



Consultative Dialogue
Organised by GK Partners
& Office of the President
(Government of The Gambia)



SNF2

REPORT OF THE SECOND STAKE IN THE NATION FORUM

Incorporating notes on the Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR2), held on 6 March 2019, at the National Assembly Building



Presidential Keynote Address Delivered By:

His Excellency Vice President Ousainu A.M.N. Darboe

Saturday, 12 January 2019 (09.00 to 19.00), Coco Ocean Resort & Spa, Bijilo, The Gambia

SECOND STAKE IN THE NATION FORUM (SNF2)

Front cover photos:

Photo 1: Plenary speakers from left to right: Dr. Ruby E.M. Randall, IMF Country Representative; Hon. Hadrammeh Sidibeh, Minister of Youths and Sports; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners & MSDG Project Director; H.E. Ousainu A.N.M. Darboe, Vice President of The Republic of The Gambia; Hon. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Mariama Jack Denton, Speaker of the National Assembly; H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski, Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia; Ms. Oumie Andrews, Vice President, Gambian Diaspora Healthcare Initiative.

Photo 2 & 3: Cross section of the SNF2 audience.

Photo 4: Cabinet ministers from left to right: Mr James Gomez, Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources; Mr Ebrima Camara, Secretary General and Head of the Civil Service; Mr Ebrima Mballow, Minister of Interior; Mr Hamat Bah, Minister of Tourism and Culture; Dr Isatou Touray, Minister of Health and Social Welfare; Mr Lamin N. Dibba, Minister of Agriculture; Mr Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance; Mr Musa Drammeh, Minister of Lands and Regional Government; Mr Ebrima Sillah, Minister of Information and Communication Infrastructure.



The opening plenary session of SNF2 was moderated by Mr. James Jeggan Bahoum, Adviser to the MSDG Project



SNF1 Opening Panel (13/1/18): Hon. Ousainu A.N.M. Darboe, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Mariama Jack Denton, Speaker of the National Assembly; H.E. Dr. Marion Weichelt Krupski, Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia; H.E. Fatoumata Jallow Tambajang, Vice President; H.E. President Adama Barrow; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of Social GK Partners & MSDG Project; Hon. Dr Isatou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry & Employment; Ms. Fumiko Nagano, IOM Chief of Mission; Hon. Henry Gomez, Minister of Youth and Sports

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Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) is part of a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG), implemented by GK Partners (GKP) in partnership with the Government of The Gambia

MSDG PROJECT
MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA

SNF2 was co-financed by GK Partners (GKP) & the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) With in-kind support from the Government of The Gambia



Summary of the Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2)

- **Presidential Auspices:** The Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2) was held on Saturday, 12 January 2019 at the Coco Ocean Resort and Spa, Bijilo, The Gambia. **Deputising for the President, H.E. Adama Barrow, the Vice President, H.E. Ousainu A.M.N. Darboe presided over SNF2** and launched the second phase of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG2) project. As part of SNF2, a Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR2) was also held on 6 March 2019. **The theme for SNF2 was 'Improving Implementation, Delivery and Impact'.**
- **SNF Mandate in the NDP:** SNF is mandated in the Gambia National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21) as an annual consultative dialogue, bringing *"diaspora groups together to engage with government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as NGOs and CSOs, on a wide range of developmental matters"*. **SNF1 was held on Saturday, 13 January 2018 with the participation of President Adama Barrow, the Vice President, 10 Cabinet Ministers, Senior Officials, Diplomats and 400 delegates,** including 200 migrant returnees from Libya and Niger.
- **Opening Plenary Session:** The keynote speakers in the opening plenary session who delivered statements prior to the Presidential SNF address were: Hon. Dr Mamadou Tangara, **Minister of Foreign Affairs**, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad; Hon. Mr. Hadrammeh Sidibeh, **Minister of Youth and Sports**; H.E. Dr. Marion Weichelt Krupski, **Switzerland Ambassador to The Gambia**; Ms. Oumie Andrews, **Vice President, Gambian Diaspora Healthcare Initiative**; Dr. Ruby E. M. Randall, **Country Representative, International Monetary Fund**; and Prof. Gibril Faal, **Director of GK Partners & MSDG Project**. The opening plenary session was moderated by Mr. James Jeggan Bahoum, **Adviser to the MSDG Project**.
- **Thematic Workshops:** For SNF1 in 2018, there were seven parallel thematic workshops, four in the morning and three after lunch. There was feedback indicating that delegates wanted more time for detailed discussions during the workshops. For SNF2, **there were four parallel thematic workshops, on: Constitutional Review Consultations; Health and Medical Services; Integrated Rural Development; and Sustainable Careers for Young People**. The workshops ran for a total of three hours each (before and after lunch). The discussants and moderators were leading experts and practitioners, based in Gambia and the diaspora, including National Assembly Members (NAMs). The discussants included: Hon. Lamin N. Dibba, **Minister of Agriculture** (Integrated Rural Development); Justice Cherno Jallow QC, **Chairman of the Constitution Review Commission** (Constitutional Review Consultations); Dr. Desta Tiruneh, **Country Representative, World Health Organization** (Health and Medical Services).
- **TV Interview Panel:** The closing session was a TV interview and discussion session, co-hosted by GK Partners and the Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS), as a **special edition of the GRTS flagship current affairs programme 'Face the Nation'**. The theme was on 'Improving Implementation, Delivery and Impact', and panel comprised: Hon. Lamin N. Dibba, Minister of Agriculture; Ms. Fanta Samateh Manneh, Governor, Upper River Region; Ms. Sohna Sallah, Chairperson, Democratic Union of Gambian Activists; Prof. Abdoulie Saine, Distinguished Professor, Miami University; Mr. James Jeggan Bahoum, Interim Executive Director, Charter 70; and Mr. Sainey Faye, Diaspora Community Educationalist.
- **SNF2 Cultural Presentation:** Through partnership with **Yaram Arts (UK)** led by Mr Njok Malik Jeng, the **Gambia Police Band led the presidential procession and the rendition of the national anthem**. They provided musical entertainment throughout the day, and gave a special cultural performance after the TV interview session.

