



www.gambiandiaspora.net

Diaspora Development Fund (DDF)

Briefing Notes & Application Guidelines

[Updated 16 May 2022]

Contact for the
Diaspora Development Fund:

ddf@gkpartners.co.uk

The Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) is part of a MSDG Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and GK Partners (GKP); implemented by GKP in partnership with the Government of The Gambia



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Partners
advisers to socially
responsible business

1 Trafalgar Square, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BW
GKP (Gambia), Near Petroleum House, Brusubi, West Coast Region

www.gambiandiaspora.net

MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) Briefing Notes and Application Guidelines

1. Strategic Context of the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF)

- 1.1 **MSDG Programme:** The Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) is part of the ‘Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG), initiated by GK Partners in 2017. MSDG is a diaspora-led Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), **co-financed by GK Partners and the Government of Switzerland, and implemented in partnership with the Government of The Gambia.**
- 1.2 **Optimising Diaspora Role:** The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) was fully incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21). The GDS/NDP declared that the ***diaspora is the Eighth Region*** of The Gambia, and set a goal to: ***“expand, enhance and optimise the role of the diaspora in national development, as valued partners”***.
- 1.3 **Co-Finance and Leverage:** To expand and enhance diaspora contributions, it is essential that ***co-finance and match-funding facilities are made available*** to diaspora-development practitioners, ***to leverage and optimise the cash and in-kind resources*** they invest in different forms of community, sectoral and national socioeconomic development projects and initiatives in rural and urban Gambia.
- 1.4 **Types of Diaspora Co-Finance:** The GDS has commitments to support and facilitate, amongst other things: ***Civil Society and Social Impact Projects; Access to Diaspora Professionals and Experts; Diaspora Direct Investments***. Consequently, the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) will provide co-finance for these three types of diaspora-development initiatives.
- 1.5 **DDF as a GDS Commitment:** One of the commitments of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy is for the creation of a Diaspora Development Fund. The GDS states: ***“For Gambian diaspora organisations involved in community, civil society, social enterprise and cooperative activities in different parts of the country, the Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) will provide project co-financing.....Hometown, district, alumni and sectoral non-for-profit diaspora groups will apply to the fund to leverage and supplement the resources they raise by themselves. For diaspora entrepreneurs and investors, the DDF shall provide loans, equity investment and other forms of co-investment, to stimulate and expand job creation and social impact investments in The Gambia”***.
- 1.6 **Global Compact for Migration:** The GDS-NDP goal and commitments are consistent with international frameworks on diaspora-development. Objective 19, Section 35(e)(j) of the United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) commit UN Member States to: ***“Develop targeted support programmes and financial products that facilitate migrant and diaspora investments and entrepreneurship.....support in business creation, granting seed capital-matching, establish.....diaspora development funds.....Build partnerships between local authorities, local communities, the private sector, diasporas, hometown associations and migrant organizations to promote knowledge and skills transfer”***.

All the awards of the 2022 MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) will be in the form of Project Grants; funded by GK Partners and the Government of Switzerland

2. 2020/21 Piloting of the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF)

