

MSDG PROJECT

MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA



SCAN ME

MSDG

Project Report 2017-2021 &
Programme Outline 2021-24

Consolidation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy

The MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is co-financed by GK Partners (GKP) and the Government of Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); implemented by GKP in partnership with the Government of The Gambia (GoTG)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

GK Partners Limited, trading as GK Partners is the implementing agency of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG). The project is co-financed by GK Partners (GKP) and the Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), acting through Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). MSDG is delivered as a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in partnership with the Government of The Gambia (GoTG).

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MSDG Project Report (2017-21) and Programme Outline (2021-24)

Table of Contents

	Executive Summary	2
1.	Evolution of the MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme	4
1.1	Pre-MSDG Support by GK Partners	5
1.2	MSDG1 Start-Up Activities (7 Months from Aug 2017 to Feb 2018)	7
1.3	MSDG1 Post-Launch Activities (18 Months from Mar 2018 to Sep 2019)	11
1.4	Co-Finance of MSDG1 (25 Months from Aug 2017 to Sep 2019)	15
2.	MSDG2: Implementing the Gambian Diaspora Strategy	16
2.1	MSDG2 and COVID19 Pandemic Disruptions and Response	16
2.2	Summary of MSDG2 Achievements and Impact	17
3.	MSDG3: Consolidation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy	30
3.1	Overall Goal, Specific Objectives and Impact Hypothesis of MSDG3	31
3.1.1	Overall Goal and Specific Objectives (S.O)	31
3.1.2	Lessons Learnt and Impact Hypothesis for the MSDG3 Project	32
3.1.3	Expected Results of the Specific Objectives	34
3.1.4	MSDG3 Three-Year Budget Summary 2021-24	34
3.2	Activities and Outputs of the MSDG3 Project	35
3.2.1	Output 1.1: Diaspora Participation	35
3.2.2	Output 1.2: Remittance Costs and Financial Inclusion	36
3.2.3	Output 1.3: Investment and Enterprise	36
3.2.4	Output 2.1: Training and Development	36
3.2.5	Output 2.2: Technical Support	37
3.2.6	Output 2.3: Institutional Cooperation	37
	Appendix: Renewed Commitment to the MSDG Project	38

Executive Summary

Democratic developments in The Gambia in 2016/17 were the immediate precursor to the initiation of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG). On 11 February 2017, three weeks after the end of 22 years of dictatorship, and one week after the appointment of the new Cabinet of the coalition government, under the direction of H.E. Adama Barrow, the new President of the Republic of The Gambia, Prof. Gibril Faal, the MSDG Director conducted a day-long induction training session for the Cabinet Ministers of the coalition government. This was followed up by week-long technical deliberations with senior officials and one-to-one briefings with the President and ministers. Professor Faal also liaised with the then United Nations Transition Consultant, and on 15 February 2017, participated in the formal handover meeting between the new Cabinet and the ministers of the previous regime.

This technical support was preceded by months of close coordination with the democratic forces and coalition partners in The Gambia, and intense advocacy targeting key regional and international partners and institutions. Two decades earlier, the current MSDG Director facilitated the earliest parliamentary actions against dictatorship in The Gambia, and drafted Early Day Motions in the House of Commons in the UK and Oral Questions in the European Parliament in Brussels. In 1995/1996 he produced a policy report for the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office entitled 'The Second Republic Initiative: Return of Democracy in The Gambia'.

Further to discussions with the President, the Secretary-General and Head of the Civil Service, on 28 August 2017 formally approved the MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), as a collaborative partnership between GK Partners (GKP) and the Government of The Gambia. The first phase was implemented between August 2017 and September 2019, co-financed mainly by GK Partners (GKP) and the Government of Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The key achievements of MSDG1 included: formulation of government policy and the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) as fully incorporated in the Gambia National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21); proposal and facilitation of the declaration of the diaspora as the Eighth Region of The Gambia, and the creation of the Gambia Diaspora Directorate (GDD); pioneering studies and publication of briefing papers on Gambian Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD); convening of national policy and technical forums including the annual Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) and Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtables (DFTR); technical support to government officials through accredited training, and facilitation of bilateral and multilateral negotiations; and technical guidance to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on diaspora out-of-county voting and parliamentary representation.

The second phase of the project (MSDG2) focussed on the initial implementation of key elements of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS). It ran from October 2019 to June 2021, co-financed by GKP, SDC and strategic and operational partners providing valuable in-kind support. As the COVID 19 pandemic deepened and the lockdown intensified, the project was modified. To that effect, the unfeasible activities were dropped and supplementary interventions initiated, in response to the challenges as well as the unforeseen opportunities of the pandemic.

The main achievements and impacts of MSDG2 included: piloting of the Gambia Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS), which provided cash grants of about €80,000 to ten (10) diaspora experts to support development initiatives in Gambia; pioneering work on estimating Gambian diaspora populations globally; developing first ever typology of Gambian Diaspora Development Organisations (GDDOs); enhancing technical cooperation with the Central Bank of The Gambia on major improvements in remittance data collection and monitoring; initiating extensive technical cooperation with the National Assembly and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on Constitutional, legislative, regulatory and logistical issues regarding diaspora voting and representation; expanding deliberations by policy, technical and development forums previously set up by MSDG; and facilitating cultural collaboration between the Gambia Police Band and diaspora artists and promoters on the production, recording and dissemination of traditional Gambian lullabies for diaspora families.

The third phase of the project (MSDG3) as a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is set to run for three years from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024. It focuses on the 'Consolidation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy'. The overall goal "to enhance and expand the role of the Gambian diaspora in national development, as the Eighth Region of the country" remains unchanged. It is co-financed by GKP, SDC and strategic and operational partners providing cash and in-kind support.

MSDG3 aims to incorporate the lessons learnt from the previous phases of the project, and consolidate, improve and expand the gains and development benefits of the TCP by adhering to guidelines on: 'Cooperative Facilitation' by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government; 'Operational Partnerships' through the GDTS scheme for fundraising and other interventions; 'Institutional Partnerships' with focus on rural and agricultural development; 'Bespoke Capacity Development' based on the successes of National Assembly and University of The Gambia collaborations; 'High Impact and Transformation' through Constitutional Amendments and initiation of Diaspora Bonds; 'Simplification and Technical Coordination' to accentuate GKP-MSDG's comparative advantage; 'Multimedia Campaigns' to increase sectoral and public awareness of the project; and 'Collective Delivery Approach' to the implementation of the GDS by MSDG and diverse other organisations.

The project activities shall centre on six themes, namely: Diaspora Participation in Policy; Remittances and Financial Inclusion; Diaspora Investment and Enterprise; Training and Development; Stakeholder Technical Support; Public Sector Institutional Cooperation.

1. Evolution of the MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme

The Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) project was launched in 2017 and ran through the following phases:

- Pre-Project Technical Support (Jan to Jul 2017; Funded by GK Partners and ADEPT)
- MSDG1: Phase One Start-Up (Aug 2017 to Feb 2018; Funded by GK Partners and Swiss Govt)
- MSDG1: Post-Launch Project Activities (Mar to Dec 2018; Funded by GK Partners)
- MSDG1: Post-Launch Joint Activities (Jan to Sep 2019; Funded by GK Partners and Swiss Govt)
- MSDG2: Phase Two Project (Oct 2019 to Jun 2021; Funded by GK Partners and Swiss Govt).

The third phase of the project (MSDG3) as a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is set to run for three years from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024. ***MSDG3 aims to incorporate the lessons learnt from the previous phases of the project, and consolidate, improve and expand the gains and development benefits of the TCP.***



The MSDG Director with the first Cabinet Ministers of the coalition government Induction training session, Kairaba Beach Hotel, 11 Feb 2017



A cross-section of the audience when the Gambia Diaspora Policy developed by MSDG was launched Gambian Diaspora Town Hall meeting with President Barrow, Harriet Tubman Center, New York, 23 Sep 2017

1.1 Pre-MSDG Support by GK Partners

On 9 February 2017, three weeks after the end of 22 years of dictatorship, and one week after the appointment of the new Cabinet of the coalition government, the MSDG Director, Prof. Gibril Faal arrived in The Gambia and attended the launch of the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), the first post-dictatorship international financial support to The Gambia. The event was co-presided over by the European Union Commissioner for Development and International Cooperation, H.E. Neven Mimica. **On 11 February 2017, three weeks after the end of 22 years of dictatorship, and one week after the appointment of the new Cabinet of the coalition government, under the direction of H.E. Adama Barrow, the new President of the Republic of The Gambia, Prof. Gibril Faal, the MSDG Director conducted a day-long induction training session for the Cabinet Ministers of the coalition government. This was followed up by week-long technical deliberations with senior officials and one-to-one briefings with the President and ministers.**

In consultation with ministers, Prof. Faal drafted specific policy outlines and priorities for key ministries. **He also liaised with the Mr Nana Atto Dadzie, the then United Nations Transition Consultant. On 15 February 2017, he participated in the formal handover meeting between the new Coalition Cabinet and the Ministers of the previous regime.** These pre-project activities of Jan/Feb 2017 were co-financed by GK Partners and the Diaspora Technical Support (DTS) scheme of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT).

The post-election technical support was preceded by months of **close coordination with the democratic forces and coalition partners in The Gambia, and intense advocacy targeting key regional and international partners and institutions.** Before the elections on 1 December 2016, the MSDG Director undertook one-to-one briefings with several Heads of State on 19 September 2016 at the UN General Assembly in New York. After the elections, he had consultations with the European External Action Service (EEAS), and one-to-one briefings in New York with senior diplomats of the UN Security Council and UN Member States on 19 December 2016.

In the two decades prior to 2016, Prof. Faal facilitated the some of the earliest parliamentary actions against dictatorship in The Gambia, and drafted Early Day Motions in the House of Commons in the United Kingdom and Oral Questions in the European Parliament in Brussels. **In 1995/1996 he produced a policy report for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, entitled 'The Second Republic Initiative: Return of Democracy in The Gambia'.**

Through the Movement for Restoration of Democracy in The Gambia (MRDG-UK), Prof. Faal supported efforts to create viable political and strategic coalitions in Gambia, including setting up the African Civil Society Forum (ACSF) in May 2001, after consultations with the Westminster Foundation for Development (WFD), as a mechanism for political and civil society alliance-building. **He also drafted frameworks in 2001 for a Strategic Political Alliance (SPA), a Tactical Political Alliance (TPA), and an alliance manifesto and policy document entitled 'Towards a Good Governance Charter in Gambia'. These actions were complemented by consistent and continued technical and financial support of the democratic forces in The Gambia,** towards the goal of creating viable political and strategic coalitions to end dictatorship. Support for democratisation, development and diaspora engagement in The Gambia was channelled through his companies, namely Integrated Management Associates (1994 to 2004) and GK Partners (2004 to date).

Dawda K Jawara

McDonnell became very active in the campaign. Diane Abbott²⁹ came on board as well as many other sympathisers from the Labour Party. Diane's dynamic voice within the British parliamentary community was a great boost to our mission. The issues were also soon taken up by the African Civil Society Forum (ACSF) and other democratically minded individuals. McDonnell soon brought them together with his parliamentary group under the more formal Movement for the Restoration of Democracy in The Gambia – UK (MRDG-UK).

