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Institutionalising Diaspora in Development: MSDG4 Project Briefing (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029)

The Gambia is a small country with big migration. Of a population of about 2.5 million, **about 10 percent live abroad in the diaspora. The Gambia has the highest dependency on remittances in Africa.** The Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) Project was established in January 2017 as an innovative diaspora-led Technical Assistance (TA) and Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). After a peer-review process, in August 2023, **the MSDG Project was recognised as an example of global innovation and good practice by the United Nations Migration Agency (IOM)**, and included in the global portal of 'Repository of Practice'. MSDG remains one of the very few diaspora-led TA/TCP in the world. In May 2024, the **World Economic Forum (WEF) published an IOM/GKP blog** on the MSDG Project entitled: **'How The Gambia offers a roadmap for enhancing diaspora engagement'**.

MSDG aims to **"enhance and expand the role of the Gambian diaspora in national development, as the Eighth Region of the country [through] diaspora participation in socioeconomic development policy and practice, and institutionalised engagement"**. MSDG is a feasible and efficient mechanism for delivering sustainable and inclusive outputs and impacts on Migration, Diaspora and Development, through innovation, implementation of global good practice and maintenance of professional and operational excellence.

The first MSDG activity on 11 February 2017 was the **'Induction and Training Workshop for New Cabinet Ministers'**, held a week after the formation of a new democratic government, after 22 years of dictatorship. The early achievements included the production of **the first-ever Gambian diaspora policy and strategy which were fully incorporated in the post-dictatorship National Development Plan (NDP)**.

GK Partners (GKP) as a social enterprise developed, co-finances and is the implementing agency of the MSDG Project. **It registered as a company in England and Wales in 2004.** It is also registered with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), and the **European Union List of Private Law Bodies** for service contracts. For effective delivery of the MSDG Project, **in 2019, GKP was registered in The Gambia in the name of GK Partners (Global) Limited.** It is also registered with the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) and Social Security and Housing Finance Corporation (SSFHC).

GKP as a social enterprise generates income through commercial contracts, technical assistance and service level assignments, and programme grants. In turn, it provides pro bono support, in-kind technical expertise, and project co-finance to a range of public and community benefit programmes undertaken by civil society, public sector, international development, social enterprise and academic organisations and institutions. GKP is a **signatory to the 2006 Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact** for responsible business, and **Member of the UNGC Network** in the UK. GKP is a **Member of CPD Certification Service.**



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<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/practice/migration-and-sustainable-development-gambia-msdg>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/05/gambia-roadmap-for-enhancing-diaspora-engagement/>

MSDG Activities and Funding (2017-2024)

MSDG Project Activities (January 2017 to June 2024)	
Project Phase and Dates	No. of Activities
Pilot Phase: MSDG 0 Jan to Jul 2017; 7 Months	5
First Phase: MSDG 1 Aug 2017 to Sep 2019; 25 Months <i>Aug 2017 to Feb 2018 (17 Activities)</i> <i>Mar 2018 to Dec 2018 (8 Activities)</i> <i>Jan 2019 to Sep 2019 (5 Activities)</i>	30
Second Phase: MSDG 2 Oct 2019 to Jun 2021; 21 Months <i>Programme Activities (39)</i> <i>DDF Pilot Activities (10)</i>	49
Third Phase: MSDG 3 Jul 2021 to Jul 2024; 36 Months <i>Programme Activities (51)</i> <i>DDF Individual Activities (57)</i>	108
Total Number of MSDG Activities	192

