

# act!onaid

ActionAid International The Gambia



ANNUAL  
**REPORT**  
2021

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June 2022

Published by:  
ActionAid International The Gambia

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## Table of Contents

Acronyms.....	1
Acknowledgements .....	2
Message from Board Chair .....	3
Message from Executive Director .....	4
About the report.....	5
Spotlight-key achievements .....	6
Section One: National Context.....	7
Section Two: Introduction, Organizational background.....	10
Our Identity .....	11
Our Vision .....	11
Our Mission .....	11
Our Theory of Change .....	11
Our Values .....	12
Section Three: Strategic ambitions, key actions taken, and achievements.....	16
Section Four: Organizational priorities .....	38
Section Five: Challenges, lessons learnt and recommendations .....	43
Section Six: Annexes .....	47
Annex 1: List of Partners .....	48
Annex 2: List of Donors .....	49
Annex 3: Financial Statements (audited accounts) .....	50
Annex 4: Stories of Change.....	57
Annex 5: Staff List.....	64

## Acronyms

<b>AAITG</b>	-	ActionAid International The Gambia
<b>AGM</b>	-	Annual General Meeting
<b>AIDS</b>	-	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>ART</b>	-	Anti Retroviral Treatment
<b>CES</b>	-	Catholic Education Services
<b>CBO</b>	-	Community Based Organization
<b>COVID 19</b>	-	Corona Virus Disease-2019
<b>CRC</b>	-	Constitutional Review Commission
<b>CRR</b>	-	Central River Region
<b>CRSA</b>	-	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture
<b>CSO</b>	-	Civil Society Organization
<b>CSP</b>	-	Country Strategy Paper
<b>CSW</b>	-	Commercial Sex Workers
<b>DT</b>	-	District Tribunal
<b>ED</b>	-	Executive Director
<b>EPI</b>	-	Expanded Program on Immunization
<b>FAO</b>	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FR</b>	-	Fund Raising
<b>GA</b>	-	General Assembly
<b>GAVI</b>	-	Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative
<b>GBV</b>	-	Gender Based Violence
<b>GDHS</b>	-	Gambia Demographic and Health Survey
<b>GDP</b>	-	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GRTS</b>	-	Gambia Radio and Television Services
<b>HIV</b>	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HRBA</b>	-	Human Rights Based Approach
<b>HROD</b>	-	Human Resources and Organizational Development
<b>ILO</b>	-	International Labour Organization
<b>IWD</b>	-	International Women's Day
<b>KM</b>	-	Kanifing Municipality
<b>LGA</b>	-	Local Government Authorities
<b>LRP</b>	-	Local Rights Programs
<b>LRR</b>	-	Lower River Region
<b>MOH</b>	-	Ministry of Health
<b>MTR</b>	-	Mid Term Review
<b>PA</b>	-	Priority Areas
<b>PLIP</b>	-	People Living In Poverty
<b>CS</b>	-	Child Sponsorship
<b>SHEA</b>	-	Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse
<b>SIF</b>	-	Strategy Implementation framework
<b>SMT</b>	-	Senior Management Team
<b>SGBV</b>	-	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
<b>SSRC</b>	-	Security Sector Reform Commission
<b>TRRC</b>	-	Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission
<b>UNDP</b>	-	United Nation Development Program
<b>URR</b>	-	Upper River Region
<b>WASH</b>	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WB</b>	-	World Bank
<b>WCR</b>	-	West Coast Region



## Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the contributions of all staff for contributions to the drafting of this report.

We thank our partners specifically the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Apexes and Eco Zones for their participation in the process and most importantly the communities we serve.

Our Profound thanks to all our donors specifically The European Union Delegation in The Gambia, the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, our funding affiliates ActionAid UK and Italy, The UNDP in The Gambia, Amplify Change and Shifo Foundation.





## Message from Board Chair

I have taken over the mantle of leadership of this great organisation in October 2021 barely less than a year. I am fully conscious of the fact that replacing a seasoned development expert like my predecessor Mr. Ousman Cham, will not be easy. However, I feel comfortable and confident with all of you around me. Together we can make great things happen.

Many things have been happening globally and in ActionAid. We were still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic when the war in Ukraine erupted early this year. Both issues have worldwide economic, social and political consequences which impact on the lives and livelihoods of people in The Gambia. Thankfully, AAITG was able to effectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic with no loss of life so far.

In relation to the war in Ukraine, we have already started experiencing rise in prices of essential commodities such as foodstuff and fuel. Worryingly, it has been predicted that in addition to the food shortages, we will also experience shortages of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers.



**Haddy Dandeh Njie-Jabbi**  
**AAITG Board chair**

This is disturbing news because The Gambia highly depends on food imports to feed its people. As a nation, we need to prioritize and invest more in agriculture and related areas to be able to produce enough to meet our food needs. In our next CSP, we should think about considering advocacy work to influence policy towards food self-sufficiency.

The current Country Strategy Paper (CSPV) will expire by end of December 2023. The coming year will therefore be a busy year as AAITG will carry out an evaluation of CSP V and develop a new CSP (CSP VI) for the next 5-6 years. This is a heads up for you to be prepared to support the two processes next year in order to come up with a good CSP that is rooted in the national context with a global perspective.

It is my pleasure to inform you that during the reporting period the Board was able to carry out all its oversight responsibilities. The annual plan and budget for 2022 was reviewed and approved for implementation.

I would like to extend my profound appreciation to the Board for the invaluable support I have enjoyed since I took over as Chairperson. You have made a difficult task look so easy.

May I also express my deep gratitude to AAITG staff for their commitment and dedication to duty. Your commitment to provide support to people living in poverty and in building their capacity and self-confidence to take charge of their own development process, is commendable. Special thanks and appreciation to the Global Secretariat and AAI federation in general, for the oversight and professional support they continue to provide to AAITG Board and management.

I wish all of us success in the fight against poverty and injustice at every level.

## Message from Executive Director

This year will be my last year in ActionAid, after 35 long years of service. I joined ActionAid in January 1987, when I just graduated from university with no experience in development work. From that time to date, I have been in ActionAid where I occupied different positions until 2014 when I took over the mantle of leadership as Executive Director. Over the period I served as Executive Director, I went through turbulent moments which tested my tenacity and resilience. Overall, it was quite an interesting and fulfilling journey.

During my nine years as Executive Director, I discovered that leadership is difficult and can be very lonely. The buck stops at me, and I have to take responsibility for the consequences. I have sometimes taken decisions that I later realized were wrong but going back to reverse those decision was never an easy thing to do. Difficult as it may be, I had on many occasions swallowed my pride and accepted that I was wrong.



**Omar Badji**  
**Executive Director, AAITG**

For me that was humility, and it was a good attribute of a leader.

The period I spent in ActionAid did not only help me professionally, but it helped me grow as a person. I have used the experience gained from ActionAid in my relationship at family and community levels. I leave ActionAid with a lot of emotions. But old age has caught up with me and naturally I must move on. I must confess that it was a wonderful and amazing 35 years of work in the service of people living in poverty. If I were to go back to young age and I were to select a profession, I will go for the same

type of development work, and I will still choose ActionAid as the platform to deliver. I found ActionAid to be a highly democratic organisation which allows its staff the necessary space to grow professionally. I have realised that in ActionAid, if you perform well the sky cannot be the limit.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank AAITG staff for their support. I also thank the Board for their encouragement and guidance. Both are always there whenever I needed them, and they have never failed to meet my needs. There were moments when I regretted taking up the role of Executive Director due to challenges I found tough to resolve but the Board, Staff and General Secretariat made it easy for me to keep pushing on.

At this point, I would like to respectfully say goodbye to ActionAid and I wish everyone success in the fight against poverty and injustice.

Aluta Continua!!!

## About the Report

The report is divided into six Sections:

**Section One:** Gives national context,

**Section Two:** Gives introduction, organisational background, and basic information about ActionAid (AAITG).

**Section Three:** Presents information on key actions taken and achievements under each program Ambition,

**Section Four:** Updates on Organizational priorities

**Section Five:** Presents challenges, lessons learnt and recommendations.

**Section Six:** Annexes.







## The Spotlight

### Key Achievements:

- 1 → Overall AAITG has achieved over 98% implementation rate for 2021 planned activities/intervention
- 2 → AITG has directly reached over 9, 705 people of which 6,171 are female and 3,534 are male, including women, children, people with disability and HIV&AIDS.
- 3 → AAITG was able to consolidate and become grounded in the work around climate resilience and sustainable agriculture (CRSA) practices.
- 4 → Over 400 Small Holder Farmers have skills and practised CRSA.
- 5 → The Local area council in CRR has for the first time included the salaries of women members of the District Tribunal (DT) in their annual budget as a result of AAITG's campaign for inclusion of women in DTs.
- 6 → 100% of public and private health facilities that provide expanded program on Immunization EPI services use smart paper technology. This has greatly improved data quality and service delivery and evidently improved health care provider attitude towards data use.
- 7 → By December 2021, a total of 360,654 children under five years were registered in the EPI services out of which 116,525 were fully vaccinated.
- 8 → Directly reached 3,374 people with minimum HIV care package of which 24% were tested for HIV.
- 9 → Intensified civic education at community level contributed to awareness raising on civic and political rights.
- 10 → A total number of 203 reported cases of GBV was recorded.