The MRDG-UK developed the Strategic Political Alliance (SPA) which aimed at seeking effective solutions to civil society problems and providing moral and political support to project implementation as part of the strategic approach of sustained structural reform, civic education and awareness and civil society advocacy in The Gambia. The movement had a great momentum, and with the help of the British parliamentarians we were able to raise the profile of The Gambia and keep the democracy issue alive in the debates in the British House of Commons.

*Extract from 'Kairaba', the Autobiography of Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara (2009)
(Page 402, chapter on 'Campaign for the restoration of democracy')*



**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF A PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY**

Company No. 4210299

The Registrar of Companies for England and Wales hereby certifies that
AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

is this day incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 as a private
company and that the company is limited.

Given at Companies House, Cardiff, the 3rd May 2001




Companies House
— for the record —

HC007A

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

GAMBIA 2006 CHANGE

PEACE GAMBIA FIRST



END TO FEAR, ABUSE & CORRUPTION

SUPPORT NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE

*MRDGUK working in partnership with Gambian political Parties through
National Alliance for Democracy and Development (NADD)*

Your donation will be used to:

- Financially support NADD - to give them a fairer chance in contesting 2006 & 2007 Gambian elections
- Support the democratic & peaceful effort to end worsening economic hardship & rampant political abuses
- Promote Out-of-Country-Voting for Gambians resident abroad

Direct Bank Payments:

£50: £100: Other £

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A/C Name: MRDGUK
Sort Code: 20-09-03
A/C Number: 30711802

Contact:

Tel:

Questions/Contact: Movement for the Restoration of Democracy in The Gambia
(UK) MRDGUK, P.O. Box 10333, London NW1 1WB. Tel: 07888 824 783

HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

ECONOMIC & POLITICAL REFORM

SUPPORT POSITIVE CHANGE IN OUR BELOVED GAMBIA

*Certificate of Incorporation of African Civil Society Forum (3 May 2001)
Sample of 2005 leaflets promoting Gambian democracy and development amongst the diaspora*

1.2 MSDG1 Start-Up Activities (7 Months from Aug 2017 to Feb 2018)

After ministerial consultations and one-to-one discussions with the President of the Republic of The Gambia, ***the Secretary-General and Head of the Civil Service, on 23 August 2017 formally approved the MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), as a collaborative partnership between GK Partners (GKP) and the Office of the President*** (Ref: OP 206/324/01, dated 28 August 2017). The start-up elements of the MSDG1 project ran from August 2017 to February 2018. It was co-financed by GK Partners and the Swiss Government, with the Government of The Gambia providing support in-kind in the form of local transportation. The key achievements of the start-up phase of MSDG1 are summarised below.

- I. **Technical Cooperation:** A formal agreement for a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) between GK Partners and Gambia Government through the Office of the President (OP) was reached, ***with the Secretary-General and Head of the Civil Service being the contact person and facilitator of liaisons with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).***
- II. **Government Policy:** As part of his maiden participation at the UN General Assembly, the newly elected President of The Gambia attended a Gambian Diaspora Town Hall Meeting on 23 September 2017, at the Harriet Tubman Learning Center, New York. The Revd Jesse Jackson was one of the guests. ***MSDG facilitated the production of the Presidential Diaspora Policy speech, which set out the elements of the government's diaspora strategy, as informed by the objectives and activities of the MSDG project.***
- III. **Diaspora Directorate:** The Government of ***The Gambia made a commitment to create a Gambia Diaspora Directorate (GDD) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad (MOFA).*** An allocation of a nominal sum of one million Gambian Dalasis (US\$25,000) was made in the 2018 Budget, with the expectation that full costs will be taken up by the government by 2022.



President Adama Barrow joined by Rev. Jesse Jackson and Cabinet Ministers in New York, 23 Sep 2017

- IV. **Empirical Study:** MSDG undertook ***ground-breaking and foundational primary and secondary research on Gambian Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD)***, including: online survey of over 200 Gambians in the diaspora; face-to-face consultations with irregular migrants in Italy; semi-structured interviews with 30 key Gambian diaspora experts, activists and organisers with diverse socioeconomic profiles, based in different parts of the world; paper survey of over 70 Gambia-based stakeholders; face-to-face consultations with over 200 irregular migrant returnees from Libya and Niger; consultations with over 350 officials and stakeholders in Gambia.

Apart from speeches and briefing notes for ministers and senior government officials, MSDG publishes resources relating to Gambian Migration Diaspora and Development (MDD), including Briefing Papers (BPs), Occasional Papers (OPs) and Resource Papers (RP).

<http://gambiandiaspora.net/resources-publications/>

- V. **Diaspora Strategy:** Informed by diaspora research and consultations, MSDG produced the first ever Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS), which was fully incorporated in the Gambia National Development Plan (2018-21, pages 112-119 and 236-239). ***The NDP recognised the diaspora as one of the seven ‘critical enablers’ of Gambian development and the GDS formulated 14 programme commitments.***

In his introduction of the Gambia National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2021), the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs stated:

“My particular thanks go to the members of all the thirteen (13) Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) who worked diligently over many months to prepare the plan, as well as the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG/GKP) for its contribution”

<http://gambiandiaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Gambia-National-Development-Plan-NDP-2018-21.pdf>

- VI. **Online and Media Engagement:** MSDG initiated a core programme of five thematic webinars which for the first time in Gambia’s history, brought together ministers, senior government officials, diaspora development practitioners and civil society activists on the same social media platforms, discussing substantive matters of government and development policy and practice. ***This helped to open the door for public sector officials to participate in social and mass media dialogues and open exchanges with citizens, activists and independent experts.*** The inaugural webinars were as follows:

✓ **Optimising Actual, Virtual and Circular Diaspora Contributions**

Saturday, 11 November 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm GMT

(Introductory webinar with Gambian diaspora experts and activists)

✓ **Enhancing the Role of Commercial and Social Enterprises**

Saturday, 11 November 2017 @ 9:00 pm - 11:30 pm GMT

(In partnership with Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency [GIEPA]; Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Diaspora entrepreneurs)

✓ **Enhancing the Role of Alumni, Hometown and Civil Society Organisations**

Saturday, 18 November 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm GMT

(In partnership with Gambia Department of Community Development; Diaspora organisations; diaspora youth activists)

✓ **Facilitating Diaspora Participation in Gambian Policy and Elections**

Saturday, 25 November 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm GMT
(With the Minister of Justice [also serving as Acting Minister of Interior];
Manager from the Gambia National Assembly)

✓ **Addressing the Practical Problems Faced by the Diaspora
(Ports and Customs Clearance)**

Saturday, 9 December 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm GMT
(With the Minister of Communication and Information Infrastructure; Directors from Gambia
Ports Authority [GPA], Commissioner from the Gambia Revenue Authority [GRA], and
Executive of the Gambia Shipping and Customs Clearance Agents [GSCCA])



Public officials joined the Minister of Justice for one of the diaspora engagement webinars, 25 Nov 2017

- VII. **Eighth Region of The Gambia:** The president launched Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) on 13 January 2018 as an annual policy and development consultative event between the diaspora, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, NGOs and CSOs. The theme was 'Attaining Progress in the New Gambia' and it was attended by 400 delegates. **At SNF1, the president formally declared the diaspora as the Eighth Region of The Gambia, as set out in the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) and National Development Plan (NDP).**
- VIII. **Professional Training:** MSDG delivered professional executive training for 80 senior government officials, and business and civil society leaders on 'Optimising Actual, Virtual and Circular Diaspora Return' and 'Operational Excellence (OpEx) and the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals'. The ground-breaking training was formally opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, together with the UN Resident Coordinator, the Secretary to the Cabinet and Permanent Secretary of the Personnel Management Office (PMO).



*UN Resident Coordinator joined the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet Secretary and Permanent Secretaries
Opening Ceremony of the MSDG Executive Training for Senior Officials, Kairaba Beach Hotel, 17 Oct 2017*

- IX. **Diaspora Finance:** By 2017, formal and informal diaspora remittances already accounted for over a third of The Gambia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Consequently, **MSDG initiated a Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR) programme in partnership with the Central Bank of the Gambia (CBG) and the Ministry of Finance**, attended by commercial banks, Money Service Businesses (MSBs), technical experts and other stakeholders. The first roundtable was on 'Reducing the Cost of Remittances', to three percent (3%) or lower, in line with United Nations 'SDG target 10.7c'.

- X. **Global and Bilateral Engagement:** MSDG provided **technical support for The Gambia's engagement in global and bilateral migration and development policy processes**, including advice and guidance to IOM Gambia and the Ministry of Interior (MOI) on a Gambia Migration Policy, and facilitation of The Gambia's participation in consultations and Stocktaking Meeting of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Mexico in November 2017. **MSDG also provided regular advice and guidance to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on a range of issues** including: post-dictatorship foreign policy; engagement with the Rabat Process and other migration frameworks; bilateral cooperation with Switzerland, Germany and Italy; piloting of the Gambia House model of diaspora diplomacy in Norway; framework for appointing Gambian Honorary Consuls; and Cabinet Paper for the design of the Gambia Diaspora Directorate (GDD).



The Gambian delegation played a prominent role at the GCM Stocktaking Meeting Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 2-6 Dec 2017



The Gambian Minister of Interior delivered a keynote address at the Tenth Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD10) as part of Eleventh GFMD Summit, Marrakesh, Morocco, 8 Dec 2018

1.3 MSDG1 Post-Launch Activities (18 Months from Mar 2018 to Sep 2019)

GK Partners financed the main MSDG project and organisational development activities between March 2018 and September 2019, with the Swiss Government (SDC) providing co-finance for the Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2), Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR2) and related expenses. The Gambia Government provided support in-kind in the form of local transportation and meeting space relating to SNF2 and DFTR2. ***The work in the 18-months period resulted in activities, outputs, outcomes and achievements related to strategic engagements, bilateral relations and development of operational facilities*** as summarised below.

- I. **GCM Negotiations:** MSDG provided ***technical support to the Gambia Government during the Inter-Governmental Negotiations for a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)***, including: drafting statements during the second and final rounds of negotiations (Mar & Jul 2018); briefing the President in preparation for his address of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 25 Sep 2018; participation in GFMD and GCM sessions in Marrakech (Dec 2018); facilitating for the Minister of Interior to deliver the keynote address at the Tenth Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD10) in Marrakech on 8 Dec 2018.
- II. **Strategy Pocketbook:** MSDG designed and produced a ***pocketbook version of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS), and 2,000 copies were printed and distributed*** in Gambia and at embassies and missions in the UK, USA, Europe and Africa, with an electronic version uploaded on the MSDG website and shared on social media.
- III. **UK Presidential Meeting:** MSDG convened and funded the UK Presidential Diaspora Meeting in partnership with The Gambia High Commission at the Royal Institution on 20 Apr 2018 as part of Gambia's readmission and participation in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). ***The GDS pocketbook was published in the UK*** and the President delivered the keynote address. Attendees included cabinet ministers, representatives of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and 500 members of the Gambian diaspora.



- IV. **Understanding Diaspora Elections:** Building on discussions with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) about diaspora voting, **MSDG facilitated and co-funded participation of the IEC Chairman and the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Regions and Local Government in a West African 'Peer to Peer Exchange on Diaspora Representation'**. The exchange was held in Senegal (24-27 Apr 2018) and included a private briefing with the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs, and interaction with the diaspora parliamentarians elected to the Senegalese National Assembly on 30 July 2017.