Summary of MSDG Funding (January 2017 to June 2024)			
Pilot Phase (MSDG0) <i>Jan to Jul 2017 (7 Months)</i>	GKP, Diaspora & Mobilised Co-Finance (Cash & In-kind)	Swiss Govt & European Union (Cash Funding)	Total Funding (Cash & In-kind)
Total Funding	€19,000	€9,000	€28,000
Funding Percentage	68%	32%	100%
First Phase (MSDG1) <i>Aug 2017 to Sep 2019 (25 Months)</i>	GKP, Diaspora & Mobilised Co-Finance (Cash & In-kind)	Swiss Government (Cash Funding)	Total Funding (Cash & In-kind)
Total Funding	€220,480	€181,460	€401,940
Funding Percentage	55%	45%	100%
Second Phase (MSDG2) <i>Oct 2019 to Jun 2021 (21 Months)</i>	GKP, Diaspora & Mobilised Co-Finance (Cash & In-kind)	Swiss Government (Cash Funding)	Total Funding (Cash & In-kind)
Total Funding	€685,779	€609,545	€1,295,324
Funding Percentage	53%	47%	100%
Third Phase (MSDG3) <i>Jul 2021 to Jun 2024 (36 Months)</i>	GKP, Diaspora & Mobilised Co-Finance (Cash & In-kind)	Swiss Government (Cash Funding)	Total Funding (Cash & In-kind)
Total Funding	€3,176,525	€1,504,430	€4,680,955
Funding Percentage	68%	32%	100%
MSDG 2017 to 2024	€4,101,784	€2,304,435	€6,406,219
Funding Percentage	64%	36%	100%
<i>(The MSDG Project accounts were externally audited and approved by the Swiss Government as per contracts)</i>			

MSDG Outputs, Achievements and Impacts (2017-2024)

Institutionalisation of Diaspora Contributions to Development

- ✓ Creation of the first-ever diaspora-led **Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)**
- ✓ First-ever **national diaspora policy and strategy** included in the National Development Plan
- ✓ Facilitation of the declaration of the diaspora as the **Eighth Region of The Gambia**
- ✓ Creation of **Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate** at Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Cooperation and co-working with **twenty (20) Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
- ✓ Cooperation and co-working with **eight (8) national development sector networks**
- ✓ Appointment of **55 Diaspora Fellows** amongst diaspora experts and development practitioners
- ✓ Implementation of **192 activities and mini-projects** in all regions and diverse sectors
- ✓ Recordings and workbooks on Gambian **lullabies and folksongs for diaspora families**
- ✓ **Cultural productions and collaborations** for diaspora integration at home and abroad

Remittances, Diaspora Investment, Jobs and Financial Inclusion

- ✓ Ongoing technical co-working with **Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) and Ministry of Finance**
- ✓ Comprehensive research, analyses and guidance on **diaspora finance and investment**
- ✓ Transformation of **CBG remittance data** monitoring, analyses, reporting and global credentials
- ✓ Increased competition in the remittance sector and **low transaction costs** in the major corridors
- ✓ CBG given United Nations / IFAD **Award at the 2023 GFRID Summit**
- ✓ Design and validation of innovative local-currency, project-linked **Diaspora-Targeted Bonds**
- ✓ Creation of **Diaspora Advice Desk** at Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
- ✓ Creation of a **Diaspora Development Fund (DDF)** in line with the Global Compact on Migration
- ✓ Provided **€0.5 million cash grants to 75 DDF projects** (67 individual experts and 8 institutions)
- ✓ Generated **€4 million in-cash and in-kind** from the diaspora, government and other partners
- ✓ Facilitated the implementation of **50 integrated rural development projects** and programmes
- ✓ Facilitated the implementation of **40 scientific, technological and educational projects**
- ✓ Thematic and specialist **employability training for 1,000+ jobseekers** in different sectors
- ✓ Created **576 jobs**, 126 full-time and 450 part-time, 78% rural, 70% women and 60% young people
- ✓ Developed **interactive training package** on Financial Planning and Inclusion and trained 30 trainers
- ✓ Delivered **Financial Planning training to 4,000 students and young people** in all the regions

Knowledge, Training and Capacity on Development Policy and Practice

- ✓ Research, analyses and **methodologies on Migration, Diaspora and Development**
- ✓ Research, **methodologies and typologies on diaspora populations**, profiles and organisations
- ✓ Developed and registered **accredited courses and training on MDD and diaspora finance**
- ✓ Facilitation of engagement and participation in **bilateral and multilateral MDD frameworks**
- ✓ Executive and **thematic training for 415 officials** from the public, private and civil society sectors
- ✓ Thirteen **(13) Technical Roundtables (TRs)** on policy and practice **attended by 360 experts**
- ✓ Seven **(7) annual Stake in the Nation Forums (SNF)** attended in person by **3,000 people**