# SECTION 1

## National Context





## The National Context

This is the fifth year after Gambians voted to end 22 years of dictatorship to create a conducive environment to uphold democratic values and rule of law. ActionAid International The Gambia (AAITG) continued to seize the opportunity provided by the democratic space to scale up its Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) work to advance social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication efforts. During the year, the Access to Information Bill was passed into law making access to public information to be legally recognized as a human right. This will aid Gambian citizens to access information to enhance transparency in governance and hold the government to account.

According to Amnesty International, The Gambia has also registered some progress in relation to protection of the right

to freedom of expression which has improved since 2016. However, despite the relatively open space for freedom of expression of citizens, The Gambia's legislative landscape has barely changed.

The oppressive laws are still on the statute books and recent events demonstrate how those archaic laws can be used to muzzle dissenting voices.

The transitional justice processes are still in progress and the recent positive development is the presentation of the final report on the work of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC) to the President of the Republic of The Gambia on 25 November 2021. The implementation of the TRRC recommendations are expected to begin in subsequent year 2022.

A major (presidential) election was conducted during the year on 4 December 2021. The democratic space has opened the political space which among other factors led to a sharp increase of registered political parties by 100 percent in 2021. Only about 28 percent (5 candidates) of the political parties and one independent candidate were declared qualified by the Independent Electoral Commission to contest for the presidential seat and they were all male. Despite the massive increase in the number of registered political

“ If our National Assembly Members do not report back to their electorates, it creates misunderstanding. ”

Fatou Dampha



parties and independent presidential aspirants, only one of the presidential aspirants was a woman yet females accounted for about 62 percent of the total registered voters.

At the Grassroot levels, women are more likely to be excluded from leadership roles which continues to inspire ActionAid's sustained advocacy and support for women's inclusion in decision-making processes in the LRPs.

Gender based violence continues to be a menace that we face during the year as shown in this report, we have received 203 reported cases of GBV during the year. This is corroborated by evidence for instance, according to the 2019-20 Gambia Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) Report published in March 2021, more than 1 in 3 (39%) ever-married women have been subjected to either physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent husband/partner. The same report highlighted that almost three-quarters of women aged 15-49 in The Gambia have been circumcised and 46 percent of girls aged 0-14 have been circumcised suggesting a decline in the practice. However, the same report further stated that less than half of women and men still believe that FGM should continue while many believe that wife battering is justified under certain conditions. This was the basis for AAITG's continued intervention on GBV to address Sexual GBV, Child Marriage and FGM through policy advocacy, research, and women/youth empowerment.

Agriculture continues to be the most significant sector for PLIP but it is being affected by climate change. As such, AAITG has intensified investments in agriculture and climate interventions. AAITG will continue to advocate for government to prioritize and increase investment in agriculture in order to ensure food self-sufficiency and economic development of small holder farmers.

Although COVID-19 cases significantly dropped and the restrictions were much more relaxed, its impact continued to affect PLIP. As hikes in prices of basic commodities were soaring most Gambians became vulnerable. According to the world Bank (WB), the residual negative impact of COVID-19 is expected to continue due to slow recovery and limited resilience in many developing countries. Vaccination coverage remains very low in the Gambia despite efforts by the Ministry of Health.

According to the Transparency International's ranking, the Gambia has a score of 37 out of 100 on Corruption Perceptions Index. Although, a score of 37 is a significant improvement from 2016 when it scored 26 out of 100, the Gambia is still listed among the countries that are highly corrupt and needs to put in more efforts to curb corruption at all levels. This level of corruption is corroborated by the reports of the national Audit Office which revealed several mismanagement and lack of accountability for public funds with little or no efforts from Government to recover or make those responsible accountable.



## SECTION 2

### Introduction & Organizational Background

Annual reporting is among the accountability commitments that AA fulfills not only to its upstream partners but to the downstream partners including our target groups. ActionAid's reporting and planning processes are intrinsically linked to ensure our intentions are relevant to the issues and priorities of communities we serve.

## Our Identity

ActionAid The Gambia (AAITG) is an associate 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. A management team which serves as a secretariat, 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 injustice, 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

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 embarked 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





## Our Values

- ❖ **Mutual Respect** -Requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity
- ❖ **Equity and Justice** -Requiring us to ensure the realization of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sex, and gender identity, race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, HIV status, disability, location, and religion
- ❖ **Integrity** -Requiring us to be honest, transparent, and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgments and communication with others.
- ❖ **Solidarity with People Living in Poverty and Exclusion** - Will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.
- ❖ **The courage of conviction** - Requiring us to be creative, bold, and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.
- ❖ **Independence** - From any religious or party-political affiliation
- ❖ **Humility** - Recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice



## 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.

## Workplace Policies

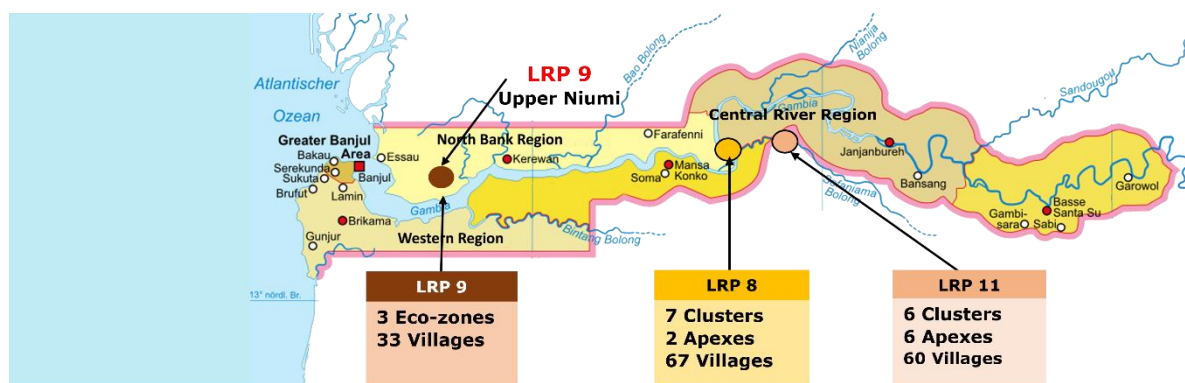
AAITG has adopted important workplace policies to ensure staff safety and do no harm as we deliver our work in communities. These policies do not only apply to AAITG staff but also to consultants, interns, Board Members, and any representative of AAITG. These include the SHEA and safeguarding policy, whistle blowing, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorism among others.

## Top Ten Basics of Feminist Leadership in ActionAid

-  **1 Self-awareness**
-  **2 Self-care & caring for others**
-  **3 Dismantling bias**
-  **4 Inclusion**
-  **5 Sharing power**
-  **6 Responsible & transparent use of power**
-  **7 Accountable collaboration**
-  **8 Respectable feedback**
-  **9 Courage**
-  **10 Zero tolerance**



## Where we work, our target groups and who we work with



While our HIV and AIDs, GBV, Land Campaign and Health System Strengthening interventions cut across the entire country, our Child Sponsorship programs are focused in North Bank Region (NBR)-Upper Niumi and Central River Region (CRR)- Niaminas. AAITG focused programs cover 139 communities with an estimated population of **68,386** people. Work in these communities sustains AAITG's rootedness in communities and enriches our understanding of the conditions of People Living in Poverty (PLIP).

Our target groups continue to be PLIP with special focus on women, especially women small holder

farmers, Survivors of GBV, Female Sex Workers and other vulnerable groups to HIV and AIDs, children, youth, and other excluded persons. AAITG continues to use the HRBA to deliver on its promises, starting with the basics of empowering PLIP to understand development as a fundamental human right to enable them to lead their demands and claim their rights.

We work in partnership with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Local Government Councils, other CSOs and networks, government ministries/ departments, at national and community levels. Appendix 1 shows the list of partners and donors we worked with during the year under review.





## Our Governance and staff complement

### 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) is 19 of which 53% is female whilst the National Board has 9 members of which females constitute 56%. The GA and Board are responsible for Policy and strategic decisions. The Board is assigned by the GA to execute policy decisions 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.



### General Staff Complement:

The total staff complement including interns is 38 people of which 34% are female as presented in figure 1.

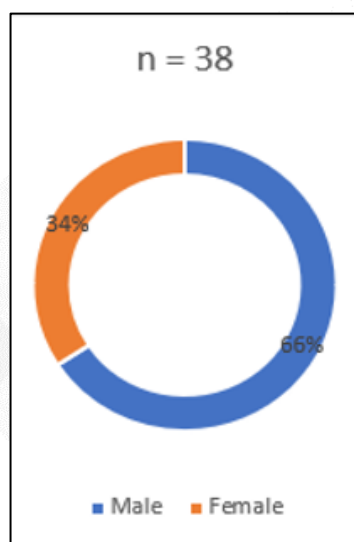


Figure 1: Percentage of staff complement by gender

As shown in figure 2, the SMT is dominated by female constituting 75%.

