

Annual Report 2020

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The Gambia



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January 2021

Published by:
ActionAid The Gambia

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ActionAid International The Gambia
PMB 450, Serrekunda
MDI Road Kanifing
Tel: (220) 4392004 / 4392029
Email: admin.gambia@actionaid.org
Website: <https://gambia.actionaid.org>
Facebook: [ActionAid International the Gambia](#)



ActionAid The Gambia
Annual Report - 2020

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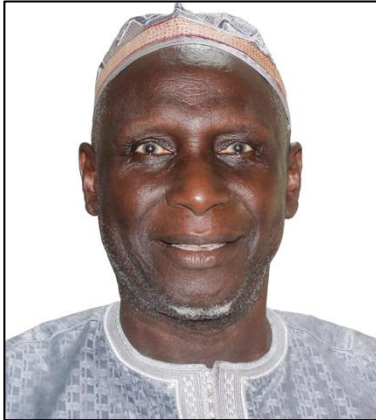
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Acronyms

AAI	ActionAid International
AAITG	ActionAid International The Gambia
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti Retroviral Treatment
CBO	Community Based Organization
COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease-2019
CRC	Constitutional Review Commission.
CRR	Central River Region
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
CSW	Commercial Sex Workers
ED	Executive Director
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FR	Fund Raising
GA	General Assembly
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRTS	Gambia Radio and Television Services
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach

HROD	Human Resources and Organizational Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
KM	Kanifing Municipality
LGA	Local Government Authorities
LRP	Local Rights Programs
LRR	Lower River Region
MOH	Ministry of Health
MTR	Mid Term review
PA	Priority Areas
PLIP	People Living In Poverty
QTV	Quantum Television
SC	Child Sponsorship
SIF	Strategy Implementation framework
SMT	Senior Management Team
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SSRC	Security Sector Reform Commission
TRRC	Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
URR	Upper River Region
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WCR	West Coast Region

Message from Board Chair



Ousman M. Cham
Board Chair, AAITG

I have come to the end of my tenure as Board Chair of AAITG. I found the period I served on the Board to be interesting and quite fulfilling. I have enjoyed every bit of the time I spent on the Board both as an ordinary member and as Board Chair.

ActionAid forms an important part of my life, and I am proud to have served the organisation in this capacity.

During my tenure, the organisation went through memorable times when great achievements were realized and celebrated. AAITG has embarked on many advocacy activities, at the local level the campaign initiated by AAITG for women to be members of the District Tribunals stands out. This is a huge boost for women's effective and meaningful participation in key decision-making processes at the local level.

Despite the successes registered, AAITG went through difficult moments which included the disruptions of programme work due to COVID-19 pandemic. The withdrawal of Brazil CS in addition with the derestriction of our Next Step income made the possibility

of attaining financial sustainability a bit remote.

I would like to recognize the resilience of the remaining staff and commend the management for showing strong leadership during the trying times whilst I express deep appreciation for the support and encouragement provided by the Board during the crisis.

I leave ActionAid generally satisfied that together we are able to provide support to people living in poverty in building their capacity and self-confidence to tackle some of the key issues that affect their lives and livelihoods. I would like to take this opportunity to wish ActionAid federation the best of luck in the fight against poverty and injustice.

Message from Executive Director



Omar Badji
Executive Director, AAITG

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to rage in 2020. A lot of challenges emerged due to the pandemic. Although COVID-19 Protocols are critical to keep the spread under control, have brought

along with them deep and painful changes in how we relate and interact with each other on a daily basis.

The ramifications on our social and economic spheres have been and still continue to be documented.

AAITG responded to the pandemic at two key levels: programme and organisational levels. At programme level, we provided humanitarian assistance for immediate needs and supported community resilience building for long term, our response is detailed in this report. At organizational level we supported staff and made

changes to organizational procedures/processes to protect staff and communities we serve.

As the year draws to a close, there seem to be no end in sight for the pandemic. We must therefore be prepared to continue to live with COVID for a long time to come.

The struggle in 2021 will be to ensure that people continue to strictly adhere to the WHO prevention protocols as well as making vaccines available to the public.

Thank you for taking time to read this report.

About the report

The report is divided into Six Sections: **Section One:** gives national context, **Section Two:** gives introduction and organizational background, basic information including our governance, decision making, identity, Values, key policies. **Section Three:** presents information on key actions taken and achievements under each program Ambition, **Section Four:** Updates on Key organizational health indicators and development actions taken and achievements **Section Five:** Presents Financial report, **Section Six:** Presents Challenges, lessons learnt and recommendations. **Section Seven:** Appendixes for more information including Audited accounts.



Section 1: National Context 2020

The Gambia is still experiencing a transitional process from two decades of dictatorship to democratic rule. The transitional process is marked by the constitution of several reform mechanisms and processes such as the Commissions of Enquiries, the Security Sector Reform Commission (SSRC), the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), The Victim Centre and the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC). The year 2020 is the fourth year of the transitional timeframe yet, none of these processes have been successfully implemented so far. This led to mistrust in the government's ability and willingness to lay a strong foundation for sustained democracy. This is corroborated by the Conflict and development Analysis UNDP, (2019) that has

identified Accountability and Political Leadership in Transition among the main drivers of conflict in the Gambia. The Gambia is dependent on rainfed agriculture which is affected by climate variations and migration out of the rural areas, resulting in reduced crop yields, income and food security.

This context is compounded by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic which has negative impact on lives and livelihoods. GDP growth is projected to decline to between 2.5 and - 2.4% in 2020. The Gambia is mainly impacted by a reduction in tourists, but also from trade disruption and higher commodity prices. Limited fiscal, monetary, and financial buffers, and high risk of debt distress limited room to maneuver. Weak capacity of the health sector and social safety

nets presented enormous challenges in dealing with the COVID pandemic. Economic activity in The Gambia remains weak reflecting the effects of the pandemic, but a quicker recovery is anticipated in 2021. Inflation in the Gambia continues to be stable. The recent surge in inflation is judged to be temporal and would return close to the medium-term objective of 5 percent in the near-term. The outlook is predicated on the stable exchange rate, moderate global inflation, increase in local food production and the implementation of prudent monetary policy. However, the major risk to inflation continues to be the recent surge in global food prices. Inadequate fiscal transparency and accountability of public resources utilization continues to be a reality in the Gambia. As such, AAITG 2020 plans were consciously adapted to respond to these issues in line with the CSP priorities.

Section 2:

Introduction and background

Annual Report is one of the Accountability, Learning and sharing processes and requirements of ActionAid. The annual report reflects the critical engagements with our key partners, communities, and other stakeholders as well provide an overview of the work of ActionAid The Gambia from January 2020–December 2020. The report gives a snapshot of our success stories, challenges and lessons learnt. The report also provides information on our state of accounts, financial facts and figures and performance during the year under review.

Our Identity

ActionAid The Gambia (AAITG) is an affiliate member of ActionAid International (AAI) federation that is registered and operating in The Gambia since 1979. AAITG has a two-tier governance system with a Board and General Assembly responsible for strategic and policy decisions and run by a management team which is responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the organization.

ActionAid is a non-partisan, non-religious development organization that has been working in The Gambia since inception to eradicate poverty and how we do this is enshrined in our theory of change.



Our Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.



Our Mission

To achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people's organizations, activists, social movements and supporters.



Our theory of change

How we believe change will happen

We believe that it is only through sustained actions by people who are directly affected by poverty, inequality and injustice at household, community, and national levels that a Gambia which embraces equity and progress for all genders where, social-justice, and poverty eradication can be achieved. We are certain that the Active agency of PLIP is central in the fight against poverty and all forms of injustice. Therefore, the need to remain focused and rooted in communities, form solidarity with like-minded organizations such as social movements, coalition, and networks especially of women and youth became central to our work. We also embark on strengthening campaigns and advocacy through the mobilization of PLIP to exert pressure on duty bearers for structural changes by influencing policies in their favor throughout the country. We will be prepared to seize key moments for social transformation when they arise and hold duty bearers to account.



Jabou boldly expressing herself during the interface with district authorities

Our approach to development

The Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) is the main framework we use to deliver on our development promises. Our anchored around four pillars which include Empowerment, Solidarity, Advocacy and Campaigns and Credible alternatives.

Feminist Leadership Principles:

Our work has also been guided by the feminist Leadership principles which is an integral part of our core values. This requires us to orient our staff and Board on the minimum standards of the feminist leadership principles. These principles are also used to guide our community engagements during our participatory Review and Reflection Processes, research and analysis.





Our strategic priorities

AAITG Country Strategic Paper five (CSP V) has three main ambitions as follows:

Programme Ambition

1

Build a society with empowered women, youth and children that is free of violence and injustice. This ambition aims to contribute to eradicating GBV, advancing rights of women youths and children, economic empowerment of women and youths.

Programme Ambition

2

Achieve Quality, Gender-Responsive Public Services, transparent and accountable public resource mobilization and management by government. This ambition aims to contribute to critical civic awareness, good governance and gender responsive public services.

