

EU funded ECHO Nutrition Grant for the UNICEF in The Gambia



With these funds from ECHO, it is estimated that 4,788 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition, representing 88% of the targeted cases nationwide will be reached with therapeutic care and treatment of medical complication to avoid mortality. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene will be improved in 8 nutrition centers through water treatment and provision of soap, water containers and bleach. The provision of malaria chemoprophylaxis will ensure that a total of 69,860 children between 3 months to four years in Upper River Region and Central River Region are protected from malaria during the peak season.

In 2012, with funds from the European Community Humanitarian Office of the EU, UNICEF supported the National Nutrition Agency (NaNa) to conduct a National Nutrition Survey, using SMART methods (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief Transitions). The objective of the Survey was to determine the prevalence of acute malnutrition (wasting) in children 6-59 months, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) and underweight of children 0 to 59 months, and the occurrence of low body mass index, obesity, acute malnutrition and low height in women 15 to 49 years of age.

The result of the survey indicated a national prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at 9.2 per cent. Underweight in women (weight for height) stands at 18.7 per cent nationally

with 2.6 percent classified as severely underweight. The results of the survey highlighted a need for further strengthening of nutrition programming and interventions.

The 2012 ECHO funds also supported the National Nutrition Agency to revise and update the national protocol on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) to align it with international standards. This was followed by the training of twenty-three national trainers and a step-down training for 150 community health workers and health facility staff in all regions. It is expected that the skills and knowledge gained will increase their capacity to assess and manage more effectively the cases of malnutrition.

Based on the data and evidence, UNICEF Gambia office submitted a proposal to ECHO, as part of the UNICEF Sahel Nutrition Response for continuation of the 2012 integrated nutrition interventions with a special focus on treatment of severe cases of acute malnutrition and the underlying childhood diseases to reduce under-five mortality. The office received a grant of a little more than 250.000 EUR which covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. Actions related to strategies such as service delivery, capacity building and provision of essential supplies and monitoring of interventions will be implemented in due course with nationwide. The majority of direct beneficiaries (cases of severe acute malnutrition) will be children under five years of age.



The Gambia- EU Cooperation

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Launching the €7.6 Million MDG 1c Project in The Gambia



Beneficiaries of the EU funded project implemented by both WFP (School feeding component) and FAO (crop production intensification component).



Hon. Minister, Mr Abdou Kolley & Mme. Agnès Guillaud shaking hands at the launching of the project.

The European Union together with its development partners notably the Food and Agricultural Organisation, World Food Programme and the Government of The Gambia on 11 June launched the MDG 1c Project at Jarra Pakaliba School in the Lower River Region. The project is funded by the EU to the tune of €7.6 Million and is aimed at improving food security and reducing hunger in the intervention areas; thereby contributing to the Gambia's achievement of MDG 1c. It has two components, the first is production enhancement under the responsibility of the FAO, focusing on rice and 8 major horticultural crops in the targeted areas. The second component is a school feeding programme and marketing, under the responsibility of the WFP which is aimed to supply nutritious food to over 42,000 school children and serve as a catalyst and an incentive to farmers, targeted by the first component, to produce large quantities to be sold directly to the school feeding programme.

"According to the Gambia National Agricultural Investment Programme (GNAIP), agriculture has the potentials to contribute significantly to the attainment of the MDGs in the Gambia, but the current level of sector productivity is well below the growth required to meet food security and poverty reduction. Therefore, The Gambia has set a target of 6% annual growth in agricultural production in an effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goal. Latest results show that The Gambia would most probably fail to meet its targets by 2015 due to the non-availability of improved seeds, high post-harvest losses, erratic and inadequate rainfall and very limited use of available water for irrigation." **EU Chargée d'Affaires a.i., Mme Agnès Guillaud**

"We as a government wish to register our thanks and appreciation especially to the EU and other development partners for their various support and interventions, thus enabling the Government of The Gambia to implement so many projects and programmes in key areas such as agriculture, health, education, infrastructure and transport amongst others." **Hon. Minister, Abdou Kolley, Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs**

The ceremony was well attended by officials of the Government of The Gambia, both EU and UN staff, local government officials, farmers, school children and a cross section of the community.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, the Hon. Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs, Mr Abdou Kolley thanked the EU and its partners for their support to the Government and people of the Gambia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: THE NATIONAL AUTHORISING OFFICER SUPPORT UNIT (NAOSU)
Tel: (+220) 439 9626/5 or Email: info@gambia-ec.gm | DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE GAMBIA

74, Atlantic Road Fajara, P.O. Box 512, Banjul, The Gambia. Tel: +220 4495 146 / 4497 846. Website: www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/gambia/index_en.htm



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Europe Day Celebrations in The Gambia, 9th of May



Hon. Minister, Mrs. Susan Waffa Ogoo delivering her keynote address at the Europe day celebration.