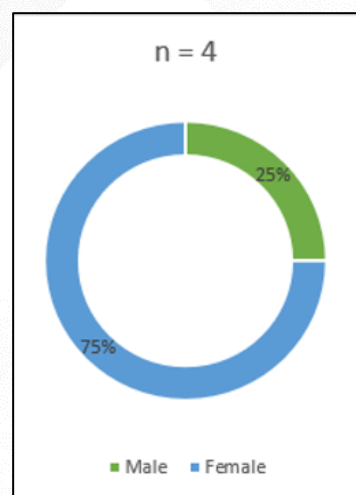


Figure 2: Percentage of SMT by gender



## SECTION 3

Strategic Ambitions, key actions taken and achievements





## Strategic Ambitions, key actions taken and achievements

This section presents the three Strategic Ambitions and actions taken as indicated below:

### Programmed Ambition (PA) 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 (PA) 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 (PA) 3

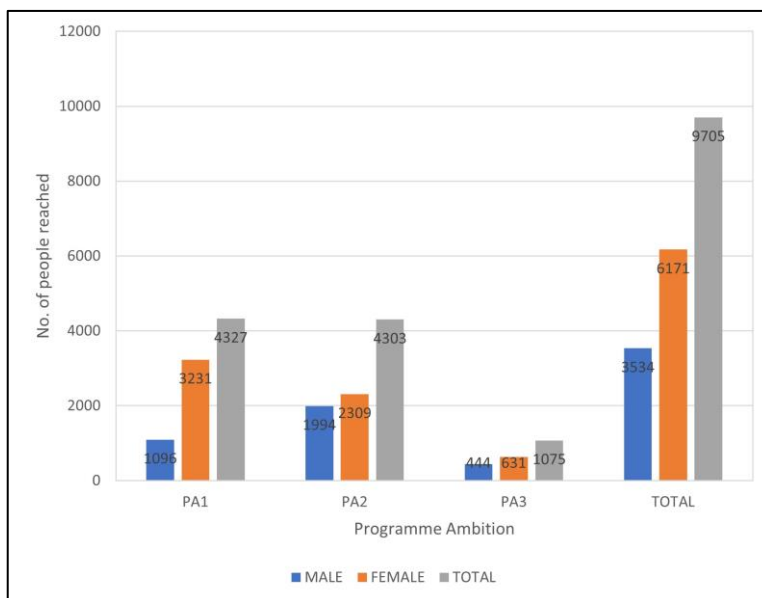
Secure resilience of communities to climate change and attain food security, climate justice and comprehensive disaster prevention through the agency of people living in poverty. This ambition aims to contribute to raising critical awareness on climate and environment issues, agriculture, emergency response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





## Summary of the number of people directly reached by PA and gender

As presented in figure 3, a total of 9,705 people were directly reached, of which more than half (6,171) are women. Although we have reached more people under PA 1, we have made more investments under PA 3 in response to community demands during the PRRP. PA 3 interventions are more resource intensive compared to all the other PAs.

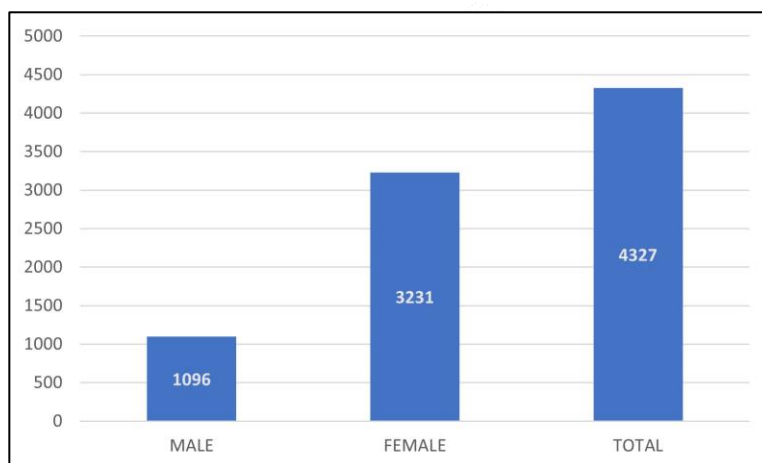


**Figure 3:** Number of people directly reached by gender and PA

Details of specific activities or interventions are highlighted under each PA for the period under review.

### **PA 1: Build a society with empowered women, youth and children that is free of violence and injustice.**

Several interventions were carried out to build capacity and resilience of vulnerable people as well advocate for policies in favor of women and children.



**Figure 4:** Number of people directly reached by gender in PA1

Overall, a total number of 4,327 people were directly reached under this PA as shown in figure 4.

Specifically, the following activities or interventions relating to PA1 were carried out during the period under review:

## 1.2 Training of Rural Women Assembly and Rural Forestry Platform on leadership and advocacy

Eighty-eight (88) women from the Rural Women Assembly and Rural Forestry Platform were trained on leadership and advocacy skills who are now leading and pursuing grassroots advocacy on issues affecting vulnerable people.



## 1.3 Commemoration of International Days (IWD, WRD, DAC)

Commemoration of International days, apart from reflecting on achievements and key challenges, have been used to amplify our advocacy on women and children's rights issues. International Women's Day (IWD) Rural Women's Day (RWD) where a total of 225 delegates (25 males and 200 females) attended Commemoration and delegates used the opportunity to present a charter of demands to duty bearers on issues affecting their lives and livelihoods. The women continue to follow up on these issues. The Day of the African Child (DAC) was another key moment seized to sustain the advocacy on rights of children especially right to education which occasion was used to call on government to increase education financing and provide resources for education in emergencies.





#### 1.4 Training of AAITG staff & partners on feminist leadership

Thirty (30) (15 Males and 15 Females) AAITG staff and Partners were trained on Feminist Leadership. This is part of a process to nurture a feminist leadership culture in action which tries to equitably distribute power and dismantle biases. The three days had focused on demystifying the concept of feminisms, why and how it can be applied using 10 Principles of feminist leadership as benchmark. This training broadened staff and partners' understanding and application of feminist leadership in their work. Quote ***"Initially when I hear about feminism, I thought it is against men so was never interested to know more. But today I understand it is a leadership concept that is trying to make sure everyone is treated with dignity and no one is oppressed"*** said a male participant



#### 1.5 Training of girls on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

In our pursuit to build girls knowledge and skills on sexual and reproductive health and rights 30 girls were trained on reproductive health and rights and they were taught skills to make reusable sanitary pads from locally available materials. The girls were selected from schools and communities within the LRP. At the end of the training girls attested that it was useful life skills training which will enable them to access pads. One of the participants, has this to say about the training. ***"It is difficult to buy single-use sanitary pads because we do not have money. With the knowledge gained from this training, we can now make reusable pads for ourselves. When I return, I will form a Sexual and Reproductive Health Club in my school to sensitize other girls who were not lucky to attend the training"***.



## **1.6 Training of youth and women leaders on GBV, peace building and conflict management**

Training of Youth and Women leaders on Gender-Based Violence, peace building, and conflict Management was conducted for Twenty-seven (27) Participants (7 male 20 females) youths. While our campaign and advocacy on women's participation in decision making processes at grassroots level continued to gain momentum, the capacity building has been scaled up to enhance their ability to effectively and meaningfully participate. During the year under review, we witnessed another inauguration of a woman into the District Tribunals (DTs) in the LRPs bringing it to a total of seven (7) women in four DTs. Councils have taken further steps to include the sitting allowances of women members in the council budgets. This makes the advocacy more sustainable.

## **1.7 Support Youth Convergences**

In partnership with ACTIVISTA, AAITG supported two youth Convergences in CRR and Kanifing for five days each. Although from different funding sources, both convergences were aimed at supporting youth discussion and participation in shaping the national agenda.



The convergences enabled them to focus on issues affecting young people and interface with duty bearers. The convergences were aimed at informing the national youth conference at national level. Among the pertinent issues focused on during the convergences included but not limited to climate change, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), migration, unemployment, security and GBV. A total of 166 (95M 71F) youth attended the convergences.

## **1. 8 School outreach on FGM, Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy**

This was conducted through our partnership with NGBV. A total of seventeen junior and secondary schools were reached in CRR and URR. The students and teachers were sensitized on SGBV issues; types, PSEA, FGM, Child marriage, laws prohibiting GBV, teenage pregnancy, SRHR and where to seek redress. A total of 1,530 (558M, 972F) students and Teachers were reached.



## **1.9 Sensitization of people with disability on SGBV**

A total of 94 (16M and 78F) people with disabilities were sensitised on SGBV issues. These included with different disability such as physically disabled, visually impaired and heard of hearing. The sensitisation was in commemoration of the international women's day.