*IEC Chairman with the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs
Diaspora Parliamentarians Meeting, Dakar, 24 Apr 2018*

- V. **Swiss-Gambia Bilateral Relations:** To promote structured bilateral relations, **MSDG facilitated and co-financed the first Swiss-Gambia Migration and Development Dialogue (9-11 May 2018)** including: preparatory meeting with senior Gambia Government officials; consultative Swiss-Gambia Dialogue attended by two Ambassadors of the Swiss Confederation, five Permanent Secretaries of the Gambian Government, Director-General, Gambia Immigration Department, and other officials from both governments; courtesy calls on Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Interior. The bilateral meeting was followed up with a draft migration agreement and a framework for support on migration management.



The Swiss ambassador to The Gambia presented Letters of Credence in December 2017



Delegates of Swiss and Gambian governments and MSDG staff at Kairaba Beach Hotel, 10 May 2018

VI. NDP Donor Conference: MSDG provided technical support regarding the Gambia Donor Conference to fund the National Development Plan (NDP) through informal advice to ministers. *The MSDG directors participated in the different sessions of the Conference and Business Forum (22-23 May 2018), and in the related 'High Level Conference on Jobs and Growth in West Africa' (7 June 2018).*

VII. European Development Days: To strengthen EU-Gambia relations especially on matters of socio-economic development, *MSDG facilitated and co-funded Gambia's high-level engagement in European Development Days (EDD)*, including the participation of the Gambian Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), as High Level Auditoria speaker on two sessions, namely: 'Raising Women's Participation in Decision-Making', and 'Towards Safer Work and Migration for Women' (5-6 June 2018), co-organised by the European Commission, Swiss Government, IOM, UN Women, ILO, ADEPT and MFA.



Gambian Minister of Trade joined the EU Commission Vice President and other leaders Keynote speaker at two High Level Auditoria, European Development Days (EDD), 5-6 Jun 2018

VIII. Diaspora Diplomacy: To advance diaspora-related development, *MSDG provided technical support for the initial design of a Gambian diaspora diplomacy framework, and undertook other activities* including: support to Gambia House (Norway) in organising the First Nordic Gambian Diaspora Investment Forum (7 Oct 2018) with the Vice President of The Gambia and the Minister of Trade as keynote speakers; MSDG team in the UK attended the Reception of HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at St. James's Palace on 24 Oct 2018, prior to their official visit to The Gambia on 31 Oct 2018; technical meetings on appointment of Gambian Honorary Consuls and related matters with the Gambian Ambassador to the USA and the UN Permanent Representative, during the UN General Assembly (24-27 Sep 2019).



Gambians, including the MSDG team attended a reception hosted by Prince Charles, St James's Palace, 24 Oct 2018

- IX. SNF and DFTR:** The Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2) on 12 January 2019 and the Second Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtable (DFTR2) on 6 March 2019 **were organised to establish them as annual policy and expert forums**. SNF2 was on the theme of 'Improving Implementation, Delivery and Impact', presided over by the Vice President. There were 550 delegates (65% men, 35% women, 20% young people under 35 years); with 45 speakers, moderators and rapporteurs (67% men, 33% women, 9% young people). DFTR2 discussed both remittances and Diaspora Bonds, with the participation of the Minister of Finance, directors of the Central Bank of The Gambia, the IMF Country Representative, and an IMF monitoring team from Washington. There were 47 participants (64% men, 36% women, 9% young/early stage professionals). In July 2019, MSDG published a Briefing Paper on 'Snapshot of Remittance Flows to Gambia 2010-2019'.



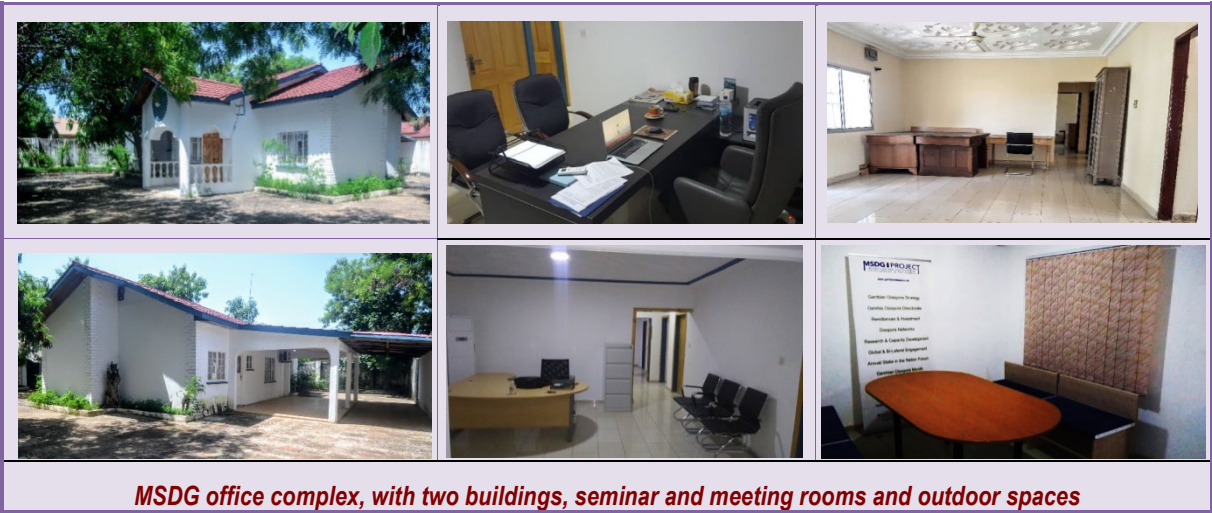
CEOs and Directors financial institutions participating in DFTR2, National Assembly Auditorium, 6 Mar 2019

- X. Constitutional Review:** One of the workshops at SNF2 was dedicated to the Constitutional Review Commission, with the CRC Chairman as a panellist. **MSDG co-financed diaspora consultations organised by Gambia House (Norway) in partnership with a network of online radio stations, to undertake a full review of the new draft Constitution**. MSDG later participated in the diaspora consultation in London on 13 December 2019, attended by CRC Chairman and three Commissioners; hosted a workshop at SNF3 on 18 January 2020, and submitted written representations on 21 January 2020.
- XI. Observation of Diaspora Voting:** The MSDG directors **observed diaspora voting and ballot counting relating to the Senegalese presidential elections in Kanifing (Gambia) and London (UK)**. Interviews were held with the Returning Officers, party representatives, embassy staff and a sample of diaspora voters. The voting materials were examined, and queries noted about delays and non-delivery of voter's card, and voters who live in London being designated to polling stations outside London. In July 2020, MSDG also published a Briefing Paper on 'Context for Gambian diaspora Voting'.



MSDG observed the Senegalese diaspora voting at Presidential elections in London, 24 Feb 2019

XII. Programme Development: For programme and organisational development purposes, *the operations of the MSDG project were moved to a dedicated office complex in the Brusubi area in March 2019.* GKP (Global) was registered as a company in The Gambia in May 2019, followed by the opening of new bank accounts and registration with tax authorities. Work of project implementation, development and partnerships continued, including engagement with diaspora, government, bilateral and multilateral partners in diverse countries such as Gambia, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and the United States.



1.4 Co-Finance of MSDG1 (25 Months from Aug 2017 to Sep 2019)

Project Timelines	Funding of MSDG1 (Aug 2017 to Sep 2019)				Total Funding
	GK Partners Cash & In-kind	Swiss Govt Cash Funding	Gambia Govt In-kind Only	Others In-kind	
Aug 2017 to Feb 2018	£35,470	£86,830	£12,700	£0	£135,000
Mar to Dec 2018	£77,000	£0	£4,000	£3,000	£84,000
Jan to Sep 2019	£46,016	£68,100	£4,840	£5,215	£124,171
Total Funding	£158,486	£154,930	£21,540	£8,215	£343,171
Euro Equivalent	€185,630	€181,460	€25,230	€9,620	€401,940
Funding Percentage	46.2%	45.1%	6.3%	2.4%	100%

Summary of MSDG1 Co-Finance (25 months from Aug 2017 to Sep 2019)

- The Government of Switzerland provided funding through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). For the two rounds of SDC co-finance, advance payments were made with the rest of the funding disbursed after the end of the project. As such, **GK Partners provided both co-finance of €185,630, and cash-flow pre-finance of about €75,000.**
- GK Partners also **invested a further €120,000 on properties in The Gambia to set up an office complex**, opened in March 2019, dedicated to the MSDG project.

2. MSDG2: Implementing the Gambian Diaspora Strategy

After a long period of consultation between GK Partners (GKP), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and other strategic partners, a full project plan was developed for the second phase of the MSDG project. **MSDG2 focussed on the initial implementation of key elements of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS)**. The project plan also addressed operational structures, systems and processes, and general organisational development of GK Partners in The Gambia.

The MSDG2 project plan was completed in December 2019 and the log-frame, budget and implementation schedule were updated between July and September 2019, after feedback from SDC. **The co-finance contract between SDC and GKP (Contract No.: 81062004) was initially for a 15-month project from 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2020**. The project cost was €1,047,665, with SDC providing €609,545 (58%) and GKP mobilising €438,120 (42%).

2.1 MSDG2 and COVID19 Pandemic Disruptions and Response

Four months after the start of the MSDG2 project, the COVID19 pandemic started. By the end of the second quarter on 31 March 2020, out of the 54 distinct MSDG2 activities, 8 had been completed, 32 had started or were partly-completed, and 14 had not started. **As the pandemic deepened and the lockdowns intensified in The Gambia and internationally, it became clear that some of the project activities were no longer feasible**, and that it will take longer to complete the delivery of the revised project activities.

GKP flagged up the pandemic related challenges with SDC. This was followed up in the third quarter, with a formal proposal for a six-month No-Cost Extension (NCE), and to cancel the unfeasible activities and adjust some of the outstanding activities. **The proposed NCE and activity changes were subsequently approved**, and the project was rescheduled to run for 21 months from 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2021. **GKP increased its co-finance contribution and the revised MSDG2 project budget was set at €1,285,887, with SDC providing €609,545 (47%) and GKP mobilising €676,342 (53%). About 15% of the SDC funds were disbursed as cash grants to diaspora and other partners.**

There were 15 project activities that became unfeasible due to the COVID19 pandemic. Of these 15 activities, 11 required close coordination with the government, namely 7 training, 3 municipal and 1 inter-ministerial activity. The pandemic created unprecedented emergencies and urgencies such that it was not surprising that priorities, attention, effort and resources of the Gambian government were devoted to the pandemic emergency situation. The other 4 unfeasible activities related to 2 cultural events, and 2 sets of publication materials.



Handover of 1.6 million face masks by diaspora organisation to the Ministry of Health, Kotu, 25 Jan 2021

2.2 Summary of MSDG2 Achievements and Impact

The main achievements and impacts of the MSDG2 project are summarised below.