- 2.1 2020/21 DDF Pilot:** The MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (*DDF*) *was piloted in 2020/21 under the 'Gambia Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS)' scheme*. MSDG provided cash grants and technical support where required, to a total of 10 Gambian diaspora professionals and development practitioners, *who were designated as MSDG Fellows*. They undertook a diverse range of projects in Gambia, in collaboration with local partner organisations and institutions. The pilot GDTS scheme is now fully incorporated in the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF).
- 2.2 Financial Leverage:** Under the pilot scheme, *MSDG provided total grants of €74,890 (Euros)*, equivalent to D4,685,000 (Gambia Dalasis). Using the MSDG grant funds as leverage, *the MSDG Fellows successfully generated a further €710,280 (Euros) through cash donations, technical expertise, and in-kind materials, supplies and resources*. For every 1 Euro MSDG provided, the pilot scheme generated a further 9.4 Euros. This demonstrated the resourcefulness, commitment and productivity of the diaspora as development actors. Consequently, the pilot MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) implemented under the 'Gambian Diaspora Technical Support (GDTS)' scheme *provided socioeconomic investment in The Gambia to the value of €785,170 (Euros), being equivalent to about D50 million (Gambian Dalasis)*.
- 2.3 MSDG Fellows:** Under the pilot scheme, the *MSDG Fellows comprised 5 women and 5 men, with bases in five countries*, namely: United States, United Kingdom, Norway, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria. Of the 10 Fellows, 6 were still resident in the diaspora and 4 were recent returnees to Gambia. The 10 MSDG Fellows and their project were as follows:
- 1. Ms Sailey Jallow of the Ida Bass Kidney Foundation**
'Kidney and Healthcare Support During COVID19'
 - 2. Ms Amie Jarjue of Join Hands 2 Save Babies**
'Creation of a Gambia Maternal Blood Bank'
 - 3. Mr Mohammad Nasir Cham of GHS86 Sixth Form Foundation**
'Creation of New School IT Suite'
 - 4. Mr Ahmad Manjang of Gunjur Youths for Health**
'Community Monitoring of Hypertension and Diabetes'
 - 5. Dr Satang Nabaneh of Law Hub Gambia**
'Online Access to Legal Information'
 - 6. Ms Ndey Jobarteh of Jobs Consulting (and Gambia House Norway)**
'Youth Career and Employability Guidance and Services'
 - 7. Institutional Award to The Gambia National Assembly, supported by Mr Lamin Marong**
'Parliamentary Videoconferencing and Online TV'
 - 8. Mr Amadou Secka of Center for Responsible Business**
'Ethical and Responsible Business Plan Competition'
 - 9. Ms Mam Yassin Sarr of Starfish International**
'Youth Digital Literacy and Capacity Development'
 - 10. Institutional Award to UTG Students Union, supported by Mr Mbakeh Camara**
'University Scholarship Endowment Fund'

Diagram of DDF Pilot Scheme Projects

Gambia Diaspora Technical Support (2020/21): GDTs Projects Undertaken by Gambians in the Diaspora

GDTs1: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Ida Bass Kidney Foundation (UK/Gambia)
Kidney and Healthcare Support During COVID19



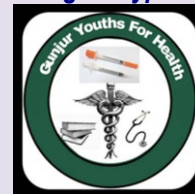
GDTs2: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Join Hands 2 Save Babies (UK/Gambia)
Creation of a Gambia Maternal Blood Bank



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



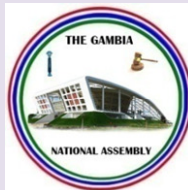
GDTs5: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Law Hub Gambia (USA/Gambia)
Online Access to Legal Information



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



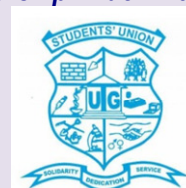
GDTs8: Awarded D300,000 by MSDG
Center for Responsible Business (UK/Gambia)
Ethical & Responsible Business Plan Competition



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



MSDG provided cash grants of D4.685 million (Gambian Dalasis; being €74,890); and technical support

3. Components of the 2022/23 MSDG Diaspora Development Fund

3.1 DDF Purpose and Aims: The purpose of the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) is to use co-financing and technical support as practical means of stimulating, leveraging, expanding and enhancing different forms of Gambian diaspora contributions to national development. The specific aims of the DDF are as follows:

1. **Expand project interventions** undertaken in rural and urban Gambia by the diaspora
2. **Enhance collaborations** with local and international partners to increase socioeconomic impact
3. **Increase diaspora contributions** through cash and in-kind donations, and collective remittances
4. **Leverage diaspora resources** and networks to obtain additional development inputs for Gambia
5. **Facilitate 'Brain Gain'** to optimise the contributions of Gambian diaspora experts and specialists
6. **Stimulate start-up projects** by innovators and young and multigenerational Gambian diaspora.

Applicants need to fall under one or more, not all of the above DDF aims

3.2 2022/23 DDF Programme: The 2022/23 MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) programme entails the following key features:

1. **Provide 55 Co-Finance / Match-Funding awards** in the form of Project Grants
2. **Select diaspora-development projects** through the DDF application process
3. **Award €5,000 (Euros) or D300,000 (Dalasis)** grant to each selected DDF project
4. **Designate as MSDG Fellows**, the individuals who lead the selected and funded projects
5. **Provide technical support** to assist the MSDG Fellows to implement their projects in Gambia
6. **Monitor, report and publicise** the work and impact of the DDF projects and MSDG Fellows.

