MSDG ≡ PROJECT
MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA

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MSDG Briefing Paper (BP): No. 2

**MSDG Project Summary
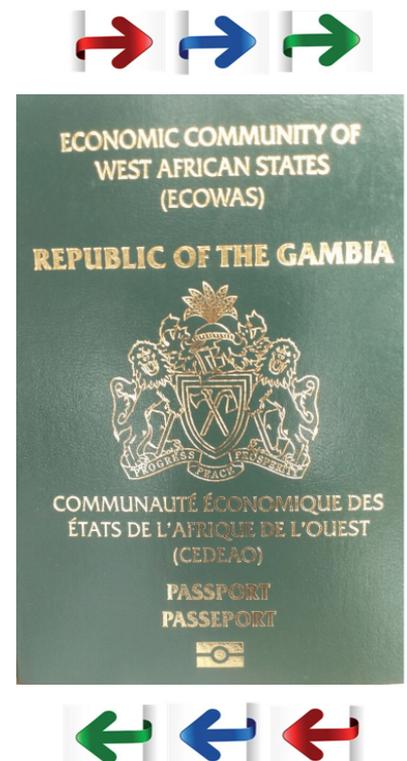(September 2017)**

Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia

- **Project Context:** This short term MSDG project (Aug-Dec 2017) is being implemented six months after the inauguration of the new coalition government in The Gambia. It builds on the initial 'Induction and Training Workshop for the Cabinet Ministers' conducted by GK Partners (GKP) on 11 February 2017 in Gambia, and the subsequent one-to-one briefings with the President, Ministers, senior government officials and development partners. It is a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) designed by GKP, co-implemented with the Governmen of The Gambia, funded by the Swiss Government.

- **SDG Implementation Focus:** The project is part of a GKP programme on 'Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals'. The focus is on: 'Optimising the benefits of migration for Gambian development', and 'Improving implementation and operational capacity and effectiveness'.

  Project Goals: The goals of this Technical Cooperation Project are to:

  - Enhance the contribution of Gambian diaspora to Gambian development
  - Facilitate effective coordination of diaspora development action
  - Facilitate productive and sustainable reintegration of returning Gambians
  - Reduce the transaction costs of remittances to The Gambia
  - Improve the knowledge and skills of Gambian professionals and government officials in the field of migration and sustainable development

  "During the last two decades of dictatorship, you may have hated the brutal government, but you continued to love your country. The diaspora contributed ideas and finances, demonstrated fortitude and tenacity, and used its networks and privileges to help deliver our country from oppression. As a result, you have covered yourselves in glory, and history will attest to your courage and commitment......Some of you are regular visitors to The Gambia, and others have suffered the pain and isolation of exile, caused by 22 years of dictatorship. Yet, all of you, through different ways, have maintained your emotional and developmental ties with our great country"   **[President Adama Barrow, 23 September 2017]**

- **Partnership Delivery:** The project is delivered in partnership with the Government of The Gambia, and in collaboration with other international, national and community partners in The Gambia. Partners include embassies and missions, international organisations, individual ministries, departments and agencies, other institutions and Non State Actors.

- **Project Leadership:** This Technical Cooperation Project is led by:

  Professor Gibril Faal OBE, JP
  Director, GK Partners Limited (UK & Gambia)
  Visiting Professor in Practice, Institute of Global Affairs
  London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia

The specific activities of the project are listed below:

Optimising the Benefits of Migration for Gambian Development

- Research, Consultation and Production of a 10-Year Gambian Diaspora Strategy
- Structuring and Creation of Gambia Diaspora Directorate and Website
- Inauguration of an Annual 'Stake in the Nation Forum'
- Initiate Scheme to Reduce the Cost of Remittances to 3% by 2020

Improving Implementation and Operational Capacity and Effectiveness

- Mapping of the Structures, Services and Activities of Selected Ministries
- Professional Training in Diaspora-Development and Operational Effectiveness
- Support Government Engagement in Global Migration and Development Processes
- Review and Analysis of Government and Programme Effectiveness

Proposed Future Activities: The proposed medium-term intervention involves the operation of social enterprises which manage service-delivery and operational activities for public bodies. The main outcomes will be: the creation of decent and sustainable jobs for young people at risk of undertaking irregular migration; productive engagement of professional and skilled Gambians to optimise brain gain; and improvement of public sector management. The specific social enterprises to be developed in 2018 may include:

- **E-government & Mobile-based public services**
- **Public Private Partnerships**
- **Social Economy Franchising**
- **Ethical Recruitment Agency**
- **Improving Standards in Public Life**

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]

In 2014/15, the Swiss Government entered into a contract with GK Partners for a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on Migration and Development in the Republic of Moldova. The project was led by Gibril Faal, the Co-Founder and Director of GK Partners. As the international consultant, Gibril undertook the assessment of diaspora-development needs in the Republic of Moldova, and drafted the 'Moldova Diaspora Strategy 2025'. The 10-year strategy was presented by the Prime Minister of Moldova to the cabinet, and it was adopted as government policy in February 2016. The Swiss Government, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) was pleased to sign another contract with GK Partners, facilitating technical cooperation work in The Gambia. SDC also co-funded the multi-million Euro ADEPT project led by Gibril Faal (2014/17).

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