- I. **Contract Delivery:** At the end of the sixth quarter of the project (31 March 2021), 33 of the 39 MSDG2 activities had been completed, and the remaining 6 were nearing completion. Due to the pandemic, the project has undergone ongoing monitoring and review. ***The reviews informed necessary project changes, highlighted new opportunities, and helped shape the design and structuring of activities for the proposed MSDG3 project*** (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024). In the last quarter of the project, activities are being wrapped up and arrangements made for the full external evaluation. In addition to the 6 quarterly project reports, a final report will be produced at the end of the seventh quarter.
- II. **Supplementary Outputs:** In order to make use of the work already done under the unfeasible activities, and to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic, the MSDG2 project identified and delivered supplementary outputs relating to: organising an online Fourth Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF4) and online cultural events; convening three extra online Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtables (DFTR); undertaking work on legislative and constitutional amendments; doubling Gambian Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS) deployments from five to ten development practitioners. ***The effect of these supplementary activities was not only to mitigate the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic, but also to capitalise on the unforeseen opportunities that arose out of this global crisis.***
- III. **GDTS and Enhanced Diaspora Input:** MSDG2 piloted the 'Gambia Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS)' scheme to stimulate and facilitate: Diaspora Skills-Matching; Collaborations and Partnerships; Diaspora Leverage; Long Term Engagement; and the Benefits of Brain-Gain. ***The scheme was so effective as a mechanism for leveraging development interventions that MSDG doubled the number of GDTS Practice Fellowship awards.*** The Fellows comprised five women and five men: 2 from UK; 2 from USA; 2 from Norway; 1 from Nigeria; and 3 returnees to The Gambia. Two of the awards were linked to institutional partnerships, namely for the creation of a Scholarship Endowment Fund for the University of The Gambia Students Union, and for setting up videoconferencing and online TV facilities at the National Assembly.
- IV. **GDTS and COVID19 Interventions:** Three of the GDTS awards were health related initiatives, namely: setting up of a Gambia Maternal Blood Bank, community testing and counselling on chronic diseases, and donation of 1.6 million face masks, being by far the largest consignment to The Gambia. Two other interventions created facilities to introduce and enhance e-learning; another two focussed on job creation and responsible entrepreneurship; and one expanded online access to laws and regulations of The Gambia, including pandemic related regulations and orders. ***All the GDTS assignments increased the quality of the enabling services provided by partners in The Gambia, and the quantity of direct and indirect beneficiaries.***

***Total GDTS grants of €74,890 was leveraged
to generate a further
€710,280 in cash and in kind,
for various development initiatives in The Gambia***

Gambia Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS): Projects Undertaken by GDTS Practice Fellows

GDTS1: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Ida Bass Kidney Foundation (UK/Gambia)
Kidney and Healthcare Support During COVID19



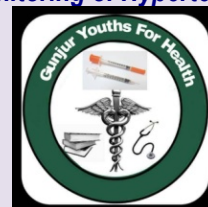
GDTS2: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Join Hands 2 Save Babies (UK/Gambia)
Creation of a Gambia Maternal Blood Bank



GDTS3: Awarded D335,000 by MSDG
GHS86 Sixth Form Foundation (Nigeria/Gambia)
Creation of New School IT Suite



GDTS4: Awarded D300,000 by MSDG
Gunjur Youths for Health (Saudi Arabia/Gambia)
Community Monitoring of Hypertension & Diabetes



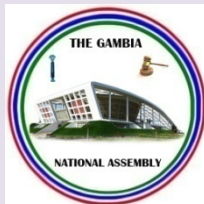
GDTS5: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Law Hub Gambia (USA/Gambia)
Online Access to Legal Information



GDTS6: Awarded D300,000 by MSDG
Jobs Consulting (Norway/Gambia)
Youth Career & Employability Guidance & Services



GDTS7: Awarded D1,000,000 by MSDG
National Assembly (Institutional GDTS Award)
Parliamentary Videoconferencing & Online TV



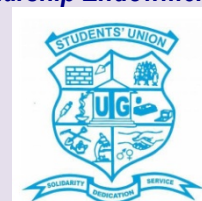
GDTS8: Awarded D300,000 by MSDG
Center for Responsible Business (UK/Gambia)
Ethical & Responsible Business Plan Competition



GDTS9: Awarded D300,000 by MSDG
Starfish International (USA/Gambia)
Youth Digital Literacy & Capacity Development



GDTS10: Awarded D1,100,000 by MSDG
UTG Students Union (Institutional GDTS Award)
Scholarship Endowment Fund



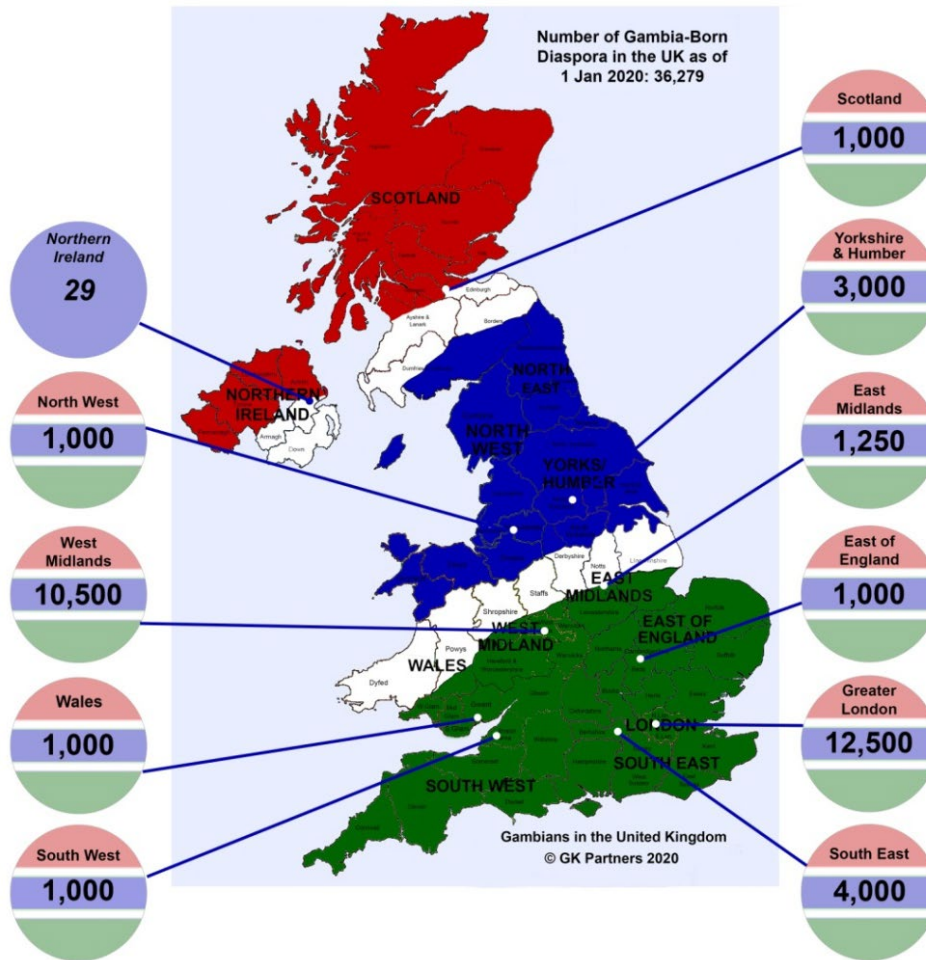
- V. **Government Cooperation:** The Gambia Government through the Office of the President and the Secretary-General and Head of the Civil Service (SG) renewed and maintained their cooperation and support of MSDG as a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Project. They co-convened formal meetings, identified government Focal Persons, and provided in-kind support by providing a project vehicle. **Office of the President and the Secretary General served as positive facilitators, easing access to the different public sector institutions.** Although the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) was already part of the National Development Plan (NDP), the leaders of the Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs) and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) discussed and validated it as a practical signal of their understanding, support and championship of the activities and targets. The State House issued a press release, stating that:

“The MSDG project is part of the NDP, and many of the activities within it are part of the flagship programme.....Besides the creation of a Diaspora Directorate at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there has been some pronouncements at both policy levels and non-state actors to realising the set objectives of the MSDG. Now it is thought prudent to set up focal points for this programme across all government sectors”.

State House, Banjul, 8 January 2020

<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/govt-diaspora-agree-to-advance-gambias-development>

- VI. **Diaspora Populations and Profiles:** All the data available about the Gambian diaspora population is based on secondary sources of varying degrees of accuracy. **MSDG2 initiated and undertook pioneering work on estimating diaspora populations, using the United Kingdom as a case study. It produced the first-ever scientific estimation of the Gambian diaspora population in the UK, categorised into age-groups, gender and geographic location.** This study included: establishing new methodology informed by provisions of the Global compact for Migration (GCM); comprehensive study of data from National Statistical authorities; analysis of other secondary data; and conduct of primary research (partly in collaboration with IOM UK). In May 2020, the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimated the number of first-generation Gambians in the UK as 20,000. The MSDG study puts it at 32,279, comprising 28,720 settled migrants, 6,133 settling in the UK as family members of Gambians with European Economic Area (EEA) settled status, and 1,426 irregular migrants. ONS does not give an estimate of second-generation Gambians, but the MSDG study puts it at 31,423. **The study identified the top 10 cities of residence, with population estimates. This ground-breaking study provides a universal template for estimating and profiling diaspora populations in general,** and as such, the report will be published globally.
- VII. **Understanding GDDOs:** Based on: structural analysis of 40 organisations; review and analysis of government regulatory bodies such as UK Charity Commission; review of diaspora group websites and media stories; interviews with 20 people who run diaspora organisations, **MSDG developed the first ever typology of Gambian Diaspora Development Organisations (GDDOs), to serve as a framework for effective engagement, collaboration and partnerships.** Most, if not all GDDOs fall under one of five types, namely: Community Organisations (CO); Home Town Associations (HTA); Faith Groups (FG); Alumni and Professional Groups (APG); and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO). In addition to structured organisations, there are individual Development Activists (DA), operating as Project-Sponsors (PS), Crowd-Fundraisers (CF) and Religious Leaders (RL). The initial database of GDDOs has been compiled for UK, USA, Italy, Germany and Spain.

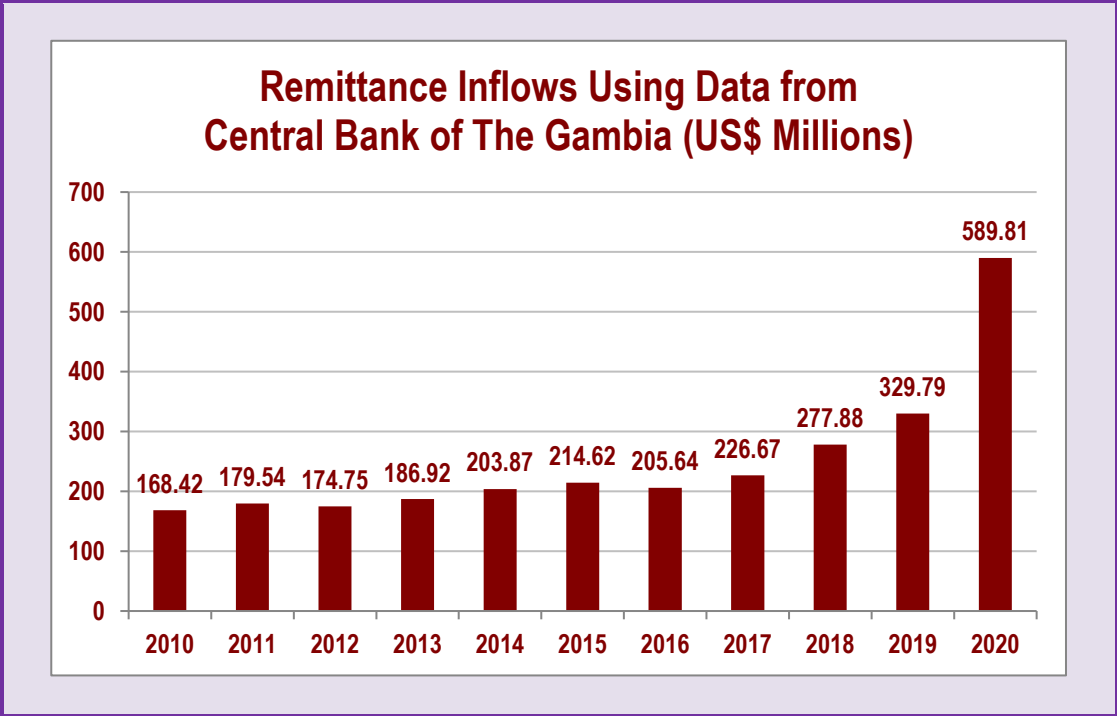


© GK Partners (2020): City Map of the 32,279 Gambia-Born Diasporans in the United Kingdom

VIII. **DFTR and Economic Policy:** MSDG, Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) and Ministry of Finance continue to co-convene the Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtables (DFTR). With the onset of the COVID19 pandemic and its effects on diaspora remittances and the national economy, MSDG re-oriented DFTR as a more regular forum of experts rather than an annual event. ***DFTR enhances the technical knowledge and analytical understanding of policy and decision makers, thereby improving national economic development.*** Today, DFTR is one of very few regular technical forums on finance in The Gambia, that brings together experts from the Central Bank, financial and development institutions and international bodies such as IMF and World Bank.

