in the communities.**
- 6. A lot of recommendations were made during the implementation of the various project activities in the first year of the project. Given the fact that all of them cannot be implemented in the short term, they need to be prioritized. Many of them are good advocacy material and can be used accordingly in the short to medium term.**
- 7. The recommendations provided by the final beneficiaries in various advocacy sessions, policy dialogues, interface dialogues and trainings, constitute a good basis for evidence-based advocacy directed at both state and non-state actors with special reference to the implementation of the successor National Development Plan.**
- 8. The consortium members should continue to use members of the target groups as resource persons during the project implementation, especially those involved in the implementation of the successor National Development Plan. This partnership will enable them to provide more support to the project and increase its success.**
- 9. Conduct regular field visits to ascertain to what extent the beneficiaries are making best use of the knowledge and skills they have gained through the project interventions**
- 10. The contribution of CSOs and NGOs to National Development should be adequately captured during the evaluation of progress made by the National Development Plan.**
- 11. The project should consider the training of more Traditional Communicators' groups in other parts of the country using other languages in order to facilitate community involvement in the implementation of the National Development Plan.**

Annex 1: Some pictures of project activities



Regional policy dialogue in URR, CRR, LRR, WCR, Greater Banjul and NBR



Regional advocacy dialogue in WCR and LRR



Regional policy dialogue in CRR and URR



RADIO PROGRAMMES ON THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



R-L Wassu Imam, Wassu Alkalo, Nyani Chief and Deputy Governor CRR.



NBR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

NBR Area Council Chairman addressing participants.



Greater Banjul engagement

Annex 2: Work plan of the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee

Activities	Objectives	Target Groups	Indicators	Time Line	Responsible Institution	Remarks
One day sensitization on GRM	To create awareness about the establishment of the GRM and its functions (and the STAR Project)	CSOs, Media, Private sectors and government institutions	Number of participants Number of meetings, Number of reports, Number of pictures and Attendance lists	Mid-June	GRM Committee	
Courtesy call to Government offices	To introduce the CSOs, GRM and to galvanize support	Ministry of finance, ministry of land and local government, office of the president, MOBSE, justice, Gender and ministry of environment	Number of reports, Number of photographs Number of visits	Three months (June-August)	GRM Committee	
Courtesy call to the National Assembly	To introduce the CSOs GRM and to galvanize support	National Assembly member committee (committee of Constitutional matters and Select Committee on Education and Gender)	Number of reports Number of photographs	June	GRM Committee	
Conduct Radio programs		Community radio stations	Number of radio programs conducted, Number of photographs, Number of calls	June (ongoing)	GRM Committee	
Conduct social media campaign		Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp,	Number of publications, Number of shares, likes, reached and comments	June (ongoing)		

		websites and other forum				
Conduct Training/workshops/capacity building of the committee on specific grievance issues		GRM committee	Number of training reports, Number of photographs	June (ongoing)	GRM Committee	
Community outreaches		Community members (men, women, youth, etc.) two communities in Kombo South, two communities in CRR South and North, LRR two, URR four (two in North and two in South) KMC and Banjul	Number of community visits, Number of photographs Number of participants (attendance lists)	August	GRM Committee	Sensitization materials needed, mobility, DSA, refreshment and transport refund

Annex 3: Work plan of the CSO/NGO Platform

Activities	Objectives	Target groups	Indicators	Time line	Responsible institution	Remarks
Development of the Terms of Reference	Have a proper working document	Committee members	Developed Terms of Reference	May	Committee members	
Validation of the Terms of Reference	Have a validated document	Committee members	Validated Terms of Reference	May	Committee members	
Launching of the Platform	Create awareness about the existence of the Platform	CSOs/NGOs Media Government Private sector	Number of reports, Photographs Attendance lists, Newspaper briefs	May	Committee members	
XX Meetings	Uphold the	Platform members	Minutes and attendance lists	May-December 2022	Committee members	

	Terms of Reference of the Platform					
Joint visits to CSOs/NGOs	Learning and sharing	CSOs/NGOs	Number of reports, List of CSOs/NGOs visited	May-December 2022	Committee members	