### **1.10 High level Advocacy Meeting with NAMs, Line Ministries and NGBV Members**

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a high-level advocacy meeting was held with National Assembly Members (NAMs) and decision makers from the Ministries to pursue the advocacy for the Gambia to ratify and domesticate the ILO C190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. A total of 12 (11M, 1F) NAMs were reached. The meeting availed NAMs the opportunity to know more about the conventions and they promised to support the bill when presented to them.

### **1.11 Provide Psychosocial Support to Survivors of SGBV**

AAITG through the NGBV provided psychosocial support to survivors of GBV. The support included referrals to shelter, support survivors' access to comprehensive medical care, legal aid and support services at the One-stop Centres and other needs of survivors that are not available at the centres. A total of 77 female survivors received support during this reporting period. The survivors were either supported individually or through their support groups. The support has positively impacted the lives of survivors. Access their stories through this link

:[https://youtu.be/qBTlft7tx\\_E](https://youtu.be/qBTlft7tx_E).

### **1.12 Support Grass-root Women's Advocacy groups**

A total of 10 women from grassroots advocacy groups such as the Women Pressure Groups and Rural Women Assembly (RWA) in CRR and NBR were trained as Trainers and supported to join other CSO networks at national level and also conducted advocacy meetings in communities.

A total of 50 women were trained who conducted step down meetings in communities and reached out to 450 (9M, 441F) People within their communities.

### **1.13 Conduct community outreach on SGBV with focus on Religious and Traditional Leaders**

Conducted community outreaches including religious and traditional leaders and Screening (film shows) of survivor-based documentary in 20 communities: This was conducted to sensitize communities, religious and traditional leaders on SGBV issues and also using a survivor led documentary for them to support advocacy in reducing the social pressures. Twenty communities were sensitized in WCR, LRR, CRR, URR and NBR reaching out to 950 people, 300 male and 650 females which included men, women, youths, opinion, traditional and religious leaders.



### 1.14 Sensitization of vulnerable people on SGBV

Two days training each conducted in September and December for three vulnerable groups; persons with disabilities (GADHOH/GOVI), PLHIV (MUTAPULA), domestic and hotel workers (ADDAD) on SGBV, recent research findings, vulnerability to SGBV and reporting mechanisms. A total of 2 batches of 30 participants for each of the groups reaching out to 180 vulnerable persons, 10 male and 170 female. Each of the groups also did step down trainings in their respective groups and communities to sensitize them on SGBV and reporting mechanisms. The step-down training reached out to 360 vulnerable persons (43 male, 317 female) within the reporting period.

### 1.15 Capacity Building Training for SGBV Survivors

A three-day training was conducted for 25 female survivors of SGBV on basic business management skills and dry food processing to enable them acquire livelihood skills for positive living and support their integration process. An SGBV and SRHR Movie Series was produced in partnership with the NGBV. Movie series was done in English and local languages and used as a tool for community education advocacy in communities and at national level. Episode 1 link: <https://youtu.be/oMv5mpOUski>

### 1.16 SGBV reported cases

A total of 203 cases of SGBV cases were reported as analysed in the table below.

TYPE OF VIOLENCE	NUMBER	PERSENTAGE (%)	MALE	FEMALE
Sexual	123	60.5	7	116
Physical	52	25.6	7	45
Psychological	25	12.5	3	22
Harmful Traditional Practices	3	1.4	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>186</b>





**PA 2: Achieve Quality, Gender-Responsive Public Services, transparent and accountable public resource mobilization, and management by government.**

Overall, a total number of 4,303 people were directly reached under this PA as shown in figure 5.

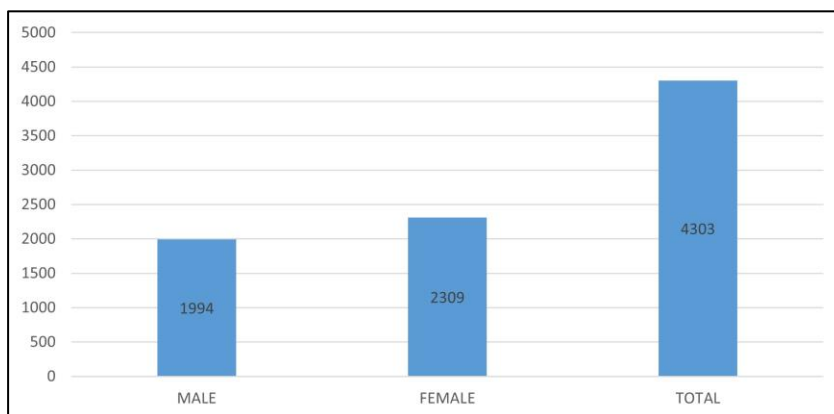


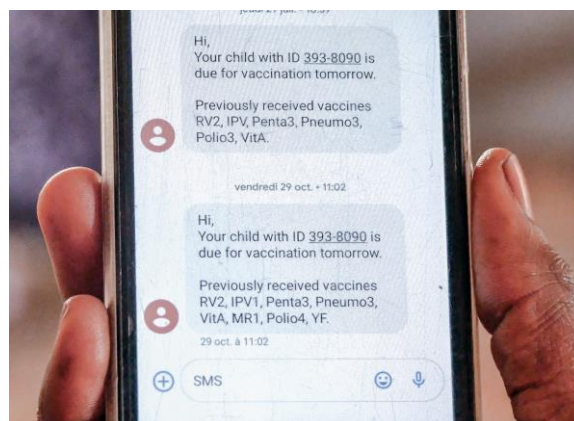
Figure 5: Number of people directly reached by gender in PA2

**2.1 Support the health system strengthening efforts using Smart Paper Technology**

Under this strategic ambition we continued to support the health system strengthening efforts using Smart Paper Technology (SPT) to not only capture child immunizations data, but provide information on quality of services, down to the level of the Health Care/Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) service Provider.



All 80 EPI service-providing Health Facilities in the country (public and private) including 319 affiliated outreach sites are using SPT. A total of 360,654 children were registered in the EPI service of which 116,525 are fully immunized.



The SPT has contributed to continuous improvements in immunization, timeliness and rate of fully immunized children through the data for action interventions. The use of the SPT has resulted in significant reduction in time spent on providing services to the women where women spend less time at the health facilities. The time saved is used by the women to either rest or engage in other activities. A total of 909 staff from the Ministry of Health including health facility staff, Regional Health Teams, EPI and IT personnel were trained on SPT of which over 60% were males.







## 2.2 Sensitization/Training on democracy, civic rights and responsibilities

AAITG has conducted series of trainings and sensitization on democracy, citizens' rights and responsibilities, politics, elections and electoral processes, leadership, and good governance. This is geared towards contribution to deepening the democratic and human rights culture as Gambia goes through the transition from dictatorship to democracy.



A total of 789 people of which (334M 455 F) were reached from more than 20 communities and schools. Diverse groups were reached including students, teachers, out of school youth, women and youth leaders, small holder farmers, local government authorities, traditional and religious leaders.





### 2.3 Inter school competition on best writers on human rights and democracy

The objective of this activity was to contribute to raising civic awareness and nurture a human right culture in the Gambia by targeting young people. The competitions were done in all the LRP and the students who participated have expressed happiness and improvements in their

understanding and interest in human rights issues. Their parents have also expressed seeing improvement in performance of their children. From a mother of one of the contestants who won in Upper Niumi ***"this competition has helped my child's performance, her position in class has been improving first term to third term. She is now not afraid to speak in public. ActionAid is doing a good thing for our children"***



Participants at the inter-school competition in LRP 9



A student receiving her prize from Adi Joof of AAITG



Best student with her bicycle



Winners of the writers' competition receiving their prizes from Famara Conteh (L) and Fafa Cham ®



## 2.4 Support spaces for citizens to engage and hold Duty bearers accountable

AAITG has supported spaces for citizens to engage and hold Duty bearers accountable. To this end **80 participants (40 males & 40 females)** attended the Citizens Platform Meetings that brought together elected officials (National Assembly Members and Councilors) and electorates for stock taking. In this forum, elected officials presented to the electorates their achievements while the electorates were opportuned to assess their **move.**"

representatives based on their campaign promises. AAITG was hailed by both elected officials and electorates for organizing this activity. A NAM said ***"If I, as the NAM, want to organize such a meeting, many communities will not be represented because they will think that I am doing it for my political interest. When facilitated by AAITG, every community will be represented, and I believe the messages will be spread. It has also helped us to clear out some misconceptions. Thanks to AAITG for this brilliant move."***



Interface between right holders and duty bearers



## 2.6 Training of members of the School Management Committee

Six schools participated during the School Management Committee training. The training attracted 30 SMC members (15 males & 15 females). The purpose of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the Committees to equip them with the requisite knowledge to enhance their capacity for effective and efficient management of the school affairs.