Diaspora Finance Technical Roundtables (DFTR)		
Event	Topic	Date
DFTR1	Reducing the Cost of Remittances in Line with the SDGs	11 Jan 2018
DFTR2a	Remittances: Reducing Costs & Improving Impact	6 Mar 2019
DFTR2b	Diaspora Bonds: Framework for Issuance	6 Mar 2019
DFTR3a	Remittances: Targeting Expensive Corridors & Intl. Data Compliance	9 Jan 2020
DFTR3b	Diaspora Bonds: Linkages to Diaspora Bank Accounts & Retail Services	9 Jan 2020
DFTR4	Remittances: Action Points for Data Monitoring, Analysis & Cost Reduction	9 Sep 2020
DFTR5	Reporting of Gambian Remittance Data: 2020 and Beyond	3 Feb 2021
DFTR6	Next Steps for Gambian Diaspora Bonds	25 Mar 2021

IX. Remittance Inflow Data: Through collaboration between MSDG and the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG), the volume of annual remittance inflows to The Gambia through formal means is tallied, analysed and announced by the CBG Governor at the Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) every January. *The MSDG-CBG collaboration on remittance data monitoring has led to The Gambia being able to publish interim annual inflows within one week of the end of the year, with verified data available in the first four weeks of the New Year.* This is a major improvement in regulatory practice and policy development. At SNF3 on 18 January 2020, CBG announced the interim 2019 remittance inflows as \$318.5 million (verified sum being \$329.79 million). This was a 15% increase on the 2018 inflows of \$277.8 million. *At the online SNF4 on 9 January 2021, CBG announced the interim 2020 remittance inflows as a staggering \$578.5 million (verified sum being \$589.81 million). This is equivalent to 48% of The Gambia’s annual GDP. The 78% increase in 2020, the year of the COVID19 pandemic indicates remarkable resilience of Gambian diaspora financial contributions.* MSDG has produced a technical note analysing the factors behind remittance resilience in The Gambia, whilst highlighting policy implications and opportunities.



© GKP (2021): Remittance Inflows to The Gambia 2010-2020 (using data from Central Bank of The Gambia)

X. Global Recognition of CBG: MSDG provided the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) with guidelines in the form of action points to ensure compliance with IMF’s Balance of Payment Manual (BPM6). This will help in ensuring that international organisations use CBG data rather than other sources. The action points were discussed at DFTR4. The unprecedented high levels of remittances in 2020 provided the opportunity to raise the credibility and profile of CBG globally. MSDG invited the country representatives of IMF and World Bank to DFTR5, together with the World Bank Lead Economist on Remittances and the KNOMAD co-chair of the Diaspora Working Group. *Global media organisations such as Bloomberg are beginning to report CBG remittance data, rather than solely using adjusted World Bank and IMF data¹.*

¹ See Bloomberg report on 4 February 2021, a day after DFTR5, based on briefing from IMF Gambia office: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-04/gambia-s-record-remittances-make-up-for-tourism-losses-imf-says>

- XI. Global Migration Engagements:** MSDG liaised with the Gambian Mission to the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG) to design and implement a practical framework for Gambian engagement in global and regional migration processes. For 2019/20, ***The Gambia was engaged in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), for the first time it took an active role in the Friends of the Forum (FoF), and served as co-chair of one of the GFMD Summit government roundtables.*** For GFMD 2020/21, The Gambia had the biggest delegation (10 delegates) of any country attending the online Breakout Sessions of the African Regional Consultative Process (RCP) on 19 May 2020. Together with El Salvador, The Gambia was the co-chair of GFMD government roundtable on 'Fostering Partnerships to Realise Migration-Related Goals', and participated as speaker and panellist in side events and thematic workshops. ***The Gambia has also signed up to the UN Network on Migration which coordinates work relating to the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), and is now a co-sponsor of the Swiss-UK Call for Action on Remittances.*** For the first time, The Gambia is engaged, contributing and taking leadership roles on multilateral policy frameworks on migration and development.
- XII. Diaspora Diplomacy:** Gambia House (Norway) was set up as a model of how The Gambia can enhance diaspora diplomacy, especially in countries where there are no embassies or missions. MSDG2 strengthened GHN, particularly regarding: development and private diplomacy through engagement with potential foreign partners; information provision, consultation and engagement with diaspora communities; and expansion of operational activities. ***Gambia House (Norway) coordinates series of simulcasts on diaspora civic and development issues, in partnership with Gambian online radio, TV and media platforms. The simulcasts entail tens of hours of discussions with institutional leaders, diaspora experts, civil society activists and others.*** The sessions have featured consultations led by the Chairman and Commissioners of the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), and discussions on diaspora voting and representation. Through the GDTS scheme and informal engagements, ***MSDG supports Gambian individuals and organisations to enhance their standing and influence in their countries of residence, to leverage greater support and resources for development in The Gambia.***
- XIII. IEC and Diaspora Voting:** MSDG and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) co-convened a technical workshop on the 'Practicalities of Diaspora Voting' on 14 January 2020, at Election House, with the participation of IEC Chairman, a second Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer and 9 senior and supervisory officials. The interactive workshop entailed technical presentation, questions and discussions and agreed action points covering all aspects of rationale, framework and options for diaspora voting and representation. At the end of the session, the leadership of IEC were satisfied with the technical feasibility of out-of-country diaspora voting. With additional post-workshop briefing, ***the IEC Chairman made a public statement at the opening plenary session of SNF3 on 18 January 2020, declaring that the Gambian diaspora will vote at the December 2021 presidential elections; this was followed up in July 2020 by IEC announcement that diaspora voter registration will be held in July 2021.*** To prepare for diaspora voting, in October 2020, MSDG published a Briefing Paper on 'Overview of the Gambian Diaspora Population'. At the opening plenary session of SNF4 on 9 January 2021, the IEC Chairman repeated the assurance that Gambian diaspora voter registration will begin in July 2021. On 14 April 2021, MSDG and IEC co-convened another 'Technical Workshop on Diaspora Voting Logistics'. This was followed up in May 2021 with the publication of another Briefing Paper on 'Gambian Diaspora Constituencies and Estimates of Diaspora Populations'.



- XIV. Contrary Statement by IEC:** To the surprise of the MSDG project and the diaspora community, and contrary to previous public statements and assurances as recent as 1 May 2021, at a press conference on 28 May 2021, the IEC Chairman stated that it will not be feasible for the diaspora to be registered to vote in the Presidential elections of 4 December 2021. The MSDG project communicated with the IEC about its disagreement with this assessment. **However, MSDG continues its technical cooperation with the IEC on the logistics and operations of diaspora voter registration and voting**, and urges the IEC and all stakeholders to take urgent and intensified actions to actualise diaspora voter voting in 2021.
- XV. Legislative Amendments:** Although the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia allows for diaspora voting, logistical provisions are needed to actualise the enfranchisement of the diaspora. MSDG undertook a full and thorough review of the Elections Bill 2020 and held consultations with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). In October 2020, MSDG made formal submissions to the MoJ for changes to the Elections Bill, 2020 in relation to diaspora voting, providing new wording and rationale for changes to 23 clauses in the Bill. Of these proposals, 19 were fully incorporated in the Elections Bill, and 3 were partly incorporated. **MSDG facilitates and coordinates direct diaspora engagement with National Assembly Members (NAMs) as the Elections Bill 2020 is debated at the National Assembly between April and July 2021.** The facilitation included technical briefings for NAMs and streaming of parliamentary proceedings for the diaspora. **MSDG gave evidence to various sittings of parliamentary committees, and coordinated other diaspora presentations.**
- XVI. Constitutional Amendments:** The Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) published the Draft Constitution and submitted it to the President on 30 March 2020. It was a disappointment that the draft did not include recommendations submitted by MSDG for provisions relating to the diaspora to be spelt out explicitly. However, the Draft Constitution was rejected by the National Assembly on 22 September 2020. The Constitution Promulgation Bill needed 42 National Assembly Member (NAM) votes in order to proceed from Second Reading to Committee stage. Of the 58 NAMs, 31 voted in favour, 23 against, 3 NAMs were absent, and 1 seat was vacant due to the death of the sitting NAM. **After the rejection of the Draft Constitution, MSDG has engaged with the Foreign Affairs Standing Committee (FASC) of the National Assembly to sponsor a 'Constitution Amendment Bill (Diaspora Representation), 2021'.**

The draft Constitutional Amendments sponsored by the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Standing Committee provide for the demarcation of five Diaspora Constituencies for the election of diaspora parliamentarians; and the repeal of discriminatory provisions which prohibit Gambians with dual citizenship being elected to the National Assembly or serving as cabinet ministers.



MSDG held briefings and gave evidence to the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Standing Committee on Constitutional Amendments needed to facilitate election of Diaspora parliamentarians (2020/21)



MSDG facilitated diaspora and civil society groups to participate in proceedings and give evidence to the National Assembly Joint Committee that scrutinised the Elections Bill (April/May 2021)

- XVII. SNF3 and Development Policy:** The Third Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF3) was held on 18 January 2020 ***on the theme of ‘Development Practice and Institution Building’, presided over by the Vice President.*** There were 440 delegates (60% men, 40% women, 17% young people under 35 years); with 36 speakers, moderators and rapporteurs (67% men, 33% women, 3% young people). The delegates included: ministers, parliamentarians, regional governors and councillors; senior officials from Ministries, Departments and Agencies; diaspora development practitioners and CEOs from municipalities, NGOs, businesses and other stakeholders; foreign diplomats and international civil servants; religious leaders and media practitioners. The 10 hours of policy dialogue and interaction included formal policy statements from the President, Swiss Ambassador, Diaspora Representative, Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia, and Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission. There was a televised policy discussion and concurrent workshops on: 'Practicalities of Supporting Health and Medical Services'; 'Practicalities of Supporting Education and Skills Development'; 'Practicalities of Diaspora Business and Investment'; and 'Diaspora in the Draft Constitution and in Policy Development'. ***SNF remains the most diverse and largest policy forum in The Gambia.***

The President H.E. Adama Barrow stated that:

"...As it is said, 'the road to hell is paved with good intentions'. Policies are not enough. Operational vigilance is needed for us to deliver practical results that improve and transform the lives of citizens. This is why I am pleased that the theme for the Third Stake in the Nation Forum is 'Development Practice and Institution Building'..... I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Finance have already started technical consultations with GK Partners and the MSDG programme, and we urge all partners to exercise diligence, so that good progress is made in a timely manner. We want to see regulated and well managed local Infrastructure Bonds and Diaspora Bonds to be standard and regular elements in Gambia's financing portfolio. This will mean more self-help, more capital development, and more innovative finance. This will mean Gambian finance for Gambian development".

