

PAGE 2
FAO NUTRITION AMBASSADOR
VISITS EU FUNDED PROJECTS
IN THE GAMBIA

PAGE 3
NEW EDF FUNDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
AIMED AT STATE BUILDING STARTS
IMPLEMENTATION IN MID-SEPTEMBER 2018

PAGE 4
EUROPEAN UNION AND THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN
AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES COMMENCE
NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

EU DELEGATION IN THE GAMBIA JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY ON SEPTEMBER 15TH

On September 15th, the EU Delegation in The Gambia joined other EU Delegations worldwide to participate in the #EUBeachCleanup initiative as a part of the global commemoration of the International Coastal Clean-Up Day. By joining this initiative, the Delegation wanted to raise awareness about marine pollution and encourage people to start changing their behaviour to minimise the damage to our environment and our health, for example by stopping the use of single-use plastics or unnecessary extra plastic packaging.

85% of the litter that reaches our beaches worldwide is plastics. Globally, millions of tonnes of plastics leak into the sea each year. We all know that plastics are an important material in our economy, and modern daily life is almost unthinkable without them. At the same time however, they can have serious downsides on the environment and health. It takes hundreds of years to degrade, it traps, injures and kills marine animals and it disintegrates into microplastics which are highly toxic and dangerous when they enter our food chain, and are dangerous for our health when eaten by humans.



Head of Cooperation, Mr. Stephane Meert



Beach Cleaning

Last year, the EU successfully hosted the “Our Ocean Conference” in Malta, which helped to build momentum for a global call for cleaner and safer seas and resulted in a number of pledges to act. At the end of October this year, the 5th “Our Ocean Conference” will be held in Bali, Indonesia, which we believe will be another step towards a healthier, more sustainable ocean and thriving coastal communities across the globe, including The Gambia.

The EU Delegation partnered with the Gambian National Environment Agency and jointly engaged in the preparation and execution of the day. Further partners were invited, including government officials, environmental NGOs and members of the security services as well as a number of volunteers from the local communities, which led to a fantastic collaboration for a good cause. Beach cleaning activities were organised along the Gambian coastline at Tanji, Senegambia, Bakau and Banjul. Although this was just one day, we hope that the interest and concern for the environment and marine life in The Gambia will continue!

FAO NUTRITION AMBASSADOR VISITS EU FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE GAMBIA



Sitting L-R- King LETSIE III, Mr Darrell Sexstone, Program Manager, EU & Minister of Agriculture

On 19th September 2018 the FAO Special Ambassador for Nutrition, King LETSIE III of Lesotho visited the EU supported Njoben Community Vegetable Garden in Central River Region. The garden has benefitted from support under the EU funded MDGc food security project implemented by FAO (2013-2017) and is presently getting support under the EU funded 'Post Crisis Response to food and nutrition insecurity' (2017-2019) and 'Improving Food Security and Nutrition in the Gambia through Food Fortification' (2017-2021) projects also being implemented by FAO.

The visit was accompanied by the EU, the FAO Resident Representative in The Gambia, as well as the Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Executive Director of the Gambia National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) and officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

King LETSIE said he was pleased with the FAO's organization of the visit to the garden to see some of the good work that the UN Food Agency in partnership with the EU is doing to combat malnutrition. He added 'we have heard from the (women) beneficiaries that the garden does not only provide nutritional support for families but also support families so that they can have income to do other things that they need for the families. This is a wonderful achievement and I really commend and congratulate all of them in this specific project.' According to the FAO Nutrition Ambassador, what is most important is the fact that the project has reached a level of sustainability. 'We all know that in Africa, many of the projects that we embark on fall short for sustainability particularly when the donors withdraw their support.' But he said from what he heard and what he saw he is confident that the project has reached a level of sustainability.

Since 2014, the Food and Agriculture Organisation has been helping through funding for the European Union to expand the garden from one hectare to five hectares and also established a comprehensive borehole and water distribution system therefore relieving the almost 500 women farmers from the drudgery of drawing well water. The community has furthermore be trained on gardening and helped by agricultural extension workers to introduce more varieties of vegetables. Similar support has been extended to seven other Community Gardens throughout the country.