## 2.7 Organize child sponsorship fun day at LRPs

To further recognize the contribution of children in the Child Sponsorship (CS) Programme, a fun day was organized in all the LRPs. Such programmes will not only motivate children's participation in child message collection, but also help to increase school enrollment and retention. The fun day also availed parents the opportunity to get more information and knowledge about the CS scheme.



Fun day with children in LRP 8

## 2.8 Leap learning for school children

Thirty school children (14 males and 16 females) attended a 5-day leap learning during the period under review. This aims to introduce the children to the innovative way of learning. Topics covered were logic and concept using puzzles, visual literacy, basic understanding of problem, concept of making words, reading sentences, and matching visual identification, sentences using the words stationed. vision and sound recognizing, listening, and blending of letters to make words, individual word construction and simple sentence construction.



Leap learning with school children in the LRPs



## 2.9 HIV prevention and care

During the period under review, 1,591 (68%) Other Vulnerable Population were reached with minimum package of HIV prevention. Female sex workers reached were 1,783 (38%). HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) is an entry point for HIV prevention, care, and support. The public is encouraged to make use of such services which is free of charge and confidential. The outcome of the test will enable those tested positive to live a healthy life and

remain uninfected and for those positive to be protected from re-infection and to prevent the spread of the virus.

A total of 821 KPs (OVP 27 and FSW 794) were tested for HIV from January to December. Testing among the OVP remains a major challenge. Serious gap existed between reached and testing. Going forward there should be constant collaboration between care and support unit of world view and PHEs in order to attain project goals.



**Training with the security on HIV/AIDS**



**PA 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.**

Under this PA, significant interventions have been implemented. During the Participatory Review, Reflection, and Planning Process (PRRP) it was realized that PA 3 is the most important priority on the scale of preference of PLIP we work with. As such, significant investments have been made under this PA during the year.

Overall, a total number of 1,075 people were directly reached under this PA as shown in figure 6.

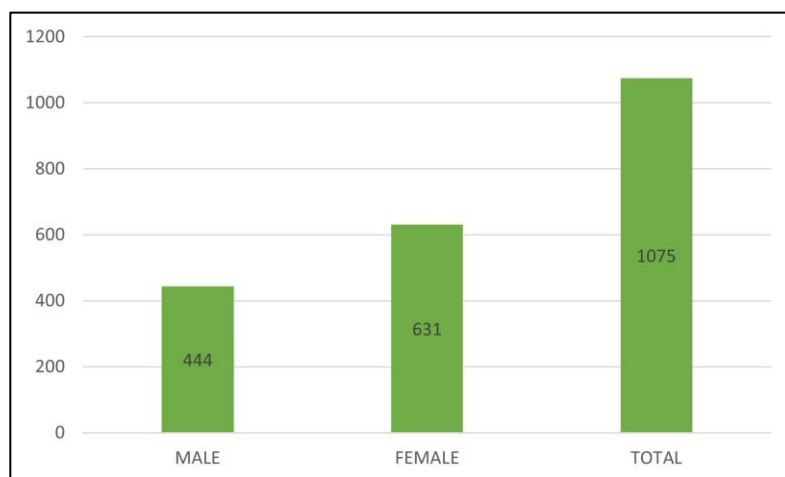


Figure 6: Number of people directly reached by gender in PA3

Interventions carried out during the year under the PA3 were as follows:

**3.1 Training of Traditional Communicators on CRSA**

Proper dissemination of climate change and Climate Resilience Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA) messages to farmers is important in the pursuit to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation. With respect to this, 5

traditional women communicators were trained on Climate change and CRSA message development and dissemination. These women were able to develop and disseminate climate change and CRSA messages in three local languages (Wolof, Mandinka and Pulaar) in the form of songs and jingles and went round to disseminate the messages during the year. They have reached over 400 SHFs.







Traditional Communicators in LRP 8 sensitizing communities to the impact of climate change



### 3.2 Support Farmer Exchange Visits

Farmers were supported to visit Dalaba CRSA demonstration centre and other best practice centres and successful farmers. A total of 131 (49 males and 82 females) Small Holder Farmers (SHFs) benefited from the exchange visits to learn improved agricultural production techniques which included the application of organic manure, and crop diversification practised in the areas visited. It has exposed them to different methods of farming systems and enabled them better understand best agro-ecology and eco-restoration practices that can be replicated in their areas. Some SHFs were inspired and started practicing right after the visits. ***"I was inspired during the farmer visit to Dalaba and when I returned I started working on my tree nursery. This will help me get income and support .."***





### 3.3 Support access to potable water

AAITG provided solar powered borehole to Madina Karim community. Medina Karim has a population of 230 inhabitants without a source of potable water. The provision of water has not only improved their access to clean water but significantly reduced conflict between the people of Madina Karim and their neighboring villages in their struggle to access potable water. ***"this water project is the most important thing ActionAid has done for us. It has saved us from quarrels and fighting especially when we go to the neighboring community for water, we encounter a lot of discrimination. We say thank you to ActionAid and those who give them money"*** a female community member.



Madina Karim community

### 3.4 Women supported to participate in the National Trade Fair

In our move to support diversification of income earning activities and

resilience building, AAITG supported 14 women to attend the national trade fair. This has helped the women to make significant sales but most importantly linked to other potential buyers, which expanded market and their businesses. ***"The sales I got from the trade fair, I never had before. I made over 40,000 dalasis and I have saved some in my credit union account and used some for my business and other needs"*** a woman participant.

### Support Small Holder Farmers with farm implements and inputs

Twenty-one (9 males & 12 females) SHFs were supported with draught animals, farm implements and inputs (seeds, sine hoes, seeders, and donkeys) to improve access to production inputs which is also aimed at improving food security and building resilience of SHFs to climate change impacts. The implements helped them to carry out farming operations on a timely basis but also saved them from hiring implements at high costs. Under this activity, a woman was also supported with a bailout package to purchase two cows and one of them was pregnant. Unfortunately, they were hit and killed by a bus.

### 3.6 Training and support of poultry farmers

Value addition on Poultry value chain, marketing skills and storage facilities are critical for sustained production for the poultry farmers. As such, 47 (44F, 3 M) poultry farmers were trained and supported to expand their businesses. The support included storage facility and cash to the Poultry Farmers Association to purchase processed birds from the farmers and stored for sales.

### 3.7 Support Construction of Gabions and Irish Crossing

Soil erosion continued to be a threat to not only farmlands but also to houses within the community of Sare Saidou. Runoff water created steep gully that divided the village making access to one another during the rainy season exceedingly difficult. In respect of this, AAITG supported the community to construct 12 gabions and an Irish crossing of 11m by 16m. The construction of these gabions and Irish crossing has already started improving access among communities. A total of 200 (100F-100M) people from the community participated in this exercise.



### 3.8 Conduct of policy forum on environment

Gambia is experiencing poor natural resource management, such as deforestation, bush fires, uncontrolled grazing, illegal logging, and poor farming practices etc. These had direct negative bearing on the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Erratic rainfalls affect the performance of crops, especially rice and other field crops both in the upland and lowland ecologies.

In the worst-case scenarios flooding, salinization etc. also affect crop performances. A one-day policy forum was organized that brought together participants from various

sectors including regional TAC members, MDFTs, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and farmers. In total, 53 (31M 22F) people attended the forum. A communique was produced at the end of the forum which community members will follow up during subsequent interface meetings. It was shared with government ministries and the UN system.

### 3.9 Training of members of the Community Complaints and Redress Committee

With support from AA Kenya- AAITG has completed a self-assessment on the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) involving partners at LRP level. The self-assessment focused on the appropriateness and relevance of the humanitarian assistance and compliance to the CHS nine commitments with humanitarian assistance respecting communities and affected people. An improvement plan was developed as gaps were identified during the self-assessment with Partners. AAITG in fulfilment of its federal requirements to implement recommendations from self-assessments, constituted and trained 12 (2M&10F) complaint committees members on feedback mechanisms, mediation, conflict resolution, feminist leadership core humanitarian principles among others.



**A woman in LRP 9 lost her rooftop during last year windstorm that affected many households.**



### 3.10 Support Sinchu Gundo Women Garden with borehole

During the period under review, a borehole was provided to the Sinchu Gundo Women Garden. This did not only reduce the drudgery in fetching water from wells but also had increased vegetable production and yield. This support enhanced the production of 2,294 kg of onion, worth D114,700.00. There are 92 women that work in the garden. As attested by beneficiaries the water provision has motivated youths to work on the garden and contributing to their health and well being this attested by **Fatou Mballow** also said, "Our health has improved because of the fresh vegetables we consume with our families. The money we get from the sales of our vegetables is helping us to support our families'.