Participation and Engagement

SNF is a unique and innovative forum in The Gambia. It is a mix of diaspora homecoming, policy forum, technical workshops, consultation mechanism and professional networking for diaspora and sustainable development. With 550 people participating in the opening plenary session (9am to 11.30am), SNF2 was perhaps the biggest ever policy forum in The Gambia. About 35% of the participants (190) were women, and about 20% (120) were young people (under 30 years old). There were 420 registered delegates, plus 130 unregistered participants. Additionally, about 25 other people attended the event but could not be admitted because the plenary hall was full to capacity. 300 delegates participated in the 4 workshops, and 200 attended the closing TV interview session (4.30pm to 6pm). The SNF2 delegates included:

- The Vice President deputising for the President
- 11 Cabinet Ministers & Presidential Special Adviser
- Speaker of the National Assembly & Ombudsman of The Gambia
- Secretary-General and Head of the Civil Service & Chair of the Public Service Commission (PSC)
- 30 National Assembly Members (being 50% of the National Assembly)
- 45 speakers, moderators and rapporteurs (including 15 women)
- 10 hours of consultative deliberations and networking
- Chair of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)
- Chair of the Truth, Reparations and Reconciliation Commission (TRRC)
- Chair of the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC)
- Commissioners & Heads of Uniformed Forces and Services
- Gambian Diaspora Experts & Development Practitioners
- Ambassadors & Representatives of International Organisations and Agencies
- Regional Governors & Chairpersons of Municipal Councils
- 20 Senior Academics & Media Practitioners
- 80 Representatives of NGOs and CSOs
- 65 Representatives of the Private Sector
- 120 Representatives of Student, Youth and Women Organisations
- 80 Permanent Secretaries & Directors of Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Partnership & Participation: In order to foster partnership working and enhance diverse participation in SNF and MSDG activities, GK Partners (GKP) collaborated with, amongst others: National Youth Council (NYC); University of The Gambia (UTG); Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA); Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP); The Association of Non Governmental Organisations (TANGO); and Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI). GKP is very grateful for the cooperation. Special thanks goes to the Secretary General and Permanent Secretaries at the Office of the President, for liaising with cabinet ministers and senior government officials; and to the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly, for coordinating with the National Assembly Members (NAMs).

Media Partners: SNF2 as livestreamed by: Eye Africa TV (8,000+ views) and Fatu Network (17,000+ views). The event was reported as headline news on the same day at 8pm and 10pm, on national television by Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS). (Links below were retrieved in June 2019).

SNF2 on Eye Africa TV: <https://www.facebook.com/eyeafricatv/videos/live-on-eyeafrica-news-and-current-affairs-channelhappening-now-second-stake-in-/289998908386177/>

SNF2 on Fatu Network: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/fatunetwork/videos/live-second-stake-in-the-nation-forum/2424878230874941/>

SNF2 Presidential Address



The SNF2 Presidential Address of H.E. Adama Barrow was delivered on his behalf by the Vice President H.E. Ousainu A.N.M. Darboe. He sent his warm greetings to the delegates and amongst other things, President Adama Barrow:

- **Stated his passion** for SNF and his pleasure to be part of SNF2, noting that the thematic subjects of the forum are central to government policies aimed at creating a better Gambia, and promoting conversations on matters crucial to socioeconomic development; **Recalled that SNF** has been adopted by the government as a mechanism for engagement with the Gambian diaspora on matters of national development;
- **Noted that SNF** is an engagement and communication platform facilitating discussion of what has been done and achieved in the field of development, and exploration of how to accelerate achievement of national goals; **Explained that in time**, the NDP website will have a dashboard, summarising progress made, highlighting outstanding actions, and collecting public opinions, including those of the diaspora;
- **Remarked that the** relatively high productivity of the diaspora is due to strong work ethics and smart approach to work, and that if emulated nationally, Gambia's GDP will increase significantly;
- **Reiterated commitment to** improving the programme implementation and operational environment in The Gambia; **Noted the interactive format** of SNF2 and encouraged active participation with view to provide practical suggestions and recommendations for actions.

“.....You all may have noticed that these days, I do not speak for long without mentioning the National Development Plan....it is this plan that embodies our collective aspirations as Gambians. It is a truism that those who fail to plan are planning to fail. And by this therefore, our formulation of the National Development Plan is to express our desire that in post-dictatorship Gambia, we do not want to fail; we must not fail; we cannot fail; we will not fail....”

“....through the NDP implementation, one of the achievements will be to be become less donor reliant. By this I mean, in the future, we will be able to generate our own resources, financial and/or technical, to meet our own demands for new roads and bridges, and be able to provide more scholarships for medical training and engineering.....supporting the vulnerable, including distressed migrants in the diaspora....”

