



**THE
MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS
MDGs**

**Civil Society Contribution
Towards Achieving The
MDGs
In The Gambia**

October 2005

LOCATION MAP OF THE GAMBIA

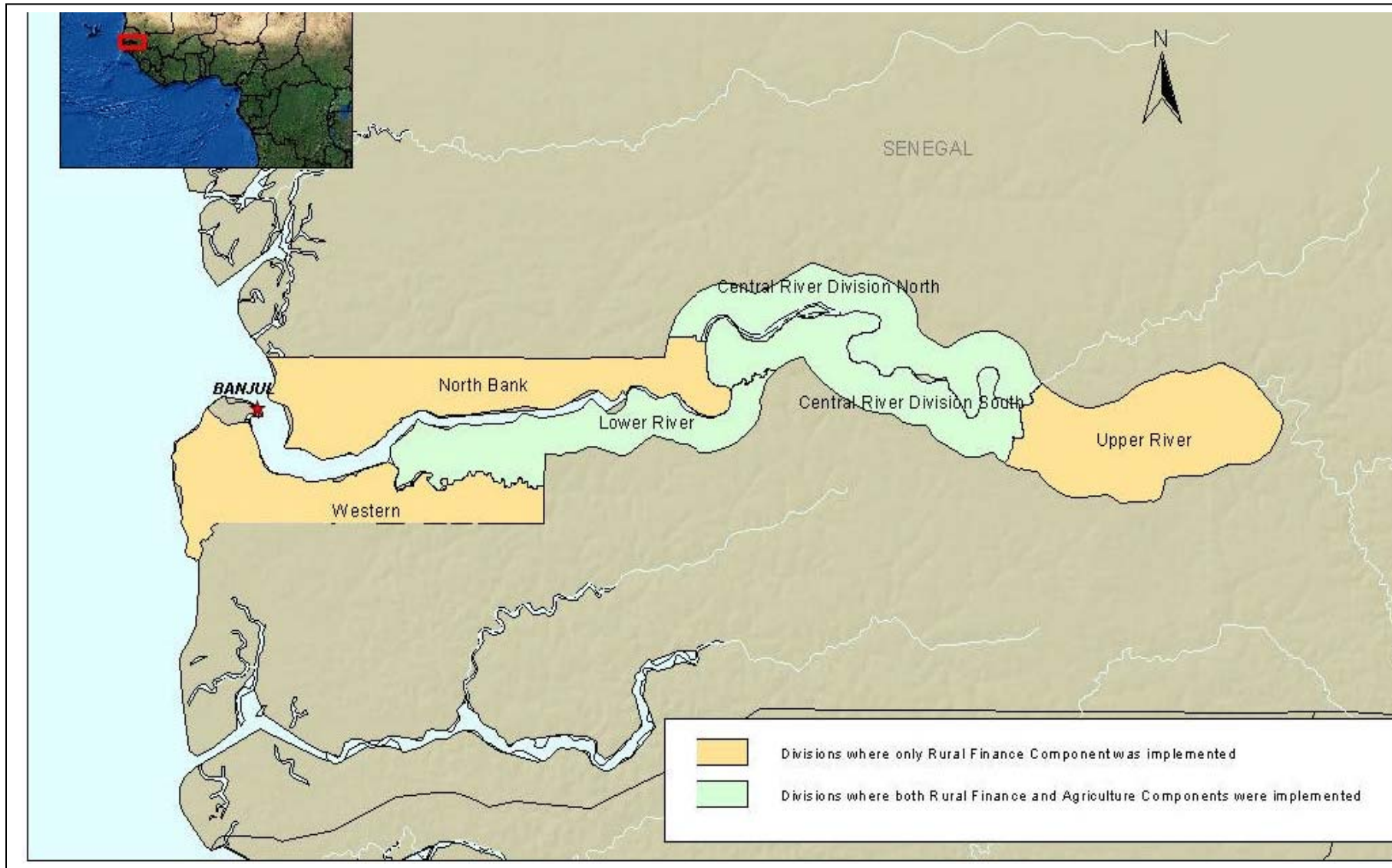


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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

1. **AATG**-Action Aids The Gambia
2. **APNAC**-African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption
3. **CBOs**-Community Based Organizations
4. **CCF**-Christian Childrens Fund
5. **CEDAW**-Convention on Elimination on all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
6. **CRC**- Convention of The rights of the Child
7. **CRS**-Catholic Relief Services
8. **CSO**-Civil Society Organizations
9. **CSR**-Corporate Social Responsibility
10. **DOSE**-Department of State for Education
11. **EDF**-European Development Fund
12. **EFA**-Education For All
13. **EFA**-Education For All
14. **FBO**-Faith Based Organizations
15. **FGDs**-Focus Group Discussions
16. **HIPC**-Highly Indebted Poor Countries
17. **ICTs**-Information and Communication Technologies
18. **IMR**-Infant Mortality Rate
19. **I-PRSP**-Interim PRSP
20. **LACs**-Local Area Councils
21. **MDGs**-Millennium Development Goals
22. **MFIs**-Micro Finance Institutions
23. **MMR**-Maternal Mortality rates
24. **NAMs**-National Assembly Members
25. **NEPAD**-New Action Plan for Africa's Development
26. **NGO**-Non Governmental Organizations
27. **NSAs**-Non state Actors
28. **ODA**-Official Development Assistance
29. **ProPAG**-Pro Poor Advocacy Group
30. **PRSP**-Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
31. **SPACO**-Strategy For Poverty Alleviation Coordinating Office
32. **SPA**-Strategy For Poverty Alleviation
33. **SSA**-Sub Saharan Africa
34. **TANGO**-The Association of Non Governmental Organizations
35. **TARUD**-Trust Agency for Rural Development
36. **UNDP**-United Nations Development Programme
37. **UN**-United Nations
38. **VSO**-Voluntary Service Overseas

Executive Summary

This study is about assessing the contribution of the Civil Society Organizations towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Gambia with a view to making proposals on how this can be improved. The Gambia government is a signatory to all the international conventions geared towards drastically reducing the current levels of poverty in the country. Sequel to that, different development frameworks have been elaborated: the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, Education For All and the Millennium Development Goals among other development instruments. The Gambia has its own home grown Vision 2020 development blueprint. These development frameworks are mutually reinforcing. The mammoth task lies in trying to unify the Gambian people, their individual and collective efforts around an understanding of the country's challenges, what it is trying to achieve and how this will be approached. Within the framework of the PRSP, the country is presently moving from SPA II to SPA III amid concerns that only 25% of the former has so far been implemented. That brings the whole issue of achieving the MDGs within the stated timeframe to the fore.

The government cannot achieve the millennium development goals alone. The targets are challenging and demand consistent and sustained financial, technical and human resource inputs, buttressed by concerted and coordinated efforts by all stakeholders. It is only through working together that the public, private sector and the NGO community can increase the effectiveness of the collective drive towards achieving the MDGs. The UN System and the rest of the international community stand committed and ready to provide more support to the Gambia if the country demonstrates more commitment to the reforms necessary to attract more donor funding and join the HIPC Countries in SSA. There is compelling evidence that shows that without stakeholder commitment, co-ordination across the board and local leadership of the process, significant progress in poverty eradication cannot be achieved in the Gambia. It is against that background that this study is commissioned to chart a way forward so that the Civil Society community can contribute more effectively to poverty eradication and sustainable development. The civil society organizations should make the MDG targets the centerpiece of their development work. Based on their mission and vision statements upon registration, all the NGOs in the Gambia are for example, committed to helping communities to achieve their basic developmental needs. But many would rather go it alone than work with other civil society organizations having a similar focus as if they are in competition. This needs to change. Coordinated efforts and increased synergies between NGOs should underpin accelerated progress towards the attainment of the MDGs.

It is ten more years before the international MDG targets deadline. The Gambia still stands a great chance of achieving most of the targets¹. The first Gambian MDG Report² focused on the progress made so far towards achieving the MDGs. The 2004 localized MDG report was authored by a team of consultants led by Dr. Katim Tourey. From the situational analysis contained in the two documents, gaps and shortcomings have been identified. The thrust of this study is thus to invite the Civil Society community (as key government partners in the process) to respond to the clarion call and start looking at the bigger picture and avoid the dangers of complacency and isolationism. Dialogue between civil society groups and government should be encouraged with everyone working towards building a national consensus on the best implementation strategy.

¹ The Population of the Gambia and its size are a hidden advantage. Poverty targeting, the efficient use of resources by both national and international NGOs and increasing coordination of development work can create a great impact. In terms of education access for example, The Gambia leads most African nations.

² The first report was drafted in large part by Mr. Bolong Sonko *et al.*

Country Profile

1. BACKGROUND

The Republic of the Gambia, one of the poorest nations in the world³, is a small corridor State in the West Africa sub-region (see location map). Apart from the Atlantic front, The Gambia is surrounded by The Republic of Senegal. It has a land area of 10,698 square kilometers, extending from west to east over a distance of 480 kilometers. The River Gambia that takes its source from the Fouta Jallon highlands in Guinea plays a key role in the definition of the Gambian territory. The waterway divides the country into two parts: the north and south banks. The Greater Banjul Area⁴ is the melting pot of the country. The presence of Banjul and the most important towns on the south bank makes the south bank relatively more developed than the north bank. The further the distance from the Greater Banjul area, the more alarming the development disparities become. Stark contrasts between urban and rural life make rural urban migration attractive. It is no surprise that currently almost 70 percent of the Gambian population is concentrated in the Kombos. NGO/CBOs activities should bolster government efforts in addressing these regional disparities and stemming the rural urban tide that is fast becoming an urban planning nightmare.

Poverty in The Gambia

Poverty can be defined as the inability to meet one's basic needs. It is associated with lack of access to basic services, absence of choice and opportunity. The reality of grinding poverty in the Gambia⁵ is well documented in the country's PRSP and the national policy for the advancement of women. To a great extent, poverty in the Gambia has a woman's face. Although the Gambian women make an invaluable contribution to the economy, gender disparity features prominently in all the socio-economic indicators. Women lag behind their male counterparts in all but one count: life expectancy. There is also a growing and compelling body of evidence that greater gender equity is critical to poverty eradication and balanced development in any country. This is borne out by the strong relationship existing between poverty, gender and growth. Broad-based economic growth therefore depends on the removal of cultural, social and economic constraints that prevent women from achieving their full potential. Uplifting of the status of women through policy-induced growth is of paramount importance.

Poverty and Policy

Poverty is low income plus lack of health, education and nutrition plus vulnerability and powerlessness. This broad picture of poverty is voiced by the poor and by those like the development theorist Amartya Sen who view poverty as the deprivation of basic human capabilities, not just lack of income. A conducive policy environment with matching macroeconomic frameworks is a precondition for accelerated development on all fronts that can ensure better living standards for the poor.

³ The Gambia is ranked 155th out of 177 countries, in the UNDP's 2004 Human Development Index.

⁴ With Banjul as the capital and its environs in the coastal region

⁵ One of the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Gambia's Economic Structure

The structure of the economy is a cause for concern. Like most developing countries, Gambia's economy is characterized by a relatively large agricultural and natural resources sector, a relatively insignificant industrial sector and a growing service sector. The country depends heavily on rain-fed agriculture and is therefore vulnerable to crop failure and adverse terms of trade at the world market⁶. Though the sector accounts for about 30 per cent of GDP, its share of the workforce is enormous⁷. Productivity levels are very low due to the use of inappropriate technology, inadequate farm inputs, lack of access to credit facilities etc. The tourism sector, accounting for around 12% of GDP and growing at a rate of around 5% per annum has also proven to be a victim to exogenous shocks and fluctuations. The recent border crisis between the Gambia and its only neighbor, Senegal, has made it abundantly clear that the import, re-export trade is not sustainable and that the Gambia should urgently rethink its development strategy by focusing more on high value added services and export quality products. High interest rates charged⁸ on long-term loans makes the cost of investment capital prohibitive and bank credit facilities inaccessible to the poor.