Every year, the European Union celebrates 9 May as Europe Day. This day came to be known as Europe day based on the Schuman Declaration which was presented by the then French foreign minister Robert Schuman on 9 May 1950, laying the foundations for European integration by binding European countries together ensuring that war could never happen again on the continent. Today, the EU works together for peace and prosperity, while at the same time being enriched by the continent's many different cultures, traditions and languages.

In The Gambia, the EU Delegation commemorated the day, first with a Film Festival (6th-13th) at the Alliance Francaise showcasing various films from Africa and Europe. The film festival was free and was well attended by a cross section of the public including representative of EU member states in The Gambia. The second part of the commemoration was the reception hosted by the EU Delegation under the auspices of the Chargée d'Affaires.

In her statement, the EU Chargée d'Affaires Mme Agnès Guillaud reiterated both the projects and values that shape the long-standing relationship between the EU and the Government of The Gambia.



Mme Agnès Guillaud, delivering her keynote address flanked by Mrs Susan Waffa Ogoo, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation & Gambians Abroad & Mr. Mod A.K. Secka, PS, MOFEA & NAO of the EDF

"To this end, the EU Delegation pursues a continuous and close cooperation with the government of The Gambia in order to address several main objectives laid down in The Gambia's National Development Strategies. Our cooperation focuses on support in the areas of good governance, infrastructure, food security, agriculture and environment. We have made human rights the silver thread that runs through EU foreign policy, assisting democratic transitions around the globe and helping oppressed minorities, social groups and NGOs to voice their concerns. These values form the basis of our long-standing cooperation with The Gambia, in accordance with the Cotonou Agreement, which defines these values as "essential elements" of our cooperation in the political, development and economic fields. This is the work we must continue today together with the Government of The Gambia for the benefit and welfare of the Gambian people." **EU Chargée d'Affaires a.i., Mme Agnès Guillaud**

On the part of the Government of The Gambia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mrs Susan Waffa Ogoo noted that the Government of The Gambia considers the EU a true partner in development.

"I am pleased to convey to this august gathering that the Government of The Gambia considers the EU a true partner in development. Over the years, the financial support provided by the EU has enabled the Government of The Gambia to implement its development programmes. The Government of The Gambia is also appreciative of the various interventions of the EU in forms of budgetary support. The various budgetary support packages from the EU have enabled the implementation of most of the programmes in the agricultural, health and educational sectors as specified in our National Development Documents". **Mrs Susan Waffa Ogoo, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation & Gambians Abroad**

Stakeholders in The Gambia-EU Cooperation Trained On 10th EDF Procedures



Sitting L-R: Mr. Robert Tennissen, Hulla & Co Human Dynamics, Mr. Georges Nziki, EUD, Mr. Lamin Camara, MOFEA, Mr. Malang Nyass, NAO Support Unit, Mr. David A. Betts, EUD, Mr. Tiago De Matos Fernandes, Hulla & Co Human Dynamics

The National Authorizing Officer Support Unit in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to The Gambia, organized a training session on 10th EDF Procedures held from 6th to 16th May 2013. The training was meant to equip participants with the requisite skills for programming and financial management as well as procurements of services and works financed by EU resources. 27 participants from various institutions such as the NAOSU, National Roads Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, West African Network for Peace Building and the Delegation of the European Union among others, took part in the training session.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Georges Nziki Programme Manager, representing the European Union Chargée d'Affaires to The Gambia at the event, stated that the purpose of the training session is to reinforce the

capacity building of stakeholders in key areas that are relevant to the implementation of European Union funded projects and programmes in The Gambia. According to Mr. Nziki, the current 10th EDF financial envelope for the period 2008-2013, amounts to 76 million EUR (around GMD: 2.5Billion) which is a substantive sum. Therefore, in order for partners to better implement the use of these funds, an understanding of the EDF procedures is imperative.

Declaring the training session open, Mr. Lamin Camara from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs who represented the Permanent Secretary and National Authorizing Officer of the EDF in The Gambia, thanked the European Union for funding such a very important event. He urged the participants to take the training seriously and to make good use of the knowledge gained from the programme.