Programme Ambition

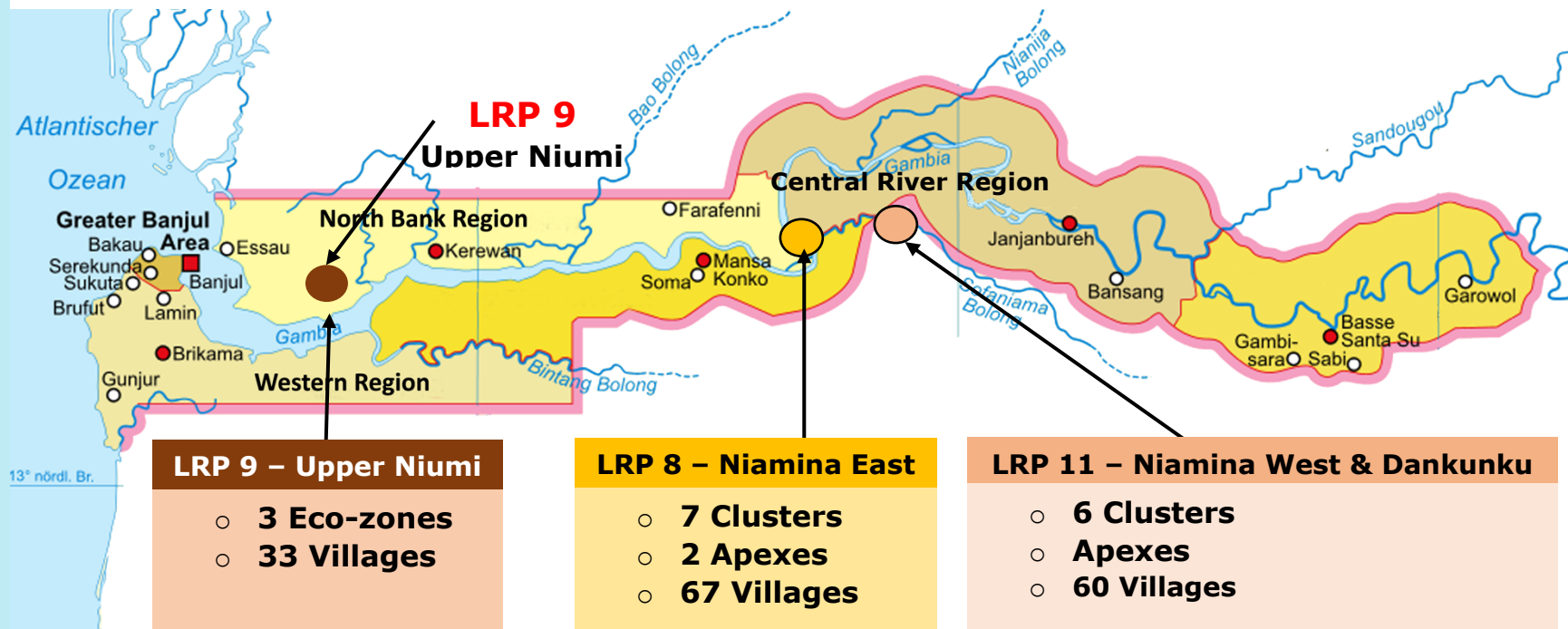
3

Secure resilience of communities to climate change and attain food security, climate justice and comprehensive disaster prevention through the agency of people living in poverty. This ambition aims to contribute raising critical awareness on climate and environment issues, agriculture, emergency response and community resilience.

Where we work

While our HIV and AIDs, GBV and Health System Strengthening interventions cut across the length and breadth of the Gambia, our Child Sponsorship focused interventions are in North Bank Region-Upper Niumi and Central River Region- Niaminas. AAITG covers 139 communities with an estimated population of 55,220. Our work in these communities

consolidates our rootedness in communities and enriches our understanding of the conditions of people living in poverty. The intimate working relationship with the communities helped to reinforce and consolidate the trust between AAITG and people in the LRPs.



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Our target groups continue to be people living in poverty with a special focus on women, especially women small holder farmers, survivors of GBV, Female Sex Workers and other vulnerable groups to HIV and AIDs, children, youths, and other excluded persons. AAITG continues to use the HRBA to deliver on our promises, starting with the basics of **empowering** People Living in Poverty (PLIP) to understand development as a fundamental human right with a view to enabling them lead on Policy **advocacy** and **campaigning**, igniting demands for gender responsive public services that respect, protect, and fulfil their human rights. We work in **partnership** with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Local Government Councils, other CSOs and networks, government ministries and departments, both at national and community levels. Appendix 3 shows the list of partners we worked with during the year under review. **We also support in facilitating the establishment and strengthening of organisations of the people which are used as platforms to engage policy makers and other stakeholders to advocate for pro-poor policies and laws. This is done because of our strong believe that it is only through action by people living in poverty that sustainable development can be achieved.**



Our supporters/donors

We register our profound thanks and gratitude to our valued supporters and Donors during the year. They have been significant contributors to our funding portfolio.

The European Union, UNDP, FAO, AmplifyChange, The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, Shifo Foundation and GAVI. Our

individual sponsor through ActionAid UK and Italy, Congregation of Sisters of Saint Joseph's and high value donors such as Jonnie Johnson.



AMPLIFYCHAN



Shifo



Investing in our future

The Global Fund

To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



United Nations
Peacebuilding



Food and Agriculture Organisation
of the United Nations

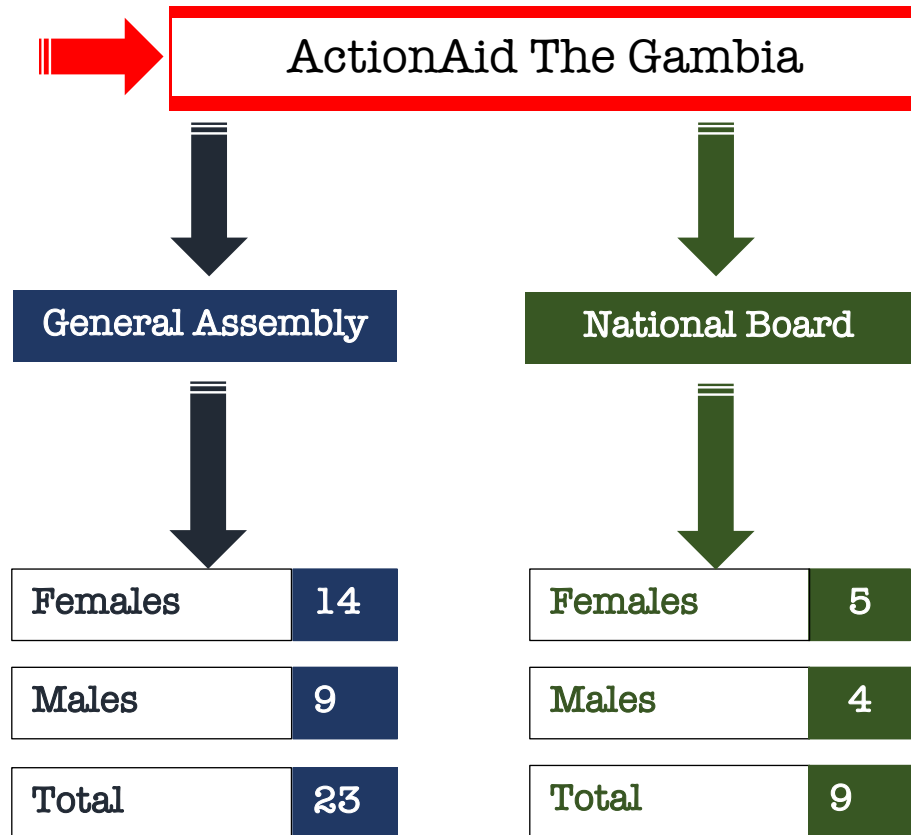


Our Governance Structure

AAITG continues to operate a two-tier governance structure which comprises a General Assembly and National Board. The current membership in the General Assembly (GA) 23, (14 females and 9 males) whilst The National Board has 9 members (5 females & 4 males).

The GA and Board is responsible for Policy and strategic decisions. The Board is assigned by the GA to execute policy decisions and supported by a management team at the secretariat, headed by the Executive Director (ED). The ED is supported by the Senior Management Team (SMT) and the wider members of staff for the day-to-day operations of the organisation.

Our Board and assembly members are a mix of diverse people from different backgrounds, age and regions.



Staff complement

The total staff complement including interns is 41 of which 29% are female and 71% are males. The Senior management team comprised of the

ED and three heads of department which constitute 75% Female. Table below shows full staff complements.

TOTAL STAFF COMPLEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2020					
	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	% FEMALES	% MALES
FULL TIME	11	27	38	29	71
SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SMT)	3	1	4	75	25
INTERNS	3	0	3		
VOLUNTEERS	0	0	0		

Key organizational policies for safeguarding and internal controls

AAITG has developed key organizational policies that help to put in place reasonable assurance mechanisms for internal controls, healthy relationships and making sure we do no harm to staff, communities and anyone we interact with. Key among these policies are the Sexual Harassment, abuse and safeguarding policy, the whistle blowing policy, Anti-terrorism policy, fraud and anti-corruption policy, risk register, finance and admin policy, procurement policy, child safeguarding policy, conflict of interest policy, HROD policy.