**SNF3 Presidential Statement, Kairaba Beach Hotel, 18 January 2020
(Delivered by the Vice President)**

View SNF3 Opening Plenary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwAIs2cu_PU

SNF1: 13 January 2018: 'Attaining Progress in the New Gambia'; Workshops on:

1. Human Rights and Access to Justice for All;
2. Information and Communication Technology;
3. Agriculture and Agribusiness;
4. Education and Employment;
5. Health and Medical Services;
6. Infrastructure and Industrial Development

SNF2: 12 January 2019: 'Improving Implementation, Delivery and Impact'; Workshops on:

1. Constitutional Review Consultations;
2. Health and Medical Services;
3. Integrated Rural Development;
4. Sustainable Careers for Young People

SNF3: 18 January 2020: 'Development Practice and Institution Building'; Workshops on:

1. Practicalities of Supporting Health and Medical Services;
2. Practicalities of Supporting Education and Skills Development;
3. Practicalities of Diaspora Business and Investment;
4. Diaspora in the Draft Constitution and in Policy Development

SNF4 (Online): 8 and 9 January 2021: 'Looking Back, Moving Forward'; Workshops on:

1. Recordings of Gambian Lullabies for Diaspora Families;
2. Appreciating and Advancing Gambian Culture in a Changing World;
3. Development Review: Lessons, Actions and Diaspora Input;
4. Gambian Diaspora Voting and Representation: Actions and Logistics



SNF3 plenary and workshop sessions, Kairaba Beach Hotel, 18 Jan 2020

XVIII. Online SNF4: Despite COVID19, the Fourth Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF4) was held as an online event on 8 and 9 January 2021, **on the theme of 'Looking Back, Moving Forward', presided over by the Vice President.** It was live-streamed on several online platforms and the national television station (GRTS), with tens of thousands of views over the two days. There were 36 speakers and moderators (64% men, 36% women), with 18 being Gambians based in the diaspora. The 10 hours of deliberations included formal policy statements from the President, Swiss Ambassador, Diaspora Representative, Governor of the Central Bank of The Gambia, and Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission. The workshops were on: 'Appreciating and Advancing Gambian Culture in a Changing World'; 'Development Review: Lessons, Actions and Diaspora Input'; and 'Gambian Diaspora Voting and Representation: Actions and Logistics'. **Through the online format, SNF4 as the country's largest policy forum was able to reach and engage with thousands of Gambians across the world.**The President stated that:

"Three years ago, in joyful celebration and great anticipation, I inaugurated the First Stake in the Nation Forum...The excitement that 2018 had ushered may have faded, but freedom and democracy remain vibrant in our beloved Gambia. As it is said, "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance". Therefore all Gambians must cherish, preserve and develop the democratic dispensation...through active and constructive dialogue, facilitated by this forum, and other platforms."

SNF4 Presidential Statement, Kairaba Beach Hotel, 9 January 2021

View SNF4: <https://www.facebook.com/MSDGProject/videos/msdg-live-snf4-formal-opening-workshops-on-development-review-diaspora-voting-an/239284104454244/>

	
<p>H.E. Dr. Isatou Touray Vice President of The Gambia</p>	<p>Ms. Elizabeth Sosseh Sisay, Company Director Gambia House Representative</p>
	
<p>Ms. Sona Jobarteh Musician & Founder, Gambia Academy</p>	<p>Dr. Momodou Sallah, Writer & Publisher Academic, De Montfort University</p>

Keynote Speakers at SNF4 included prominent Gambian diaspora experts

Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF)

Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) is mandated as an annual consultative event in the Gambian Diaspora Strategy and the Gambia National Development Plan (NDP)

“SNF will [bring] diaspora groups together to engage with government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as NGOs and CSOs, on a wide range of developmental matters.....to contribute to formal policy, as well as strategic, thematic and sectoral consultations initiated by different government and quasi-government institutions” (page 117, NDP 2018-21)

Plenary Session of the First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1), on Saturday, 13 January 2018



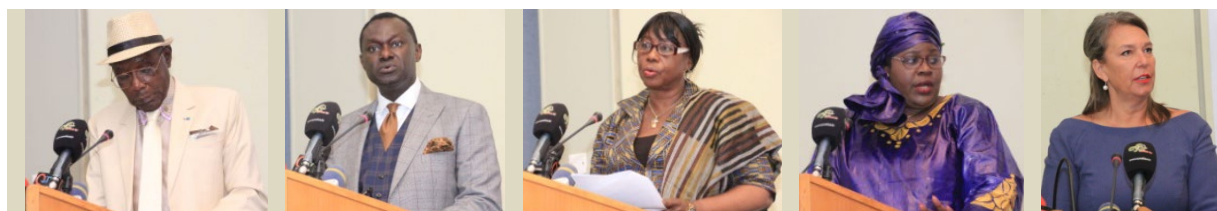
From L to R: Hon. Ousainu A.N.M. Darboe, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Mariam Jack Denton, Speaker of the National Assembly; H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski, Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia; H.E. Fatoumata Jallow Tambajang, Vice President; H.E. President Adama Barrow; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, 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 & Sports

Plenary Session of the Second Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF2), on Saturday, 12 January 2019



From L to R: 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. Mariam 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

Plenary Session of the Third Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF3), on Saturday, 18 January 2020



From L to R: Alh. Alieu Momarr Njai, Chairman, Independent Electoral Commission; Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners & MSDG Project; H.E. Dr Isatou Touray, Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia; Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore, Regional Director, ARTICLE 19 West Africa; H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski; Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia

XIX. Diaspora Cultural Engagement: MSDG collaborated with Yaram Arts for the '2020 Lockdown Online Sene-Gambian Cultural Festival' held on 30 August 2020. The 5-hour event was live-streamed on multiple online platforms, with over 11,000 views by 30 September 2020 on one platform alone. *As part of SNF4 online, a special event was held on 8 January 2021 on 'Appreciating and Advancing Gambian Culture in a Changing World', with leading Gambian academics, and cultural entrepreneurs. Sona Jobarteh, the international award-winning Gambian diaspora musician and Kora virtuoso was a keynote speaker.* It was live-streamed on multiple platforms, attracting about 8,000 views on the 'Kerr Fatou' media platform. *These cultural events are used to enhance the role of diaspora artistes and producers in Gambian cultural development, whilst promoting cultural affinity and engagement amongst the multigenerational Gambian diaspora.* In April 2021, MSDG donated 10 copies of the new book by Gambian poet and writer Dr. Tijan M. Sallah to the Gambia National Library and the UTG Library. The book is entitled 'Saani Baat: Aspects of African Literature and Culture (Senegambian and other African Essays)'

View SNF4 Session on Culture: <https://www.facebook.com/Kerrfatou/videos/418890646087161/>



MSDG donated 10 copies of Dr. Tijan M. Sallah's new book to libraries in The Gambia

XX. Lullabies for Diaspora Families: MSDG and Yaram Arts commissioned research and recording of a selection of traditional Gambian lullabies. A sample of these songs was played by the Gambia Police Band at SNF3 on 18 January 2020. This was followed by *studio recording of a collection of 8 lullabies (15 minutes) by two diaspora singers Amie Cherry and Kumba Kuyateh.* The recording was launched at the online SNF4 on 8 January 2021, and circulated widely amongst the Gambian community through WhatsApp, and on social media platforms. *In February 2021, the Gambia Police Band made a separate recording of a repertoire of traditional Gambian songs.* The lullabies and traditional songs introduce diaspora children to Gambian languages and culture, and help promote cultural and emotional affinity and engagement with Gambia as country of origin and heritage.

<https://www.facebook.com/WhatsOnGambia/videos/mba-nyaling-by-kumba-kuyateh/201226071762876/>

Download Full Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRgFdiaFqlc>

Introduction to the Recordings of Gambian Lullabies

“Traditional Gambian lullabies occupied a central place in our diverse social folklore, transcending the generations. Gambians of a certain age have a nostalgic recollection of the lyrical whimsy of ‘Mba Nyaling Woo’, the melodious yearnings of ‘Bul Joy Sama Neneh’, the rhythmic ditty of ‘Sona Mariama’, or the soothing charm of ‘Ayo Neneh’.

Lullabies have sent many a distressed baby and toddler into the quiet comfort of a restful sleep, cuddled in the warm embrace of a loving parent, grandparent, sibling, relative or communal carer. We note with regret, that in recent times, these cultural and artistic artifacts have gradually faded into the recesses of our collective memory; alas, lost to the present generation of Gambian children. In a world of fast changing globalised culture, it is even more important to hold on to our cultural gems – with pride and delight.

The MSDG project in collaboration with Yaram Arts, have commissioned Gambia’s oldest national musical ensemble, the Gambia Police Band, and notable Gambian diaspora singers, Amie Cherry and Kumba Kuyateh to interpret and record a collection of these traditional lullabies.

So dear listeners and Gambian families, whether you are in Maryland or Mariama Kunda, Slough or Saloum, Sicily or Sinchu, Barcelona or Basse, Berlin or Berending, Dare Salaam or Darsilami, Mother Gambia is calling you! My name is James Jeggan Bahoum, and on behalf of the MSDG Project and Yaram Arts, I invite you to enjoy these timeless musical reminders of the love and fun of Gambian childhood.”



MSDG-Yaram Lullaby Recordings Vol. 1 (15 minutes)

Download Gambian Lullabies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRgFdiaFqlc>



Diaspora Artist & Singer Amie Cherry

1. Mba Nyaling
2. Mba Nyaling
3. Batukujally
4. Suma Neneh
5. Sona Mariama
6. Ayo Neneh
7. Diwo Diwo
8. Bul Joy



Diaspora Artist & Singer Kumba Kuyateh



MSDG staff with the Gambia Police Band at outdoor recording session, Kairaba Beach Hotel, 6 Feb 2021

3. MSDG3: Consolidation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy

As evidenced in the background information provided in this report, the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) has evolved and developed progressively since 2017. In pursuit of the national goal set out in the Gambian Diaspora Strategy to "**enhance the role of the Gambian diaspora in national development**", MSDG's tactical implementation approach includes the following:

- I. **Stakeholder Engagement and Consensus:** Continued sensitisation, consultation and formal and informal dialogue and engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders on the fundamental relevance and major importance of diaspora-related development to The Gambia;
- II. **Foundations for Policy and Practice:** Creation of legal, regulatory, policy and operational structures and frameworks to facilitate expansion and enhancement of programmes, projects, ventures and activities that access and leverage the skills, finances and other resources of the Gambian diaspora;
- III. **Strategic Goals through Diligent Practice:** Delivery of practical, appropriate and beneficial services to diverse individuals and organisations, public, private, civil society and social enterprise entities, serving as enabler and catalyst, towards the achievement of the shared strategic goals;
- IV. **Action Normalisation and Enhancement:** Entrenchment, expansion and enhancement of Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD) operational activities, through reduction of suspicion against the diaspora, and inculcation of the positive and mutually beneficial virtues of MDD at personal, professional, community and national levels;
- V. **Cooperation, Aggregation and Synergy:** Emphasis on complementary and supportive cooperation, with entities, leveraging their specialist expertise and interest to generate best results, which in aggregate, create synergies and lead to positive Gambian development transformation.