**Fatou Mballow**





### 3.11 Sensitization of school children on the effects of climate change

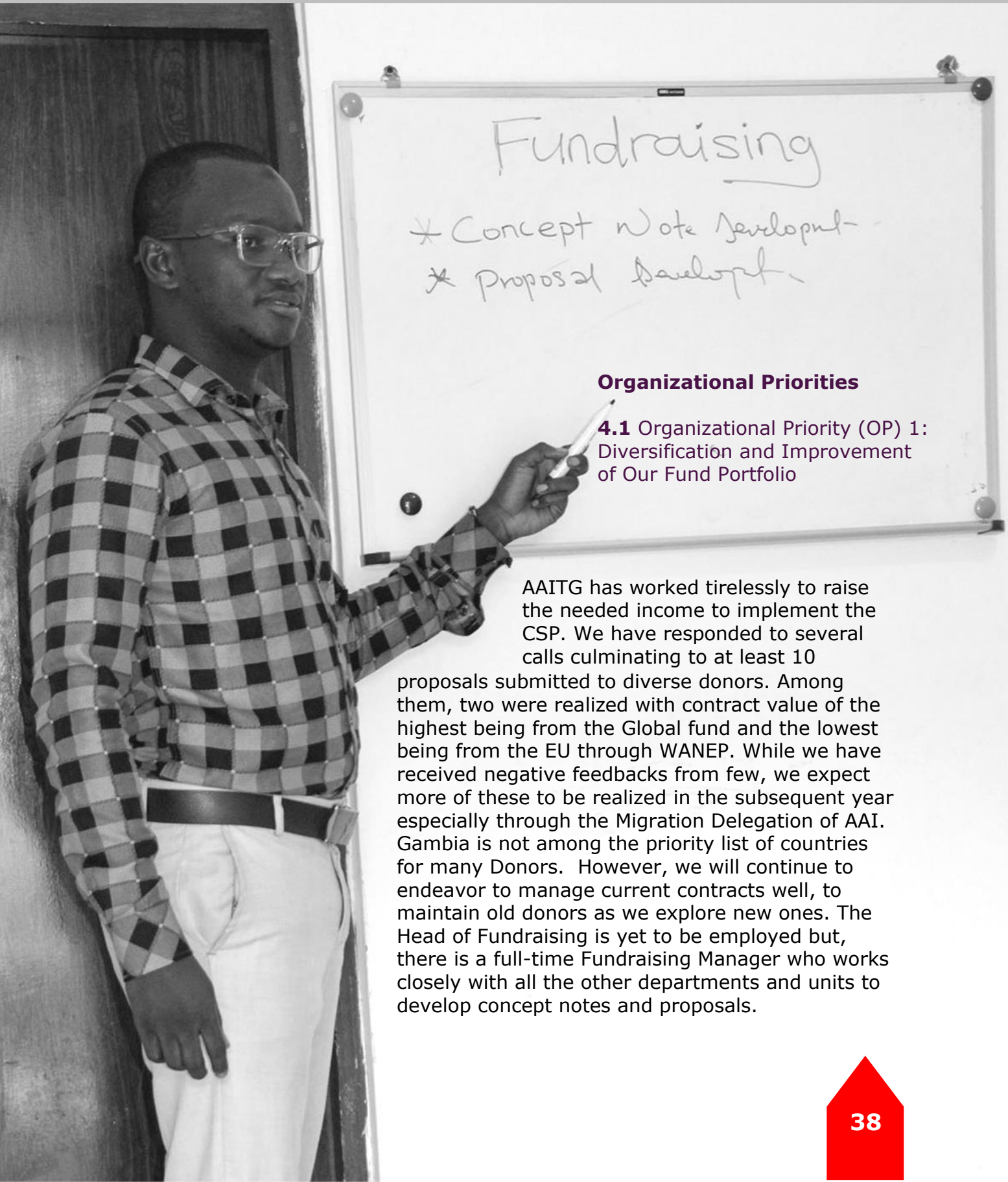
As Climate change continues to threaten lives and livelihoods, holistic fight against this menace is becoming more and more necessary. During the period under review, 500 school children (25M 25F) from 5 schools were sensitized and allowed to compete in a quiz competition. Cash prizes were delivered to winning pupils.





# SECTION 4

## Organizational Priorities



### Organizational Priorities

#### 4.1 Organizational Priority (OP) 1: Diversification and Improvement of Our Fund Portfolio

AAITG has worked tirelessly to raise the needed income to implement the CSP. We have responded to several calls culminating to at least 10 proposals submitted to diverse donors. Among them, two were realized with contract value of the highest being from the Global fund and the lowest being from the EU through WANEP. While we have received negative feedbacks from few, we expect more of these to be realized in the subsequent year especially through the Migration Delegation of AAI. Gambia is not among the priority list of countries for many Donors. However, we will continue to endeavor to manage current contracts well, to maintain old donors as we explore new ones. The Head of Fundraising is yet to be employed but, there is a full-time Fundraising Manager who works closely with all the other departments and units to develop concept notes and proposals.



On Child Sponsorship (CS) fundraising, AAITG continued to perform well during the year under review. We continued to collect child messages, community reports, response to sponsor queries and build capacity of field animators and LRP staff to improve on CS activities. The year 2021 was a transitional year for our CS scheme and the end of 2021 brought about the birth of our new child sponsorship system, Sahakom (SK) replacing NK which brought about tremendous changes to our child sponsorship business processes.

The subsequent year 2022 will be a new world for our child sponsorship community and through this, we will learn how to align our resources, teams and set up processes to roll out these changes. The new global app and the new CS business processes will continue to reinforce ActionAid's commitment to modernise Child Sponsorship, ensuring compliance with data protection legislation, such as GDPR; and enhance ActionAid's ability to provide a cost-effective, efficient, and high-quality service to all our stakeholders. By December 2021 AAITG had a total link level of 2,447

“ I am happy because my sponsor sent me a postcard with my name written on it. ”  
**OMAR**



#### **4.2 Organizational Priority 2: Efficient and Effective Financial Management Systems**

AAITG continued to maintain an efficient and effective financial management systems to ensure financial integrity and accountability to all stakeholders. The Finance and Audit committee of the board met regularly during the year to discharge their oversight functions in ensuring integrity of the internal financial control and risk management systems.

The key governance document that defines the minimum standards AAITG must follow to achieve strong financial management (LFPPM) remained relevant during the year under review. Enhancements on the core financial system (GFS) continued to occur to ensure the affiliate programme carried on reporting confidently, accurately, and rapidly considering growing external scrutiny from donors and other stakeholders.

Working with implementing partner organizations remained a challenge. However, AAITG is committed to empowering partners for a good adherence to acceptable financial management standards and practices. During the year, partners that implemented programs were closely monitored to minimize delays in the submission of returns. These delays consequently impacted on subsequent disbursements and timely implementation of program activities.

#### **4.3 Organizational Priority 3: Harnessing the Power of Technology**

AAITG continued to promote the use of technology in its programme work both internally and for partners to ensure that both remained connected and engaged with processes at all levels. In a bid to achieve this, the underlisted activities were implemented during the period under review.

The Security domain server (Virtual Server) responsible for user accounts and passwords security hosted on The HP ProLiant G5 Host physical server was migrated from Windows Server 2008 to Windows Server 2012 with the support of the Federation's IT Support Firm.

A backup fiber modem for the Head Office's fiber internet was installed due to unavailability of an onsite backup modem to ensure continual provision of internet service. In addition, the fiber at the Head Office and LRPs 8 and 11 were upgraded from 8 MPVS to 15 MBPS and from 2MBPS to 10 MBPS respectively. This upgrade had greatly increased the speed of internet and enhanced quality and the timely completion of work that required internet connection.



The new Child sponsorship management system (SK) sites were set up and configured for all users at the Head Office and the LRPs to replace the old NK child sponsorship system. The IT Manager was trained on the IT Technical setup and other related matters regarding the new system. This was followed by the training of sponsorship staff for the effective and efficient use of the new application (system).



The GFS – the Sun 6.3 cloud system was installed and an upgrade of patch 11 with a new VPN setup for remote access was also done on all the laptops of members of staff of the Finance Department.

Daily IT support coupled with quarterly maintenance of IT network and systems were carried out during the period under review.

#### **Organizational Priority 4: create a sound organizational structure and a strong team**

**4.4.1** Essentially, the organizational structure developed at the beginning of CSP V is what remained in effect throughout 2021.

The AAITG management team consists of a four-member Senior Management Team (SMT) comprising heads of department and the Executive Director. A broader management team also existed which brings together all the managers including the SMT. The SMT is responsible of taking all key operational management decisions regarding AAITG and it is chaired by the ED and meets once every month. The staff capacity is reinforced through trainings and meetings during which experience exchanges take place. During the period under review, most of the training exercises that were carried out were internally organized and conducted by the AAITG team.



#### **4.4.2 LRP Staff trained on HRBA**

The HRBA is the overarching approach to development work employed by ActionAid. It is thus deemed necessary for staff to understand this approach to be able to apply it and train partners and communities on the approach. As a result, 17 staff (5F 12M) underwent a 5-day training on HRBA facilitated by MS-TCDC.