AAITG has also put in place mechanisms for complaint and redress with opportunities for support from AAI depending on the issue at hand. These policies are also rolled out among staff, interns, contractors and partners during inductions, or entry into contract or during routine program, monitoring or reflection meetings. AAITG has appointed a safeguarding focal person at the level of the Board that is the Vice Chair of the Board as well as at Management level that is the Head of HORD. AAITG has also printed and pasted highlights of key provisions of the safeguarding policies at strategic locations within the office premises. During the year there was no case of Sexual harassment or abuse reported.



2020 PRRP

Section 3: Key Actions and achievements: 2020 highlights

We have reached a total of **16,917** during the year out of which 67% are women. We have further reached a total of 271,670 children of which 76,127 were fully immunized. This brings to a cumulative total of **311,866** from 2018.

1

1,338 GBV cases reported from 2018 to 2020 (**437** in 2020)

2

422,498 children registered and **121,660** fully immunized (cumulative total from 2016 – 2020)

3

85% of smallholder farmers in the LRPs understand the concept of CRSA and **55%** are practicing it.

4

3,260 vulnerable people to HIV and AIDS and people living with HIV and AIDS reached with a minimum package on HIV and AIDs prevention, testing and counselling.

5

1,598 young people (895 males and 703 females) reached with critical HIV and GBV information.

6

- Community resilience building through strengthening of seeds and cereal banks in the LRPs.
- 1,015 farmers (49 % males and 51 % females) directly benefited from this scheme, supported 43 poultry and small ruminant farmers.
- Over 3 million Dalasi seeds purchased and distributed to smallholder farmers.

7

COVID 19 Response:

- Cash and food items distributed to 2006 vulnerable households
- D260,000 cash bailout to 26 women
- 1,917 girls received Sanitary pads
- Virtual GBV classroom TV sessions conducted during lockdown

Program Ambitions (PAs)

Program Ambition One:

In the drive to build a society with empowered women, youths and children that is free of violence and injustice, several actions were implemented during the year as summarized below:

Traditional Leaders Support Women's Empowerment Initiatives

49 traditional leaders directly reached leading to their understanding of gender issues, allocation of land to women and supporting women's economic initiatives.

15 young women are being supported to get registered as a CBO and as a renewable energy installation business to enable them compete for solar installation contracts at local and national levels. This will help sustain their source of income. These young females are maintaining the multi-functional platforms and poultry cooing house in CRR.



Girls trained by ActionAid on solar installation, practicing their skills

Strengthened follow ups and coordination of GBV case management at National and regional levels

Contributing to increased confidence of communities in reporting cases of GBV and responsiveness for expansion of the one stop centers to health facilities at Bundung maternal and Child Health, Brikama, Soma, Basse, Farafenni and Essau district hospitals in KM, WCR, NBR, LRR and URR. A total of 437 cases of GBV were reported, of which 35% were sexual violence cases mostly against female children under age 18.



Drama performance on gender-based violence

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Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism and other policy engagements: due to Covid-19 less crowded activities were done. We launched a video documentary on sexual violence in The Gambia. See link <https://youtu.be/xN1gLCIIWdY>.

The 16days of activism advocacy focused on strengthening domestic funding to enhance national response in combating SGBV and Covid-19 as well as on advocacy for the ratification of the ILO Convention 190 on prevention and safeguarding women and vulnerable people in the world of work. Some of the advocacy activities included a press conference, meeting with duty bearers to present a position paper for the ratification of ILO C190 and allocation of funds for survivors of SGBV and access justice. Link to the 16 days of activism advocacy.



AAITG and partners were engaged in policy review processes through consultations with the National Assembly Select Committee on Health women Children and humanitarian issues. We organized ourselves as CSOs working on GBV issues through the NGBV to review several amendment bills such as the Married Women Property Amendment Bill, the Skin Bleaching Amendment Bill and the Women's Amendment Bill. Members of the network have presented a position paper to the NAMs.



Solidarity match against sexual violence

Supported CSOs and GBV survivor organisations' capacity building, networking and shared learning. Through the Amplifychange funded project and in partnership with the NGBV, 3 members of the NGBV were supported to develop financial management manuals to help strengthen their financial management capacity and fundraising efforts. Shared learning and experience sharing forum were also supported that brought CSOs and survivor group together to share best practices, network and coordinate their work. Through the project we continued to build capacity of survivors on SRHR, advocacy skills, GBV and peer counselling. Survivors continued to take active part in advocacy and policy influencing work.



Differently able women celebrate International Women's Day organized by NGBV and AAITG

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Provided Legal and Psychosocial support to survivors of GBV: AAITG through our partnership with the NGBV continued to provide legal and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV. Through the services of private legal practitioners and social Workers, these services were provided including support to access medical services. During the year we supported two cases in court which were still ongoing at the time of reporting.

In summary a total of 7,633 people were directly reached under this PA, most of whom 72% were women including youths. Table below shows details . This achievement has surpass the year Target of 6500 people.

INTERVENTION	NUMBER REACHED		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Sensitized Traditional Leaders to Support Women's Empowerment Initiatives	40	9	49
Support economic sustainability of young women Solar Technicians	0	15	15
Provision of re-useable Sanitary pads to girls	0	1917	1917
Training on Gender base violence and conflict management and resolution	4	21	25
Training of Rural Women Assembly and Rural forestry platform on Leadership, governance and advocacy climate change and land policies	13	27	40
School outreach on FGM, Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy including 10 Teachers	121	169	290
Reported cases of GBV	0	437	437
Female sex Workers reached with minimum package of services	0	2174	2174
Provide Psychosocial support and Legal support to survivors	0	10	10
Form and support a support group for survivors of GBV & their meetings:	0	40	40
Sensitisation of youths on HIV&AIDs and its intersection with GBV	895	703	1598
Total	1073	5522	6595

Program Ambition Two: \



**Training with Local Government Authorities (LGAs)
and community members**

Key actions taken to achieve Quality, Gender-Responsive Public Services, transparent and accountable public resource mobilization and management are summarized below. These activities are mainly aimed at raising the critical civic awareness and engagement with public sector:

Conducted civic awareness, trainings on Transitional Justice, women's rights, HRBA, Local Governance and decentralization and interface meetings between Local Area councils, Tax Regulators and Tax Payers – for Community members, LGAs and Ward Councilors.

Supported the simplification of four Local Area Council Strategies and Developed citizen charter of demands which were later presented to 4 councils (KM, LRR, NBR and URR).

See link to Citizen Charter of Demands
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNwEmR3lhd4>.

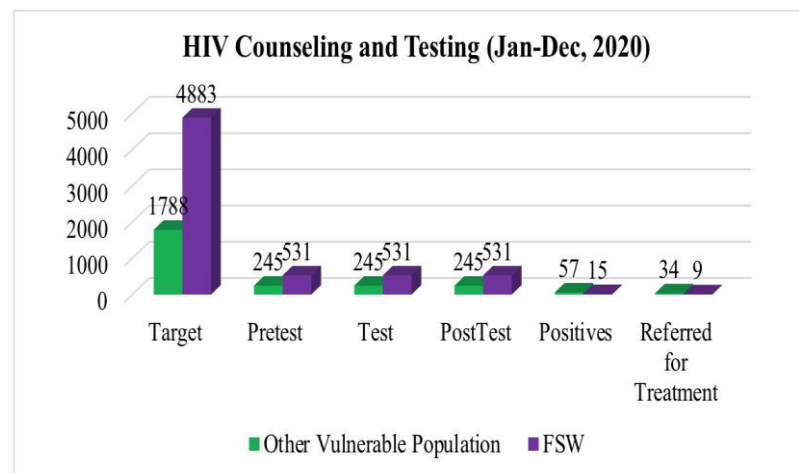
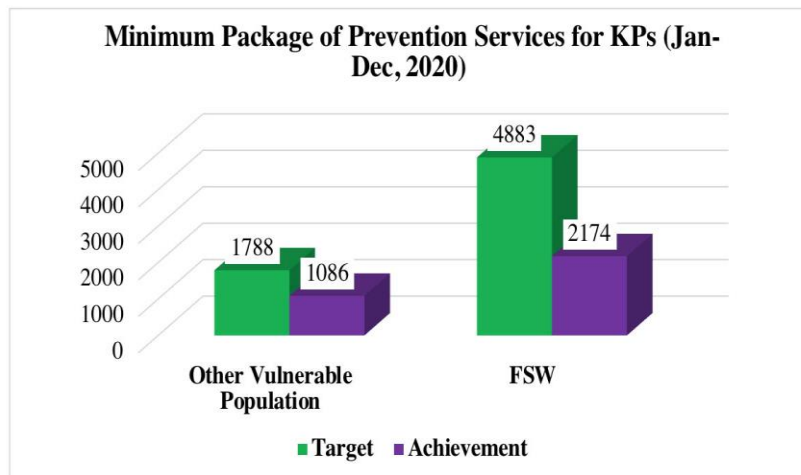
Strengthen health information systems:

through the MYChild project, we registered 271,670 children of which 76,127 were fully immunized children nationally and sent 148,345 SMS reminders to parent/caregivers. Health Workers confirmed reduced workload which resulted in concentration on quality service provisions.