The role of the diaspora as a 'critical enabler' of Gambian development is widely recognised and generally accepted and understood. A significant part of the policy and operational foundations for diaspora-based development in The Gambia is now in place through frameworks and schemes such as the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS), National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21), Gambian Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS) and other independent diaspora-led activities. However, **for a stronger foundation, a fully functioning and responsive Gambia Diaspora Directorate (GDD) is much needed**. GDD can help pre-empt, prevent and ameliorate the bureaucratic and operational challenges faced by many diaspora development practitioners.

Despite the progress made since 2017, the field of 'Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD)' is not yet fully normalised and entrenched within the Gambian public sector. The 'work-in-progress' nature of MDD in The Gambia is generally acknowledged. On 9 January 2021, at the Fourth Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF4), **the President stated that as a government ".....we will redouble our efforts to resolve implementation bottlenecks and operational challenges"**. Given the current situation, the third phase of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG3) will focus on 'Consolidation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS)'. Using the GDS as the policy base, **MSDG3 in collaboration with multiple stakeholders will review GDS achievements, commitments and renewal, in line with other exercises linked to the extension and renewal of the NDP (2018-21)**.

3.1 Overall Goal, Specific Objectives and Impact Hypothesis of MSDG3

The goal, objectives and activities of the MSDG3 (2021-24) project represent continuity and expansion of the MSDG2 project (October 2019 to June 2021), which launched the implementation phase of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS). MSDG3 project focuses on the consolidation of the GDS. **The Overall Goal remains the same as the MSDG2 project, but the Specific Objectives and project activities have been modified accordingly to facilitate strategic consolidation** of MSDG as a Technical Cooperation Programme. The MSDG3 project plan outlined below is complemented by appendices including a log-frame (with baseline data), implementation schedule and operational budget.

3.1.1 Overall Goal and Specific Objectives

The Overall Goal of the MSDG3 (2021-24) project is:

"To enhance and expand the role of the Gambian diaspora in national development, as the Eighth Region of the country".

The Specific Objectives (outcomes) of the MSDG3 (2021-24) project are:

- S.O. 1: To facilitate expanded and enhanced diaspora participation in Gambian socioeconomic development policy and practice through structured and institutionalised engagement.
- S.O. 2: To facilitate capacity development of public institutions through consolidation and expansion of a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).



***Initial file of the MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme
Office of the President, Banjul, The Gambia, Aug 2017***

3.1.2 Lessons Learnt and Impact Hypothesis for the MSDG3 Project

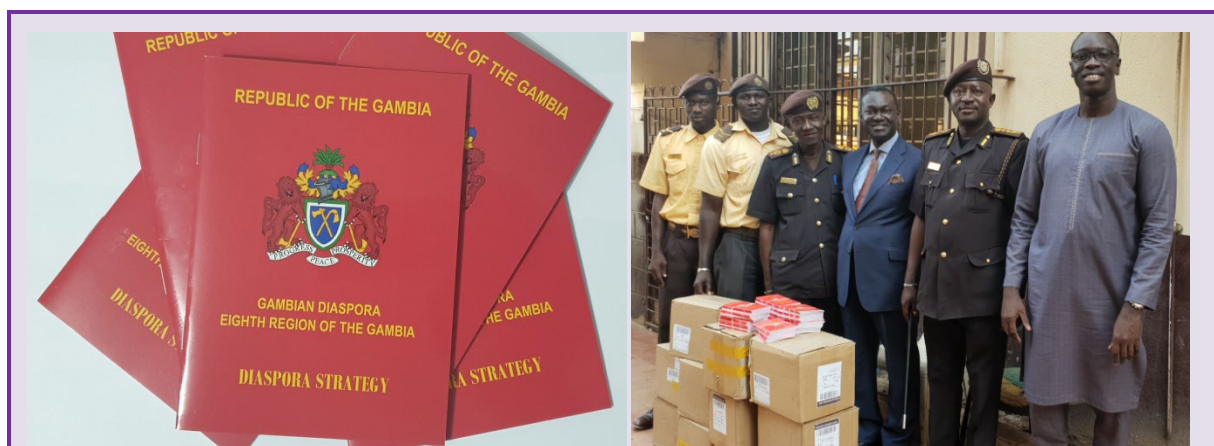
The two decades of dictatorship in The Gambia (1994 to 2016) was characterised, amongst other things by maladministration and public sector dysfunction. ***With the return to a democratic government in 2017, some of the fundamental frameworks for progressive reform were put in place.*** These include the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21) and the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS). ***However, important elements needed for public sector reform and governance transformation set out in the NDP have not been implemented.*** The draft for a new Constitution was rejected in the National Assembly in September 2020 and so the country is still under the 1997 Constitution instituted by the dictatorship. Over four years after the end of dictatorship, new elections legislation has not yet been enacted and the country is still under electoral laws based on a 1996 military decree.

For the purposes of Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD) in The Gambia, the enabling policies are partly in place, but effective and progressive implementation is slowed down and in some cases hindered by the absence of the anticipated comprehensive public sector reform. ***As at January 2021, the Gambia Diaspora Directorate (GDD), which is meant to be instituted on the basis of global best practices, with the capability to implement the progressive pledges and commitments enshrined in the GDS and NDP, was not yet fully functional.***

Furthermore, in the field of general public sector administration, the systems, processes and personnel have not changed much from the dictatorship era. ***There is to an extent, continuity of old practices, approaches and attitudes which undermine diaspora input to national development.*** Based on this background and the specific lessons learnt from the MSDG2 project, the new MSDG3 project seeks to achieve improved results and impact by heeding the following guidelines:

- I. **Cooperative Facilitation:** Encourage government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to adopt the cooperative role played by Office of the President for the MSDG project, whereby these institutions use their good offices to ***act as a positive and enthusiastic facilitator of diaspora development interventions, as opposed to being an officious, restrictive and/or uncooperative gatekeeper.***
- II. **Operational Partnerships:** Build on the success of the pilot scheme of the ***Gambian Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS) which demonstrated the multiple benefits of direct operational partnership between MSDG and diaspora development practitioners*** and organisations including: fundraising and co-finance; project advice and organisational development; coaching, mentoring and brokerage; expansion of the thematic interventions and the diversity of beneficiaries.
- III. **Institutional Cooperation:** Capitalise on the existence of MSDG Focal Persons in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and deepen and strengthen diaspora relations and direct institutional cooperation with individual MDAs, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and other statutory public bodies and institutions, including ***new thematic partners such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Institute.*** This is particularly important as diaspora interventions are diverse in nature and relevant to a wide range of public sector institutions.

- IV. Bespoke Capacity Development:** The success of the transformative capacity development interventions undertaken together with the National Assembly and University of The Gambia, demonstrates the effectiveness of *direct institutional cooperation on specific technical capacity development assignments*. This bespoke rather than general approach is *applicable to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Gambia Diaspora Directorate*, and other MDAs, SOEs and statutory bodies.
- V. High Impact and Transformation:** MSDG3 will seek to consolidate the preparatory work undertaken on a number of critical Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD) issues. Successful delivery on these issues has the potential to create once in a generation high impact and transformation of the Gambian social economy and polity. These *transformative issues include: constitutional and legislative changes for diaspora voting and election of diaspora parliamentarians; issuance of Diaspora Bonds; and reduction of the cost of remittances to 3% or lower* in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- VI. Simplification and Technical Coordination:** Based on the practical experience of MSDG2 in delivering on many of the commitments of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS), *MSDG3 activities are streamlined and simplified*. They are designed to *accentuate MSDG's comparative advantage of technical expertise and operational effectiveness*, as the project consolidates on the development gains attained through all the varied and diverse activities and interventions dating back to 2017.
- VII. Multimedia Campaigns:** The relatively *limited levels of awareness about the content, extent and achievements of the GDS, MSDG project and other diaspora-related activities* in The Gambia *necessitate ongoing stakeholder and public communication in a manner that shares information without raising unrealistic expectations*. Mass and social media campaigns shall reinforce consolidation of GDS implementation, and can inspire and stimulate new forms of diaspora-related projects and partnerships.
- VIII. Collective Delivery Approach:** Beyond MSDG, different organisations operating in Gambia, directly or indirect, knowingly or unknowing implement one or more of the 14 commitments of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS). These include diaspora, development and international organisations. *MSDG3 will support Migration Diaspora and Development related networks* such as Gambia House (Norway) and the National Coordinating Mechanism on Migration, *to help promote a collective approach to delivering the GDS commitments*.



In 2018/19, Immigration Officers at the airport gave copies of the GDS pocketbook to Gambians living abroad

3.1.3 Expected Results of the Specific Objectives (S.O.)

S.O. 1: To facilitate expanded and enhanced diaspora participation in Gambian socioeconomic development policy and practice through structured and institutionalised engagement.

The Expected Results (outputs) for S.O.1 are:

- S.O. 1.1 Diaspora Participation:** Enhanced diaspora participation in national electoral, legislative and consultative processes, and development networks and forums.
- S.O. 1.2 Remittance Costs and Financial Inclusion:** Increased funds received by individuals and households, and enhanced national economic impact through reduction of remittance costs, and increase in the usage of formal transfer channels.
- S.O. 1.3 Investment and Enterprise:** Enhanced job creation through optimised investment in structured and incentivised diaspora investment and enterprise schemes and programmes.

S.O. 2: To facilitate capacity development of public institutions through consolidation and expansion of a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

The Expected Results (outputs) for S.O.2 are:

- S.O. 2.1 Training and Development:** Enhanced capacity on diaspora and sustainable development for officials in public, private and civil society sectors.
- S.O. 2.2 Technical Support:** Enhanced co-working between diaspora and national entities on sustainable development.
- S.O. 2.3 Institutional Corporation:** Enhanced implementation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) through institutional collaborations, cooperation and cooperation.

3.1.4 MSDG3 Three-Year Budget Summary 2021-24

MSDG3 Three-Year Budget (2021-24)		
Expenditure Amount in Euros (€)	Amount in Euros (€)	Percentage (%)
1. Human Resources	€408,600	13%
2. International Travel and Subsistence	€69,930	2%
3. Equipment and Fittings	€79,500	3%
4. Local Project Office	€169,800	5%
5. Technical Support Activities	€1,429,000	44%
6. Technical Cooperation Expertise	€1,061,000	33%
Total Expenditure	€3,217,830	100%
GK Partners and Mobilised Co-Finance (GKP)	€1,713,340	53%
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	€1,504,490	47%
Total Project Financing	€3,217,830	100%

3.2 Activities and Outputs of the MSDG3 Project

Building on the achievements and lessons learnt from MSDG2 (October 2019 to June 2021), the new MSDG3 project (July 2021 to June 2024) focuses on consolidation. The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) as incorporated in the National Development Plan (2018-21) has 14 pledges and commitments. Successful actions by MSDG and other organisations means that some of the GDS commitments are now of lower priority. ***MSDG has also made major gains and built strong partnerships, such that strategic consolidation requires MSDG3 to concentrate on 6 out of the 14 GDS commitments.***

The MSDG3 project activities relate to the following 6 commitments of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy:

- I. Capacity Development on Diaspora-Development
- II. Access to Diaspora Expertise
- III. Diaspora Voting at Presidential and National Assembly Elections
- IV. Reducing the Transaction Cost of Remittances
- V. Diaspora Direct Investment and Diaspora Bonds
- VI. Diaspora Development Fund.