[H.E. Adama Barrow, SNF2 Presidential Address, 12 January 2019]

SNF2 Presidential Updates

At SNF1 on 13 January 2018, the drafting of the National Development Plan (NDP) had just been concluded, and the **SNF1 Presidential Address highlighted the importance of both infrastructure-led and diaspora-led development**. In the SNF2 Presidential Address, **President Adama Barrow provided relevant updates**, including those noted below:

- **NDP Fundraising:** *“.....thanks to the collaboration of our partners, including notably the European Union, we have now raised a substantial percentage of the 2.4 Billion US Dollars needed for the NDP. Of this amount, over 50 percent is in the form of grants, 46 percent concessional loans and 4% technical assistance. We are grateful to the partners, donors and friends of The Gambia.....”*
- **Public Sector Reform:** *“.....My government will speed up the required public sector reform, so that the civil service is fit for the purpose of national developmental transformation. We aim to reverse the maladministration and dysfunction caused by two decades of dictatorship. This is one of the different ways through which we can ensure that NDP implementation will be efficient, productive and impactful.....”*
- **Infrastructure:** *“.....Infrastructure-led development is an enabling strategy which includes the construction of roads, ports and drainage facilities; electricity, water and irrigation installations; cold stores, silos and mills; fast and reliable telephone and internet connections. As a country on a road to developmental transformation, we need every enabling facility to become readily available and affordable.....”*
- **Diaspora:** *“.....Another enabler of our development is diaspora-development.....the NDP recognises the Gambian diaspora as one of the critical enablers of national development. It is in recognition of this, that we refer the diaspora as the Eighth non-resident region.....”*
- **Diaspora Cooperation:** *“.....I want to again recognise the ‘Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia’ (MSDG) project, which is the first formal Diaspora Technical Cooperation Programme between the Government of The Gambia and our diaspora development experts. I look forward to many more similar formations through which diaspora technical support and cooperation could be channelled to The Gambia.....”*
- **MSDG2 and SDC:** *“.....I take this opportunity to thank the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and GK Partners for co-financing the pilot MSDG project.....It is my honour and pleasure to launch MSDG2, a 4-year Technical Cooperation Programme, which focuses on a wholesale implementation of the diaspora strategy commitments. GK Partners, Gambia Government and the Swiss Government have renewed their commitments and we look forward to the successful completion of discussions for co-financing from the European Union and other agencies and institutions.....”*
- **SNF3 in 2020:** *“.....It is now my privilege to open the Second Stake in the Nation Forum, and to announce that the Third Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF3) will be on Saturday, 11 January 2020. I wish you well in your discussions today, and I thank you all.....”*

[H.E. Adama Barrow, SNF2 Presidential Address, 12 January 2019]

Ministerial Update: Foreign Affairs



Hon. Dr Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad, stated as follows:

- **Origins of MSDG Project:** *“.....The MSDG project evolved from the initial induction training of Cabinet Ministers in early February 2017, leading to an intensive programme of activities between August 2017 and February 2018. 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.....”*
- **Strategic Engagements:** *“.....Between March and December 2018, the MSDG project facilitated strategic engagements.....including the President’s meeting with the UK diaspora in London while on mission to the UK for the readmission of The Gambia into the Commonwealth, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April 2018.....”*
- **Gambia Diaspora Strategy:** *“.....My Ministry will continue to work closely with the MSDG project and GK Partners to facilitate and implement priorities of the Gambia Diaspora Strategy.....The President. These priorities focus on key areas such as: Diaspora-Development Capacity; Remittance Cost Reduction; Diaspora Investment and Diaspora Bonds; Diaspora Development Fund; Preventing Irregular Migration.....”*
- **MSDG Phase 2:** *“MSDG2 will serve as a catalyst and multiplier for diaspora-development initiatives, stimulating and supporting start-ups, replication, and helping diaspora organisations and entrepreneurs to expand and enhance their development initiatives here in The Gambia. MSDG2 seeks not only to fill existing gaps in the migration and development sector, but also to facilitate capitalisation on opportunities that are untapped or underused.....[MSDG2] will endeavour to implement 11 of the 14 commitments of the national Gambia Diaspora Strategy.....”*
- **GDS Pocketbook:** *“.....Today, it is my honor and pleasure, on behalf of the MSDG project, to handover 5,000 copies of the ‘Diaspora Passport’ to the Gambia Immigration Department. This pocketbook is a summary of the commitments of the Gambia Diaspora Strategy.....Gambians in the Diaspora returning back to their respective countries at the end of the Diaspora Month will be given this booklet to get themselves acquainted with the government’s Diaspora Policy.....copies will also be distributed amongst government officials, to promote awareness about how to bring to life our national commitment in recognizing the diaspora as the Eighth Region of The Gambia.....Finally, I would like to invite the Director General of the Gambia Immigration Department to receive the Gambia Diaspora Strategy booklet.....“*

[Hon. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, SNF2 Ministerial Statement, 12 January 2019]

Ministerial Update: Youth and Sports



Hon. Mr. Hadrammeh Sidibeh, Minister of Youth and Sports, stated as follows:

- **Youth Resource:** *“.....It is often said that the youths are the engine of socio-economic development and that is true of Gambia’s youth cohort, which currently stands at over 60% of the national population.....This youth bulge rather than being viewed as a demographic challenge is indeed an untapped national resource to be harnessed.....”*
- **Implementation Challenges:** *“.....the critical question of implementation; how to transform vision, aspirations and policy into tangible results that will prepare, engage and absorb young people in the productive sectors of the economy and society in general.....we need to confront and overcome the entrenched challenges of poor coordination, weak institutional framework, and the absence of integrated implementation and operational mechanisms.....”*
- **Strategic Partnerships:** *“.....In our efforts to prioritise implementation, we have formed strategic partnerships with both external and internal development actors.....we started an innovative agricultural scheme in 2015, modelled on the world acclaimed and successful Songhai Agricultural Programme in Benin.....fully aligned to the government’s objectives..... The project trains tens of young people annually in modern agricultural techniques.....We have the Holland-Gambia Foundation, ready to build an additional hostel so that we double the numbers this year.....To succeed, we partner with UNDP, FAO, YEP, MRC Holland-Gambia and others.....We need consistency and constancy in order to strengthen emergent institutions in youth empowerment. Most youth projects are cross-cutting in nature, thus successful implementation require diligent inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination and co-working.....”*
- **Diaspora Youth:** *“.....I wish to thank Professor Gibril Faal and his team at MSDG, for the opportunity to speak to such a distinguished and diverse audience, about our new and inspiring journey of youth empowerment. I am aware that my responsibility extends, to a degree, to diaspora youths, who are part of the Eighth Region. We hope that through MSDG, there would be more structured and positive exchange, engagement and cooperation between diaspora youths and their brothers and sisters in rural and urban Gambia.....”*