HIV and AIDS prevention among vulnerable population and young people: a total of 1,598 (895Males and 703Females) young people were sensitized on GBV and its intersection with HIV and AIDs and 3,260 Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) and other vulnerable groups were reached with minimum package of HIV prevention services, 776 of them did HIV test as indicated below in the charts.

Young people reached with critical HIV and GBV information



Under the My Child Project, two hundred and seven one thousand, six hundred and seventy Children registered for immunization below is the table summary of activities under PA2 excluding children registered for immunization as the system does not provide gender of children.

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INTERVENTION	NUMBER REACHED		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Community Sensitization on Transitional Justice and Democracy	171	136	307
Interface Meeting between JAC and Taxpayers	80	72	152
Women's Forum with Business and Tax Regulators	4	27	31
The training of local government authorities on transitional justice, women's rights, the local government act and decentralization.	10	10	20
Training of Ward Councilors on transitional justice, Decentralization process, the role of Local Government and Human right based approach to development	19	2	21
Support 4 LGAs to develop and simplify their development strategies (Validation)	30	60	90
Other Vulnerable groups who received minimum package HIV Prevention	1086	0	1,086
KPs Screened for STIs	18	0	18
FSWs and other vulnerable groups reached and did HIV counselling and testing	245	531	776
Development of citizen's local demand charter	220	300	520
Total	1883	1,138	3,021



Community sensitization on gender issues

Program Ambition Three:

Secure resilience of communities to climate change and attain food security, climate justice and comprehensive disaster prevention through the agency of people living in poverty. We have conducted several actions including research to provide evidence for your program and advocacy work as indicate below:

Conducted Empirical Assessment of Grievance Redress Mechanisms for Land and Natural Resources Related Disputes in The Gambia: This activity was funded by FAO through Peace building fund and has brought out key findings on weaknesses that we need to raise funds to intervene. We will also use the findings to advocate for strengthening decentralized justice system and indigenous early warning and peace building mechanisms. See link to full report:

<https://gambia.actionaid.org/sites/gambia/files/publications/AAITG%20GRM%20Land%20and%20Natural%20Resources%20Related%20Disputes%20in%20The%20Gambia.pdf>



Field visit in CRR

Our response to COVID -19

For 2020 most of our interventions under this PA have been through our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our interventions were mainly focused on three key areas such as primary prevention and control, humanitarian relief and building community resilience.

Link to COVID 19 Report

https://gambia.actionaid.org/sites/gambia/files/publications/COVID-19%20RESPONSE%20Report_final.pdf



Handwashing materials distributed



Chief Damfa handing over the Purchased Seeds to Beneficiaries

Primary Prevention and Control

- a) **Infection Control-** In a drive to ensure prevention and control of the spread of COVID-19, AAITG supported communities and Ministry of Health (MOH) with infection control materials and other sanitary materials. Ten thousand (10,000) units of gloves were provided to MOH for use by front line health workers. In the LRPs, WASH materials included detergents, buckets, soap, and hand sanitizers were supplied to public institutions, (schools, health centres, police stations, army camp, markets, car parks, and vegetable gardens).
- b) **COVID-19 and GBV-** Conducted 9 GBV TV classroom sessions which were aired on two TV stations (QTV & GRTS) and on our YouTube channels. Nine (9) one-stop-centres were also supported with basic medical items and supplies for the management of GBV cases. See link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsMIM-xyf5k>

Humanitarian Relief

- c) **Cash for Food Relief** - To reduce Covid-19 impact on food availability, AAITG supported 2,006 vulnerable households, each with cash worth the cost of a 50 kg bag of rice, 5-litre gallon of oil and 5 kg beans. The beneficiaries were from AAITG intervention communities in the LRPs in the Niaminas and Upper Niumi districts. A total of 841 households were from Upper Niumi (LRP 9), 646 from Niamina East & West (LRP8) and 519 from Niamina Dankunku (LRP 11).



A beneficiary expressing appreciation

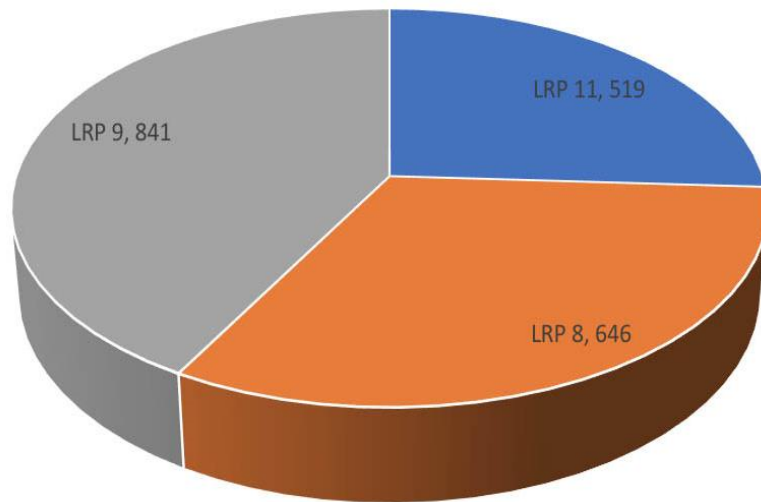


Figure 2: Distribution of Food Relief Beneficiaries by LRP

The targeted households were the most vulnerable, with specific consideration for women-headed households. A little less than 39 % of the beneficiaries were women-headed households, while the rest (61.3%) were male-headed households.

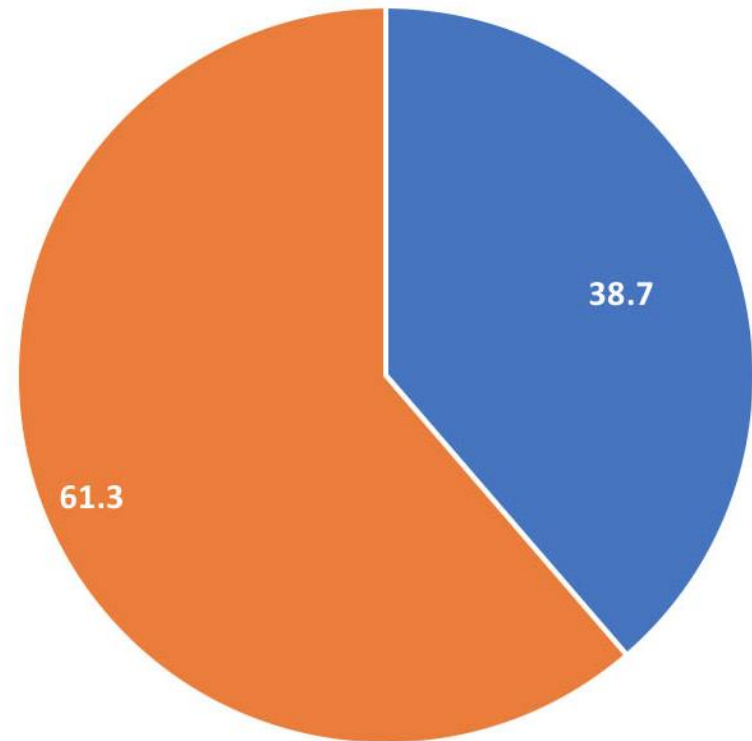


Figure 4: Distribution of Food Relief Beneficiaries by Gender

a) Distribution of Sanitary Pads to Girls



During the period under review, vulnerable girls especially sponsored girls between 13 and 18 years, were supported with reusable Sanitary pads. A total of 1,917 girls from 6 Apexes/ Ecozones in 3 LRPs benefited. Forty-four percent of the beneficiaries were from Upper Niumi (LRP 9), 37 % from Niamina East (LRP8) and 19 % Niamina Westt & Dankunku (LPRs 11)



Girls making reusable sanitary pads

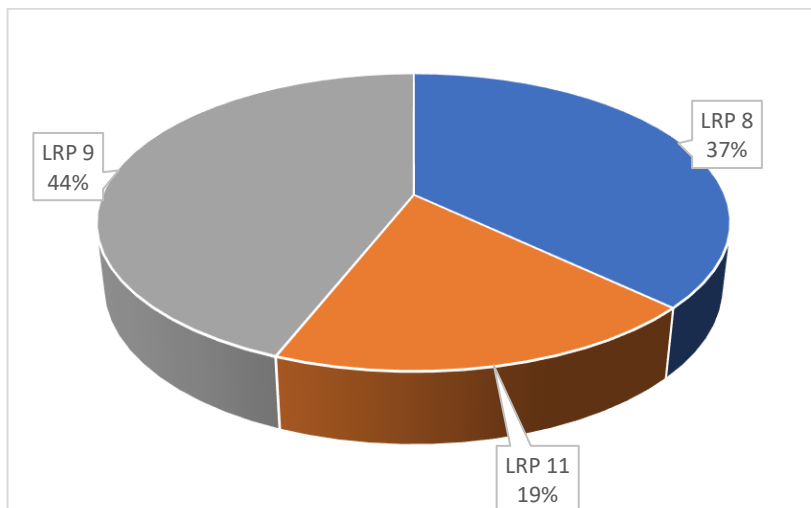


Figure 6: Percentage of Sanitary Pads Distribution by LRP

b) Support to People Living with HIV&AIDS to Access Treatment Sites.