The DDF programme was conceived, and will be delivered and administered in line with the MSDG organisational values of: Generosity, Humility and Excellence

3.3 Three Categories of DDF Awards: The 55 DDF Co-Finance / Match-Funding Project Grants will be awarded to three (3) categories of recipients, namely:

1. **Individual professionals** with specialist initiatives, working with partners in Gambia
2. **Diaspora organisations** working on job creation, rural and socioeconomic development
3. **Impact entrepreneurs** investing in different forms of job creation and economic development.

3.4 DDF Application Process: All applicants must submit by email to (ddf@gkpartners.co.uk), the following documents:

1. Fully completed and **signed DDF Application Form** (signed by the prospective MSDG Fellow)
2. **Signed partner letter** confirming project cooperation with the partner organisation in The Gambia
3. Up-to-date **Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Résumé** of the project leader (the prospective MSDG Fellow)
4. Recent **Annual Report and Accounts** (for organisations and businesses).

The deadline for submission of the completed Application Form and Supporting Documents is Midnight GMT on 22 June 2022

3.5 DDF Eligibility Criteria: The main eligibility criteria to apply for DDF co-finance/match-funding are:

1. **Gambian citizen based in the diaspora or having returned to Gambia in the past 5 years; applying as:**
 - (A) Independent Individual Professional or specialist; **OR**
 - (B) Affiliate of a Diaspora Organisation registered outside The Gambia; **OR**
 - (C) Impact Entrepreneur and Investor running a business in The Gambia.

2. **Formal partnership with an organisation or institution in The Gambia; the partner can be a:**
 - (A) Community, civil society or other non-governmental organisation; **OR**
 - (B) Social or commercial enterprise or business network; **OR**
 - (C) Ministry, Department, Agency of the government or a State-Owned Enterprise.

3. **Ability to implement the project within a timeframe of 3 to 9 months; and deliver positive and measurable socioeconomic impacts; in one or more of the following priority areas:**
 - (A) Job creation, especially for young people (aged 35 and under);
 - (B) Different forms of rural development;
 - (C) Medical, health and care services;
 - (D) Education, training and skills development;
 - (E) ICT, innovative and tech-based services;
 - (F) Agriculture, produce processing and packaging;
 - (G) Environmental protection and disaster prevention;
 - (H) Other beneficial and impactful sectors and services.

4. **Ability to generate minimum match-funding to complement the DDF Project Grant; as follows:**
 - (A) €15,000 match-funding for individuals and diaspora organisations; **AND**
 - (B) €25,000 match-funding for impact entrepreneurs and commercial investors.

The DDF project proposal submitted by applicants can focus on expansion or replication of existing programmes, or the launch of new initiatives

3.6 Applicant Match-Funding: The match-funding **specifically generated and spent on the DDF project** in Gambia can include one or more of the following forms of resources:

1. Cash contributions through individual and collective **donations and subscriptions**
2. Cash contributions from different online and community **fundraising activities**
3. Cash contributions from existing **organisational funds, project or reserve accounts**
4. Cash contributions from **grants, sponsorships and service level agreements**
5. **Donated or discounted goods**, equipment, materials and supplies used in the project
6. **Donated or discounted services** including freight, transport, storage, accommodation etc
7. Unpaid and **pro bono services of professionals**, experts and specialists working on the project
8. Capital injection through **equity or loans** from impact entrepreneur, co-investors, banks etc.

The stipulated match-funding of €15,000 (and €25,000 for impact entrepreneurs and commercial investors) are minimum requirement; it is expected that MSDG Fellows will leverage the Project Grant to generate high values of cash and in-kind resources, to optimise their development projects in Gambia.

3.7 Selection and Award Criteria: The DDF Awards Panel will assess applications and make recommendations based on a balanced assessment of the following criteria:

1. **Feasibility:** *(Likelihood of successful implementation of the project activities considering: the timescale; level of financial resources available through the project grant and match-funding; other human, physical and technical resources available)*
2. **Impact:** *(Expected number, and profile of beneficiaries; nature of benefits delivered; extent of positive change regarding improvement in livelihoods, self-reliance, resilience, personal and community development)*
3. **Rural Focus:** *(Majority of the project beneficiaries located in the rural parts of The Gambia, being all areas outside the Greater Banjul Area (GBA), as defined by Ministry of Lands and Regional Government. GBA is from Banjul to Brikama eastwards; and to Brufut on the southern coast)*
4. **Job Creation:** *(Expected number, and profile of jobs created, especially for young people)*
5. **Match-Funding:** *(Expected amount of cash and in-kind match-funding to be generated)*
6. **Value-Added:** *(Levels of value-added; skills and knowledge development and transfer; sectoral innovation; self-motivation and partnership with organisations and institutions in The Gambia)*
7. **Sustainability:** *(Overall soundness of the project, and likelihood of project survival, expansion and further development, after the DDF project)*
8. **Diversity:** *(Balance in the gender and geographical diversity of the applicants)*