The European Union presently has around 40 MEUR of development aid programmed towards agriculture and nutrition, almost half of which, 20 MEUR, or 10 Euros per Gambian, is earmarked towards tackling the issue of malnutrition, and in particular stunting and wasting. These EU funded programmes have been put in place in the last years following the EU's high level commitment towards tackling stunting worldwide. In the Gambia notable successes so far, have been the establishment of the Gambian National Alliance on Food Fortification, a review and proposed restructuring of the standards and regulation of food fortification,

as well as the introduction of bio fortified crops. Other EU programme's also include monthly cash transfer to mothers with children under the age of two in two regions of the country (BReST) as well as a blanket supplementary food distribution to children in the rural areas during the lean season and a countrywide promotion of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) best practices. EU partners involved in the nutrition field include the UN agencies FAO, UNICEF and WFP as well as the NGOs United Purpose, SOS Children villages The Gambia and Action Against Hunger."

NEW EDF FUNDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AIMED AT STATE BUILDING STARTS IMPLEMENTATION IN MID-SEPTEMBER 2018

The Technical Assistance component of the new State Building Contract 1 for The Gambia has recently started, through the deployment in September and October 2018 of a Team of four Key Experts. The Technical Assistance Team will be supporting the areas of Public Financial Management & Procurement reform, Security sector reform, Statistical data collection and management, and Business environment & Private sector development.

The Key Experts are based respectively at the Gambian Public Procurement Authority, the Office of the National Security Advisor, the Ministry of Trade and the Gambia Bureau of Statistics. This lays the ground for a continuous in-depth policy dialogue and institutional capacity development in order to improve governance and facilitate reforms.

Furthermore, short term expertise will also be mobilised under this project, in other fields such as democratic reforms, justice sector reforms, rule of law, human rights media reform, electoral reform, public expenditure tracking, tax administration diagnostic assessment,

macro-economic and fiscal framework, audit, debt management, or business development, according to specific needs.

Provision of capacity development will be instrumental in supporting the new Government to swiftly deliver on its reform plans, and to achieve tangible improvements of living conditions. In this project capacity development will therefore be more than technical assistance and more than training. It will include mentoring, tutoring, and coaching activities, for supporting Partner institutions to achieve change and reform.

This intervention is part of a 30 million EUR State Building Contract, supporting the reforms of democratic and economic governance in The Gambia through budget support and capacity development.

"With this programme the EU should simultaneously and swiftly contribute to the short-term stabilisation of the public finances and support the announced political reforms" says Ambassador Attila LAJOS, the Head of Delegation in the Republic of The Gambia".



EUROPEAN UNION AND THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The EU and 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) group will begin negotiations on the future of their cooperation after 2020. The ambition is to transform today's partnership into a modern political alliance.

The countries in the EU and the ACP represent more than half of all UN member countries and unite over 1.5 billion people. The current partnership, governed by the Cotonou agreement, is one of the longest-standing and most comprehensive framework for cooperation between the EU and developing countries. The current agreement expires in 2020.

To mark the opening of the first round of political negotiations in New York, in the margins of United Nations General Assembly, the EU's Chief Negotiator, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: "The partnership between the EU and the countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, is an asset for the EU and multilateralism at large. The revision of the existing agreement is a great opportunity to further deepen the partnership and modernise it in response to global developments such as the UN 2030 Agenda or the Paris Agreement on climate change."

In turn, Professor Robert Dussey, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo and Chief negotiator for the ACP Group of States, recalled that "The connection between the ACP Group and the EU was established

in 1975 in first Article of the Georgetown Agreement, the Constitutive Act of the ACP Group". He underlined that "the ACP-EU partnership is a valuable and unique achievement that has strengthened bonds between ACP and EU peoples and countries throughout the last 45 years of its existence. The opening of the negotiations today heralds the continuity of trust and confidence cherished by parties to this Partnership".

The partnership seeks closer political cooperation on the world stage to tackle major global challenges, aiming to be a shining example of multilateralism as the cornerstone of a rule-based world order. In concrete terms, this will notably mean working jointly towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It will also guide the partnership countries' joint efforts to address pressing challenges such as climate change, migration and peace and security. To have the intended impact, the future partnership will adapt to the new realities in the European Union, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, taking into account geographical specificities. The future partnership will aim at facilitating strong alliance-building in global forums and address key issues from which current and future generations alike can benefit.

Background

The Cotonou Agreement governing EU-ACP relations is due to expire in February 2020.

Article 95 of the Cotonou Agreement requires partners to enter into negotiations at least 18 months before the expiry of the current deal