AAITG through partners have supported People Living with HIV&AIDS with transport refund to access ART sites. This targeted 7,833 PLHIVs on ART treatment care across the country. Monthly transport refunds were provided from June to December 2020.

Resilience Building.

a) Support to Seed and Cereal Banks

As many economic activities have ceased to function because of COVID, some farmers resorted to using their seeds as food for their families. It is against this background that the study concluded that seeds and cereals availability would be a major challenge to smallholder farmers. consequently, AAITG supported the establishment and strengthening of Seed and Cereal Banks in Naimina and Nuimi. One Thousand and Fifteen (1,015) individuals (51 % males and 49 % females) directly benefited from this scheme.



Foday handing over a bag of seeds to a beneficiary

b) Bail Out Package:

AAITG endeavored to support women farmers to build their resilience against climate change by helping them diversify their economic activities. The diversified activities included small ruminants rearing, vegetable and poultry production, petty trading and tie-dye and batik. Unfortunately, the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic has negatively affected these economic activities. Farmers were constrained with the marketing of their produce, consequently reducing their incomes. To enable farmers rejuvenate these economic activities AAITG provided D260,000 to twenty-six women as support to revive their income generating enterprises. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UDd62h4_Wo&t=4s



Distribution of hygiene materials and cash support from ActionAid

c) Support to Smallholder Farmers to Diversify their Agricultural Production

In strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, AAITG supported individuals in poultry and small ruminant production. Forty-three people from 4 Apexes were supported to boost their livestock production, in either small ruminant or poultry production.

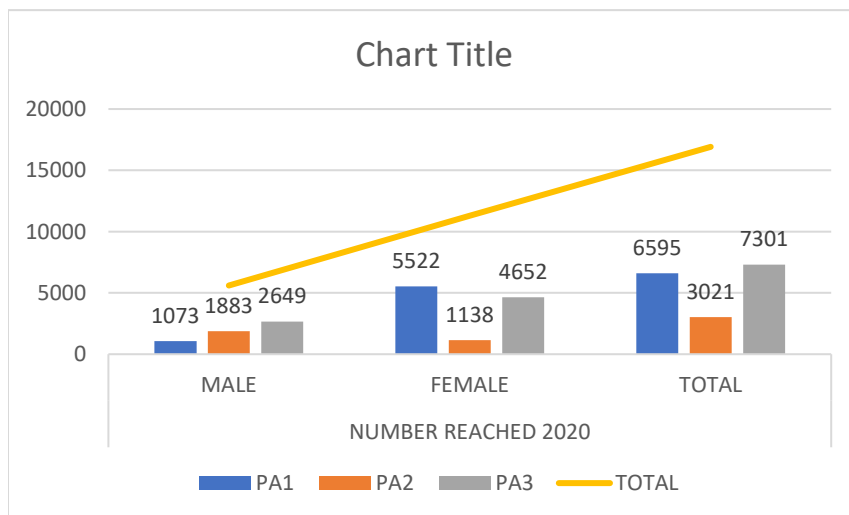


Musukebba, a beneficiary displays her cheque

INTERVENTION	NUMBER REACHED		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Cash for Food Relief (Households)	1,224	782	2,006
Support Seed and Cereal Banks	501	514	1,015
Cash Bail Out Package for Small scale businesses	0	60	60
Support Small Holder Diversifiacation of Agriculture-poultry & small ruminants	31	69	100
Support Vegetable value addition	0	45	45
The orientation of complaint and redress committee	2	10	12
Distribution of improved Cooking stoves (household heads)	332	18	350
Conduct community outreach programs (Traditional Communicators) on Climate change	294	659	953
Conduct Training of women on good governance and proper seed bank management.	31	36	67
Establishment of Garden/Orchards (two)	4	294	298
Food Crises Monitoring	14	100	114
Training of Women vegetable producers on vegetable production and food processing	0	45	45
Training of Women poultry farmers on poultry feed preparation	0	20	20
Conduct graduation ceremony for FFS facilitators	216	2,000	2,216
Total	2649	4652	7,301

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Overall, a total of 16,917 (61% female) people were reached during the year under review. The chart and table below shows details.



PAs	NUMBER REACHED 2020		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PA1	1073	5522	6595
PA2	1883	1138	3021
PA3	2649	4652	7301
TOTAL	5605	11312	16917
%	39	61	



The Multipurpose centre constructed in Sinchu Gundo Village by ActionAid and Mbolo

Power Shifts

TRANSFORMATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Through our work we have been able to contribute to power shifts (Visible, invisible, and Hidden powers)

Visible power

→ We have seen shifts in visible power where women and young people in our intervention areas were occupying decisions making positions and participating in critical decision-making processes. For example, women continued to participate and attend sittings of the District Tribunals. Although this was hindered by the lack of remuneration for the women members but ActionAid will consider this in 2021 plans and budgets, while we continue to advocate for review of the 1933 district Tribunal Act. We have seen women in leadership positions in CBOs including the Credit Unions, the Apexes and Ecozones as well as in Village leadership.

→ Women are no longer afraid of expressing their views in meetings and forums regardless of their numbers and venues.

→ Although this was an example quoted last year, the situation continued to prevail positively. For example, some vulnerable men who got training and skills have also realized changes in their status in communities. For instance, Mr. Saikou Gomez echoed that his status has changed because his fellow farmers looked up to him as a mentor and would always engage him to learn from him the CRSA farming concept and techniques.

→ The women continue to understand and exercise their rights to be free from violence. A case worth mentioning is that of Fanta Kura and her friends who liberated themselves from domestic violence after receiving several trainings from AAITG.
See link to story:
<https://stories.actionaid.org/pages/search.php>

→ Women in the LRP also know their right to land and claimed these rights leading to most women groups owning and registering land in their names.

→ Women have confidence to engage their Local councils during interface meetings and ask difficult questions and make demands. This is an ongoing process that is applauded by the communities.

Visible power

Our interventions continued to contribute to shifting the mind set/attitude of many communities including “conservative communities” below are manifestations of such power shifts.

→ Many women are allowed by their husbands to join groups and associations and attend trainings, which included travelling.

→ We have seen traditional men in full support of women empowerment including the condemnation of harmful traditional practices such as FGM and Child marriage.

→ The role of women in conflict resolution especially at the level of the district tribunals is gradually changing norms

→ More community members belief that FGM and Child Marriage are detrimental and must be abandoned.

→ Women accepting to speak out against violence is a step towards changing norms, mindsets and power. Penda Dem a member of the Gender Action Group of Pakau Saloum said:

“As from today, I understand that what I am doing is a necessity and a responsibility as a citizen of this country. I will never relent, and I will be one of those who will be very vigilant in the community because women have faced a lot of abuses. We are saying no more women abuse, it’s enough. I thank ActionAid for this opportunity” -

➡ Having women accept to be in the complaints and redress mechanism during the Covid-19 response is a manifestation of the changes in mind set about women's role in community politics/development.

Shifts in hidden power

➡ At least four Local Area Councils now put women and youth issues on their agenda specifically in their strategies for example the Alkalo of Kerr Biran; Mr. Katim Yassin said:

"Before I attended the training, my support to women was not much. However, when I came back from the training, I challenged myself and all other men in my village to give more support to women. I now ensure that women not only have access to very good farmlands, but also encouraged their husbands to do farm operations like field clearing, sowing, and harvesting crops for them. Women were doing all these by themselves before I attended the training program".

Some feedback from PRRP & MTR

The 2020 Mid-term review of our CSP provided detailed insights on our approaches, partnership and how AAITG was contributing to changes in lives and livelihoods. Below are some excerpts from the report. Most respondents acknowledged that ActionAid works in a transparent way and AA respects their rights and human dignity during their interactions. The members of the Kudang Apex Credit Union applauded the partnership and the AA way of working and recognized the support and experiences they gain during the partnership.

They sighted the motivation and support given to them during the formation of their credit union. ***"that is one of our biggest achievements"*** similar sentiment alluded by the members of the poultry association ***"The value of the presence of AA in the communities cannot be overemphasized. Looking at the support. ActionAid is giving to women like the vegetable garden schemes, the poultry support, the small and large ruminants, the list is endless. Any good thing in our communities today its AA who took it there"***.



Women working at Kumbaney Garden

The MTR also indicated that “AAITG has been outstanding at policy and grassroots levels in the areas of advancing women and girls’ rights, empowering women and girls, changing mindsets and lots of work done around harmful traditional practices like Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). AAITG advances the HRBA coupled with other principles like the Feminist principles being a more aggressive one.”

Community members also applauded AAITG for the community engagements including the civic education using community radios which helped in aiding and educating women on their rights and encouraging community discussions. ***“The ActionAid way of working should be adopted by all including government, that way everyone will be part of the process of development”*** said one of the members”.

Section 4: Updates on organizational health indicators

Board and Committee meetings: During the year all Board and sub-committee meetings were held plus the Annual General Assembly Meeting which approved the 2019 Annual report.

Audit: All the statutory Audits were done which included specific project Audits and General organizational audit.

Number of major outstanding unresolved audit issues: At the end of the year, there was one unsolved Audit issue which was an outstanding court case with an ex staff who was made redundant.