Diaspora Voting, Representation and Participation in Policy Processes

- ✓ Ongoing technical co-working with **Independent Electoral Commission and Ministry of Justice**
- ✓ Cooperation and co-working with **National Assembly**, NA Committees and diaspora groups
- ✓ Comprehensive research, analyses and guidance on **diaspora voting logistics and representation**
- ✓ Technical cooperation on the **Elections Bill** consultations, amendments and interparty consensus
- ✓ Technical cooperation on the **Constitution Amendment (Diaspora Representation) Bill**
- ✓ Created the **National Assembly TV (NATV)** as a fully functional online television station
- ✓ Capacity for livestreaming, sharing and archiving all **parliamentary and outreach proceedings**
- ✓ Capacity for secure **remote online participation of NA Members** in parliamentary proceedings
- ✓ Capacity for the diaspora and others to **participate remotely in NA enquiries and consultations**
- ✓ Provision of live **film feed to all public, private and diaspora media houses** and platforms

Planned Activities for the Fourth Phase of the Migration and Sustainable Development Gambia (MSDG4) 2024-2029

1. Diaspora Participation in Policy and Governance

- Technical support to Gambia Immigration Department for passport issuances in the diaspora
- Technical support for actualisation of diaspora voting in presidential and parliamentary elections
- Technical support for the election of five diaspora National Assembly Members (NAMs)
- Technical support to effective Diaspora NAM participation in parliamentary proceedings
- Convening of 5 annual Stake in the Nation Forums (SNF) as the largest national policy forum

2. Diaspora Development Fund

- DDF grants for 200 social impact projects and socially responsible enterprises
- DDF grants for 50 diaspora volunteer teachers in STEM and Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- DDF grants for 50 institutional cooperation with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)
- Develop DDF funding based structured as revolving loans and equity co-investment

3. Remittances and Financial Inclusion

- Ongoing support on remittance data, policy and cost reduction to Central Bank of The Gambia
- Research, publication and promotion of comprehensive Diaspora Finance Fact-Book
- Production of multilingual interactive Financial Planning app and multimedia pack
- In-person training of 25,000 people on financial literacy and planning

4. Diaspora Investment and Enterprise

- Launch of the project-based, local-currency Diaspora-Targeted Bonds by Ministry of Finance
- Manage the DTBs using a fintech platform in partnership with Central Bank of The Gambia
- Ongoing support of the Diaspora Advice Desk at Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
- Advice, support and facilitation of innovative and specialist diaspora investments and enterprises

5. Social Enterprise Job Creation and Ethical Labour Migration

- Set up social enterprises to create decent jobs through local production and labour migration
- Create job-related partnerships with TVET, HE, youth and other national institutions
- Create labour migration partnerships within existing bilateral and international frameworks
- Design and deliver employability and orientation training for work at home and abroad
- Organise migrant labour job fairs for jobseekers and ethical international recruiters
- Create 300 decent green jobs in aquaculture production in partnership with TVET centres
- Create 200 jobs in solar energy assembly and installations in partnership with TVET centres
- Create 200 jobs through gap-year type, circular migration and skills partnership schemes
- Create 3,000 jobs through migrant labour deployments for cruise ships and other semi-skilled work

6. Replication in Other Countries

- Delivery of professional training on Migration, Diaspora and Development (MDD)
- Development of national diaspora-development policies, strategies and institutional structures
- Design and management of national and multi-country Diaspora Development Funds (DDF)
- Research, analysis and design of national Diaspora-Targeted Bonds (DTB)
- Convening of an African Diaspora Finance and Investment Conference (ADFIC)
- Launch of RemitAid™ as an African Union Legacy Project, with Gambia Government Leadership