Demographic Information

The 2003 Population Census puts the country's population at around 1.4 million. The annual population growth rate was 4.1 per cent between 1983 and 1993, but has since dropped to around 2.8 between 1993 and 2003. The population density per square kilometer is 128, making it one of the highest in Africa. Women constitute 51 per cent of the population. Also of great concern is the life expectancy at birth. With an average as low as 55 years (54 years for males and 57 years for females), the Gambian situation is appalling. Life expectancy is lower in the rural than in the urban areas where it stands at 46.3 years for males and 54.5 years for females respectively. The population is youthful nearly half of the population being under 18 years of age, with about 45% of the population below the age of 15 years and 15% under 5 years old. That in itself is a stark reminder of the urgent need to invest heavily in socio-economic facilities: schools, hospitals etc, and creating opportunities for a brighter future for these segments of the population and for posterity.

Generally the literacy levels for both men and women are low at 48.8 per cent and 25 per cent respectively⁹. The gender disparity in education is more acute in the rural areas, than in the urban areas. With the EFA Campaign Network program, the Gambia is cited as a success story in terms of access to basic primary education. Quality and relevance is today the main sticking point and schools in the country are churning out children whose literacy and numeracy skills are somewhat abysmal. The MMRs are high at 730/100,000 live births¹⁰. These figures are an improvement on the 1990 figures of 1050/100,000 live births. The IMR and the under five mortality rates (U5MR) are at 61 and 75 per 1000 live births respectively according to a UNICEF survey¹¹.

The Need for Energy for Industrial and Economic Growth

Energy production and use are connected with major issues of concern such as gender and poverty reduction. Energy is necessary for survival and is a critical input in economic and social development. Thus the development of any society needs services that energy can supply. Energy

⁶ Groundnuts are Gambia's chief agricultural export commodity.

⁷ . Still the greatest Previously around 70 per cent but is rapidly changing with rural urban migration.

⁸ Up to 25%

⁹ Statistics from DOSE

¹⁰ The 2001 Maternal Mortality Survey

¹¹ Contacted in 1999

does have social implications in the way it is produced, delivered and used. It is closely linked with social issues such as gender and poverty. The absence of energy constrains both men and women from contributing to economic development, while its availability contributes to widening opportunities and empowers people to make choices.

In terms of access to energy, poverty influences and determines energy choices of households. Energy services constitute a sizable share of total household expenditure because energy is central to the satisfaction of basic household needs such as nutrition and health. In the Gambia there is a link between energy consumption and distribution of income. People living in poverty depend more on biomass than gas or electricity for cooking and space heating needs. This has environmental, agricultural, economic and health implications¹².

Adequate and sustained commercial energy production to power industries in the Gambia is long overdue. It is almost impossible to talk of achieving some of the MDG goals without a vibrant economy that thrives not only on tourism, but also on value added, export quality agricultural products. Commercial processing of agricultural produce in the Gambia holds the key to the creation of the thousands of jobs needed to absorb the rapidly growing, unemployed segment of both the urban and rural population.

The rural-urban exodus mentioned earlier has been largely triggered by prospects for better standards of living and family support mechanisms¹³. This is currently threatening to offset whatever human and infrastructural development efforts that have been made in The Gambia in the last decade. Education, health, water, sanitation and residential facilities in (especially) the low income areas in the Greater Banjul area are overstretched and are threatening to burst at the seams as a result of overcrowding. The rural urban exodus is increasing the incidence of poverty in the urban areas of the Gambia¹⁴.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

“We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.” Millennium Declaration, 2000

“We will assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development”

United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000

At the turn of the millennium, 189 heads of state from across the world gathered in New York and signed the Millennium Declaration. The declaration sets an agenda for the new millennium – to fight against the abject poverty and the inequalities that continue to affect so many of the world’s people. The declaration outlines some of the fundamental values which governments agree are the basic principles essential for international relations in the twenty-first century, including:

¹² Deforestation in the Gambia is alarming. There’s a heavy toll on biomass resources as a result of the great demand for woodfuel for smoking fish and domestic use.

¹³ Most elderly Gambians attest to the fact that they are what they are today because a close or distant relative hosted them at one stage during the schooling or job hunting years

¹⁴ Mainly Greater Banjul and Brikama

- **Freedom**-Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
- **Equality**-No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
- **Solidarity**-Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
- **Tolerance**-Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
- **Respect for nature**-Prudence must be shown in managing all living species and natural resources, according to the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. Current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
- **Shared responsibility**-Responsibility for managing global economic and social development, as well as threats to peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and representative organization in the world, the UN must play the central role.

The MDGs embody the aspiration for human betterment, expressed in a limited set of numerical and time-bound targets. They include halving income poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education and gender equality; reducing under-5 mortality by two-thirds and maternal mortality by three-quarters; reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS; and halving the proportion of people without access to safe water (see annex 3). These targets are to be achieved by 2015, from their level in 1990. The MDGs represent a strong political consensus on time bound quantified indicators aimed at bringing different countries and the international community as represented in the UN to provide unprecedented political momentum to translate the goals into action¹⁵. In spite of this, progress towards meeting the MDG targets in the Gambia is unreliable and the number of poor is increasing day by day. In order to accelerate the process there is a need for:

- financial resources,
- institutional capacity and strengthening,
- technology,
- increased infrastructural development,
- stable and pro poor policy environment, and
- stable political environment

¹⁵ Fukuda-Paar, S. (2002) the Millennium Development Goals and Human Development: International Symposium, Tokyo, 9 October, 2002. Available On: <http://hdr.undp.org/docs/mdg/The%20Millennium%20Development%20Goals%20and%20Human%20Development.pdf> [Last Accessed on: 30-12-2003]

There is a need for: “an MDG sensitized and alert citizenry, an active media, *and a watchdog civil society Coalition* to engage policy makers and influence decision-making processes”. These are the building blocks in expanding the real choices of the poor and vulnerable members of the society in the Gambia, which can make them enjoy the real purpose of development.

In the quest to achieve the MDGs, human development needs to be reflected right through the heart of poverty reduction strategies.

The PRSPs and The MDGs

The term *consultation* brings with it certain expectations among CSOs that the process will contribute to decision-making, such as policy or project design, implementation or evaluation. Government’s direct consultation with civil society should become a key input for operationalizing the MDGs, designing Sectoral strategies and operational policies.

The PRSP is a set of instruments for delivering development aid and to provide a roadmap towards achievement of the MDGs”. The central tenet of the philosophy underlying PRSP is that there should be increased ownership by local stakeholders. This engages not only the government itself, but also CSOs more generally¹⁶. In this respect, PRSPs are expected to be country driven and results-oriented, in which the country will spot targets and interventions that would allow progress towards the agreed 2015 international development goals¹⁷. National ownership over the process will increase participation of the CSOs, which is crucial for poverty reduction. Participatory processes will ensure that poverty reduction goals are given maximum space in the macro-economic envelope¹⁸. Participation also predicts the spirit of development partnership among government, donors, and civil society. Here, it is important to note that the active involvement of donors in the participatory process diminishes the empowerment process.

To effectively integrate the strategy and systematically promote greater empowerment, improved governance, and more effective PRSP implementation capacity at the local level, several significant challenges need to be confronted. These include:

- changing attitudes and practices in both public sector organizations and in civil society towards applying good governance values;
- managing complex processes involving many different actors, both governmental and non-governmental, at several levels;
- surmounting institutional boundaries that separate Sectoral, local government and community-based actors and organizations due to divergent interests and values;
- realigning power relations to favour local actors along side national actors and to favour communities and civil society rather than public officials.

To access debt relief, The Gambia as a HIPC nation under the flagship of SPACO, was required to produce an Interim-PRSP (IPRSP). This was a road map towards the full PRSP and PRSP progress reports. By the end of 2002, The Gambia had produced a full PSRP well ahead of more than 23

¹⁶ Adam, C. S., and D. Bevan (2001) PRGF Stocktaking Exercise On Behalf Of DFID. Available on: <http://www.econ.ox.ac.uk/Members/david.bevan/Reporters/PRGFstocktakeo2.pdf> [Accessed on: 15-01-2004]

¹⁷ UNDP (2002) Human Development Report, Oxford University Press: New York

¹⁸ UNDP (2002) Human Development Report, Oxford University Press: New York.

countries that had just finalized their I-PSRP¹⁹. It is amazing to note that three years down the line The Gambia is yet to reach completion point that make it qualify for debt forgiveness. The quality of civil society participation in the PRSP process in The Gambia has been disappointing and largely undermined by a number of factors such as rushed timeframe and the non-availability of information²⁰. Considerable evidence suggests that the rushed timeframe and CSOs lack of information has to a large extent, compromised their full participation in the process. It should however be noted that participation is a slow process and takes financial resources and aggressive sensitization of all stakeholders for its full realization. Partnership is the main buzzword in the PRSP document and should not be undermined by slackness of the agencies mandated to spearhead the process.

The issue of strategic communication in PRSPs has emerged out of a need to include a wider range of stakeholders in policymaking for poverty reduction in developing countries. The objective is to enable widespread participation between donors, government and civil society in the design and implementation of the PRSP. In order to achieve this greater communication is needed both within and between all three groups than is currently taking place.

The Gambia's Status towards Achieving the MDGs

The Gambia's first MDG report (2003) that was a product of research carried out by a team of consultants led by Bolong Sonko *et al* on behalf of the UNDP paints a vivid picture of the poverty situation in the Gambia. Kindly note that these statistics are not updated and may paint a wrong picture when compared to current realities.

1. Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

There is evidence to suggest that Gambians are becoming poorer. The proportion of the population below the overall poverty line stood at 69% in 2000 as opposed to 60% in 1992. The same trend is corroborated in the proportion of people below the food poverty line: 37% in 1998 compared to 33% in 1990. It is believed that in the light of the prevailing economic circumstances, the situation might even be worse today²¹. The current Household Economic Survey will provide updated information on poverty statistics. The hunger situation is not any better. The percentage of the population below the minimum levels of dietary energy consumption is on the increase: 15% in 1990 and 21% in 2000. But the percentage of underweight under 5 children has dropped slightly, moving from 21% to 17% during the same period.

2. Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

The Gambia is on target when it comes to achieving universal primary education. The country is doing extremely well in terms of access and has been hailed in many international documents. The Gambia government phased out the Common Entrance Examination serving as an important milestone and has replaced it with nine years of uninterrupted basic education for children. With a gross enrolment rate (GER) of 87%, the Gambia occupies a very enviable position. But the

¹⁹ Data noted from the World Bank. Available on: <http://www.worldbank.org> [Accessed on 14-02-04]

²⁰ Many organizations have not seen the first PRSP document to date. SPACO is failing in its national Mandate to disseminate information on the PRSP document and to translate it to local languages.

²¹ The recent border impasse between The Gambia and Senegal, two digit inflation among others

downside hinges on the issue of quality and relevance of the education given to the Gambian children.

3. Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

The Gambia is making significant inroads into reducing gender disparity and empower women by the same token. The ratio of girls to boys in primary education has increased significantly between 1990 and 2000: 47.9 and 65% in 2000 respectively. The ratio of girls to boys in lower secondary school depicts a similar upward trend: 26% in 1996 and 37% in 2000. Although significant progress has been made, gender parity in primary and secondary levels is yet to be achieved. In the national parliament for example, only 5 out of the 53 National Assembly seats are held by women. In the Judiciary, there's only one female Judge in the entire nation! Many CSOs are busy empowering women in all sorts of income generating activities to narrow the gender gap.

4. Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

The progress made so far towards reducing child mortality is abysmal. The under 5 mortality rate per thousand births stood at 137 in 1993 and 135 in the year 2000. To reduce it by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015 would be an uphill task especially with the drop in overall immunization between 1996 and 2000. Simply put, the Gambia is off track on this particular MDG (see Annex).

5. Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

The maternal health indicators have increased considerably between 1990 and 2000. From a maternal mortality ratio of 1050 in 1990, the figure dropped to 730 in 2000. If that trend continues, it will be possible to reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2015.

6. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

The HIV prevalence rate among the 15-24 year old was established at 0.7% in 1993 and 1.4% in 2001. That represents a 100% increase. Malaria which is an environmental problem continues to wreak havoc, killing particularly the poor and vulnerable population who cannot afford expensive treatment. The prevalence of malaria among children under 5 for the year 2000 is 15% while the death rates associated with tuberculosis grew from 70 in 1990 to 72 in 2001.

7. Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

The Gambia has taken on board the issue of sustainable development and recognizes the need to protect its forest cover. The land area protected to maintain biological diversity is minimal, 3.7% of the total land area. Across the Gambia, deforestation is a major problem. Indigenous tree resources that have taken many years to mature are being lost at an unprecedented rate. This is compounded by an insatiable demand for biomass energy and seasonal forest fires that are nullifying government and CSOs efforts to reverse the trend. In terms of access to safe drinking water, The Gambia is doing very well. The percentage of people without sustainable access to improved water sources stood at 48% in 1990. This the figure dramatically dropped to 16% in 2000. The percentage of people having access to improved sanitation is improving²².

8. Goal 8: Global Partnership

On October 1, 2002 the Secretary-General of the UN warned that "*the world was falling short in meeting the objectives agreed by global leaders two years ago in the Millennium Declaration*".

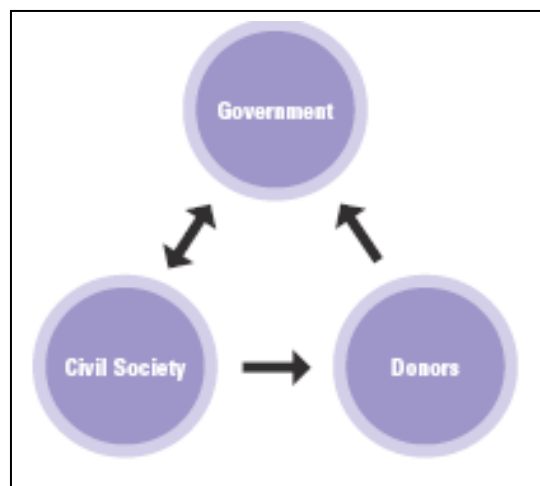
²² This is in relative and not in absolute terms.

Trends were “decidedly mixed” and while some advances had taken place on the specific MDGs, the broader objectives of the Declaration—including human rights, democracy, good governance, conflict resolution and Africa’s special needs—showed insufficient progress.

The importance of engaging partners in the campaign for implementation, and the role of CSOs among them has been noted by the Secretary-General and others concerned with mobilizing support for the Declaration and the Goals.

The Millennium Goals in essence, represent a global partnership for development. The deal makes clear that it is the primary responsibility of poor countries to work towards achieving the first seven Goals. They must do their part to ensure greater accountability to citizens and efficient use of resources. But for poor countries to achieve the first seven Goals, it is absolutely critical that rich countries deliver on their end of the bargain with more and more effective aid, more sustainable debt relief and fairer trade rules, well in advance of 2015.

Partnerships are key to a number of elements traditionally associated with governance and increasingly associated with mobilization of resources needed for the achievement of the MDGs. For example, scarcity of resources for grassroots development has meant that the national governments has increasingly sought partnerships with civil society through both profit and nonprofit organizations to *mobilize additional resources* for the speedy achievement of the MDGs and/or to provide crucial services to the poor as shown in the diagram below. Partnerships for service delivery again involve NGOs or the private sector in areas where traditionally the State held a monopoly²³. This is the more conventional form of partnership and the one encouraged during periods of market-led reforms.



In most of the developing nations Donors are increasingly channeling resources through CSOs.

An emerging form of partnership is one that actively involves CSOs in development objectives, such as poverty reduction, directly affecting poor segments of the society. In this light, partnership may be seen as an end in itself, for it encourages *participation* and *inclusiveness* which are thought mandatory for poverty reduction strategies all over the world. For example, PRSPs invariably require that they come under the scrutiny of CSOs before being approved by government and its international partners, namely the Bretton Woods institutions.

²³ Water provision is one such service. In the Gambia, grassroots based Organizations like TARUD have played a key role in increasing access to safe drinking water in the densely populated Gunjur area.

The avowed benefits that flow from developmental partnerships, especially at the sub national or decentralized level, include greater transparency, reduction of transaction costs, and enhanced accountability. Once civil society is capacitated, it is easier to engage

The Government in a dialogue of: what needs to be provided for the poor, the mode of service provision, and who pays for it. Similarly, transaction costs for services are reduced, once the benefits of greater accountability and transparency are reaped with a containment of malfeasance and corruption. Local providers of services²⁴ are more attuned to local requirements, more accessible to the public, and find it easier to spot areas of cost reduction.

However, according to the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration , a lack of suitable negotiating skills and inadequate market conditions have rendered some of these partnerships less productive and therefore less conducive to development and thus speedy achievement of the MDGs. As a result, weak accountability and transparency, as well as asymmetrical power of the partners, may lead to short term opportunistic partnerships of dubious value to the poor segment of the community at large.

The Government plays a pivotal role in fostering an enabling environment. Good MDG focused partnerships on the other hand, must be based on principles that are value-driven, inclusive, transparent, and accountable. Then, the building of capacities of civil society and government for entering such partnerships, without the risk of failure, becomes an easier proposition. Hence, civil society empowerment requires more than involvement and inclusion in dialogues with major development partners, because it implies *skills* and *negotiating power* that most CSOs in The Gambia may not possess.

Strategic partnerships between The Gambia Government, private sector institutions and CSOs are critical to the attainment of the MDGs. Private Sector intervention revolves around the issue of corporate social responsibility²⁵. The mapping of private sector contribution towards the achievement of the MDGs, Ana Teresa Fuzzo de Lima²⁶ highlights the fact that private sector institutions create both economic and social value. The social value component takes the form of one-off philanthropic donations towards NGO programs on HIV prevention, healthcare, primary education, loans to educate employees' children, scholarships for students, agriculture, job creation, supporting income-generating opportunities etc. All these activities are MDG related. The author concedes the point that there is still room for more enhanced participation. The formation of an MDG task force bringing together all the stakeholders²⁷ in the Gambia will help re-align and articulate all the participatory processes aimed at hitting the international targets come 2015.

Development aid continues to flow into the Gambia from both bilateral (Government to Government) and multilateral donors (World Bank, IMF, ADB, EU etc). Some of these aid flows come with strings and conditions attached. The aggregate total aid flow has been very difficult to establish due to lack of transparency in some organizations. The 2005 "*Aid Profiling In The Gambia*" Study commissioned by Pro-PAG was very revealing in that respect. Many institutions

²⁴ In this case Local Area Councils and grassroots NGOs

²⁵ CSR is about how companies manage the business processes to produce an overall positive impact on society.

²⁶ Situational Analysis of The Contribution of the Private Sector Towards the Millennium Development Goals in The Gambia, Ana Teresa Fuzzo de Lima, 2nd Draft, July 2005.

²⁷ Public, Private and Civil Society Organizations.

were not forthcoming about their sources and levels of funding. The level of ODA to the Gambia was estimated at \$92.3 million in 1999²⁸ while deploring the absence of a coordinated mechanism to centralize such aid flows. 56% of that aid went towards critical sectors like agriculture and health. The Gambia also received D80 million as budgetary support in 2002 as part of the HIPC initiative and 64% of those funds went towards sectors with a special focus on the MDGs: agriculture, health, education and employment

CSOs Activities in the Gambia

There is no clear-cut definition of CSOs. In the Gambia the civil society banner encapsulates NGOs, CBOs and FBOs. Some like the CCF, CRS and the African Muslim Agency are faith-based. Though these organizations are religiously motivated groups that strive to increase their membership through development work, they nonetheless help the needy irrespective of their religious affiliations.

In the Gambia, CSOs are now an integral part of the landscape and have entrenched themselves in the economic and social fabric of the country. They play a very prominent role in the country's drive to achieve sustainable development. Both the national and international NGOs are driving forces working with communities in different parts of the country but particularly so in the rural areas of The Gambia. Their mandate is to reduce poverty and to promote social development by reaching out to those on the edge: the poor, the sick, the vulnerable and the marginalized members of society. Their approach is rooted in the desire to make the Gambia a better place for all those who live in it. NGOs address issues ranging from health (HIV/AIDS, food security, education, women empowerment, agriculture, environmental protection etc. They build the capacity of people in various skills areas: like farming and gardening; food processing, water and sanitation; tie dye, soap making etc. Advocacy is also a key component of their agenda. Issues like child protection, pro-poor policies and gender mainstreaming feature prominently in their portfolio of activities. Though the main thrust of their work is still relief and poverty alleviation, NGOs are now addressing the root causes of poverty and not just the symptoms. They try to know who the Gambian poor are, where they live and what prevents them from escaping the vicious cycle of poverty. Innovative approaches are emerging and revolve around activities like small enterprise development, micro-finance etc.

The scale of CSO activities and their target groups also varies. The bigger NGOs like AATG, CRS and CCF have a countrywide outreach) while others are highly localized²⁹ due to financial and logistical constraints (see Annex. for details on areas of operation). International and some national NGOs have an outreach and financial resource capacity that enables them to better cover the regions, wards and communities in the country. The bigger NGOs have a diversified portfolio of activities and their MDGs are cross cutting. This made it extremely difficult to tie them to any particular MDG. Such organizations have been categorized under cross cutting issues (annex 4).

Changing Development Scenarios

Bigger players like AATG and CRS are changing their global strategy and are now working through partners as opposed to being practically involved in the implementation of programmes. They are now reaching out to the poor through their wide network of partners. They provide the funding and their partners implement projects and/or programmes in their respective thematic areas. Local CSOs and especially NGOs and being encouraged to form coalitions like the NAWFA, ProPAG and the EFA Campaign Network with an aim of creating impact in their respective programmes areas. This

²⁸ Bolong Sonko *et al*, 2003

²⁹ All CBOs in the Gambia are localized. There's a heavy concentration of CSOs in the Kombos for the same reason given earlier. Most of Gambia's population is now concentrated in the Kombos.

calls for transparency, upward and downward accountability and strategic partnerships depending on the focus of the programmes they want to implement and the tasks at hand.

Funding

It is abundantly clear that government needs partners in localizing and implementing the MDGs. Financial resources need to be marshaled locally and internationally to realize these goals. Civil society groups have a big stake in this. NGOs have different sources of funding. Some are funded locally whilst others enjoy an international funding status. But so much secrecy surrounds funding sources according to a recent research commissioned by ProPAG³⁰. It was shocking to note that The Gambian Government is more transparent than NGOs in revealing its sources of funding.

The Role of TANGO

TANGO was founded in 1983 to serve as an umbrella organization for all the NGOs operating in The Gambia. A group of NGOs, conscious of the fact that more and more CSOs will emerge over time, came together to form a regulatory body that would best serve their collective interests. TANGO's founder members had legitimate concerns that with the mushrooming of NGOs, efforts could be duplicated and the resources generated for relief and social development purposes would not have had the maximum impact. The idea behind the emergence of TANGO was to make the NGO community lean towards a more organized mode of engagement, develop the civil society's capacity of outreach and to forge dynamic and more participatory and partnership-based civil society approaches to development interventions.

Today, TANGO has a membership of 68 NGOs out of a possible total of 104 registered with the NGO Affairs Agency at the Department of State For Local Government and Lands. This represents 65 % of total NGOs operating in The Gambia. The association's role is clearly spelt out in its mission statement which reads:

*"TANGO is a representative NGO umbrella organization in The Gambia structured as an interactive network of equal and committed member organizations. It derives social legitimacy from maintaining high levels of internal democracy and participation, and by providing relevant and high-quality services to its member organizations"*³¹.

TANGO's primary role is to enhance the performance of its network members and their ability to deliver high-impact, cost-effective, and innovative programs for the promotion of environmentally sound, equitable and sustainable socio-economic development in The Gambia.

TANGO is a non-profit organization that strives to promote NGO activity in the Gambia and serves as a forum for NGOs to meet regularly to discuss issues that are of relevance to the NGO community. It is disappointing to note though that this is not happening.

MDG Goals Implementation Capacity of Gambian CSOs:

A detailed summary of what Civil Society groups are doing in relation to MDGs is given in annex 4. CSOs engagement in MDGs contributes to poverty reduction in a number of ways, including:

- *promoting public consensus and local ownership* for reforms and for national poverty reduction and development strategies by creating knowledge-sharing networks, building

³⁰ Aid Profiling in The Gambia. The Document is available at the ProPAG Secretariat on Bakau Newtown Road, The Gambia.