Disallowances from donors: There was no donor disallowances during the year

Sponsorship link levels: please see table below

Location	# of Links
LRP 8	817
LRP 9	1,126
LRP 11	1,165
Next Step	
Total	3,108

SMT Gender Ratio: 75%Female 25% Male

Diversification and improvement of our funding portfolio: AAITG has developed a fundraising strategy that is aligned to the current CSP and the SIF. The fundraising strategy commits to diversify our funding portfolio while maintaining quality CS funding. AAITG has full time staff on fundraising (CS and Institutional FR) supported by programs and finance departments.

Efficient and Effective Financial Management Systems

The affiliate program continues to prioritize the implementation of robust systems to ensure internal controls are strengthened for organizational sustainability. During the year 2020, program activities were implemented with close financial monitoring of partners, as a sizeable portion of activities were implemented through partners. Despite COVID 19 and its implications, AAITG carried out effective and close monitoring of budgets to ensure judicious use of resources for impactful program activities in line with operating context.

Sound organizational structure and a strong team: AAITG maintained minimum acceptable number and quality of staff needed to implement the strategy. Although the agency recognizes weakness in some key area such as communications and M&E for mainstream program work. These positions are planned for the next year. Realizing that most staff are new, a HRBA training will be planned for 2021 to build the capacity of all critical staff on AA main way of working.

Harnessing the Power of Technology: AAITG has used IT for backups, financial systems, communication especially during the peak of CIVID-19 that has allowed us to work while minimizing the risk of disease. The agency has heavily invested in IT especially internet

Our contribution to federation collective priorities: AAITG has participated in reviewing and validating motions, the federal AGM. Our Board Vice chair is serving the Elections convenor for AAI and AAITG is a member of the West Africa Migration delegation.



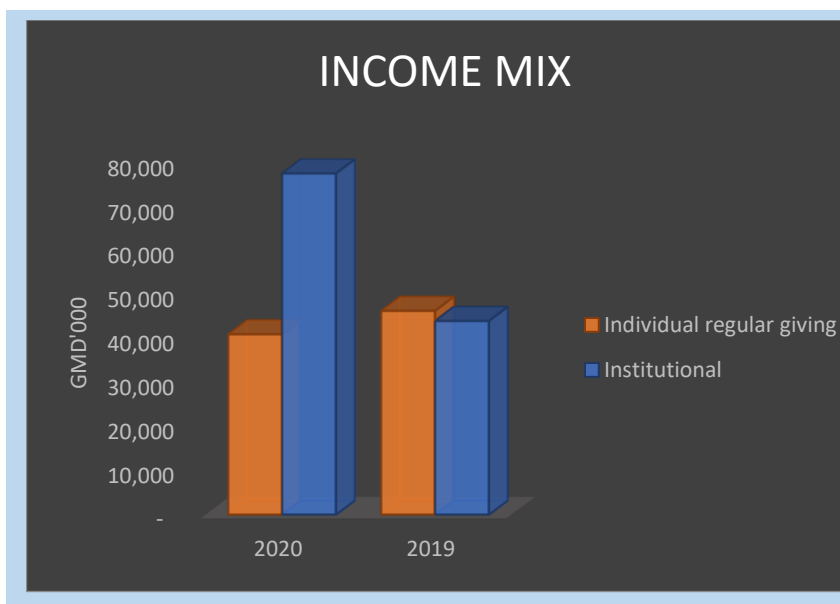
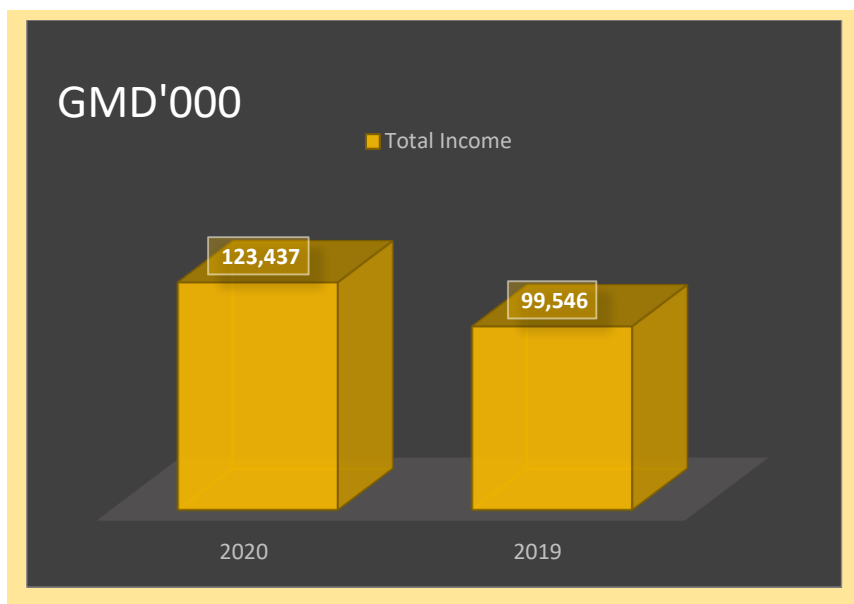
AATG server room

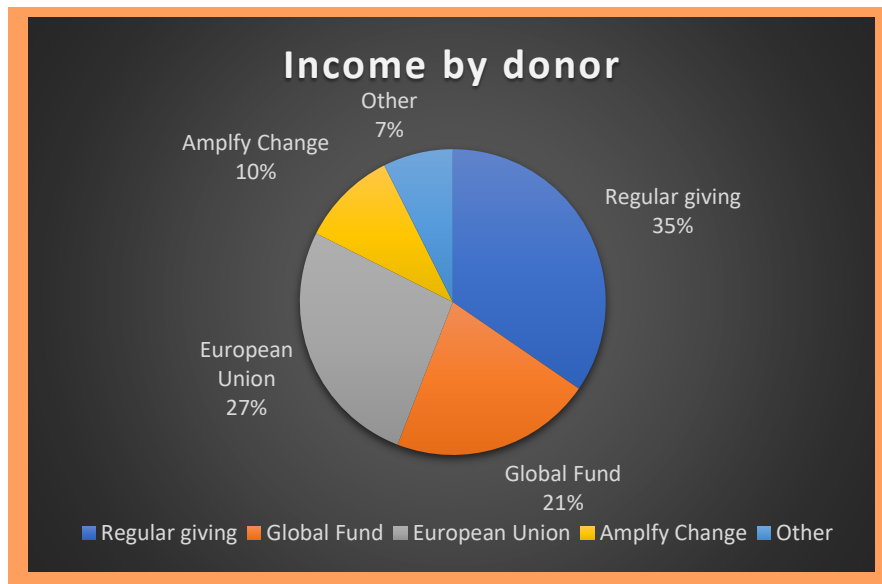
Section 5: Financial Report – (Summary of Financial Performance in 2020)

The following are the significant highlights relating to the financial performance of ActionAid International the Gambia for the year ended 31st December 2020:

Income

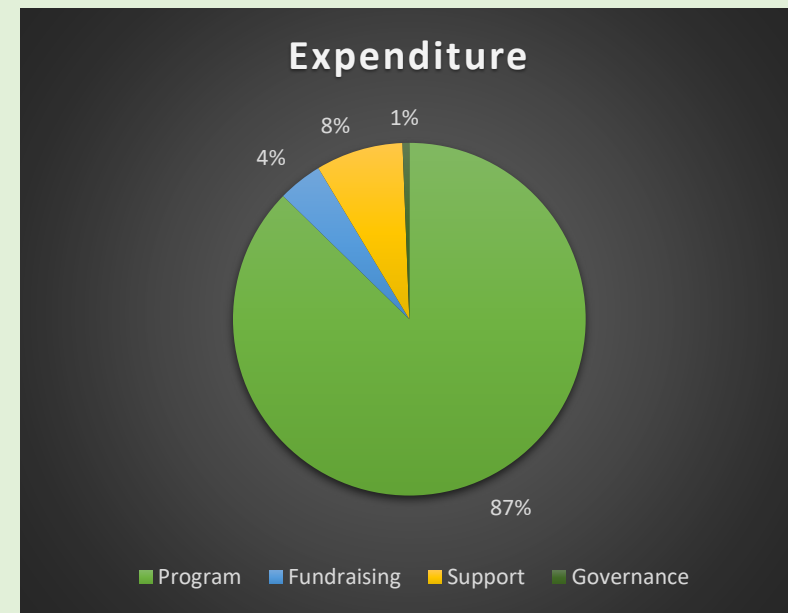
- Total income was **D 123.4 million**, which represent an increase of 24% on 2019 (D99.5 million in 2019). The increase in overall income is mainly due to a significant increase in locally raised funds from institutional donors amounting to D77m in 2020 compared to D44m in 2019.
- Income from regular giving decrease by 11% compared to the previous year.





Expenditure

- Total expenditure for the year 2020 was **D 104 million** compared to D 118 million 2019 (12% decrease from previous year).
- **87%** of the total expenditure, i.e. **D91 million** was on Grants and Direct Project cost, and **8% (D8 million)** on Support cost, **4% (D4.2 million)** on Fund raising cost and less than **1% (D650k)** on Governance cost.



