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Diaspora Development Fund (DDF)

Briefing Notes & Application Guidelines

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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



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

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

- **MSDG Programme:** The Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) is part of a Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia Project, initiated and launched in 2017 by GK Partners. 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*.
- **Optimising Diaspora Role:** The Gambian Diaspora Strategy (GDS) was fully incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-21), and the diaspora was declared the Eighth Region of The Gambia. The declared GDS/NDP goal for the Gambian diaspora is to: *“expand, enhance and optimise the role of the diaspora in national development, as valued partners”*.
- **Co-Finance and Leverage:** To actualise the GDS goal, it is essential that *co-funding and co-finance facilities are made available* to diaspora-development practitioners, *to leverage and maximise the cash and in-kind resources* they invest in different forms of thematic, community and national socioeconomic development projects and initiatives in rural and urban Gambia.
- **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*. The MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) will provide co-finance for these three types of diaspora-development initiatives.
- **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”*.
- **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”*.

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

- **2020/21 GDTs as a Pilot for DDF:** 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 experts and development practitioners, referred to as MSDG Fellows, who undertook projects in Gambia, in collaboration with local partner organisations and institutions. The GDTs scheme is now fully incorporated in the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF).
- **Pilot Scheme 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/Awardees 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 diaspora-development projects. 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 D49,118,995 (Gambian Dalasis)*.
- **Pilot Scheme Awardees:** Under the pilot scheme, the *MSDG Fellows/Awardees 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/Awardees* 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 & 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 Awardees

**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



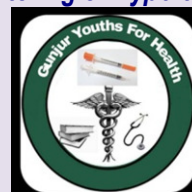
GDTs2: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Join Hands 2 Save Babies (UK/Gambia)
Creation of a Gambia Maternal Blood Bank



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



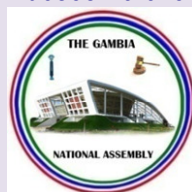
GDTs5: Awarded D350,000 by MSDG
Law Hub Gambia (USA/Gambia)
Online Access to Legal Information



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



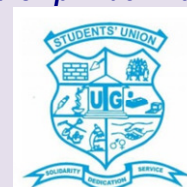
GDTs8: Awarded D300,000 by MSDG
Center for Responsible Business (UK/Gambia)
Ethical & Responsible Business Plan Competition



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. The 2022/23 MSDG Diaspora Development Fund

- **DDF Purpose and Aims:** The purpose of the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) is to use financial and technical resources as a practical means of stimulating, expanding and enhancing different forms of Gambian diaspora contributions to national development. The specific are to:
 1. Expand project interventions in rural and urban Gambia
 2. Enhance collaborations and co-working with local partners
 3. Increase cash and in-kind contributions, and collective remittances from the diaspora
 4. Leverage diaspora resources and networks to increase resource mobilisation
 5. Facilitate and optimise the development benefits of Gambian diaspora 'Brain-Gain'.
- **From 10 to 55 Co-Finance Awards:** Based on the success of the pilot programme (through GDTS) in 2020/21, the new MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) was formally launched in January 2022. Building on the 10 Fellowships of the pilot project, the new DDF programme will provide a total of €275,000 (Euros) in cash co-finance or match-funding, (equivalent to about D17,200,000 Gambian Dalasis); to 55 Gambian Diaspora Fellows; being an average of €5,000 (Euros) per award. Award recipients are expected to generate further match-funding of at least €15,000 (Euros).
- **Three Categories of Awards:** The DDF co-finance or match-funding will be awarded to three (3) categories of MSDG Fellows, namely:
 1. 30 individual professionals and experts working with partners in Gambia
 2. 15 diaspora organisations working on different aspects of rural development
 3. 10 impact entrepreneurs investing in different forms of job creation and economic development.
- **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
 2. Gambian Diaspora Development Organisation formally registered in the diaspora
 3. Project/Assignment in Gambia creating jobs or other measurable positive socioeconomic impacts
 4. Formal project partner in Gambia which can be civil society, NGO, government or social enterprise
 5. Ability to generate co-finance/match-funding of €15,000 in cash or in-kind resources
 6. Ability to complete the project/assignment within a timeframe of 12 to 26 weeks.
- **Selection and Award Criteria:** The DDF Awards Panel will assess applications and make recommendations based on the following criteria:
 1. Feasibility, viability and sustainability of the proposed project/assignment
 2. Development priorities and impact in Gambia, especially in the rural areas
 3. Gender and geographical diversity of applications
 4. Level of co-finance/match-funding generated by the applicant
 5. Levels of innovation, skills transfer and local partnerships reflected in the project/assignment.

Please note that MSDG's development sectoral priorities for projects in Gambia are: medical, health and care service; education and skills development; ICT and new technology; job creation and diaspora investment.

- **DDF Application Process:** The DDF application process entails the following steps and actions:

1. Send an email to comms@gkpartners.co.uk to receive the Application Form
2. Attend the online DDF Application Workshop on Sunday, 22 May 2022, 2.30 PM to 5.30 PM
3. Submit the completed Application Form and Supporting Documents before Midnight on 15 June 2022

- **DDF Application Submissions:** All applicants must submit the following by email or online:

1. Fully completed and signed DDF Application Form
2. Signed collaboration letter from partner organisation in Gambia
3. Up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) / Résumé for the individuals leading the project/assignment
4. Recent Annual Report and Accounts (for organisations, social enterprises and businesses applying).

Collaborative partners in Gambia can include: government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs); NGOs, Civil Society and Community Organisations; Business Networks and Social Enterprises.

- **DDF Selection Process:** The DDF selection process involve 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 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 assesses the reviewed applications, using the selection and award criteria. The Panel's selection assessment involves members: 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 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.
4. Composition of the DDF Awards Panel: The DDF Awards Panel is selected from the MSDG Project Advisory Board (PAB). They comprise 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 PAB 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. 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]

Two more PAB members are to be confirmed, they are specialists in rural and youth matters.

- **DDF Award Management:** The management of the MSDG Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) award will entail the following main steps and actions:
 1. Signature of award contract between the GKP-MSDG and the MSDG Fellow
 2. Disbursement of at least 50% the DDF award funds after signature of contract
 3. Submission of DDF Interim Monitoring Report and expenses receipts, 35 days after the start date
 4. Disbursement of the remaining DDF funds after review and approval of the Interim Monitoring Report
 5. Submission of DDF Final Report and expenses receipts, 21 days after project completion
 6. Ongoing participation in DDF publicity, public communication and case study analysis.

MSDG is relatively flexible in terms of how the DDF funds are to be used, as long as they are used 100% on activities and expenses relating to the implementation of the approved project/assignment. The MSDG staff shall be available to give advice on eligibility of costs and other operational matters.

Banjul & London, April 2022.