[Hon. Mr. Hadrammeh Sidibeh, SNF2 Ministerial Statement, 12 January 2019]

2018 Diaspora Remittances: Central Bank of The Gambia



*The Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2) started with Mr. Bakary Jammeh, Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) announcing the diaspora remittance inflows to The Gambia for 2018 as **\$271 Million***, being the highest ever recorded sum, having risen from \$226.7 Million in 2017, and \$205.6 Million in 2016.*

** The Governor of CBG, Mr Bakary Jammeh, together with Hon. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, and Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners and MSDG Project convened the Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR2) on 6 March 2019, held at the National Assembly Building in Banjul. At DFTR2, the Central Bank of The Gambia provided updated figures, **confirming that the 2018 remittance inflows to The Gambia stood at \$277.9 Million.***



Bilateral Cooperation: Switzerland



H.E. Dr. Marion Weichelt Krupski, Switzerland Ambassador to The Gambia, stated as follows:

- **Development Engagement:** *“.....I would like to commend the efforts of the Gambian authorities, the Gambian diaspora and of all stakeholders.....Switzerland is proud to be a sponsor once again of [SNF]. Switzerland views this event as a strategic one.....[as] a high profile platform.....it provides the political impetus for the implementation of the Gambia National Development Plan as well as the engagement of the Gambian diaspora.....Through a clever mix of policy and practice, the Stake in the Nation Forum succeeds in linking Gambian Diaspora with government and non-State actors in a way that optimizes their input...willingness to include and involve the diaspora in the development debate is crucial, two years after the end of a long dictatorship that had largely alienated diaspora actors.....”*
- **MSDG Phase 2:** *“.....the MSDG project is a Technical Cooperation Project.....supporting the Government on issues pertaining to migration and development, by training Gambian government officials, as well as through diverse job creation programs.....[it] will further what was started in the previous phase. It ensures that the expertise of the diaspora is put to good use. This means, providing diaspora support where and when needed, reducing the costs of remittances and increasing diaspora investment.....Just like the Gambian Government, Switzerland is very much convinced that the Gambian diaspora is key for the development of this country and is committed to continue its support to this project.....”*
- **Swiss-Gambia Cooperation:** *“.....My country is indeed keen to promote a comprehensive approach on migration [taking] into account both challenges and opportunities. The synergies between migration and development play a very important part of such an approach. In the sub-region, Switzerland is engaged with the ECOWAS.....We support free movement of people and goods as well as regional integration.....We also support the West African Network for Children on the Move (WAN).....I am confident that this year’s edition of [SNF] marks the beginning of a deepened bilateral relation between our two countries. Switzerland is very much interested in exploring further ways to reinforce our collaboration in the field of migration and expects that our two countries will soon be signing the Migration and Development Partnership we have been negotiating over the past year.....In closing, I wish to reiterate Switzerland’s commitment to accompany The Gambia in the implementation of its National Development Plan and namely through the MSDG Phase 2 project.....”*

[H.E. Dr. Marion Weichelt Krupski, SNF2 Statement, 12 January 2019]

Multilateral Cooperation: International Monetary Fund



Dr. Ruby E. M. Randall, Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund, stated as follows:

- **Gambia's Debt Burden:** *".....I would like to.....underscore the main points made by the IMF Mission Chief for The Gambia Jaroslaw Wieczorek at the International Conference for The Gambia in May of 2018.....'The Gambia's foremost challenge remains the need to address its legacy public debt. The elevated debt level is concerning because of the high level of interest associated with it and because debt service payments divert resources from much-needed social spending and human and physical capital investment'.....Gambia's public debt still stood at 88% of rebased GDP at end-2017. This remains a significant regional outlier, given that average public debt in Sub Saharan Africa stood at 57% of GDP.....debt service payments in The Gambia absorbed about 60% of domestic revenues, leaving little room for priority social and poverty reducing spending.....By contrast, on average debt service payments in Sub Saharan Africa accounted for about 10% of domestic revenues.....So, tackling this sizable debt overhang is imperative, and in doing so, burden sharing is an important principle that needs to be respected....."*
- **External Debt Relief:** *".....The authorities have rightly requested debt relief from their external creditors.....all creditors are encouraged to provide The Gambia with the maximum amount of debt relief possible.....Gambia's pursuit of fiscal discipline will aid.....debt restructuring efforts, by sending a powerful signal to creditors that the Government is doing its part to address and not exacerbate the country's debt vulnerabilities.....it is of equal importance to continually review and re-prioritize the existing project pipeline, which accounted for nearly 40 percent of GDP, and to seek a softening in the terms of already-contracted loans.....IMF continues to appeal to all partners to provide as much grant assistance to The Gambia as possible to help finance the NDP....."*
- **Domestic and Multilateral Action:** *".....domestic revenue mobilization also needs to be stepped up, since the tax-to-GDP ratio at 11.4% of rebased GDP in 2017 is now significantly below the Sub Saharan Africa average of 17%.....we applaud and encourage ongoing efforts by the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA).....aimed at strengthening both tax and customs administration.....It is also essential to continue to improve the business environment, so that the private sector can carry out projects that offer high economic returns. But, given the debt constraints, the government should refrain from assuming any risk or offering guarantees on such projects.....[IMF] is fully engaged to ensure that The Gambia consolidates its macroeconomic stability and transitions to an arrangement under the IMF's Extended Credit Facility (ECF)....."*