Section 6: Key challenges, Lessons learnt & recommendations

Key Challenges

➡ One of the key challenges during the year was the COVID -19 which affected our 2020 plans implementation. However, it has not stopped us from working with our partners and reaching the most vulnerable at the time when they needed our support most. We used our HRBA and Feminist leadership principles.

➡ Some partners are weak and require spending more time and energy in building their capacity. Generally CSOs are weak. This could be as a result of over 20 years of battering by the previous government. It has been challenging to mobilise CSOs to engage in policy and advocacy work and hold government to account.

➡ Difficulties and slow nature of implementation of laws especially against sexual violence and interference of so many players in such cases continue to be a challenge.

➡ The complaints and redress committee did not have adequate training and this needs to be addressed in the next year plans and budgets.

➡ The Gambia is not endowed with many donors as a result fundraising from the few donors based in the country become very competitive.

➡ A deterioration of security situation have been experienced during the year with a rising number of killings and burglaries especially in the Greater Banjul Area.

➡ We have seen an increase in the number of political parties and presidential contenders. This may not be bad in a democracy, but it has a potential for violence during campaign period.

Lessons learnt

The COVID-19 Pandemic has taught us the biggest lesson in 2020. It has presented a broader understanding of how the ICT infrastructure can change the dynamics of work processes and mechanisms. We have learnt to cherish the importance of investing in our ICT infrastructure but also how we are interdependent as a globe to work together to make the Global ICT infrastructure work for all. We were able to conduct our meetings, effectively communicate, plan and agree on our response plans at the same time reducing the risk of COVID- Transmission. It has taught us that ICT is a necessity and can be considered a human right to access. Gambia is leading to major Elections in December 2021, which present huge potentials for disruption of our social justice work, we have consciously made our current and future plans to respond to this phenomenon.

We missed the opportunity presented by the Covid pandemic to mobilize more resources. This was mainly due to the nature of our work and structure which was not more responsive to crisis management.

However, we have also used the opportunity to negotiate with current donors to re-direct the project activities to respond to the crisis.

We have learnt that donors are sensitive to changes in the external context and this requires to be proactive in reaching out to them when such radical changes occur. It also requires identification of organisations to respond to the changes.



Ndey having her school lessons at home during the lockdown

Recommendations

- ➡ AAITG to intensify the civic education programs in communities and fully participate in the activities of the CSO coalition on elections and also engage in peace building work given the political situation.
- ➡ Intensify fundraising by closely working with partners and other ActionAid countries and the ActionAid International Secretariate for more funding from institutional and high value Donors
- ➡ Women and youth empowerment programs to be further intensified – capacity building & livelihood skills acquisition to enhance income generation and diversification of income sources, advocacy skills towards enhancing women and youth participation in decision making processes and in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and more inclusion of women and youths in decision making.
- ➡ More investments in Technology for improved data management, M&E system, Institutional raising and child sponsorship work.
- ➡ Improve on visibility and communication
- ➡ **The use of HRBA and the Feminist principle is a more transformative approach, However, this requires lots of risk assessment due to the shrinking political space and Gambia being a patriarchal society and thus the need to be more strategic and /or tactical coupled with embedding community values to enhance effective delivery as HRBA benefits/impact takes time to be realized.**
- ➡ Increase staff and partners understanding of SHEA and Safeguarding policies with a view to enhance compliance.

Section 7: Appendixes | Appendix 1: Audited Accounts

Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

Director's Report for the year ended 31st December 2020

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements of Action Aid International The Gambia for the year ended 31st December 2020.

1. State of Affairs

The results for the year ended 31st December 2020 are as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 9 to 23.

2. Principal Activities

Action Aid International The Gambia is an organization incorporated in The Gambia limited by guarantee. Through its new Strategy (CSP V - 2018 to 2023) Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG) will be focusing on building resilience of communities for social justice. Action Aid International The Gambia has recommitted itself to furthering Social Justice, Gender Equality and Poverty Eradication in the Gambia, focusing on these three priority programme ambitions: PA 1 - Build a society with empowered women, youth and children that is free of violence and injustice; PA 2 - Achieve quality, gender-responsive public services, transparent and accountable public resource mobilization and management by government; and PA 3 - Build resilience of communities to climate change and attain food security, climate justice and comprehensive disaster prevention through the agency of people living in poverty.

3. Director's & Director's Interest

The Directors who held office during the year are as detailed on page 2.

4. Director's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Companies Act, 2013 requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Organization as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- *Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;*
- *Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;*
- *State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;*
- *Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Organization will continue in business.*

Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any given time, the financial position of the Organization and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act, 2013.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Organization and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

5. Significant Changes in Fixed Assets

Additions, disposals and revaluation of fixed assets are detailed in Note 2 of the financial statements.

6. Employees

The Number of employees and the cost associated with those employees is as detailed in Note 8.

7. External Auditors

The Organisation's external auditor, Augustus Prom-Audit.Tax.Advisory, has expressed their willingness to continue in office.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS


.....
Board Secretary

Date: 17/04/2021

Registered Office

MDI Road
P.O Box 450
Kanifing, The Gambia.

Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020



3 Kairaba Avenue – P O Box 587, The Gambia - Telephone (220) 4378146/ 4392376 / 4378147 – Fax (220) 4378148
E-mail: admin@augustusprom.com www.augustus-prom.gm

Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of Action Aid International The Gambia which comprises the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement and Statement of Changes in Accumulated Fund for the year then ended, and notes to the Financial Statements including a summary of significant Accounting Policies applicable to the Organization.

In our opinion, the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the Financial Position of the Organization as at 31st December 2020 and of its Financial Performance and its Cash Flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and in line with the Requirement of the Companies Act 2013.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in The Gambia and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

Responsibilities of Management and those charged with governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2013 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the ability of the Organization to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process of the Organization.

Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatement can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- *Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intention omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.*
- *Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control within the Organization.*
- *Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.*
- *Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and whether a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate,*

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Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the Financial Statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirement regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significant in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The Engagement Partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Mr Augustus F. Prom.

Augustus Prom
.....
AUGUSTUS PROM
AUDIT. TAX. ADVISORY
REGISTERED AUDITORS

DATE: *19th April* 2021



Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

Income Statement

For the year ended 31st December 2020

		31 st Dec 2020 GMD'000	31 st Dec 2019 GMD'000
	<i>Notes</i>		
Income			
Remittances received from AAUK	3.1	41,020	46,350
Locally raised projects income	3.2	77,610	44,054
Gain on Exchange	3.3	3,694	3,126
Other income	3.4	1,113	6,016
Total Income		123,437	99,546
Expenditure			
Grants to partners	13.1	(27,017)	(28,488)
Direct project costs	13.2	(64,052)	(70,003)
Support Costs	13.3	(8,351)	(10,897)
Sponsorship	14.1	(2,518)	(7,107)
Other Fundraising Cost	14.2	(1,723)	(595)
Governance Cost	14.3	(650)	(958)
Total Expenditure		(104,311)	(118,048)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		19,126	(18,502)

The notes on Pages 13 to 23 form an Integral Part of the Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2020

		31 st Dec 2020 GMD'000	31 st Dec 2019 GMD'000
	<i>Notes</i>		
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property Plant & Equipment	2	9,298	8,061
Total Non-Current Assets		9,298	8,061
Current Assets			
Trade & Other Receivables	4	37,226	22,387
Cash and bank balances	5	81,602	60,346
Total Current Assets		118,828	82,733
Total Assets		128,126	90,794
Accumulated Fund & Liabilities			
Accumulated Fund			
Accumulated Fund (See Page 12)		80,945	62,598
Revaluation Reserve (See Page 12)		9,418	7,385
Total Equity		90,363	69,983
Current Liabilities			
Accruals & Other Liabilities	6	37,763	20,811
Total Current Liabilities		37,763	20,811
Total Accumulated Fund & Liabilities		128,126	90,794

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on

17 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairperson:  Treasurer: 

The notes on Pages 15 to 23 form an Integral Part of the Financial Statements

Appendix 2: Stories of Change and Voices from Communities

From Victim to Activism:
A demonstration of power shifts

Fanta Kura Mbye – a victim of domestic violence is now a women’s rights activist and the first woman to be a member of the District Tribunal in her Region. Fanta lives in a community where women experience inequalities in decision making, land ownership and domestic violence with impunity. Although there are laws in The Gambia that protect women/girls against GBV they have not guaranteed the full enjoyment particularly for uneducated rural women. Women and girls experience many forms of human rights violations including FGM, wife battering, lack of control over assets including land, exclusion in decision making mechanisms, sexual violence etc. Some forms of violence against women is condoned by society. However, with interventions from ActionAid, women in Niamina have begun to enjoy their human rights.

This is manifested in the story of Fanta Mbye.

“My name is Fanta Kura Mbye. I live in Sinchu Alagie, Niamina East. I am 48 years old and I’m married with six sons and two daughters. Their ages are: 30, 27, 24, 20, 18, 16. 14 and 8 years”.

“I am a farmer and I cultivate groundnut, millet and onions. I am also doing small business. I hold the position of an organizer in Group Juboo, our village association. I am also a member of the Village Development Committee (VDC), I am the President of the Mothers’ Club, the President of the Arabic School and a member of the District Tribunal”.