The other 8 GDS commitments are:

- I. Validation and Dissemination of the Gambia Diaspora Strategy
- II. Global Migration Dialogues and Bilateral Engagement
- III. Set up of the Gambia Diaspora Directorate
- IV. Physical and Online Forums for Engagement
- V. Network of Diaspora-Development Organisations
- VI. Diaspora Participation in Municipalities as the Eighth Region
- VII. Ethical Recruitment and Circular Migration
- VIII. Preventing Irregular and Dysfunctional Migration.

3.2.1 Output 1.1: Diaspora Participation

The main MSDG3 project activities on 'Diaspora Participation' are:

- Produce IEC Regulations on Gambian diaspora voting
- Operational support on IEC diaspora voter registration
- Operational support on diaspora voter education
- Technical coordination for Amendments to the 1997 Constitution
- Technical coordination on demarcation of diaspora constituencies
- Operational support to IEC on the election of diaspora National Assembly Members (NAMs)
- Facilitation of videoconferencing for remote participation in NA affairs and proceedings
- Technical cooperation of diaspora engagement in NA Committee affairs and proceedings
- Technical coordination of review, update, renewal and extension of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy
- Organise 3 hybrid (online and in-person annual Stake in the Nation Forums (SNF5, SNF6 & SNF7)
- Facilitate online, social and multimedia campaigns on diaspora-related development
- Facilitate development-themed diaspora cultural engagement.

3.2.2 Output 1.2: Remittance Costs and Financial Inclusion

The main MSDG3 project activities on 'Remittance Costs and Financial Inclusion' are:

- Framework for enhanced credibility of remittance data collection and monitoring
- Coordination on mechanisms for ascertaining actual costs of remittance transfers
- Coordination on mechanisms for ongoing reduction of remittance costs
- Coordination on mechanisms to understand and estimate informal remittance flows
- Coordination on mechanisms to monitor usage of formal and informal remittance funds
- Coordination on mechanisms to increase the usage of formal remittance channels
- Support banks to design and offer remittance-related financial products to 500 remittance receivers
- Design and deliver financial planning skills training for 1,500 remittance senders and receivers.

3.2.3 Output 1.3: Investment and Enterprise

The main MSDG3 project activities on 'Investment and Enterprise' are:

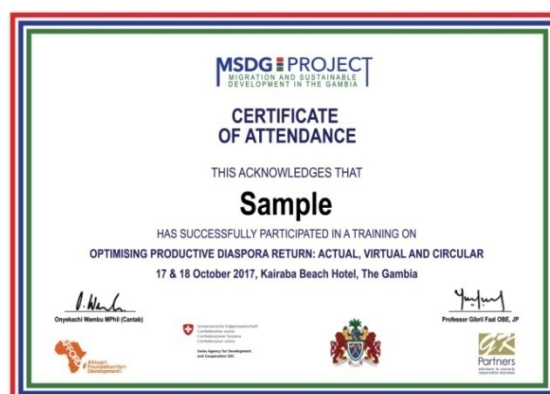
- Produce guidance on regulations for new forms of diaspora investment
- Produce guidance on frameworks for Gambian Capital Markets for diaspora and other investments
- Technical coordination for the issuance of 2 Diaspora Bonds for community facilities (including rural)
- Promote mobilisation of diaspora investments of €10 million in Bonds and other schemes
- Deploy Business Adviser dedicated to coaching diaspora investors and entrepreneurs
- Provide business advice and coaching to 50 diaspora entrepreneurs
- Provide business co-finance and co-investment to 10 diaspora enterprises
- Facilitate the creation of 400 jobs through diaspora investments (300 urban and 100 rural jobs).

3.2.4 Output 2.1: Training and Development

The main MSDG3 project activities on 'Training and Development' are:

- Conduct MDD* inductions with 300 officials from institutional partner organisations
- Develop bespoke training materials on Consular Service and Diaspora Diplomacy (CSDD)
- Develop bespoke executive training materials on Public Sector Management (PSM)
- Accredite CSDD and PSM training modules with CPD-UK or comparable reputable institution
- Conduct accredited training for 100 postgraduate students and middle managers on CSDD
- Conduct accredited training for 75 senior officials on PSM
- Convene 6 Technical Roundtables (TRs) on finance and other aspects of development.

* MDD: Migration, Diaspora and Development



3.2.5 Output 2.2: Technical Support

The main MSDG3 project activities on 'Technical Support' are:

- Deploy Project Adviser dedicated to coaching diaspora civil society and social enterprise projects
- Facilitate GDDO cooperation and co-working with institutions involved in rural development
- Provide project advice and coaching to 50 GDDOs* across different parts of the world
- Provide project co-finance and grants 10 rural and 5 other projects
- Award 30 GDTS* Practice Fellowships to diaspora experts and professional practitioners.

*GDDOs: *Gambia Diaspora Development Organisations*; *GDTS: *Gambia Diaspora Technical Support*

3.2.6 Output 2.3: Institutional Cooperation

The main MSDG3 project activities on 'Institutional Cooperation' are:

- Renew collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Gambia Diaspora Directorate
- Renew technical relations with 15 official Focal Persons within MDAs* and SOEs*
- Provide co-finance to 10 bespoke technical partnership projects with public sector bodies
- Expand and enhance existing technical and institutional cooperation with the following entities:
 - ✓ Office of the President
 - ✓ National Assembly
 - ✓ Independent Electoral Commission
 - ✓ Central Bank of The Gambia
 - ✓ University of The Gambia
 - ✓ Ministry of Finance
 - ✓ Personnel Management Office
 - ✓ Gambia Police Band
- Create new formal technical and institutional partnerships with the following entities:
 - ✓ National Centre on Arts and Culture (NCAC)
 - ✓ Rural Development Institute (RDI)
 - ✓ Ministry of Agriculture
 - ✓ Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS).

*MDAs: *Ministries, Departments and Agencies*; *SOEs: *State-Owned Enterprises*



Appendix: Renewed Commitment to the MSDG Project

“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 Gambian Diaspora Strategy”

[Office of the President, December 2018]

“As we look forward to a post-pandemic period in 2021, I renew the government's commitment to work closely with the MSDG project and others, to facilitate expanded and enhanced diaspora contributions. Through the Office of the President, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies, we will redouble our efforts to resolve implementation bottlenecks and operational challenges”

[SNF4 Presidential Statement, 9 January 2021]



“For GK Partners, it has been a privilege and honour to conceptualise, co-finance and deliver the MSDG project. This is in line with our longstanding corporate commitment to support socio-economic development in The Gambia. For over 30 years, my co-director who is of Gambian heritage has leveraged his extensive global networks for Gambian development. GK Partners renews its commitment to support the new phase of the MSDG project, through technical input, co-finance and resource mobilisation, in line with our social enterprise ethos”

Statement of Katharine Ford, Co-Founder & Director, GK Partners, London, May 2021

GK Partners was founded in 2004 by Gibril Faal and Katharine Ford. They are the two specialist business consultants who in 2001 piloted a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) project on frameworks for UK social enterprise business support. GKP operates as a social enterprise by generating income through a mix of commercial contracts, service level agreements, technical assistance assignments, and financial grants. In turn, the company provides *pro bono* support, in-kind technical expertise, and project co-finance to a range of public benefit programmes undertaken by civil society, public sector, international development, social enterprise and academic organisations and institutions.



NOTES

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GK Partners: Implementing Agency of the MSDG Project

GK Partners work with:

Commercial Enterprises

(Making them more socially and environmentally responsible)

Social Enterprises

(Making them more enterprising and financially viable)

Public and Development Institutions

(Making them more effective, efficient, equitable and ethical)

GK Partners' core (ABC) organisational development services are:

- Action-Oriented Training and Development
- Business Modelling and Project Planning
- Corporate Governance and Legal Structures
- Diagnostics and Feasibility Studies
- Evaluations and Action-Oriented Research
- Financing Social, Commercial and Public Enterprises
- Green Procurement and Sustainable Supply Chains

GK Partners' specialist programmes include:

Finance for Development [F4D]

(Facilitating foreign, diaspora and responsible investment for job creation and sustainable development)

Policy for Development [P4D]

(Facilitating negotiations, formulation and implementation of development policies and strategies)

Programme Implementation [PI]

(Design, develop and implement projects and programmes for institutional clients)

Access to Property [A2P]

(Help social economy clients find, lease, purchase and move into appropriate premises)

Analyses for Action [A4A]

(Undertake research and analyses for evidence-based business and development actions)

Operational Excellence [OpEx™]

(Provide training and development in innovative practices in ethical and sustainable productivity)

www.gambiandiaspora.net

Summary of MSDG3 Activities (2021-24)

- **Diaspora Participation in Policy:** Technical and operational support for Gambian diaspora voting and election of diaspora parliamentarians; videoconferencing for remote participation in National Assembly and parliamentary proceedings; facilitate cooperation between Gambian Diaspora Development Organisations (GDDOs) and rural development institutions; convene the annual Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF); consultations for the review and update of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS).
- **Remittances and Financial Inclusion:** Remittance data collection and monitoring; mechanisms for ascertaining and reducing costs of remittance transfers; mechanisms for increased usage of formal remittance channels and design of remittance-related financial products; training on financial planning for senders and receivers.
- **Diaspora Investment and Enterprise:** Guidance on regulations for Gambian Capital Markets and portfolio investments for the diaspora; dedicated Business Adviser to support diaspora investors and entrepreneurs; co-finance and co-investment in diaspora enterprises; coordination for the issuance of Diaspora Bonds for community facilities; facilitate job creation through the supported diaspora investments.
- **Professional Training and Development:** Accredited training and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD), Consular Services and Diaspora Diplomacy (CSDD), and Public Sector Management (PSM); Technical Roundtables (TRs) on Finance and Economic Development (FED).
- **Technical Support for Stakeholders:** Formalise technical relations with Focal Persons within Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); dedicated Project Adviser to support diaspora charitable and civil society projects; expand the Gambia Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS) scheme; co-finance GDDO projects on rural and agricultural development.
- **Public Sector Institutional Cooperation:** Co-finance for bespoke technical schemes with MDAs; renew and enhance collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Gambia Diaspora Directorate; expand and enhance existing institutional cooperation, including National Assembly, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG), University of The Gambia (UTG) and Ministry of Finance; create new partnerships with National Centre on Arts and Culture (NCAC), Rural Development Institute (RDI) and Ministry of Agriculture.

The MSDG project is led by:

Professor Gibril Faal FRSA, OBE, JP
Director, GK Partners (UK & Gambia)
Visiting Professor in Practice, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA)
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)