³¹ Quoted from TANGO's Strategic Plan.

common ground for understanding, encouraging public-private cooperation, and sometimes even diffusing tensions;

- *giving voice to the concerns of primary and secondary stakeholders* , particularly poor and marginalized populations, and help ensure that their views are factored into policy and program decisions;
- *strengthening and leveraging impact of development programs* by providing local knowledge, identifying potential risks, targeting assistance, and expanding reach, particularly at the community level;
- *bringing innovative ideas and solutions to development challenges* at both the local and global levels;
- *providing professional expertise and increasing capacity* for effective service delivery, especially in environments with weak public sector capacity or in post-conflict situations; and
- *Improving public transparency and accountability* of development activities, and thus contributing to the enabling environment for good governance.

CSOs in Service Delivery and Development

CSOs have become important channels for delivery of social services and implementation of other development programs, especially in areas where government capacity is weak or non-existent. Economic and fiscal policy reforms in the Gambia have led to decentralization or even privatization of social service delivery, which has resulted in a larger role for CSOs. Public policy challenges ranging from environmental protection to disease control have grown more complex at the global and national levels and existing inter- governmental mechanisms often have been insufficient to address these problems effectively. As the knowledge and capacity in the Gambian non-profit sector expands, and as CSOs build alliances with academics, economists and other experts in their areas of interest, the expertise and capacity in civil society can be tapped for the public benefit, and may rival or even exceed the capacity of government or the private sector in a given area.

Engagement with CSOs is a critical underpinning factor in: building the climate for investment, job opportunities and sustainable growth, and investing in poor people and empowering them to participate in development. This is particularly relevant to promoting the Corporate Advocacy Priorities of public sector governance, empowerment, security, social inclusion, education, and health.

CSOs and Accountability

The increasing international focus and emphasis on better governance and transparency of governments and even CSOs has also opened doors for CSOs involved in accountability. In a nutshell, involving CSOs in development and strengthening their “watchdog” role is now widely accepted by the international community as an essential component of promoting good governance and attracting more donors funding. Most of the NGOs receive a lot funding in the name of the poor. The only danger lies in intermediary CSOs that may be preoccupied with “upward” accountability to donors at the expense of “downward” accountability to the very poor people and local constituencies they represent. Moreover, constant pressures of fundraising, weak management skills and difficulties in scaling up operations can pose limit is to CSOs’ effectiveness and accountability.

A Growing Demand on CSO Expertise

As CSOs' expertise and influence grows in the Gambia, private sector corporations, parliamentarians, the media and opinion leaders increasingly seek them out for information, advice and partnerships. Private sector corporations today seek alliances with CSOs as a central part of their business strategy. This is evidenced, for example, by the recent growth in corporate social responsibility (CSR) themes in commercial advertising for their products and services. Globally a growing numbers of investors and consumers alike are looking for products and investments that meet the CSR test and are "approved" by reputable CSOs. Constructive CSO partnership with parliamentarians in the interest of the poor can lead to successful campaigns for certain issues—for example, the *Big Bang* campaign that saw the increase in enrolment and retention of children³² in The Gambia, making it one of the highest in Africa.

The Problems

Taking into consideration the country's present status towards achieving the millennium development targets as highlighted in the First National MDG Report (2003), the questions now are: Can progress be speeded up? Is the CSOs community rising to the challenge? Are the partnerships of NGOs with each other on the one hand and with the government and the private sector on the other hand optimal?

Obstacles to Local Implementation of MDGs in The Gambia

Before developing an MDG-linked national development strategy it is important that CSOs in the Gambia are currently aware and are facing various challenges along the way. These obstacles include:

- Weak local capacity, in terms of a knowledge and skills, to implement the MDGs
- Lack of disaggregated local information and public awareness about the MDGs
- Weak capacity to undertake integrated and participatory planning (horizontal coordination)
- Limited skills in introducing performance budgeting for effective implementation
- Limited capacity for creating a framework of MDG indicators and monitoring mechanisms
- Blocks to fiscal decentralization, such as weak local capacity to adopt pro-poor elements, or a lack of training in budgeting and public expenditure tracking tools
- Weak local procurement capacity which acts as an impediment for high quality and the efficient delivery of public services
- Lack of a national enabling environment for effective local development (e.g. legal and regulatory framework supporting decentralization, financial resources, organizational systems and mechanisms, values, norms and social practices that influence people's decision and behaviour).
- Weak vertical coordination with poor alignment of local priorities to national plans and policies
- Inconsistent support from international agencies and donors to promote local governance and local poverty reduction activities.

³² Especially the girl child.

Almost all local CSOs reviewed for this paper have low MDGs implementation capacity. Institutional support to augment their capacity have been provided either as a component of existing projects or as technical assistance³³. Particular weaknesses identified include:

- lack of technical expertise, for example in MDG fundraising
- understanding of NGO/CSO governance as it related to MDG targets
- Easy access to MDG information
- Poor networking abilities.
- There is no synergistic effect in the efforts deployed by NGOs across the country to address the poverty needs of the people due to lack of proper coordination. Efforts are being duplicated and resources wasted as a result
- The interventions of the NGO community are not optimal
- NGOs are failing to adjust and there is an urgent need to have CSOs with a serious commitment to both the national and global development frameworks.
- CSOs are today at variance with the manner in which development should be coordinated. Some of the actions of civil society organization do not add up.
- The Umbrella organization TANGO has teething capacity problems

Compounded with lack of assistance from the Umbrella Organization³⁴, local CSOs cannot fulfill the expected MDG implementation requirements. There's no proper reporting and/or information sharing mechanism. CSOs currently participating in the MDG related programmes (see annex 4) have similar constraints which have prevented them from performing to expected levels.

In terms of micro-credit facilities which are crucial for the poor, CSOs playing the role of financial intermediaries are in dire straits is urgently requiring financial resources³⁵ and the assistance of financial experts to strengthen their capabilities.

Implementation Capacity of CSOs: Assessment

While it is true that most CSOs, especially the smaller groups, lack technical expertise, the lack of implementation capacity in MDG related projects may have more to do with high expectations of the international communities and national Government.

These expectations relate to the functions CSOs perform and their scale of operation in The Gambia. Owing to the fact that CSOs interventions are diverse and many CSOs have developed a variety of capabilities, it should be recognized that CSOs in the Gambia have evolved primarily as catalysts for resource mobilization at the grassroots. In this role, their technical involvement has been limited to small-scale efforts, and their contributions have been in developing new approaches to service provision to the poor (such as sinking community wells, and establishment of village vegetable gardens). The UN should be cautious in expecting that such contributions should necessarily result in a scaled-up CSO capacity, especially to fill gaps in established development agency incapacities.

It should also be noted that the extent to which CSOs can be pushed over the threshold from experimentation to effective implementation (even with institutional strengthening) is a function of:

³³ Volunteers from Peace Corps, VSO, Nigeria Technical Assistants among others.

³⁴Over twenty years since its establishment, TANGO, the Umbrella NGO organization has capacity and funding problems.

³⁵ All registered MFIs in the Gambia were called by the NAOSU earlier in the year (2005) for a sensitization workshop on the availability of funds under the EDF facility. Many cited capacity problems including proposal writing.

- CSO absorptive capacity³⁶,
- CSO motivation in developing their capacity to stretch themselves functionally and spatially, and
- CSO capacity to scale-up without compromising their relationship with the beneficiaries (which makes them attractive in the first place).

CSO Absorptive Capacity

Absorptive capacity of MDG implementing agencies, including CSOs, should be given the same importance as demand for services in determining implementation capacity in the assessment of potential effectiveness of MDG relevant projects. Given that the absorptive capacity continues to be a major problem, it is not clear in what way and to what extent the proposed CSO empowerment program is going to make a difference to Gambian CSOs capacity to attract, absorb and implement MDG related projects.

CSO Functional and Spatial Diversification

A careful assessment needs to be made about CSO motivation in wanting to move into functional areas they have limited or no experience in and also into other geographical areas. It is common knowledge that most of the CSO are concentrated in the Kombos, which has become a melting pot in the Gambia. Many CSOs may be motivated to expand beyond their capacity because of the availability of funding and opportunities for networking with government, bigger CSOs and donors. Some may even have dishonorable motives, such as spending less on MDG specific programmes than was budgeted for. Given the many opportunities for networking and funding found in the Kombos and the availability of office, ICT, and good road infrastructure, very few CSOs may be interested in transplanting to other rural areas to gain more experience.

CSO relationship to the beneficiaries

CSOs which are primarily involved in resource mobilization and partner support like AATG cannot easily make the transition to a higher scale of operation and other types of functions without costs to their credibility. The new transition from implementing their own projects to working through partners involves dealing with new development agencies (donors and government), with more bureaucratic levels and cumbersome procedures, and greater technical complexity. The greater the numbers of MDG implementation aspects the CSOs have to deal with, the less control they tend to have over the implementation processes itself. This affects their overall impact.

Minimal Impact Assessment

Many NGOs in the Gambia carry out their assignments without stopping to assess the impact of their work. There are several reasons why NGOs should increasingly be interested in and also required to assess the impact of their development work. Impact Assessment is necessary for NGOs to:

- **Learn (improve strategies and interventions)**; to understand the implications of their work
- **Empower local communities**; to become more accountable to those with whom they work (stakeholders)
- **Be accountable to donors**; to support institutional learning and decision making and improve future work
- **Be accountable to communities with whom we work**; to contribute to policy development and effective advocacy

³⁶ One Donor Agency (name withheld) complained of poor absorptive capacity for Gambian CSOs. A lot of money allocated for 2005 has not been spent to date. The same complaint came from the head of mission of the EC in The Gambia.

- **Attribute success or failure**; to help demonstrate organizational performance

MDG Data Gaps

There is a lack of reliable and/or readily accessible data to evaluate and track Civil Society MDGs engagement. There is currently no accurate institutional picture of the amount of funds which have been channeled through or earmarked for CSOs. Existing CSO databases like the one at TANGO while it is very useful, it cannot be used to validate actual CSOs involvement in MDGs. At a national level, poor systems for monitoring and evaluating participation, may fuel the tendency to “*tick the box*” that CSOs have been involved rather than taking proactive steps to ensure solid engagement that is viewed as satisfactory by all stakeholders. The lack of an effective, outcome-based, monitoring and evaluation system will carry both operational and reputational risks for the MDG national Taskforce. It is also an obstacle to leveraging greater CSO involvement in efforts to help governments achieve the MDG

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

The policy framework for poverty reduction contains three main elements:

- *Empowerment*
- *Security*
- *Opportunity*

Empowerment –CSO actions are needed to strengthen the political role of the poor and to make state institutions more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the poor. Processes of accountability³⁷ and legal institutions defending the rights of the poor and vulnerable members of the society must be strengthened. Social barriers to poverty reduction, such as discrimination against women in the job marketplace, need to be removed. Civil Society Groups need to engage policy and decision makers to make this a reality in the Gambia.

Security – Pro poor policies need to be developed to protect the poor and vulnerable members of the society against economic shocks³⁸ and natural disaster and to better manage shocks at the grassroots and national levels. The poor generally lack a fall back position during such times.

Opportunity – There is a need for policies to improve the access of the poor to assets ranging from health care and education to micro credit facilities. The Gambia Government with help from development partners needs to scale up investments in rural infrastructure to stem the tide of rural urban migration. Market liberalization in The Gambia should be carried out in a specific way so as to minimize negative impacts of a liberalized economy on the poor³⁹ and maximize the economic benefit is accruing from the productive sectors of the economy.

Critical Success Factors and Recommendations

Empowerment and Poverty Reduction

1. Governance is crucial in empowering the poor. Governance should empower the poor and cease being a hindrance as it has so often been in the past. For example, corruption negatively worsens the

³⁷ For Example Public Expenditure Tracking by Civil Society groups representing the poor. ProPAG is already implementing this.

³⁸ Like the recent impasse between Senegal and The Gambia

³⁹ Problems of dumping of expired and other sub standard goods is a chronic problem in The Gambia currently.

lives of the poor in myriad ways by wasting scarce resources that could otherwise be used to improve access to public health, education, and water and sanitation programs.

2. Powerlessness is a key dimension of poverty.

Naturally, the poor are politically marginalized, having little opportunity to influence the policies that directly affect their lives. In sum, there is little accountability by state institutions and CSOs to the poor, who make up the majority of the population. Pro-PAG's work for example, is adding the voices of the poor in national decision making by engaging the policy makers and creating fora where the poor can participate in planning for their own development through the pro poor budget consultations. Many more CSOs are rising to the challenge and are making great strides in this respect.