#### **4.4.3 Training of LRP Staff and Partners on SHEA and Safeguarding**

Twelve-12 (7 females & 5 males) LRP and Partner Staff were trained on SHEA and safeguarding to prepare the LRPs and Partner Staff to be more mindful of safeguarding issues and make sure we deliver development interventions in a safe and sound environment for all.

#### **4.5 Organizational Priority 5: Quality Assurance and Monitoring and Evaluation Systems**

As part of quality programme delivery, 62 participants from three ecozone partners (21 females and 41 males) participated in programme review meeting. The activity was designed with the main aim of creating an enabling environment for the LRP office to interact with its partners. Understanding the crucial role they played in the communities, it was important to engage them so that they can be reminded of their duties and functions to enable them work effectively. A full time M&E Coordinator was employed during the year under review to coordinate and improve Quality and frequency of M&E. AAITG fulfilled its commitment to engage communities in planning processed.

As such, the Annual PRRP is was conducted to enable the agency receive feedback from communities and jointly prioritize issues to intervened on during the year. At least 35 people from AAITG and communities participated in the review process.

#### **4.6 Organizational Priority 6: Strengthening Governance**

The two-tier governance system continued to exist in AAITG where a Board and General Assembly form the governance structure supported by management as the secretariat. All the Board meetings, sub-committees and AGM were held as scheduled. The 4 established board committees were able to hold their meetings during which key recommendations were made for approval by the board. For instance, the Board approved the revised affiliate constitution and governance manual which were reviewed and aligned to the current CSP and AAI strategy. During the year, there has been a transfer of leadership where the incumbent board chair retired, and a new chairperson took over. There was a smooth transition between the two. Currently the retired Board Chair serves in three committees where he continued to share his experiences and support to the Board.



**(L) Mrs. Haddy Dandeh Njie-Jabbi new Board Chair and (R) Mr. Ousman Cham, retired Board Chair**



## SECTION 5

### Challenges, Lessons learnt & Recommendations





## Challenges

Despite the successes gained, numerous challenges were faced during the period under review. The following are key ones.

- a) Inadequate delivery of public services (agriculture, health, education, infrastructure etc.) in the LRP communities.
- b) Weak institutional/organizational capacity of the apexes and other CSOs in the LRPs as such AAITG could not decentralize procurement.
- c) The prevalence and acceptance of harmful traditional practices in some communities
- d) Migration of youth within and across borders affecting one of the most productive sectors- Agriculture.
- e) Adverse effect of climate change on lives and livelihoods of people living in poverty
- f) Limited presence of domestic donors in The Gambia.





## Lessons learnt

- a) Involvement of communities in child sponsorship enhances community ownership and participation which strongly helps in improving retention and recruitment.
- b) The application and adoption of CRSA has improved production and productivity for small holder farmers in spite of climate change.
- c) Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) is a valuable tool in advocacy and campaigning on education.
- d) Traditional communicators are an effective and efficient medium of transmitting messages to communities for changing behaviors.
- e) The school competition has proven to improve confidence, class performance and public speaking skills for students.
- f) Since the coming of M&E full time staff, monitoring and follow ups on LRPs have improved.
- g) Instituting a robust M&E system requires funding.







## Recommendations

- a) Continue to encourage communities to participate in child sponsorship related activities.
- b) Increase funding of climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts as it is a highly relevant program for the communities.
- c) Sustain the school competitions.
- d) Continue to support capacity building of CBOs to enable them conduct procurement at their level.
- e) AAITG to invest in information systems. This needs to be seriously considered in the next CSP. However, if funds are available the M&E system should be tested/piloted in 2023.



## SECTION 6

### Annexes





## Annex 1: List of Partners

### National Level






No.	Institution	Location
1.	Network Against Gender Based Violence (NGBV)	MDI Road, Kanifing Municipality
2.	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Fajara, Kanifing Municipality
3.	United Purpose (UP)	Kairaba Avenue, Kanifing Municipality
4.	ACTIVSTA, The Gambia	MDI Road, Kanifing Municipality
5.	Ministry of Health	Quadrangle, Banjul
6.	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	Kairaba Avenue
7.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	New Administrative Building, Quadrangle, Banjul
8.	Directorate of Gender and Women Empowerment	Bertil Harden Highway
9.	National AIDS Secretariat	Kairaba Avenue
10.	World View International	Bakau
11.	Hands on Care	Brikama
12.	Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA)	Kanifing

### Regional Level

13.	Janjanbureh Area Council	Janjanbureh, CRR
14.	Njawara Agricultural Training Center (NATC)	Njawara Village, NBR
15.	Kanifing Municipal Council	Kanifing
16.	Kerewan Area Council	Kerewan
17.	Mansakonko Area Council	Mansakonko
18.	Basse Area Council	Basse
19.	Kudang Ward Development Association	Kudang Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
20.	Jareng Ward Development Association	Jareng Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
21.	Naimina Dankunku Kawral Kafoo	Dankunku Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
22.	Naimina West Yiriwa Kafoo	Choya Village, Naimina East Dist. CRR
23.	Kerr Chernoo Eco-zone	Kerr Chernoo Village, Upper Nuimi Dist. NBR
24.	Albreda Eco-zone	Albreda Village, Upper Nuimi Dist. NBR
25.	Jimbana Eco-zone	Bakalarr Village, Upper Nuimi Dist. NBR
26.	Women Pressure Group	LRPs 8 & 11
27.	Gender Action Groups	Upper Nyiumi North Bank
28.	Rural Women Assembly	Country wide
29.	Poultry Farmers' Association	Brikamaba CRR
30.	Brikamaba Community Radio	Brikamaba CRR



## Annex 2: List of Donors

No.	Donor	Location
1.	 European Union Delegation in the Gambia (EUD)	Bakau
2.	 SHIFO Foundation	Sweden
3.	 Amplify Change	UK
4.	 Global Fund for Aids TB and Malaria	USA
5.	 UNDP Gambia Office	Cape Point Bakau
6.	The Throne Family	UK
7.	Corti Foundation	Italy



## Annex 3: Financial statement (audited accounts)

Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)  
Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

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### Director's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements of Action Aid International The Gambia for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

#### 1. State of Affairs

The results for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 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 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.*



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 Organization'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:** 24 - 05 - 2022

**Registered Office**

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





## **AUGUSTUS PROM** **AUDIT.TAX.ADVISORY**



Off Bertil Harding Highway, Kanifing Institutional -Bakau –P O Box 587, The Gambia - Telephone (220) 4494121  
E-mail : [admin@augustusprom.com](mailto:admin@augustusprom.com) [www.augustus-prom.gm](http://www.augustus-prom.gm)

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### **Auditor's Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of Action Aid International The Gambia as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 which comprises of the Statement of Financial Position, Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flow 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 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 Standards 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.

### **Other Information**

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the General information and Directors Report as required by the Companies Act 2013. The other information does not include the Financial Statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the Financial Statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report the fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.



## **Responsibilities of the Directors and those charged with governance for the Financial Statements**

The Directors are 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 the Directors determine 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, the Directors are 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, 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.

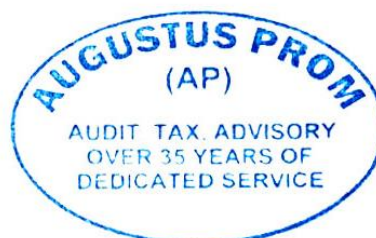
We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirement regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

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: *26<sup>th</sup> May* ..... 2022



# Statement of Financial Position

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

		31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 GMD'000	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 GMD'000
	<i>Notes</i>		
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property Plant & Equipment	2	13,581	9,298
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>13,581</b>	<b>9,298</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Trade & Other Receivables	4	53,055	37,226
Cash & Bank Balances	5	58,756	81,602
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>111,811</b>	<b>118,828</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>125,392</b>	<b>128,126</b>
		=====	=====
<b>Accumulated Fund &amp; Liabilities</b>			
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>			
Accumulated Fund (See Page 12)		102,528	80,945
Revaluation Reserve (See Page 12)		9,418	9,418
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>111,946</b>	<b>90,363</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accruals & Other Liabilities	6	13,446	37,763
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>13,446</b>	<b>37,763</b>
<b>Total Accumulated Fund &amp; Liabilities</b>		<b>125,392</b>	<b>128,126</b>
		=====	=====

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on

24 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairperson: 

Treasurer: 

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



# Income Statement

*For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021*

		31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 GMD'000	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 GMD'000
	<i>Notes</i>		
<b>Income</b>			
Remittances received from RG	3.1	52,354	41,020
Locally raised projects income	3.2	96,140	77,610
Gain on Exchange	3.3	3,422	3,694
Other income	3.4	648	1,113
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>152,564</b>	<b>123,437</b>
		=====	=====
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Grants to partners	13.1	(33,454)	(27,017)
Direct project costs	13.2	(83,242)	(64,052)
Support costs	13.3	(4,461)	(7,573)
Sponsorship	14.1	(5,747)	(2,518)
Other fundraising cost	14.2	(1,922)	(1,723)
Governance cost	14.3	(1,425)	(1,428)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(130,251)</b>	<b>(104,311)</b>
		=====	=====
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>22,313</b>	<b>19,126</b>
		=====	=====

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




## Annex 4:

# Stories of Change





## Small Investments with Great Results



Absa is a 30-year-old smallholder farmer from Kerr Layen Village. Cognizant of her challenges, Absa was provided with a sine hoe, seeder, seeds, and donkey by AAITG through Yiriwa Apex. This is how Habsa Jarra narrated her story.