3.8 DDF Selection Process: The DDF selection process involves the following steps and actions:

1. **Initial Administrative Review:** MSDG staff will review applications received to ensure that all required information and supporting documents are in order; and produce a long and short list of applications, using the selection and awards criteria. The reviewed applications will then be handed over to the DDF Awards Panel for their assessment and recommendations. *(If applications are submitted early, the MSDG staff may be able to advise applicants to make necessary adjustments in order to be fully compliant).*
2. **Assessment by the DDF Awards Panel:** The DDF Awards Panel will assess the reviewed applications, using the selection and award criteria. The Panel's assessment and selection activities will include: Making declarations that there are no material conflicts of interest regarding them and the DDF applicants and partners; Individually reading, assessing and making notes about the completed Application Forms, CVs/Résumés and partner letters; Participating in panel discussions about the applications; Making collective panel recommendations; Providing suggestions for revisions, or reasons for non-approval.
3. **Award Recommendations:** The DDF Awards Panel can make one of three recommendations, namely: **Approval; Approval Subject to Revisions; Non-Approval.** If revisions are recommended, the specific suggestions will be discussed and agreed by MSDG staff with the applicant, without any further referrals to the Awards Panel. For applications that are not approved, the reasons for non-approval will be provided by the Awards Panel. These will be communicated to the applicant as feedback. **The recommendation of the Awards Panel is to be taken as final.** If there are exceptional reasons to warrant a review of recommendations, this will be undertaken by senior GKP/MSDG personnel in consultation with the Panel.

3.9 DDF Award Management: The management of the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) Project Grant will entail the following main steps and actions:

1. **Signature of award agreement** between the GKP-MSDG and the MSDG Fellow
2. **Disbursement of at least 50%** of the DDF award funds after signature of agreement
3. **Submission of Interim Monitoring Report** and expenses receipts, 35 days after the start date
4. **Disbursement of remaining funds** after review and approval of the Interim Monitoring Report
5. **Submission of DDF Final Report** and expenses receipts, 35 days after project completion
6. **Ongoing participation in DDF publicity**, public communications and case study analyses.

The DDF programme can technically be described as ‘unrestricted funding’; MSDG is relatively flexible in terms of how the DDF funds are to be used, as long as they are spent 100% on activities and expenses relating to the implementation of the approved project. The MSDG staff will be available to give advice on eligibility of costs, project monitoring and other operational matters.

3.10 DDF Awards Panel: GK Partners (GKP) and the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia Project (MSDG) are grateful for the support and assistance provided by the Project Advisory Board (PAB) Members. Amongst other things, they serve as the Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) Awards Panel. They are experienced professionals who are familiar with Gambian diaspora-development issues and the MSDG Project. They include people from the diaspora, civil society, business and public sector. The current members are:

- **Mr. Musa Camara** – Director of the Gambian Diaspora and Migration Directorate (GDMD)
Deputy Permanent Secretary and Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Ms. Sarjo Camara** – Women Empowerment Programme Specialist
Coordinator at Action Aid and Former Senior Officer at Department of Community Development
- **Ms. Fatou Jagne-Senghore** – Human Rights Lawyer and Development Practitioner
Chair of GRTS and Former Regional Director of ARTICLE 19
- **Ms. Haddy Lamin-Njie** – Development Programme and Finance Specialist
Former Country Director of VSO Gambia and Former International Civil Servant (UNDP & FAO)
- **Mr. Abdoul Salaam Secka** – Business and Programme Development Consultant
Founding Technical Director of the MSDG Project and Former CEO of GCCI
- **Dr. Sainabou Taal** – Researcher and Specialist in Migration and Development
Former Consultant for MSDG Project and IOM Gambia
[Dr Taal is the Chair of MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) Awards Panel]

Another PAB Member with specialism in youth and rural matters is to be confirmed.

Brusubi and London, Updated May 2022.