3. Democracy is helpful but could do far more to benefit the poor.

Evidence suggests that civil and political rights are associated with higher rates of economic growth, lower corruption and poverty reduction. The Gambia as a young democracy still has a mammoth task of responding to the needs of the poor.

4. Devolution of power to local government can help if approached carefully.

Bringing government closer to the people can be a brilliant way of empowering the poor, provided certain political, administrative and financial requirements are in place. The decentralization process in The Gambia is still underway. Local Area Councils have capacity and technical expertise problems some of which can be solved by CSOs working in the respective regions. With more donor funding being promised to both state and non state actors under the 9th EDF, there is a need to empower councils to implement projects effectively and to use donor resources efficiently with the aim of improving the standards of living for the poor. If the LACs are not supported, devolution may only reinforce the power of traditional, local elites or create new elites that are equally unaccountable to the poor.

5. The participation of the poor in governance is essential.

The state is bound to respond to the interests of the poor according to their level of participation in policy making and the quality and effectiveness of CSOs working to support the poor. Empowerment of the poor is good in itself and as a way of ensuring the responsiveness of the state.

6. Rule of Law has a tremendous impact on the lives of the poor.

Law reform commonly includes such things as changing inequitable laws (for example, those denying women property rights), reducing police brutality and corruption, and speeding up legal and other disputes while reducing their ruinous financial cost-especially to the poor.

7. Formation of a National CSOs MDG Task Force

This should be given top priority. The task force will be charged with monitoring and reporting on the progress on MDG. Once formed, the task force will be mandated to collect and collate all national civil society MDG data. They will also update all databases on all the targets. The data used in this document is very old and this has resulted in information gaps.

8. Civil Society Dialogue

It is important for CSOs to meet from time to time to share resources, experiences, exchange information and strategize together on how best they can bolster each others work which is largely complimentary. This is easier said than done. A lot of sensitization must be done to debunk the

competition mentality that characterizes most CSOs in the Gambia. The first Civil Society Dialogue forum should be held Early December 2005.

9. Operational Collaboration: Projects and Policy

CSOs in The Gambia should begin the implementation of MDG specific projects and push for pro poor and engendered government policies as soon as possible in order to meet the global targets. The term partnership suggests shared ownership and decision-making over project design, implementation and use of resources, so not all CSO operational engagements can meet this test. The Gambia still stands a great chance of meeting the targets given the small size of the population and the good head start on some of the targets (see annex) The urgency for change in CSOs work to promote better quality of MDG specific projects cannot be overemphasized.

10. Evaluations of Selected MDG Projects

Evaluations of the selected projects should be carried out as soon as possible, to enable detailed assessment of the process and identification of interim outcomes to validate the initial findings of MDG project experience proposed in this paper. CSO and executing agency perspectives, along with those of beneficiaries should be obtained separately and also through joint participatory evaluation workshops in the field using the community score card tool⁴⁰.

11. Institutional Strengthening

A detailed CSO capacity needs assessment for institutional strengthening⁴¹ should urgently be carried out and training conducted to match these needs before more funds are put in for MDG specific efforts. This is to ensure transparency and efficiency in the utilization of donor funds and downward and upward accountability of civil society groups active in the implementation of MDG specific projects and/or programmes. This will pay dividends in favour of the poor. In addressing their resource constraints, civil society groups⁴² can draw capacity building resources available under the Indicative programme in the 9th EDF. Three areas of intervention have been identified:

- A Capacity Building programme for Participatory Development;
- Support to the ongoing Local Government Reform Programme; and
- Support for the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy

Under the ninth EDF, NSAs will be particularly involved in the realization of the programme for Capacity Building for Participatory Development, as implementing partners, as facilitators, and, as beneficiaries of training as well as ‘owners’ of community-based development interventions. By adopting the 9th EDF Country Support Strategy, based on the spirit of the Cotonou Agreement, and building upon the experiences with participatory approaches gained in the preparation of the PRSP, the scene can be set for taking the participation of Non-State actors, including civil society a step forward.

Depending on the specifics of the sectors concerned, such participation may take place at strategy, programmes or project level. Participation could be as implementing partners, as facilitators or as beneficiaries, or in the evaluation of strategy and programmes. Provisions exist in the CSP for the building of capacity for Non-State actors, for effective participation

⁴⁰ A World bank Tool that was piloted last year (2004) by ProPAG in collaboration with SPACO.

⁴¹ *institutional strengthening of various kinds, related to project implementation*

⁴² Being Non State Actors (NSA)

12. Initiatives of Donor Agencies

There's a pressing need to carefully study the initiatives of donor agencies, particularly the bilateral agencies that have some good models which can be replicated locally. A recent research commissioned by ProPAG revealed that so much development Aid is coming into the Gambia. These resources need to be tracked to ensure effective and transparent utilization in support of better quality MDG specific projects and increased CSO involvement in the implementation of these projects. Best practices in MDG implementation in the Gambia should be rewarded. This is true particularly with regard to innovations at the local and community level involving CSOs. For example, the proposed expansion of AATG-ProPAG civil society capacity building programme will incorporate some innovative collaborative arrangements among CSOs themselves to promote institutional strengthening for implementation that minimizes the problem of low implementation capacity among CSOs.

13. Documentation and Information Sharing

The UNDP office in the Gambia should encourage the writing and wide distribution of short MDG case studies or MDG Briefs from CSO project staff about innovative approaches for problem-solving during implementation that they have used and/or are in evident elsewhere. The case studies should detail the process as well as the outcomes. The UNDP office should also publish as Working Papers, background MDG specific papers prepared by top notch Gambian consultants which will form the basis reference and scholarly excellence. The UNDP should publicize not only among its staff but also outside, TA MDG specific reports that reveal innovations in synergetic processes at the country level, relating to collaboration among different Civil Society institutions in working toward achieving the MDGs.

14. The links between women's and children's poverty

Children as dependants are at greater risk of poverty than adults in the Gambia. As mentioned earlier, women on the other hand are at greater risk of poverty than men. Although women's poverty matters in its own right, it is its implications for child poverty that are of great concern to us. The link between the two has been largely ignored in research work, public debates and policy-making around child poverty. There is a need to inject a gender dimension into the national development strategy to end child poverty. Policy makers must acknowledge this link in their efforts to eradicate child poverty.

15. Making development the uniting bond

- The local communities should be determined to make governments deliver on their promises
- CSOs should bolster government efforts in drawing all groups into the process of achieving the MDG.
- The private sector should be given a bigger role by engaging them along the lines of their corporate social responsibility.
- A whole new attitude of partnership and collaboration between CSOs should be invented.

Additional Recommendations

16. Lobbying The Policy makers (NAMs) to Participate in Achieving the MDGs

Parliament needs a strategic plan to encourage an ethic of service to constituents. This is especially true with regard to relations between NAMs and their poorest constituents who may be the easiest to

avoid or ignore. The following are example of actions that Gambian National Assembly and parliamentarians can take:

- The Parliamentary budget should provide funds to cover constituency offices and staff, expenses associated with travel to the constituency and meetings with constituents.
- NAMs should be paid not only for the time they sit in the Parliament but also when they consult and meet with their constituents⁴³.
- They should use CBOs for focus group discussions (FGDs) and as sources of information and advice on development issues.
- Parliamentarians as policy makers should be empowered to carefully check the track record of all CSOs representing the poor.
- NAMs should consult with their constituents before casting important votes in parliament. To facilitate this, they should post their schedules in public places in their constituencies and hold community consultations forums in various parts of the constituency.
- A Parliamentary Select Committee on Rules and Procedures should set out guidelines for consulting with and accounting to constituents.
- NAMs should be required to produce periodic public reports on issues of development in their constituencies and what they have done to address them.
- CSOs active in advocacy should provide training for NAMs on how best to serve their constituents. This should including methodologies of public consultation and citizen engagement. In addition, many NAMs need training in fundraising, project development and management because they also function as development agents in their constituencies.
- NAMs should work closely with decentralized levels of government⁴⁴ in their constituencies. In turn they should help their constituents to find their way through the maze of modern governance.

17. Parliamentary Networking and ICTs

- *Parliamentarians' ability to network with colleagues in other commonwealth parliaments is an essential professional skill.* All public policy issues now have powerful global and local dimensions and parliamentarians can play a key role connecting the two.
- *Currently there's an array of modern technological devices to assist parliamentarians in their work of networking.* Unfortunately, Gambian parliamentarians have been slow to take up this new technology⁴⁵ compared to, the private sector and NGOs. Should this persist, there is the risk that the national assembly will be further marginalized and will not be in touch with global policy trends. CSOs active in ICT delivery should consider empowering the National Assembly with these useful technologies to facilitate the work of the NAMs.
- *It is especially important that government institutions, NAMs and CSOs use these new technologies to benefit the poor.* Otherwise the communications revolution could deepen the divide between the rich and poor countries and poor and rich people in least developed countries like the Gambia.

⁴³ This will encourage their participation in local economic development of their constituencies.

⁴⁴ with the LACs

⁴⁵ Specifically broadband internet connection

- *The web is now a vital source of research and information on the governance of all countries in the world.* With a reliable infrastructure, it may be possible for parliamentarians to get needed information ‘*off the internet*’ when they cannot get it from the government. Examples of information that may be scarce locally but available globally via the internet include MDG and EFA Goals, the CRC document, CEDAW and other Agreements between international organizations and governments.
- *International networking is a way of sharing policy information with colleagues in other countries and mutually reinforcing one another.* The African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC) is an excellent example of international parliamentary networking. Gambian Parliamentarians can benefit from, in this case within the African region. Similar networks can and should be established in support of pro poor policies.
- *Networking is equally important between different levels of government.* Policy effectiveness depends on coordination between national and local governments. NAMs can play an important role as channels of policy communication between the different levels.

UN Secretary Generals Statement

Today’s is the first generation with the resources and technology to make the right to development a reality for everyone and to free the entire human race from want. There is a shared vision of development. The Millennium Development Goals, which range from halving extreme poverty to putting all children into primary school and stemming the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, all by 2015, have become globally accepted benchmarks of broader progress, embraced by donors, developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike.

These goals can be met by 2015— but only if all involved break with business as usual and dramatically accelerate and scale up action now.

— Executive Summary of the Report of the UN Secretary-General, *In larger freedom*

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ANNEX 1

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS-MDGs

Many of the MDG indicator data can be found in the Human Development Report, including:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty

- Proportion of population living on \$1/day
- Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
- Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- Net enrollment ratio in primary education
- Proportion of pupils starting first grade who reach the 5th grade
- Adult literacy rates

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Ratio of boys to girls in primary, secondary, and tertiary education
- Ratio of literate females to males (15 years old +)
- Women employment by economic activity (inc. non-agricultural sector)
- Seats in parliament held by women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- Under-five mortality rate
- Infant mortality rate
- Proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Maternal mortality ratio
- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

- Contraceptive prevalence rate
- People living with HIV/AIDS (disaggregated in adults, women, and children)
- Malaria cases
- Tuberculosis cases