[Dr. Ruby E.M. Randall, SNF2 Statement, 12 January 2019]

Diaspora Action: Health Services



Ms. Oumie Andrews, Vice President, Gambian Diaspora Healthcare Initiative, stated as follows:

- **Health as Social Capital:** *“.....Health is a state of complete physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual well-being and not just the absence of disease. Healthcare is one of the most important institutions.....a healthy nation is a productive nation.....Health is the greatest social capital a nation can have. Without a healthy, productive citizenship, a country cannot be economically stable.....”*
- **Diaspora Action in Healthcare:** *“.....Providing an adequate health service to the population is a paramount goal for the government, but it is a matter that cannot be solved by the government alone. A healthy society must come as part of a combined effort of several stakeholders.....This is why..... some of us in the diaspora.....form an NGO, Gambian Diaspora Healthcare Initiative [GDHI] is for the Gambia and Gambians with no interest in politics or bureaucracy, but rather empathy for our people. Our mission is to help the healthcare sector and on the other hand encourage the government to create healthcare reform.....In December of 2018, GDHI brought a shipment of medical supplies.....donated to selected hospitals.....We have two containers with medical equipment and supplies on the way and expect them to arrive January 18th, 2019. These will be distributed to hospitals across the country on a need basis.....”*
- **Overcoming Challenges:** *“.....Before we were able to bring these containers we had a lot of challenges.....as we tried to get a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Ministry of Health. There were countless stumbling blocks but due to our relentlessness and perseverance, we were able to scale through the huddles.....we would like the government to work with NGOs because most of them have access to resources that the government lacks. The Ministry of Health should create an easy access for NGOs to get necessary paperwork by getting rid of unnecessary bureaucracy..... On behalf of GDHI board members, we would like to thank the members, supporters and donors for their support and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.....”*
- **Gratitude to Health Professionals:** *“.....In closing, I would like to thank the healthcare professionals here in The Gambia who with little or no resources still wake up every day and make it to work to provide services to the sick regardless of the lack of resources. They are doing their part and we need to provide them with the basic resources they need in order for them to be more efficient and competent in the services they provide to us and our families.....”*

[Ms. Oumie Andrews, SNF2 Statement, 12 January 2019]

MSDG Update: Gambia Diaspora Strategy



Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners and MSDG Project, stated as follows:

- **Diaspora-Development:** *“.....Diaspora organisations exist for a whole range of purposes; some for the welfare of their members within the countries of residence. What has emerged in the past twenty years is the concept of diaspora-development.....organisations that are formed for the simple purpose of engaging in the development of their countries of origin or heritage..... they are not interested in the politics, they are not interested in the whole catalogue of problems; rather, they are profoundly interested in the solutions and the little contributions they can make.....So I invite you to embrace the diaspora-development community and give the most support you can.....”*
- **Gambian Remittances:** *“.....I am very grateful to the Governor of the Central Bank. He has today given us the update of remittances in the Gambia. Last year, it was 232 million dollars; and last year was the first year of freedom in Gambia after a very long time, and there was some suspicion that those numbers may stabilise there or even go down. But it has increased by 19% to over 270 million dollars.....we have passed the symbolic quarter of a billion dollars.....the Diaspora have confidence in the country to invest and bring their money here.....”*
- **Government Support:** *“.....Often what we ask of government is support in-kind and its endorsement because it is true that government does not have the money. A significant percentage of Gambia’s budget is based on aid. So often we come to bring, rather than to take; but the endorsement, moral and support in kind of the government and cooperation of the civil service are extremely important, and we are grateful that the government have been giving us that support.....”*
- **MSDG Phase 2:** *“.....As we launch MSDG2, our work with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the President, other ministries and development agencies in the country will intensify. We will concentrate on four broad areas: Capacity development through Continuous Professional Development (CPD); Diaspora engagement through networks and coordination; Diaspora participation, including bringing to life the ability for the diaspora to vote at elections; Diaspora investment in job creation and productive economy, both commercial and social enterprises.....”*

“.....there is a difference between belonging to a state and belonging to a nation. Some of us in the diaspora belong to the state in the places we live at, and we carry their passports, but we never relinquished our belonging to the nation of the Gambian family.”

[Prof. Gibril Faal, SNF2 Update, 12 January 2019]

Workshop 1: Constitutional Review Consultations



Top L to R: Mr. Ousman Yabo; Hon. Kumba Jaiteh; Ms. Combeh Gaye; Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore; Justice Cherno Jallow
Bottom L to R: Ms. Sohna Sallah; Ms Ndey Jobarteh

Moderator: Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore, Regional Director, Article 19 [Senegal]

Rapporteur: Ms. Ndey Jobarteh, Chair, Gambia House [Norway]

Discussants:

Justice Cherno Jallow, Chair, Constitutional Review Commission

Mr. Ousman Yabo, Executive Director, The Association of NGOs (TANGO)

Ms. Combeh Gaye, Secretary, Gambia Bar Association

Ms. Sohna Sallah, Chairperson, Democratic Union of Gambian Activists (DUGA) [USA]

Hon. Ms. Kumba Jaiteh, Nominated National Assembly Member (NAM)

*There were about **60 participants**, including: Hon. Samba Jallow, National Assembly Minority Leader; Hon. Bakary Camara, Member of the Select Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters; Hon. Billay Tunkara, Vice Chairperson of the Select Committee on Trade and Regional Integration; Hon. Bakary Njie, Member of the Select Committee on Education; Hon. Saikouba Jarju, Member of the Select Committee on Education; Hon. Mai Ahmad Fatty, Special Adviser to the President; Mrs. Fatou Njie-Jallow, Ombudsman of The Gambia; Mr. Alieu Momar Njie, Chair of the Independent Electoral Commission.*

Key MSDG actions to address issues arising from the workshop include:

- Supporting efforts of the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) to extend access to the input and opinions of the Gambian diaspora in different parts of the world.
- Preparing a technical briefing paper demonstrating the feasibility of diaspora voting and representation in national elections.
- Presenting a submission to the CRC for the constitution to include the current government policy of recognising the diaspora as a non-resident region and constituency of The Gambia.

