

Phase 2: Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia

- **Project Context:** The MSDG project is one of the flagship and priority projects of the Gambia National Development Plan (2018-21). The pilot phase (Aug 2017 to Dec 2018) evolved from the initial 'Induction and Training Workshop for the Cabinet Ministers' conducted by GK Partners on 11 February 2017 in Gambia, about three weeks after the formation of a coalition government. The key achievements included the production of the Gambia Diaspora Strategy, and piloting of practical forms of diaspora, multilateral and bilateral engagements to enhance Gambia's Migration Dividend.
- **Technical Cooperation:** MSDG is a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) designed and implemented by GK Partners, in collaboration with the Government of The Gambia and other development agencies. The pilot phase was co-financed by the Swiss Government (40%), GK Partners (51%), Gambia Government support in-kind (8%), other (1%). It focuses on the implementation of the Gambia Diaspora Strategy.

"In September 2017, the President delivered a Diaspora Policy statement, which highlighted key commitments already incorporated in the Technical Cooperation Project on Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG). The NDP goal for the diaspora is to: expand, enhance and optimize the role of the diaspora in national development, as valued partners."

[National Development Plan 2018-21]

"Two decades of dictatorship has degraded the capacity, spirit and effectiveness of the public sector institutions in The Gambia. Through the MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme, we expect GK Partners to facilitate the implementation of the Gambia Diaspora Strategy"

[Office of the President, December 2018]

The MSDG project is led by:

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The specific activities of the MSDG Phase 2 project are listed below:

- **Capacity Development:** Accredited training and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD), Public Sector Management (PSM), and Consular Services and Diaspora Diplomacy (CSDD).
- **Diaspora Engagement:** Action research for evidence-based implementation; Websites to enhance diaspora engagement; Social media app and online network for Gambian Diaspora-Development Organisations; Webinars and radio programmes with Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Embassies, and Non-State Institutions; Convene the annual Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) as mandated in the National Development Plan.
- **Diaspora as Eighth Region:** Revamp diaspora consular and migrant welfare services, and initiate a programme of Gambian diaspora diplomacy; Enhance government and civil society role in regional and global policy processes; Initiate diaspora participation in municipal government deliberations; Facilitate diaspora out-of-country voting at elections; and facilitate the structuring and operations for the Gambia Diaspora Directorate (GDD).
- **Diaspora Investment:** Initiate structured Gambia Diaspora Technical Support (GDTs), targeting diaspora experts and specialists; Partnership with the Central Bank of The Gambia on reducing the cost of remittances, and structuring diaspora bonds to fund community amenities; Technical and financial support to diaspora social enterprises and job-creating businesses.

MSDG project contributes to *“building operational capacities of Ministries, Departments and Agencies.....a good fit to the public sector reform and modernisation agenda of the coalition government.....the project activities will help establish mechanisms that will provide policy instruments to integrate the Gambian diaspora in the national development process”*

[Office of the President – August 2017]

<p>MSDG is a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), co-financed by: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and GK Partners:</p>	<p>The TCP was designed by GK Partners, implemented by GKP, in partnership with the Government of The Gambia (GOTG):</p>
<p> Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC</p>	<p>  Partners advisers to socially responsible business</p>

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