"I am Absa Jarra, 30 years old and from Kerr-Layen Village, Niamina East District. I am married with seven children (3 girls & 4 boys). Although my husband and I are both smallholder farmers, we do not have farm implements. During the rainy season, we borrow seeder, sine hoe and donkey from our neighbors. We could not get these materials when we needed them to do timely farm operations, as a result we were always late. Consequently, we always had poor crop harvest, which never lasts for more than three months. I used to go to neighbors' farm to work for them and in return they pay me, though truly little. The CRSA Training and farm implements I received from AAITG have significantly improved my family's food security situation. With the support, I was able to have groundnut and early millet farms. I also cultivated beans and sorrel.

My harvests were 14 bags of millet, 9 bags of groundnut and 60 kgs of beans. These harvests can feed my family for the full year. For the first time in my life, my family and I have such harvests. Now I do not go to people's farms to work for them. I express my deep appreciation to ActionAid, their Donors, and Partners for changing my wellbeing and that of my family."



Absa standing near her harvested groundnuts



# Ending Pad Poverty

## Stories from Rural girls on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

AAITG conducted training on sexual and reproductive health and making of reusable sanitary pads for 50 adolescent girls. The story from Delam reveals that the training was worth being organised. This is her story

"My name is Delam, I am in grade 11 in a Senior Secondary school. I cannot explain my level of discomfort during my menstrual periods. This is because I do not have the means to buy sanitary pads and used to use old clothes. What is more frustrating is that I have little idea about sexual and reproductive health and moreover how to manage my menstrual cycle. What was more worrying to me was the numerous classes I missed due to menstrual cycle.

My discomfort, frustration and missing classes ended when I attended a training on sexual and reproductive health and reusable pad making organised by AAITG.

This training equipped me with the knowledge and skills to manage my menstrual cycles and pad making among other things. Since after attending the training, I have never missed classes due to menstrual cycle. I do attend classes with comfort even during my menstrual periods, which was never the case before I attended the training.

I am grateful to AAITG and its partners and appeal to them to provide more trainings of this type to other girls like me".





## Young People Motivated to work in Gardens

“ The taps have attracted us to work in the garden ”



For many decades, Sinchu Gundo Village in Central River Region, did not have a community garden. The women were mostly engaged in incense mining or after the men harvest their groundnuts (peanuts), they would go to pick the remaining groundnuts from the ground and processed it into groundnut paste and sell it to take care of their needs. Very few women in Sinchu Gundo were practicing backyard gardening.

AAITG under the EU-funded project titled: '**Strengthening Women's Economic Initiatives**' supported the women of Sinchu Gundo with a community garden that accommodates over one hundred women. The project fenced the 2-hectare perimeter garden and constructed a waiting shed, a toilet, drilled a borehole with solar energy and installed over 20 handpumps / taps.

**Hawa Jawo**, the president of the garden said: "Never in our wildest imagination could we have thought that Sinchu Gundo will have such a garden. The provision of the garden and all the facilities have given us life in this village".



**Hawa Jawo**

Sainabou Baldeh, a member of the garden said: "There is progress in the garden. The onions have done very well. We harvested and sold a lot of onions, okra and other vegetables.



We are solving some of our problems and taking care of our family's needs from the sales of our vegetables".



Saibanou

**Sainabou Baldeh** said "I bought uniforms for my children and foodstuff for my family. My husband would only provide a bag of rice and I would provide all the necessary ingredients".

According to **Fatou Mballow**, "Our health has improved because of the fresh vegetables we consume with our families. The money we get from the sales of our vegetables is helping us to support our families'. Fatou continued: "Right now, the water shortage issue has been solved.

There are taps all over the garden thanks to the **EU project on Empowering CSO to mobilize citizens towards the Green Economy and Sustainable Environment** and this has even attracted more young people both males and girls females to actively participate in the garden work. Unlike previously when we were only having hand-dug wells and we were using buckets and ropes to draw water from the wells. If we were only relying on those wells, many of us would have abandoned the garden long time ago".

Concerning the challenges, they are facing in the garden, Fatou said: "The only problem we have with the water issues is that the solar will pump the water up to certain time of the day and it will stop. Sometimes it delays our watering because we have to wait for a long time for the tanks to be refilled. But we are hopeful that when the reservoirs are constructed, that problem will be solved, and we can assure you of a year-round production in Sinchu Gundo garden".



Fatou Mballow





## Young Girls Changing the Narratives

“ If others are doing it, I can also do it. ”

Fatou Sonko lives in Jurunku Village in Upper Niumi. She is one of the beneficiaries of the training of girls on solar installation organized by AAITG in partnership with Mbolo. Fatou shares her story.

“When I finished my senior secondary education at Essau Senior Secondary School, I was sitting down doing nothing. From time to time, I would help my mother at her garden. One day, my father received a phone call from the coordinator of Albreda Eco-zone (a partner of ActionAid) that I was selected to participate at a solar installation training for girls.



**Fatou climbing on top of a roof to inspect the solar panels**

One of my male friends was skeptical about my selection for the training because he said that I will not have the courage to climb on top of a roof let alone install a solar panel. I told him that if others are doing it, I can also do it. That was how I joined the training.

The training also included painting, welding and carpentry and it lasted for 18 months. After completion, AAITG through its project titled:

**Empowering CSOs to Mobilize Citizens Actions Towards the Green Economy and Environmental Sustainability**, gave us our first biggest solar installation contract for 48 households in Central River and North Bank Regions at a cost of D500,000 (\$9,800). It was through that contract that we registered our Association called 'Girls Solar Installation Technicians Association (G-SITA)' and we also bought our toolbox and safety gears.





**Girls Solar Installation Technicians Association (G-SITA)**

With the support from the **CSO** project, we conducted a series of radio talk shows at Kerewan Community Radio sensitizing the community about the importance of skills training for girls especially on solar installation, and how we offer our services.

The training has benefited me, my family and my community. Right now, I do not have electricity from NAWEC in my family compound but there is solar energy and whenever it has any fault,

I would fix it including those of my neighbours. I also contribute to the upkeep of my family including feeding as well as buying clothes for my siblings from the money I make from solar installation. I therefore thank AAITG and Mbolo for the training and other support but specifically to the European Union who funded the training.

I would like to further my education at the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTI) to improve my skills to another level.



**Fatou (R) and a colleague installing solar panels**



## Annex 5:

## Staff List 2021



**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



**Tobaski Njie Sarr**  
Women's Rights  
Manager



**Saidina A. Jarjou**  
Fundraising Manager



**Katim Touray**  
Internal Audit  
Manager



**Fafa O. Cham**  
LRP 8 11 Program  
Manager



**Foday Kanyi**  
Program Manager,  
LRP 9



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

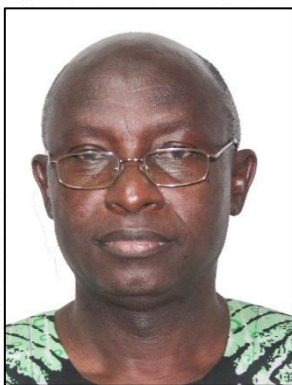


**Vivian Malu**  
PA/Board Liaison  
Manager



**Sulayman Kinteh**  
Procurement Specialist





**Ousman Camara**  
M & E Specialist  
Global Fund Project



**Musa Jallow**  
IT Manager



**James B. Mendy**  
M & E Coordinator



**Sarjo Camara**  
EU Project  
Coordinator



**Famara Conteh**  
Programme Coordinator  
LRP 11



**Mamie Ceesay**  
Sponsorship  
Coordinator



**Binta Njie Kalley**  
Sponsorship  
Coordinator



**ML Touray**  
Communications  
Coordinator



**Saikou F. Bah**  
Programme Coordinator  
LRP 9



**Saiba T. Suso**  
Programme Coordinator  
LRP 8

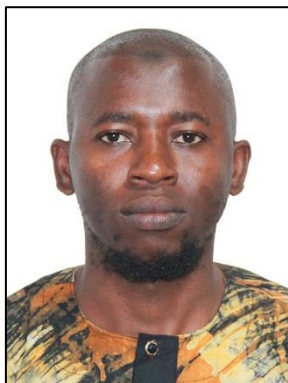


**Yorro Cham**  
Health Innovation  
Officer



**Amadou Barry**  
Health Innovation  
Assistant





**Omar Jawara**  
Data Officer  
Global Fund Project



**Addi Joof**  
Senior Accountant



**Musa Jobe**  
LRP 8 & 11 Accountant  
& Admin



**Aminata F. 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