Workshop 2: Health and Medical Services



*Top L to R: Mr. Muhammed Jaiteh; Dr. Ramou Njie; Dr. Abubakarr Gassama; Dr. Lamin Samateh
Bottom L to R: Dr. Desta Tiruneh; Ms. Oumie Andrews; Mr. Abdoulie Fye; Hon. Ousman Sillah*

Moderator: Dr Abubakarr Gassama, Medical Scientist, National Health Service, [UK]

Rapporteur: Mr. Muhammed L. Jaiteh, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Discussants:

Dr. Ramou Njie, Group Head, GHIS, World Health Organization/Medical Research Council

Dr. Lamin Samateh, Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health

Mr. Abdoulie Fye, Programmes Manager, Gambia Red Cross Society

Dr. Desta Tiruneh, Country Representative, World Health Organization

Mr. Dawda Ceesay, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Ms. Oumie Andrews, Medical Technologist, Emory Johns Creek Hospital, [USA]

Hon. Ousman Sillah, Chair of the National Assembly Select Committee on Health

*There were about **45 participants**, including: Hon. Amadou Camara, Member of the Select Committee on Health; Hon. Musa Amul Nyassi, Chair of the Select Committee on Local Government; Hon. Sainey Touray, Member of the Select Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.*

Key MSDG actions to address issues arising from the workshop include:

- Liaising with national and regional public health institutions to compile list of priority health and medical service needs of varying budgets, to be presented to the diaspora for support.
- Facilitating the creation of a diaspora health network of organisations and professionals, with view to promote complementarity, collaboration and peer learning.
- Exploring and supporting the creation of a Diaspora or Philanthropy Liaison Manager within the Ministry of Health, to seek, coordinate and facilitate diaspora resource and skills input, and provide practical operational assistance to diaspora organisations relating to customs duty exemptions, endorsements, and general paperwork and bureaucratic processes.

Workshop 3: Integrated Rural Development



Top L to R: Hon. Lamin N. Dibba; Dr. Malamin Jaiteh; Mr. Buba Sagnia; Ms. Fanta Samateh Manneh
Bottom L to R: Ms. Ndey Naffie Ceesay; Mr. Modou N.S.Z. Njie; Mr. Alagie Fadera; Ms. Anta Taal

Moderator: Dr. Malamin Jaiteh, Technical Adviser, Ministry of Environment [USA/Gambia]

Rapporteur: Ms. Ndey Naffie Ceesay, Country Officer, Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
Ms. Anta Taal, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Discussants:

Hon. Lamin N. Dibba, Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Buba Sagnia, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Regional Government

Mr. Alagie Fadera, Director of Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Ms. Fanta Samateh Manneh, Governor, Upper River Region

Mr. Modou N.S.Z. Njie, Managing Director, Farm Fresh

*There were about **60 participants**, including: Hon. Sidia Jatta, Vice Chairperson of the Select Committee on Finance and Public Accounts; Hon. Alhagie H. Sowe, Vice Chairperson Select Committee on Trade and Regional Integration; Hon. Alhagie Mbow, Member of the Select Committee on Finance and Public Accounts; Hon. Muhammed Magassy; Member of Select Committee on Public Enterprise; Hon. Momodou Ceesay.*

Key MSDG actions to address issues arising from the workshop include:

- Liaising with national and regional institutions to compile list of priority rural development needs of varying budgets, to be presented to the diaspora for support.
- Facilitating the creation of a diaspora rural development network of organisations and professionals, with view to promote complementarity, collaboration and peer learning.
- Decentralising MSDG project activities to cover all the rural areas of the country.

Workshop 4: Sustainable Careers for Young People



From L to R: Mr. Ebrima Sonko; Mr. Lamin Darboe; Mr. Momodou E. Njie; Mr. Edward Mansal; Mr. Modou Touray; Ms. Khadijatou Fofana

Moderator: Mr. Edward Mansal, Deputy Director, Gambia Technical Training Institute

Rapporteur: Ms. Khadijatou Fofana, Senior Project Assistant, Gamworks

Discussants:

Mr. Lamin Darboe, Executive Director, National Youth Council

Mr. Momodou Edirisa Njie, Executive Director, Global Youth Innovation Network (Gambia Chapter)

Mr. Ebrima Sonko, Student, University of The Gambia

Mr. Modou Touray, Technical Adviser, Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP)

*There were about **135 participants**, including delegates from University of The Gambia (UTG), National Youth Council (NYC), Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) and Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA).*

Key MSDG actions to address issues arising from the workshop include:

- Supporting the provision of competency enhancement training and development such as: professional effectiveness and productivity, harnessing and demonstrating transferable skills, result and impact oriented performance, service delivery approach and ethics.
- Supporting the provision of professional soft skills training and development such as: report writing, verbal presentations, personal comportment, professional ethics and etiquette.
- Supporting the creation of internships, work placements and mentorship schemes, and including young professionals (under 30 years old) in the CPD-Gambia scheme proposed by GK Partners.