Fanta Kura (left) helping her neighbor Rohey, a victim of gender-based violence, to cook lunch

"I have benefited from different ActionAid projects ranging from training on gender and human rights issues including the Women's Act. I was also trained on climate resilient sustainable agriculture and the impact of climate change".

"Before the intervention of ActionAid's projects, I was facing numerous problems as I was not aware of many things. I used to think that my role as a woman was just limited to domestic work or household chores. Sometimes when people provoke me, I would quarrel and at some point, I would cry and go home".

"People used to hire me on daily basis to work for them on their farms. When they pay me D25 (\$0.48), I would use that money to prepare food for my family. I will only work on my own farm

when I am ready with others and by that time the grass has overcome my farm. Because I was not having farm implements of my own, there was nothing I could do but to wait until others are ready before they can make their implements available to me.

When I lost my first husband that was when the struggle began for me and children. I could not take proper care of the children alone. I therefore decided to send the children to their uncle to help me raise them".

"My late husband's younger brother married me and took me to his compound adding me to his other two wives. I had tough time as I experienced beating and insults and the most painful one was the one from one of his sons who used to beat me until

I faint and had an eye injury. I used to receive death threats too but my husband could not do anything to stop his son and my co wives from abusing me. Then one day I received an invitation from our community-based organization that I was selected to be part of ActionAid training on violence against women"

According to the CBO Fanta was selected to attend a series of trainings to help her out of her situation because of what she was going through. Specifically she was also selected to be part of the grassroots women's campaign for the inclusion of women in District tribunal as part of AAITG implementation of UNR1325 as well as trainings on climate change and as traditional communicators to disseminate information to different communities on climate change and women's rights.

Fanta was also supported through the livelihood project to access farm implements and that was the turning point for her.

“After receiving all these training and the farm implements that was the time I decided to take back my children to come and help me on the farm. Since then they are staying with me. We kept struggling until I got the courage to ask the ‘Alkalo’ (village head) to give me land to build my own house, where I’m currently living with my children”. I built my own house, I was selected to serve in the District Tribunal, I work on my own. Now I do not work for any one and I do not borrow money from anyone”. ActionAid’s projects have changed my life forever. Now I can defend myself and children,

I feed myself and I will make sure my children complete school.

I am not afraid to say no when I should and to say yes when I want to say yes. When I was selected to be in the Tribunal there was so much fear because no woman has ever been there but with the courage and confidence given to me by ActionAid, I accepted and now the chief consults me a lot”.

Now what I do is to support others and I will use the District Tribunal to make sure women are treated fairly. “My work is not just limited at the tribunal but sometimes people come to my home to settle a dispute and I would mediate to ensure that peace prevails”.

“The hardships that were put on women have now reduced. There are other women who were facing similar difficulties that I went

through either from their husbands or in-laws. They used to confide in me about their ordeals.

But over time, they followed my footsteps and went to the village head to give them land to build their own compounds. Some men were saying that I influenced them to build their own houses. One of them is living with her children and the other is living with her husband and children. Most women are becoming aware of their rights”.

“Sometimes women are abused or raped and, in some cases, elders would like to settle the matter at family level. My advice to the women is that they should not subject themselves to those kinds of situations. The law should be applied. As women, we should not allow ourselves to be mistreated and abused”.

Fanta admits that although Corona virus has caused havoc, she was able to get her life back due to ActionAid support. “The Lockdown caused me to sit for many months without business, if ActionAid had not supported me I would have gone back to zero but thank God I am back on my small business of selling fish, oil, vegetables, green tea and sugar”.

Fanta’s story has manifested shift in visible power through her involvement in many organizations including the district tribunal and shifts in invisible power by changing norms of women accepting violence as normal and not being part of major decision makers. It has also contributed to shifts in changing political agenda especially at the local level where the councils are now discussing including budgets for women in the District tribunals.

She Thanked ActionAid and supporters for their support. “Now I am not dependent on anyone and I do not take loans from anyone”.



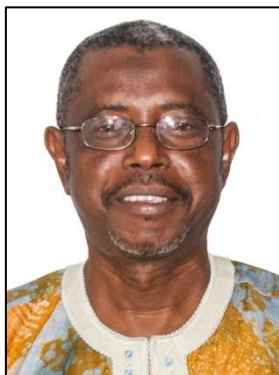
Fanta Kura (right) with Ndey, who escaped from gender-based violence from her in-law and build her own compound

Appendix 3: List of Partners

	INSTITUTION	LOCATION
National Level		
1.	Network against gender base violence (NGBV)	Kanifing, MDI Road, Kanifing Municipal Council
2.	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Fajara, Kanifing Municipal Council
3.	United Purpose (UP)	Kairaba Avenue, Kanifing Municipal Council
4.	ACTIVSTA	Kanifing, MDI Road, Kanifing Municipal Council
5.	Ministry of Health	Banjul, Quadrangle
6.	Directorate of gender and women empowerment	Bartel Harden High way
7.	National AIDS Secretariat	Kairaba Avenue
8.	World View International	Bakau
9.	Hands on Care	Brikama
10.	Mbolo Association	Tujereng
11.	Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA)	Kanifing

	INSTITUTION	LOCATION
Regional Level		
1.	Janjanbureh Area Council	Janjanbureh, CRR
2.	National Agricultural Training center	Njawara Village, NBR
3.	Kanifing Municipal Council	
4.	Kerewan Area Council	
5.	Mansakonko Area Council	
6.	Basse Area Council	
7.	Kudang Ward Development Association	Kudang Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
8.	Jareng Ward Development Association	Jareng Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
9.	Naimina Dankunku Kawral Kafoo	Dankunku Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
10.	Naimina West Yiriwa Kafoo	Choya Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
11.	Kerr Chernoo Eco-zone	Kerr Chernoo Village, Upper Nuimi Dist. NBR
12.	Albreda Eco-zone	Albreda Village, Upper Nuimi Dist. NBR
13.	Jimbana Eco-zone	Bakalarr Village, Upper Nuimi Dist. NBR

Appendix 4: Staff List, 2020



Omar Badji
Executive Director



Fanta Jatta-Sowe
Head of Programmes
and Policy



Amie M. Jobe
Head of HROD and
Admin



Mam Kumba Touray
Head of Finance



**Mam Kumba
Ndow Sise**
Global Fund Project
Manager



Saidina A. Jarjou
Fundraising Manager



Katim Touray
Internal Audit
Manager



Fafa Cham
LRP 8 11 Program
Manager



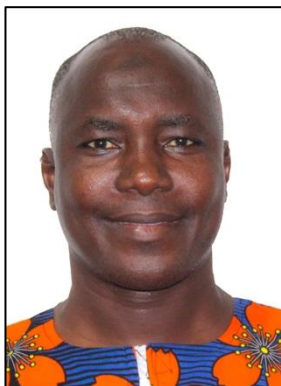
Foday Kanyi
Program Manager,
LRP 9



Musa Jallow
IT Manager



Sarjo Camara
EU Project
Coordinator



Sulayman Kinteh
Procurement
Specialist



Famara Conteh
Programme Coordinator
LRP 11



Mamie Ceesay
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Binta Njie Kalley
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Saiba T. Suso
Programme Coordinator
LRP 8



Saikou F. Bah
Programme Coordinator
LRP 9



Yorro Cham
Health Innovation
Officer



Amadou Barry
Health Innovation
Assistant



Addi Joof
Senior Accountant



Musa Jobe
LRP 8 & 11 Accountant
& Admin



Aminata Touray
Global Fund Project
Accountant



Bintou Jah
Accountant



Modou Sowe
Global Fund Assistant
Project Accountant



Ndey Jarju
M & E Assistant



Yama Badjan
Admin. Coordinator &
Receptionist



Sulayman Cham
Driver/Messenger



Molifa Bajo
Driver/Messenger



Sainey Trawally
Driver/Messenger



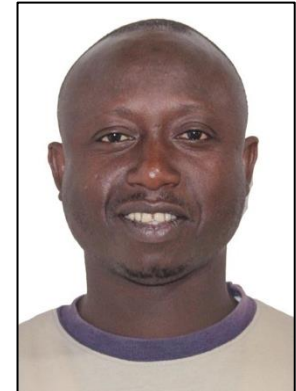
Jerreh Dibba
Driver/Messenger



Lamin Fatty
Driver/Messenger



Alhagy L Sonko
Driver/Messenger



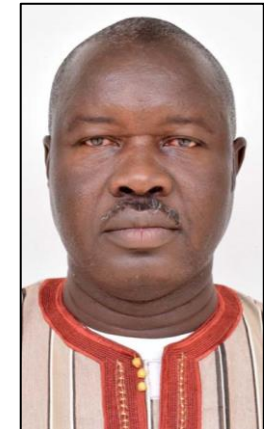
Musa Kambi
Driver/Messenger



ActionAid Gambia head office in Kanifing

OBITUARY

ActionAid The Gambia regret to announce the death of BAKARY FADERA, former LRP 9 Manager and Education Advisor for ActionAid. May his soul rest in perfect peace.



**International The Gambia MDI Road Kanifing, PMB 450 Serrekunda Tel: 220
4392004/4392244 Fax: 4392425 Email: admin.gambia@actionaid.org
Web: www.gambia.actionaid.org**