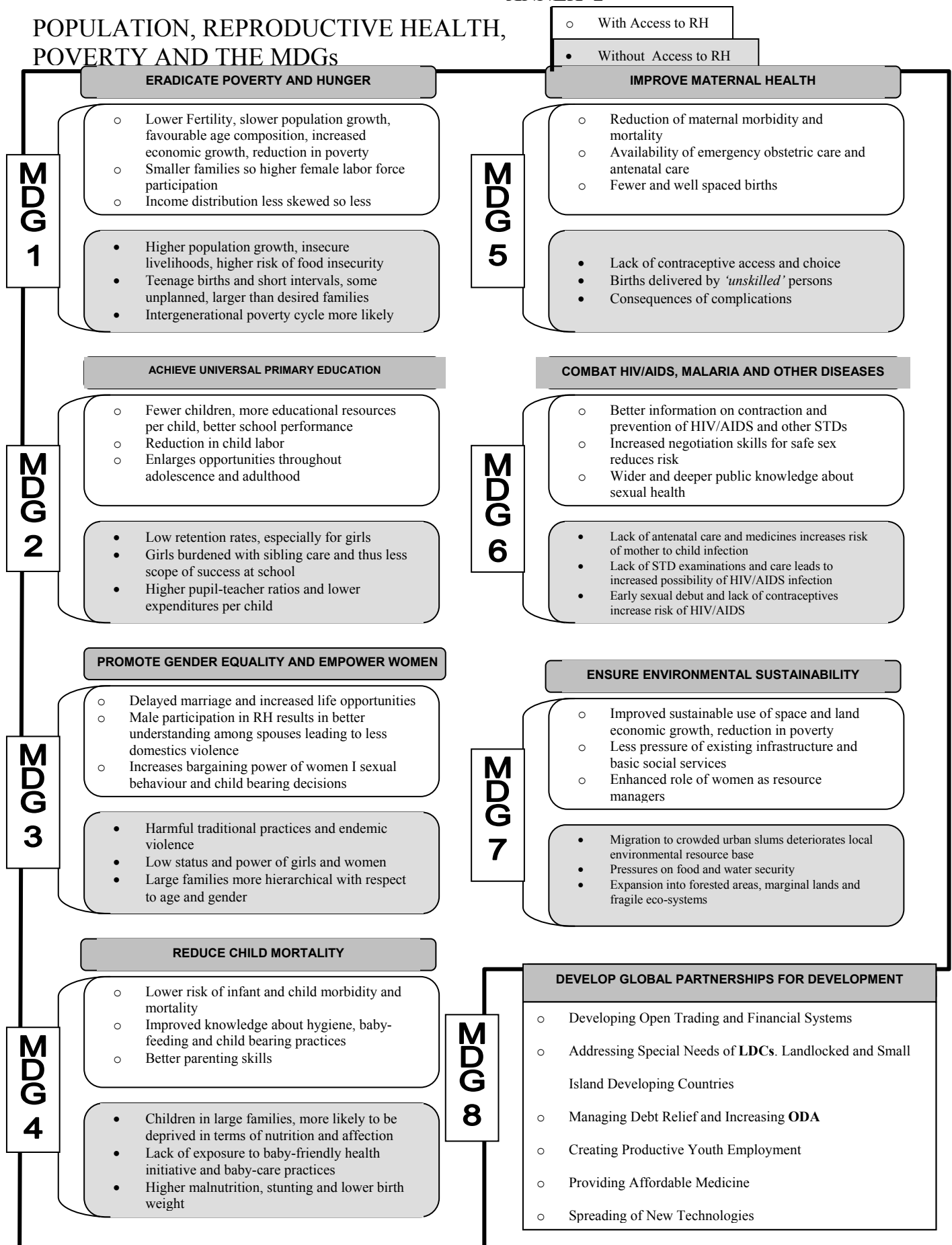
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- Energy use per GDP unit
- Carbon Dioxide Emissions
- Population using improved water sources
- Population using adequate sanitation facilities

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- Unemployment rate of 15-24-year-olds
- Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs

POPULATION, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH,
POVERTY AND THE MDGs



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The goals and targets are based on the UN Millennium Declaration, and the UN General Assembly has approved them as part of the Secretary General's road map towards implementing the declaration. UNDP worked with other UN departments, funds and programmes, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development to identify over 40 quantifiable indicators to assess progress.

Goals and Targets	Indicators
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	
Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day (PPP-values) 2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty] 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age) 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	
Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year olds 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate 15. Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Maternal mortality ratio 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled

2015, the maternal mortality ratio	health personnel
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	
Target 7: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women 19. Contraceptive prevalence rate 20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
Target 8: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 24. Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course)
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	25. Proportion of land area covered by forest 26. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity 27. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency) 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) [Plus two figures of global atmospheric pollution: ozone depletion and the accumulation of global warming gases]
Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	29. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	30. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation 31. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure [Urban/rural disaggregation of several of the above indicators may be relevant for monitoring improvement in the lives of slum dwellers]

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development*

Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally

Target 13: Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries

Includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

Target 14: Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states

(through Barbados Programme and 22nd General Assembly provisions)

Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Some of the indicators listed below will be monitored separately for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing states.

Official Development Assistance

- 32. Net ODA as percentage of DAC donors' GNI [targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs]
- 33. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
- 34. Proportion of ODA that is untied
- 35. Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing states
- 36. Proportion of ODA for transport sector in land-locked countries

Market Access

- 37. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas
- 38. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing
- 39. Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries
- 40. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Debt Sustainability

- 41. Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled
- 42. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
- 43. Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief
- 44. Number of countries reaching HIPC decision and completion points

<p>Target 16: In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p>	<p>45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds</p>
<p>Target 17: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries</p>	<p>46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis</p>
<p>Target 18: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>	<p>47. Telephone lines per 1000 people 48. Personal computers per 1000 people <i>Other Indicators TBD</i></p>

* *The selection of indicators for Goals 7 and 8 is subject to further refinement*

ANNEX 3

WATER, POVERTY AND MDGs-GAMBIAN CONTEXT

Millennium Development Goals		How Water Contributes Towards Achieving Goals	
		Directly Contributes	Indirectly Contributes
Poverty	To halve by 2015 the proportion of people in the Gambia whose income is less than 1\$ per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water as a factor of production in agric industry and other types of econ activities • Investments in water infrastructure and services act as a catalyst to local and regional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced vulnerability to water related hazards reduces the risk in investments and production • Reduced ecosystems degradations boosts local level sustainable development • Improved health from better quality water increases productive capacities
Hunger	To half by 2015 the proportion of people in the Gambia who suffer from Hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water as a direct input into irrigation including supplementary irrigation for expanded food production • Reliable water for subsistence agriculture, peri-urban farming, home gardens and livestock • Sustainable production of fish, tree crops and other foods gathered in common property resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ecosystems integrity to maintain water flows to food production. • Reduced urban hunger by cheaper food grains from reliable water supplies
Universal Primary Education	To ensure that by 2015 children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved school attendance from improved health and reduced water carrying burdens especially for girls
Gender Equality	Progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women should be demonstrated by ensuring that both girls and boys have equal access to primary And secondary education		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBOs for water management improve social capital for women • Reduced time and health burdens from improved water services lead t more balanced gender roles
Child Mortality	To reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the death rate for children under the age of 5 years in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quantities and quality of domestic water and sanitation reduce main morbidity and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved nutrition and food security reduces susceptibility to diseases.

	The Gambia	mortality factor for young children	
Maternal Mortality	To reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the rate of maternal mortality I The Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health and reduced labour burdens from water portage reduce mortality risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health and nutrition reduce susceptibility to anemia and other conditions that affect maternal mortality
Major Diseases	To half by 2015, halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIVAIDS, the scourge of malaria, the scourge of other major disease that affect Gambians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better water resource management reduces mosquito habitats and malaria incidence • Reduced incidence of range of disease where poor water management is a vector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health and nutrition reduce susceptibility to HIVAIDS and other major diseases
Environmental Sustainability	To stop the unsustainable exploitation of Gambia's natural resources and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved management of water resources (including pollution control and sustainable levels of abstraction, are keys factors in maintaining ecosystem integrity • Concerted actions to ensure access to adequate and safe water for the poor and poorly serviced communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of integrated management system within River Gambia Basin can create conditions where sustainable ecosystem management is possible.
<p>This table shows that improving water management can make a significant contribution to achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals established by the UN General Assembly Millennium meeting in 2000</p> <p>Source: Soussan, 2002.</p>			

ANNEX 4

Description of NGO/CBO in the Gambia and what they are doing

MDG Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
ADWAC	Food Security, Micro-finance	North Bank Division
Allatentu Kafo	Horticultural Production, livestock rearing/fattening	Misera, Sandu
Allamuta Kaffo	Soap making and tie & die	Manneh Kunda
Allakomeng Kaffo	Farming, livestock rearing, poultry rearing	Sankwia, Jarra West, LRD
Association of Farmers, Educators & Traders	Vegetable gardening, Micro-finance	All 5 Division
Anglican Mission Development Ministries		URD, WD & NBD
Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)	Poverty Alleviation	KMC, WD & NBD
Bakalarr Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming & Vegetable production.	North Bank
Barinabeh Village Develop Committee	Farming and Livestock Rearing	Barinabeh Village
Berending Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming practices; Vegetable production.	Berending
Cashew Farmers Association	Farming and food security	Brikama
Compin Kawral Buiba Musa	Farming and Income generating activities	
Chamen Village Development Committee	Food security and poverty Alleviation	Chamen Village
Bodeyel Village Development Committee	Soap making, tie and die, communal farming, business services	Bodeyel
Dankunku Women’s Group	Farming, tie & die, soap making	Dankunku
Chilla Jurunku Village Development Committee	Farming, Vegetable Production and Livestock	Chilla Jurunku Village
Feleng Koto Village Development Committee	Crop production, animal rearing./husbandry and Horticultural Development	Feleng Koto Village
Fandema Kaffo	Horticultural Production & Livestock rearing/fattening	Misera, Sandu
Freedom From Hunger Campaign	Agricultural extension, Micro-finance, Cereal Banking, crop improvement, infrastructural development.	WD, LRD & CRD
Fass Njaga Choi Village Development Committee	Crop production, Vegetable production, Sheep fattening.	Fass Njaga Choi (NBD)
Fass Omar Chaho Village Development Committee	Agriculture – Farming; poultry keeping	Fass Omar Chaho (NBD)
Foundation for Humanitarian Aid Gambia	Poverty Alleviation	URD
Gambia Actions and Development Against Poverty (GADAP)	Agriculture/fisheries	WD
Gambia Artisanal Fisheries Development Agency	Food security for poverty alleviation, credit schemes	LRD/WD/NBD
Gambia Food Seed Mission	Agriculture	LRD/WD
Gambia Organization for the Visually Impaired (GOVI)	Agriculture, income generation	Countrywide
Gambia Women’s Finance Association (GAWFA)		Countrywide
Gambia Association for the physically disabled	Welfare and poverty alleviation	Countrywide
Genieri Village Development Committee	Farming & pottery	LRD
Hope for Children - Gambia	Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Food Processing, Vegetable processing & Micro-finance	Kombo North, Kombo South, Kombo Central & Kombo East
Institute For Social Reformation & Action	Gardening projects	Kombo East, CRD North, KMC Kotu South, Country Wide, Kiang Central, Lower River Division
India Women Tesito Association	Farming, Horticultural Production	India Village
Islamic Relief Association (ISRA)	Agricultural projects	WD/LRD&CRD
Institute for Social Reformation and Action	Women Garden Projects	Kombo East
Kambeng Kafo	Saving and Credit Horticultural Production , Livestock rearing/fattening	Sara Bojo Baga
Kaira Jokere Endam Kaffo	Fishing and farming practices	
Kerewan Samba Credit Union	Communal farming, horticulture, soap making, tie and die.	Kerewan
Kurajula Kunda Yiriwa Kaffo	Agriculture – Corp production;	Kurajula Kunda
Kuwonkuba Village Development Committee	Livestock rearing, farming, cereal banking.	Kuwonkuba Village
Kuntair Compin Kawral	Farming	Kuntair Village
Kuraw Arafang Village	Farming, Horticultural Production	Kuraw Arafang
Kanuma Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming vegetable production,	Kanuma
Kombo East Tesito Association (KETA)	Vegetable production, community farming, soap making, jam	WD

	processing	
Kwenilla Nyakunda Village Development Committee	Agriculture, Cattle breeding	LRD
Kemburinbiri Yiriwa Kaffo	Agriculture, Horticulture	
Kangkiting Dandeh Woitereh Kaffo	Agriculture, Soap making; Tie & Die	
Medina Serigne Mass Village Development Committee	Farming, Vegetable gardening	Medina Serigne Mass, Lower Nuimi NBD
Methodist Mission Agric Program (MMAP)	Agriculture	NBD/CRD
Mamut Fana Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming	Mamut Fana
National Savings & Credit Union	Micro-finance	WD
Njau Sawalo Village Development Group	Farming, Livestock rearing	Njau Sawalo Village
Milk Processing Group	Agriculture, clothing for the orphans, milk production and processing	Sare Koke, URD
Njaba Kunda Village Development Association	Farming, Vegetable Production	Njaba Kunda Village
Rescue Mission Planet Earth	Agriculture	NBD, WD, LRD, CRD & KMC
Sare Musa Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming and crop production	Sare Musa Village
SOS Children’s Villages The Gambia	Long term family based care for children in need;	Bakoteh
Sika Village Development Committee	Horticultural Production Livestock rearing/fattening	Sika Village
Sutukonding Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming, Help for the poor and needy members of the community	Sutukonding
Touba Kolong Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming, Vegetable production Beekeeping & Fishing	Toubakolong
Touba Wuli Village Development Committee	Farming, Horticulture,	Touba Wuli Village
Tesito Kafo	Farming, Tie & dye and Soap Making	Basse, URD
Jareng Village Development Committee	Agriculture, Fishing, Masonry, tie and die, tailoring	Jareng Village
Juffureh Albreda Youths Society	Promotion of Tourism & Culture, enterprise development, tie & die, soap making, salt production.	Lower & Upper Nuimi
Jendeh Village Development Committee	Farming, Horticultural Production, Livestock rearing, tie and die, soap making	Jendeh Village
Jenoi Mambatam Kaffo	Agriculture, Horticulture, Soap making	Jenoi
Jappineh Village Development Committee	Gardening projects	LRD
Hope for Children - Gambia	Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Food Processing, Vegetable processing & Microfinance	Kombo North, Kombo South, Kombo Central & Kombo East
National Association of Women Farmers	Production, Processing & marketing of Crops, Marketing of Livestock, Processing and Marketing of Vegetables	Country wide
International Islamic Relief Organization	Welfare programs, Poverty Alleviation	KMC/WD
Taku Legaye Group	Farming, Horticultural production	Karataba Wollof Village
Wellingara Village Development Committee	Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, poultry, tie and die	Wellingara village
World Evangelization for Christ International (WEC International)	Agriculture	WD/NBD/CRD & KMC
Wulli and Sandu Development Agency	Rice irrigation, Animal husbandry, orchard & gardening, micro-finance.	Wuli and Sandu
Youth Action for Food Self-Sufficiency & Education (YAFSSE)	Vegetable gardening	Countrywide