Televised Interview Panel: Improving Implementation, Delivery and Impact



From L to R: Mr. Sainey Faye; Ms. Sohna Sallah; Mr. Mustapha Mbaye; Hon. Lamin N. Dibba; Ms. Fanta Samateh Manneh; Prof. Abdoulie Saine; Mr. James Jeggan Bahoum

TV Host & Moderator: Mr. Mustapha Mbaye, Journalist, Gambia Radio & Television Service (GRTS)

Interview Panellists:

Hon. Lamin N. Dibba, Minister of Agriculture

Ms. Fanta Samateh Manneh, Governor, Upper River Region

Ms. Sohna Sallah, Chairperson, Democracy Union of Gambian Activists (DUGA) [USA]

Prof. Abdoulie Saine, Distinguished Professor, Miami University [USA]

Mr. James Jeggan Bahoum, Interim Executive Director, Charter 70 [UK]

Mr. Sainey Faye, Diaspora Community Educationalist [USA]

200+ delegates attended the closing TV interview panel. The host and delegates asked questions to the panel.



SNF2 Impact Observations and Recommendations

- **Increased Participation:** The number of SNF2 delegates was 550, with an additional 25 not admitted because the plenary hall was full to capacity. This was about 40% increase from the 400 who attended SNF1. There was greater diversity amongst delegates, with representatives from all regions of the country. *For SNF3, GKP and MSDG will consider organising pre-SNF consultative meetings in the regions, especially in the rural areas.*
- **Public Sector Collaboration:** 2019 saw the highest level of participation of senior government officials in SNF and the Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable, held on 6 March 2019. SNF2 also succeeded in attracting the participation of leaders of regional and municipal administrations, and 50% of the National Assembly Members. *As part of MSDG2, engagement with middle and lower level public officials will be developed through Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and coordination with internal departmental champions.*
- **Non-State and Diaspora Engagement:** As part of SNF2, MSDG initiated coordination and semi-formal partnerships with civil society and private sector networks. This resulted in increased participation of Non-State Actors (NSAs). The number of diaspora delegates from countries other than USA and UK need to increase. *GKP and MSDG will deepen partnerships with NSAs and diaspora organisations to maximise the mutual benefits and increase the synergy.*
- **Improvements in Diversity:** In Gambia, leadership of government and the major business and civil society organisations are male dominated. whilst people with disabilities remain broadly marginalised. Although there were 190 female delegates (35%) at SNF2, the number need to be increased. There were 45 speakers, moderators and rapporteurs, and 15 were women (33%). For the workshop on 'Sustainable Careers for Young People', although the rapporteur was female, the moderator and all the panellists were male. All-male panels need to be avoided as a matter of principle and practice. There were about 10 people with declared disabilities and a sign language interpreter was available at the opening and closing plenary sessions. *GKP and MSDG will seek to increase diversity by coordinating with young professional women networks and disability support organisations.*
- **Improvements in Dialogue:** SNF has introduced a new and unprecedented platform for constructive policy dialogue between decision makers and diverse stakeholders in Gambia. SNF2 facilitated open, professional and productive exchange and debate. SNF moves away from the usual model in Gambia, of stakeholder validation of government policies, whilst refraining from mere disputation and condemnation of government policies and actions. The workshop on 'Constitutional Review Consultations' worked very well because it required practical suggestions specifically for the proposed new constitution. *SNF3 will explore whether the thematic workshops should be re-modelled as 'brainstorming/Hackathon' sessions to discuss government plans and proposals, before they are fully formulated as policies and action programmes.*
- **Development for Young Professionals:** To enhance youth engagement, as part of SNF3, *GKP and MSDG will explore running pre-event skill workshops for young professionals.* These may cover note/minute-taking, event reporting and report writing, meeting chairing and moderation, technical and formal presentations. The trainees may then be deployed as rapporteurs and panellists at SNF and other relevant events and forums.

Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable

DFTR2



Organised by GK Partners, Central Bank of The Gambia and Ministry of Finance

VENUE: Auditorium, National Assembly Building, Banjul, The Gambia

DATE: Wednesday, 6 March 2019 **TIME:** 09.00 to 16.00



Hon. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs DFTR2 Delivered Keynote Remarks

Remittances: Reducing Costs and Improving Impact

Diaspora Bonds: Framework for Issuance



This Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR2) was organised in partnership with the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), a UK-based charity and pioneer in diaspora-development; AFFORD is currently working on a project-based small-scale Diaspora Bond in Rwanda; AFFORD also helped prepare an overview report on remittances in The Gambia



Proceedings of DFTR2

- **Convening the Roundtable:** The Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR2) was convened by: Hon. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Mr. Bakary Jammeh, Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia and Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners and MSDG Project. **The main aims of the roundtable were to: Share, monitor and improve data on remittances in The Gambia; Inform policy, process and practice of reducing remittance costs; Inform policy and practice of enhancing diaspora finance in The Gambia; Explore options for issuance of Diaspora Bonds in The Gambia.** DFTR2 was held on 6 March 2019, at the National Assembly Building in Banjul. Mr. Momodou Sise, Clerk of the National Assembly gave the welcome remarks, and Hon. Minister Mambury Njie gave keynote remarks. The technical roundtable discussed two main topics: Remittances to The Gambia (10am to 1pm); and Feasibility and Viability of Diaspora Bonds in The Gambia (2pm to 4pm).
- **Business and Institutional Delegates:** There were **46 delegates (15 female and 31 male):**
 - 8 chief executives and directors from 8 Money Transfer Operators
 - 13 heads of treasury and managers from 9 banks
 - 2 officials from the World Bank
 - 5 officials from International Monetary Fund (*including the Country Rep. and the IMF visiting team*)
 - 2 directors from GK Partners (*and 4 additional support personnel*)
 - 16 directors and senior officials from 5 government institutions (*namely Ministry of Finance, Central Bank of The Gambia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency, Gambia Bureau of Statistics, and National Assembly*);.



