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SUN Coordinator Gerda VERBURG at the BReST project
(Brikama Ba, CRR, May 2018)

VISIT OF THE UN SUN COORDINATOR

On 8th May 2018 the EU Delegation accompanied the Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and UN Assistant Secretary General, Ms Gerda VERBURG, during a field visit to the 100% EU funded Building Resilience through Social Transfers "BReST" Project being implemented by UNICEF in three regions of the country.

The visit took place at the Brikama Ba Health Centre in CRR. The visit was also accompanied by the UNICEF Country Representative for The Gambia as well as the Director of the Gambia National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) and officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.



UN SUN coordinator with the NaNA
Executive Director
(Brikama Ba, CRR, May 2018)



UNICEF Country Representative meets
the Brikama Ba health officials with UN
SUN coordinator (CRR May 2018)

The SUN coordinator visited the Health Centre during the process of registration and payment of the monthly cash transfer of 600 GMD (approx. 12 Euros). More than 500 of the total project 6,000 mothers receiving cash transfers are registered at the Brikama Ba Health Centre, meaning cash transfer days are very busy. The SUN coordinator met with the mothers, health centre officials and project staff members. The visit permitted to see the scale of the operation, demonstration of the online registration system SCOPE as well as understanding of the logistics and security involved during the cash transfer. The mission then visited a BReST project beneficiary household where the mother testified that the BReST project helped survival of her prematurely delivered twins. During the visit, the SUN coordinator recognized the EU funded project as a great success. The project is scheduled to end in 2019.



BReST project Beneficiaries awaiting child screening (May 2018)

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

EU RIGHTS BASED APPROACH AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING TRAINING

29-30 MAY 2018



Both the European Union (EU) and the Government of The Gambia have publicly stated their firm and sincere commitment to achieving gender equality and upholding human rights. However, knowing how to translate these commitments into our work on the ground is a common challenge.

In response to this challenge, the EU, in partnership with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Women's Bureau, held a 2 day workshop on the Rights Based Approach (RBA), which is a working methodology already applied by other development actors. The training also described and addressed the practical application of gender mainstreaming in projects throughout the Project and Program Cycle Management (PPCM).

Over 30 participants attended including government representatives from a range of ministries, civil society and almost all staff the EU Delegation in The Gambia, including the EU Ambassador to The Gambia, the Executive

Director of the Women's Bureau and representatives from the Gender Focal Point network of the Gambian Government.

Participants were introduced to the definition of human rights and the links between these and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which is devoted to gender equality. They became familiar with the international human rights system, and learnt how to access the products from the system relevant to The Gambia. Familiarisation with the RBA approach was central to the training – it is an approach rooted in international human rights standards and obligations, and applied through using the RBA Working Principles. These working principles acknowledge the universality and indivisibility of all rights, and aim to ensure meaningful participation, non-discrimination, accountability and adherence to the rule of law, and transparency including access to information.

The aim of the training was to ensure the participants became familiar with, and able to, apply the RBA Toolbox to their work, drawing upon their familiarity with products from the International Human Rights system, and able to make assessments independently. In addition to this, the course aimed to ensure that participants could utilise their knowledge of gender equality so that all new projects demonstrate meaningful gender mainstreaming. Participants were introduced to government policies such as the Gambian National Gender Policy 2010-2020 and EU policies such as the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, which is an ambitious political commitment and an EU wide framework that places gender at the heart of what EU does and holds the EU all to account on its delivery.



THE EU DELEGATION TO THE GAMBIA ORGANISES FIRST EVER EUROPE DAY YOUTH FAIR

Europe Day is held on the same day every year; the 9th of May. The date marks the anniversary of the historical 'Schuman declaration'. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable. His vision was to create a European institution that would pool and manage coal and steel production which came to fruition a year later. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

Today, 9th of May signifies a day to celebrate peace and unity in Europe. The European countries came out of decades of war and instability, and by joining a common union to work together and cooperate has managed to become a prosperous political and economic Union, as well as an important player on the global stage today.

The European Union is proud of the cooperation it has established between its' Member States, but we are also very proud of the cooperation we have built up with our external partners. The EU is the worlds' largest donor of international aid and development cooperation initiatives. There are now EU Delegations present in 139 countries worldwide - one of those being here in The Gambia. For us, the annual celebration of Europe Day would therefore not

be complete without also celebrating our EU-The Gambia cooperation.

On the occasion of Europe Day this year, the EU Delegation to The Gambia, in collaboration with 12 of our implementing project partners, organised the Europe Day Youth Fair. The Delegation welcomed hundreds of young people who got the opportunity to find out more about what the EU and our project partners do to support youth in The Gambia. The day was filled with performances, activities as well as a treasure hunt from which a few lucky winners returned home with an EU goodie bag. This was the first event of its kind organised by the Delegation to The Gambia, and it was a big success!



In the evening, a reception with government officials, agencies and international partners was held to further celebrate Europe Day. The EU Ambassador took this opportunity to award a service medal to Ms Janet Davies Touray for her 26 years of working at the EU Delegation to The Gambia. The Ambassador expressed his utmost gratitude for her dedication to and hard work for the European project and for promoting the EU-Gambia partnership.



THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE GAMBIA RAISES €1.45 BILLION



On May 22nd, an International Conference for The Gambia was held, jointly organised by the European Union and the Government of The Gambia. The Conference focused on confirming support to The Gambia in its democratic transition, as well as raising additional financial support for the implementation of its National Development Plan. High Representative/Vice- President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica co-chaired the conference together with the President of The Gambia, Adama Barrow. President Barrow presented the country's reform agenda to high-level attendees from the European Union Member States, the international community as well as international organisations.

A total of €1.45 billion were mobilised by the Conference, with the EU's pledge consisting of €140 million. This reinforced political and financial support by the international community will assist The Gambia in continuing its democratic transition, building on strong democratic

institutions, the respect of human rights and the rule of law, and sustainable and shared economic growth.

In the margins of the conference, a Business Forum took place on 23 May. The forum brought together interested European, regional and Gambian business representatives for exchanges on sector specific strategies and projects during panel discussions on Energy & Infrastructure, Agricultural Value Chains, and Tourism.