MDG Goal 2: Achieving Universal Primary Education

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
Association of Baptist for World Evangelism (ABWE)	Education	NBD
Baptist Mission of the Gambia	Education	NBD/KMC
Bilal Foundation	Education	KMC
Education for All campaign Network	Advocacy and social mobilization	
Forum for African Women's Education-Gambia	Advocacy – Girls & Women education and empowerment; Networking and Gender Policy	All the 6 Administrative
Future in Our Hands	School Building, Women Cooperatives Development Environment Issues	Regions 3 – 6
Gambia Women's Finance Association (GAWFA)	Education and Health	Countrywide
Gambia Islamic Union (GIU)	Islamic Education for children	Countrywide
Gambia Organization for the Visually Impaired	Education and sensitization	Countrywide
Global Harvest Mission	Education	WD
Helping the Poor and Needy	Education	Bakau (KMC)
Islamic Relief Association (ISRA)	Education	WD/LRD&CRD
Inner City Africa Ministries	Education	NBD
Institute For Social Reformation & Action	Madrassa Support Programme	Kombo East, CRD North, KMC Kotu South, Country Wide, Kiang Central, Lower River Division
Initiative Development Association –Gambia (IDAG)	Lower and Upper Basic Education	NBD
International Islamic Relief Organization	Education	KMC/WD
Kndergarten Wattenscheid (KGW)	Nursery schools, Early Childhood Development	
Munazamatal Dawa Al Islamia	Education & funds community projects	Countrywide
Rawdul Quran Islamic Organization	Education and funds community projects	GBA, NBD
Schools for Progress	Education & funds community projects	NBD/WD
Sare Musa Village Development Committee	Education & funding community projects	URD
SOS Children's Villages The Gambia	Education, Vocational skills	Bakoteh
Shiekh Mass Kah Islamic Foundation	Education, Islamic Education (Grades 1 – 12); and Western Education (grades 7 – 12)	Kanifing East Layout
Shabibatou Ansarubeen No 2.	Education	Banjul
West African Mission	Education	WD/LRD/KMC
World Evangelization for Christ International (WEC International)	Education	WD/NBD/CRD & KMC
West Africa Mission (WAM)	Education (Nursery, non-formal)	Countrywide
Yiriwa Kafo	Child welfare, Education	Numuyel Village

MDG Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality & Empower Women

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
ADWAC	Adult Literacy	North Bank Division
Alamuta Kafoo	Tie & Die making	Bakadagi URD
Association for Promoting Girl's and Women's Advancement	Skills training; Women's empowerment; Resource mobilization.	
London Mayo Kafo Kaur Janneh Kunda Women Development Group	Soap making, Tie & dye, and Gardening	Kaur Janneh Kunda
National Association of Women Farmers	Production, Processing & marketing of Crops, Marketing of Livestock, Processing and Marketing of Vegetables	Country wide
Nio Moi Kaffo	Tie & Die and Soap making, Micro-finance enterprise development; Agriculture Horticulture; Savings'	Kaiaf Village, LRD
Satang's Institute for Management, Marketing and Advocacy	Skills empowerment Political Dispensations on women Poverty Alleviation Campaigns Gender Advocacy	Five Division
Tankular Women's Kaffo	Gardening, farming and crop production	
Women's Federation for World Peace	Education & Health	Countrywide
Women in Services Development	Education	Countrywide

Organization and Management (WISDOM)		
Young Women's Christian Association	Skills training, Education, Gender, and Health	Countrywide
Future in Our Hands	Women Cooperatives Development	Regions 3 – 6
Forum for African Women's Education-Gambia (FAWEGAM)	Advocacy – Girls & Women education and empowerment; Networking and Gender Policy	Countrywide
Gambia Women's Finance Association (GAWFA)	Empowering women through project funding	Countrywide
Kantong Kunda Women's Kaffo	Vegetable Production	Kiang West (LRD)
The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP)	Empowerment of women, Advocacy	Countrywide
World View The Gambia (WTG)	Gender Advocacy	Countrywide
Methodist Mission Agricultural program (MMAP)	Farming systems training, agro-forestry, well-digging with emphasis on women	Countrywide
National Women Farmers' Association (NAWFA)	Crop production, livestock production, food processing	Countrywide

MDG Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
Yiriwa Kafo	Child welfare	Numuyel Village
SOS Children's Villages The Gambia	Long term family based care for children in need; Health Services	Bakoteh
Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC)	Early Childhood Care & Development	North Bank Division
Genieri Village Development Committee	Primary Health Care Services	LRD
Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC)	Early childhood care and development	North Bank Division
SOS Kinderdorf International (SOS-KDI)	Child Care	Countrywide

MDG Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
Sutukonding Village Development Committee	Health Improvement programs,	Sutukonding Village (URD)
Foundation for Research on Women's Health, Productivity and the Environment (BAFROW)	Women's health	Countrywide
Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC)	Pre-natal and post-natal health care, Improved family planning	North Bank Division
Gambia Family Planning Association	Maternal Healthcare	Countrywide
Gamcare The Gambia	Healthcare	NBD
Gambia Food and Nutrition Association (GAFNA)	Health and Education	WD/LRD/NBD/CRD/URD
Health Centre Essen (HCE)	Health	WD
United Care Roland Clinic	Health delivery	WD/URD
Friends of the Gambia Association	Health delivery	Countrywide

MDG Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
African Network for Information and Action Against Drugs (RAID)	Advocacy on HIV/AIDS, drug abuse.	
African Muslim Agency	Addressing health problems	Countrywide
Arbeiter Samariter Bond	Addressing health problems	KMC
Care of the social, economic & psycho-medical needs for AIDS patients	Addressing the health, economic and social needs of AIDS patients	Countrywide
Community Action for Development Association (CADA)	Care for HIV & other health patients.	Countrywide
Danish-Gambian Friendship Society	Health & funding community projects	Major Health Centers
Gambia Islamic Union (GIU)	Education and Health	Countrywide
Gambia Family Planning Association	Healthcare	Countrywide
Gamcare The Gambia	Healthcare	NBD
Gambia Food and Nutrition Association (GAFNA)	Health and Education	WD/LRD/NBD/CRD/URD
Health Centre Essen (HCE)	Health	WD
Human Development Society	Health focus-building major health centre HIV/AIDS Sensitization	Kiang and Fonis
Kinderklinik Bochum in the Gambia	Health and Education	NBD
Nyomuta Kaffo	HIV/AIDS awareness Creation program theatre performances	Mansanjang, Manneh Kunda Mansanjang
Project Aid the third World	Health	CRD
Friends of the Gambia Association	Health delivery	Countrywide
Forut - Gambia	Health and sanitation.	North Bank Division
Kambeng Kafo	Saving and Credit Horticultural Production , Livestock rearing/fattening, HIV/AIDS Sensitization	Sara Bojo Baga
Raid The Gambia	Capacity building for young people Drug prevention and education HIV/AIDS and STIs awareness Reproductive health right of the children	Country-wide
SOS Kinderdorf International	Health Delivery	Countrywide
Sare Musa Village Development Committee	Health & funding community projects	URD
Sheikh Abdullah Jah Foundation	Health	NBD, GBA
Sutukonding Village Development Committee	Health Improvement programs	Sutukonding Village
The Gambia Red Cross Society	First Aid, Community Health	Countrywide
United Care Roland Clinic	Health delivery	WD/URD
World Evangelization for Christ International (WEC International)	Health	WD/NBD/CRD & KMC
Young Men Christian Association	HIV/AIDS Advocacy	BBC, KMC, WD, and CRD
Yiriwa Kafo	HIV/AIDS awareness, Child welfare,	Numuyel Village

MDG Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
Gambia 4 H	Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Development, Environment, Health & Micro-finance	NBD, CRD, Niaminas in CRD, Jokadu (NBD)
Rescue Mission Planet Earth	Agriculture	NBD, WD, LRD, CRD & KMC
Stay Green Foundation	Environmental and natural resource management	Lower & Upper Nuimi & NBD
Sutukonding Village Development Committee	Environmental Care – tree Planting	Sutukonding Village
Touba Kolong Village Development Committee	Community Forestry management	Touba Kolong Village
Future in Our Hands (FIOH)	Environment Issues	Regions 3 – 6
Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC)	Community Forest Management	North Bank Division

MDG Goal 8: Global Partnerships

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WITH WHAT PARTNERS
Action Aid The Gambia (AATG)	HIV/AIDS campaigns, Food Rights & Security, Education policy and advocacy, Emergency preparedness and mitigation	
ADWAC	Food Security, Micro-finance	SADIO Sub-regional Network for Food Security
African Network for Information and Action Against Drug (RAID)	Awareness raising on drug abuse and social problems	UNFPA, WHO, UNDCP, NACP, American Embassy
Allatentu Kafo	Horticultural Production, livestock rearing/fattening	AATG, WASDA
Allamuta Kaffo	Soap making and tie & die	FASE/UNDP, GAWFA, GAMSEN
Allakomeng Kaffo	Farming, livestock rearing, poultry rearing	
Association of Farmers, Educators & Traders	Vegetable gardening, Micro-finance	CRS, UNDP, Concern Universal and Social Development Fund, DOSA/IFAD, Christ World Services
Anglican Mission Development Ministries		
Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)	Poverty Alleviation	
Association for Promoting Girl's and Women's Advancement	Skills Training, Women empowerment, Resource mobilization	United States of America, Germany
Association of Baptist for World Evangelism (ABWE)	Education	
Baptist Mission of the Gambia	Education	
Bakalarr Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming & Vegetable production.	WEC Mission, CRS, FAO, SDF
Berending Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming practices; Vegetable production.	CRS, WHO, Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA)
Bodeyel Village Development Committee	Soap Making, Tie and die, Crop production, Communal farming, Business services	AATG, SDF, DCD
Business and Education Trust	Education and skills training, Job placement, Admission to overseas institutions	Stockport College – Manchester, Birmingham College of Food and Nutrition, British High Commission
Campaign for Development and Solidarity-FORUT Gambia	Health & Sanitation, capacity Building, Environment & Natural Resource Management, Local Resource mobilization	RFCIP, IOGT, Sweden and Norwegian Partners
Cashew Farmers Association	Farming and food security	
Chamen Village Development Committee	Food security and poverty Alleviation	AATG, CRS, DCD, GAWFA
Christian Children's Fund (CCF)	Early Childhood Development, Youth, HIV/AIDS, Education, Health, Micro-finance, Small enterprise Development,	UNICEF, CCF, EU, WORLD BANK
Dankunku Women's Group	Farming, tie & die, soap making	
Education for All campaign Network	Advocacy and social mobilization	
Forum for African Women's Education-Gambia	Advocacy – Girls & Women education and empowerment; Networking and Gender Policy	
Future in Our Hands (FIOH)	School Building, Women Cooperatives Development Environment Issues	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Groups in Sweden
Feleng Koto Village Development Committee	Crop production, animal rearing./husbandry and Horticultural Development	IFAD, DCD
Fandema Kaffo	Horticultural Production & Livestock rearing/fattening	
Freedom From Hunger Campaign	Agricultural extension, Micro-finance, Cereal Banking, Crop improvement, Infrastructural development.	German Agro Action, Gambia Government Subvention, RFCIP, Concern Universal, FORUT
Foundation for Humanitarian Aid Gambia	Poverty Alleviation	
Funds for African and African American Cultural & Education Solidarity	Education, Rural development, Health, Cross-cultural Exchanges	FACES, Detroit, Michigan (USA)
Future in Our Hands	Women Cooperatives Development	
Forum for African Women's Education-Gambia (FAWEGAM)	Advocacy – Girls & Women education and empowerment; Networking and Gender Policy	American Embassy, EDDI, UNICEF & UNFPA, Peace Corps
Gambia Women's Finance Association (GAWFA)	Empowering women through project funding	
Gambia Actions and Development Against Poverty (GADAP)	Agriculture/fisheries	