(Prof. Gibril Faal, GKP; Mr. Momodou Sise, National Assembly; Ms. Rohey Khan, CBG; Mr. Abdou Ceesay CBG; Mr. Abdoul Salaam Secka, MSDG)

- **Remittances in The Gambia:** Ms. Rohey Khan, Director of Foreign Department, Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) **gave an overview of regulation of remittances and transfers in The Gambia**, noting that there are 26 registered Money Transfer Operators and 95 Bureaux de Change. The successes of the sector were highlighted, and challenges were discussed openly by the delegates, with suggestions for practical improvements and better management. Mr. Abdou Ceesay, Deputy Director of Foreign Department, CBG, **presented the formal facts and figures about remittances to The Gambia, noting that 2018 saw the highest ever receipts for the country:**
 - **2018 remittances to The Gambia was \$277.9m, an increase of 23% from \$226.7m in 2017**
 - **Remittances in previous years were: \$205.6m in 2016, \$214.6m in 2015, and 203.9m in 2014**
 - **Formal remittances came from: 40% (USA); 35% (Europe); 15% (UK); 10% (Africa & Others)**
 - **The top five MTOs are: Western Union; Approve Services (a Gambian company); Small World; MoneyGram; RIA. These five MTOs handle 64% of remittances to The Gambia.**

- **Technical Discussions:** After the presentation by Central Bank of The Gambia, delegates discussed: **methodologies for monitoring and reducing the cost of transfers** in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.7c (maximum of 3%) and the Joint Valletta action Plan (JVAP) commitment to achieve the 3% target by 2020 instead of 2030; possible new **methodology to monitor remittance usage and impact**; compilation and publication of bi-monthly or quarterly bulletin on remittances; collection and analysis of data on remittance charges on \$100 by the different MTOs; **publication of data on the average cost of remittances** per month and per annum; actions to be taken by MTOs, CBG, MOFEA, MSDG and remitters; **forecasts and outlook for remittances to The Gambia in 2019.**



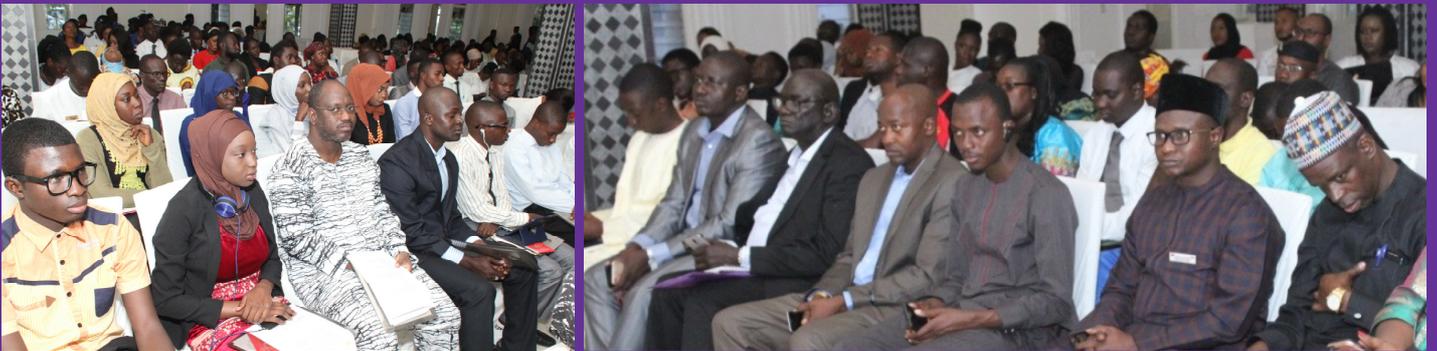
(Mr. Momodou Sowe, GIEPA; Mr Mustapha Samateh, MOFEA)

- **Prospects of Diaspora Bonds:** Prof. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners presented an **excerpt on 'Portfolio Investment' from his study of diaspora investment and finance in Africa**, undertaken on behalf the African Union (AU) and the German Agency for International Development (GIZ). He gave an **overview of diaspora bonds in Africa, and how lessons learnt can help in planning small scale bonds in The Gambia**, as committed in the Gambia Diaspora Strategy (GDS) and National Development Plan (NDP). He also discussed innovative plans such as AFFORD's **project-based diaspora bonds to be piloted in Rwanda, and the rationale and business case for a continental African Diaspora Finance Corporation (ADFC)** which can help AU member states to issue diaspora bonds and manage diaspora mutual funds. Mr. Mustapha Samateh, Director of Public Private Partnership (PPP), Ministry of Finance, discussed the **current and planned regulatory framework for diaspora bonds in The Gambia**. Mr Momodou Sowe, Director of Investments, Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), explained **how existing pipeline of investment-ready programmes assessed by GIEPA can be linked to Gambian diaspora bonds.**

The key agreed action points included:

- The technical roundtable to be convened twice a year instead of once a year, as a technical network for knowledge sharing, sector and professional development
- Review and improve the CBG remittance data collection template to facilitate wider economic analysis, and improved study of the impact of remittance
- More structured monitoring of the cost of remittances from the different corridors
- Analytical exploration of actions to be undertaken to facilitate take up and expansion of Fintech
- Research and action plan regarding unregistered MTOs and informal remittances
- Facilitate the active participation of the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) on remittance and SDG analyses, as anticipated in the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
- MSDG to facilitate publication of periodic bulletin on Gambian remittances and diaspora investment
- Monitor and contribute to the development of the emerging MOFEA strategy on financial inclusion.

SNF2 Gallery



Save the Date:

*The Third Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF3) is scheduled for:
Saturday, 11 January 2020*

MSDG2: 2019 to 2022

Phase 2 of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG2) will run for 4 years from 2019 to 2022. The specific activities of the 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.
- **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.

“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:

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