Gambia Artisanal Fisheries Development Agency	Food security for poverty alleviation, credit schemes	
Gambia Food Seed Mission	Agriculture	
Gambia Organization for the Visually Impaired	Agriculture, income generation	World Blind Union, Sight Savers International, British High Commission, West Africa Tours
Gambia Food & Nutrition Association (GAFNA)	Food Security, Nutrition/Health, Humanitarian Assistance	CRS, PHPNP, FASE/UNDP, UNHCR, Japanese Government
Gambia Association for the Physically Disabled	Welfare and poverty alleviation	
Genieri Village Development Committee	Farming & pottery	
Hope for Children - Gambia	Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Food Processing, Vegetable processing & Micro-finance	
Gambia Islamic Union (GIU)	Islamic Education for children	
Hope for Children - Gambia	Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Food Processing, Vegetable processing & Micro-finance	Child Rights Information Network
International Islamic Relief Organization	Welfare programs, Poverty Alleviation	
India Women Tesito Association	Farming, Horticultural Production	AATG
Islamic Relief Association (ISRA)	Agricultural projects	AATG, FAO, CRS, APSO, Japanese Funds
Jareng Village Development Committee	Agriculture, Fishing, Masonry, tie and die, tailoring	
Juffreh Albretha Youths Society	Promotion of Tourism & Culture, enterprise development, tie & die, soap making, salt production.	CRS, UNICEF,
Jendeh Village Development Committee	Farming, Horticultural Production, Livestock rearing, tie and die, soap making	
Institute for Social Reformation and Action	Women Garden Projects, HIV/AIDS & Orphan support	
Kambeng Kafo	Saving and Credit Horticultural Production , Livestock rearing/fattening	
Kerewan Samba Credit Union	Communal farming, horticulture, soap making, tie and die.	NACCUG, Universal Convention
Kaira Kaffo Jah Kunda	Agriculture, Tie & Die, Soap making	FASE, JICA – Japan, AATG
Kurajula Kunda Yiriwa Kaffo	Agriculture – Crop production;	
Kuwonkuba Village Development Committee	Livestock rearing, farming, cereal banking.	
Kuntair Compin Kawral	Farming	
Kuraw Arafang Village	Farming, Horticultural Production	
Kanuma Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming vegetable production,	
Kombo East Tesito Association (KETA)	Vegetable production, community farming, soap making, jam processing	Grants from France
Kwenilla Nyakunda Village Development Committee	Agriculture, Cattle breeding	
Kantong Kunda Women's Kaffo	Vegetable Production	
Kndergaten Wattenscheid (KGW)	Nursery schools, Early Childhood Development	
Medina Serigne Mass Village Development Committee	Farming, Vegetable gardening	
Methodist Mission Agric Program (MMAP)	Agriculture	
Mamut Fana Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming	
Methodist Mission Agricultural program (MMAP)	Farming systems training, agro-forestry, well-digging with emphasis on women	
Munazamatal Dawa Al Islamia	Education & funds community projects	
National Women Farmers' Association (NAWFA)	Crop production, livestock production, food processing	
National Association of Women Farmers	Production, Processing & marketing of Crops, Marketing of Livestock, Processing and Marketing of Vegetables	
National Savings & Credit Union	Micro-finance	
National Association of Cooperative Credit Union	Mobilization of Savings and Credit is, Monitoring and Supervision	World YWCA
Njau Sawalo Village Development Group	Farming, Livestock rearing	AATG, Peace Corps, CRS
Njaba Kunda Village Development Association	Farming, Vegetable Production	
Njawara Agricultural Training Centre	Adult training, Sustainable Farming Systems	Concern Universal, Oxfam-USA, EU, Church World Services,

		Canada, Freedom From Hunger Campaign.
Sare Musa Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming and crop production	
SOS Children’s Villages The Gambia	Long term family based care for children in need;	
Sika Village Development Committee	Horticultural Production Livestock rearing/fattening	AATG, SDF
Sutukonding Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming, Help for the poor and needy members of the community	
The Gambia Red Cross Society	First Aid Materials, Food security, Community Health, Disaster response	IFRC, ICRC, PNS
Touba Kolong Village Development Committee	Agriculture – farming, Vegetable production Beekeeping & Fishing	
Touba Wuli Village Development Committee	Farming, Horticulture,	
Tesito Kafo	Farming, Tie & dye and Soap Making	DCD, SDF, CRS
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)	Sustainable Livelihoods, capacity building, Health, Education	DFID, EU,
Wellingara Village Development Committee	Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, poultry, tie and die	
World Evangelization for Christ International (WEC International)	Agriculture	
Wulli and Sandu Development Agency	Rice irrigation, Animal husbandry, orchard & gardening, micro-finance.	VSO, Action Aid The Gambia
Rawdul Quran Islamic Organization	Education and funds community projects	
Schools for Progress	Education & funds community projects	
Sare Musa Village Development Committee	Education & funding community projects	
SOS Children’s Villages The Gambia	Education, Vocational skills	
Shiekh Mass Kah Islamic Foundation	Education, Islamic Education (Grades 1 – 12); and Western Education (grades 7 – 12)	
Shabibatou Ansarubeen No 2.	Education	
Islamic Relief Association (ISRA)	Education	
Inner City Africa Ministries	Education	
Institute For Social Reformation & Action	Madrassa Support Programme	
Global Harvest Mission	Education	
West African Mission	Education	
World Evangelization for Christ International (WEC International)	Education	
Initiative Development Association –Gambia (IDAG)	Lower and Upper Basic Education	
West Africa Mission (WAM)	Education (Nursery, non-formal)	
West African Network for Peace Building	Peace Building, Conflict prevention,	CRS, AATG
Alamuta Kafoo	Tie & Die making	
Association for Promoting Girl’s and Women’s Advancement	Skills training; Women’s empowerment; Resource mobilization.	
London Mayo Kafo Kaur Janneh Kunda Women Development Group	Soap making, Tie & dye, and Gardening	
National Association of Women Farmers	Production, Processing & marketing of Crops, Marketing of Livestock, Processing and Marketing of Vegetables	
Nio Moi Kaffo	Tie & Die and Soap making, Micro-finance enterprise development; Agriculture Horticulture; Savings’	
Satang’s Institute for Management, Marketing and Advocacy	Skills empowerment Political Dispensations on women Poverty Alleviation Campaigns Gender Advocacy	
Tankular Women’s Kaffo	Gardening, farming and crop production	
Village Aid The Gambia	Micro-finance, Agriculture & natural resources management, Enterprise development	Village Aid UK, DFID, Comic Relief, NAS
Women’s Federation for World Peace	Education & Health	
Women in Services Development Organization and Management (WISDOM)	Education	
Young Women’s Christian Association	Skills training, Education, Gender, and Health	UNDP, Embassies, International NGOs, Y’Care International-UK, Sweden, Finland.
The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP)	Empowerment of women, Advocacy	UNICEF, UNFPA, APSO
Trust Agency for Rural Development (TARUD)	Health Education, micro-finance, Business education, promotion of community and school links	AATG, FASE, UNICEF, CRS, MRC
World View The Gambia (WTG)	Gender Advocacy	UNFPA
Gambia 4 H	Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Development, Environment, Health & Micro-finance	Norwegian Royal Society for Rural Development
Rescue Mission Planet Earth	Agriculture	
Sutukonding Village Development Committee	Health Improvement Programs, Agriculture – farming, Environmental Care – tree Planting Help poor and needy members	

	of the community	
Pro-Poor Advocacy Group (Pro-PAG)	Pro-poor policies, advocacy work, capacity building	AATG, DFID, Commonwealth Education Fund, IDASA (South Africa), UDN (Uganda), ISODEC (Ghana), UNESCO, UNDP
Shabibatou Ansaru Deen		GTZ, UNFPA, BANPA
Sutukonding Village Development Committee	Environmental Care – tree Planting	
Taku Legaye Group	Farming, Horticultural Production, Income generating activities	AATG, CRS, SDF, UNDP, FRG
The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO)	Capacity building, advocacy and lobbying	FASE project, UN Agencies
Yiriwa Kafo	Child welfare, Education	

CROSS-CUTTING: NGOs WITH A DIVERSE PORTFOLIO

WHO? (Name of NGO)	WHAT THEY ARE DOING	WHERE? (Location)
Action Aid The Gambia (AATG)	HIV/AIDS campaigns (MDG 6), Food Rights & Security (MDG 1), Education policy (MDG 2) and advocacy, Emergency preparedness and mitigation	Countrywide
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Education (MDG 2), Agriculture (MDG 1), health (MDG 4, 5 & 6), capacity building, relief operations	Countrywide
Christian Children's Fund (CCF)	Early Childhood development (MDG 4), Education (MDG 2), Health (MDG 4, 5 & 6), water & sanitation (MDG 7), micro-finance, enterprise development, Nutrition, youths, HIV/AIDS (MDG 6), Child protection, Emergencies.	Western Division
Concern Universal	Sustainable rural livelihoods (MDG 1), Education (MDG 2), disability, Health (MDG 4,5 & 6).	WD/North Bank
Fund for African & African American Cultural and Education Solidarity	Education & scholarship scheme (MDG 2), rural development, health (MDG 4,5 & 6).	Countrywide
Gambia Rural Development Agency	Education, agriculture & funding community projects	LRD
Pro-Poor Advocacy Group (Pro-PAG)	Pro-poor policies, advocacy work (MDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8), capacity building	
Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)	Education (MDG 2), sustainable rural livelihoods & agriculture (MDG 1), enterprise development,	Countrywide
Institute For Social Reformation & Action	Gardening projects (MDG 1 & 3), HIV/AIDs (MDG 6) & Orphan Support (MDG 1, 2, 4) . Madrassa Support Programme (MDG 2)	Kombo East, CRD North, KMC Kotu South, Country Wide, Kiang Central, Lower River Division
FORUT - Gambia	Health and sanitation (MDG 4, 5 & 6), Institutional capacity building, Environment and Natural Resource Management & Local resource mobilization (MDG 7).	North Bank Division
The Gambia YMCA (YMCA)	Education (MDG 2), Agriculture (MDG 1), Health, HIV/AIDS (MDG 6)	Countrywide
The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO)	Advocacy and lobbying in favour of the poor, Capacity building (All MDGs)	Countrywide

ANNEX 5
WORKPLAN-2005 to 2006

	2005			2006											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
First Civil Society MDG Workshop	1														
Preliminary Meeting-UNDP/CSOs		2													
Capacity Building for CSOs to Implement MDG Projects and/or Programmes		3													
Formation of National MDG Task Force		4													
First (CSO Coordinated) MDG Dialogue Forum			5												
First CSOs and NAMs Session on MDGs				6											
Design and launch of CSO MDG Website				7											
National Survey to update MDG Statistics for Benchmarks					8										
Update National MDG Database								9							
Progress Report on Specific goals								10							
First Progress Report of the MDG Task Force								11							
Second CSO MDG Dialogue Forum								12							
Monitoring and Evaluation of Selected MDG CSO Projects									13						
Information Sharing with other partners										14					
Continued MDG advocacy and lobbying											15				