

AAITG Internationalization Process: From Country Programme to Affiliate

- ❖ Supported Women Vegetable Gardens in CRR with fences, boreholes, toilet facilities, waiting sheds, solar power, multi-purpose centres and training on vegetable production compost making and pesticides. They have also been supported to attend trade fairs to market their garden produce.
- ❖ Empowered over 35,000 smallholder farmers to increase their knowledge on Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA) through capacity building training and the provision of farm implements and quality seeds.
- ❖ Launched different children empowerment projects such as Promoting Children's Rights in Lower River, Central River and Upper River Regions and Promoting Rights in Schools. The project promoted the rights of children and has contributed to the retention of girls in school and reduced child marriage especially in URR.
- ❖ AAITG implemented different youth empowerment projects including the current Protective Services Project, to create employment for young people and halt both rural-urban and irregular migration among young people.
- ❖ Successfully implemented different agroecology and climate resilient projects to reduce the impact of climate change. Thus, some farmers are practicing mixed cropping, using compost and locally made pesticides from neem tree leaves.
- ❖ AA Gambia was the first country programme to secure the Global Fund grant on the fight against HIV & AIDS.
- ❖ AAITG's Global Fund Project has contributed towards the eradication of HIV & AIDS and Malaria by supporting the elimination of new infections, providing care and support through evidence-based services, provides support on home-based care, nutritional and educational support for people living with HIV&AIDS, and those affected such as Orphans and Vulnerable Children respectively.
- ❖ ActionAid's 'My Child Solution Project', is helping to address manual records-keeping and filing in the health sector of The Gambia. My Child Solution is an innovative Health Management Information System based on Smart Paper Technology funded by Shifo Foundation in Sweden.
- ❖ Supported poultry farmers with training and cash to enhance their poultry production.
- ❖ The creation of the Gender Action Groups (GAG) and the Women Pressure Groups in the LRPs, has helped raised the awareness of most women on human rights, gender issues and legal instruments. Now most women regard Gender-based Violence as unacceptable and the culture of silence is gradually being eroded.
- ❖ From 2021 to 2022, 785 Gender Based Violence cases were reported. AAITG conducted several community outreach and advocacy in partnership with the Network Against Gender Based Violence (NGBV) to curb the issue of Gender Based Violence. The establishment of the One Stop Centres helped to address and redress some of the gender-based violence cases in The Gambia.
- ❖ Supported Mothers' Clubs in schools to have greater influence in the School Management Committees which contributed to parity and retention of children in schools, particularly girls through advocacy and the introduction of school feeding programme in LRP 8 and 11.
- ❖ Over 6,000 school children in the LRPs were supported with learning materials. Ten lower basic schools in Niamina West were supported with about two hundred and fifty thousand dalasi through their school development fund to have access to learning materials and improve their school facilities for a better learning condition.



Mrs. Janet Sallah Njie
Board Chair, 2010 - 2013



Mrs. Amie Bensouda
Board Chair, 2013 - 2016



Mr. Ousman Cham
Board Chair, 2016 - 2021



Mrs. Haddy Dandeh Jabbie
Board Chair, 2021 to date

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Background on AAITG, Internationalization Process & Key Achievement

- ❖ AAITG was established in 1979 as the second country programme in Africa. Its main focus was on adult literacy, education, agriculture and health.
- ❖ Adopted RBA & HRBA between 1998/1999 focusing on the rights of people.
- ❖ The AAITG Board was inaugurated in August 2010.
- ❖ Attained membership to ActionAid Federation in 2010 as an Associate.
- ❖ A Constitution and Governance Manual developed to guide the governance processes of AAITG.
- ❖ In January 2012, the Board met, reviewed and approved the composition of the initial AAITG General Assembly.

- ❖ AAITG General Assembly held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 14th July 2012, during which the constitution and governance manual were approved.
- ❖ In June 2013, AAI General Assembly unanimously accepted ActionAid International The Gambia as an Affiliate of the Global AAI Federation, giving AAITG a dual status (local organisation and member of the international federation) with full authority to participate in decision-making processes of the federation.



L-R Janet Sallah-Njie, AAI Board Chair, Dr. Kujejatou Manneh AAITG Executive Director and Joanna Maycock, AAI representative at the AAI Assembly General Meeting in South Africa, 2013



- ❖ On the 17th of February 2012, AAITG inaugurated its General Assembly as prescribed by the AAITG Articles and Memorandum of Association also referred to as the Constitution. Following the rigorous review of the profiles of the prospective General Assembly members (nominated by the AAITG Board and staff) twenty-one members of the General Assembly took an oath to become members of the General Assembly.

- ❖ Mrs. Janet Sallah Njie, the then Board Chair of AAITG, was also elected to serve on the Board of Directors of ActionAid International. Her election, which was unanimous, took place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of AAI in June 2013.
- ❖ The establishment of the Board and General Assembly ensured that decision-making is taken at the country level with support from AAI.

- ❖ In 2014, the Board recruited the Executive Director as part of their responsibility. In 2023, the board for the second recruited the second Executive Director for the affiliate.
- ❖ In 2017/2018, AAITG went through financial crisis when its Next Step income was derestricted. The Board played a crucial role in ensuring financial stability and sustainability.
- ❖ The Board presided over the development of CSP 4 and 5.
- ❖ The affiliate participates regularly in AAI Assembly meetings and have become members of the AAI Election Committee.

Key Achievements from Inception to Date

- ❖ AAITG built 52 schools across Lower River, Central River and Upper River Regions of The Gambia, and was paying the salaries of over 400 teachers from 1980 to the mid-1990s and then handed over all the schools to government.



One of the schools built and supported by AAITG in Jiffarong Village, LRR

- ❖ The Agency's focus was mainly on service delivery. Thus, supported communities in LRR and CRR with garden projects, digging of wells, supported school children with learning materials and school uniforms, provided farm implements and draught animals to farmers and provided a ferry to the community of Bansang and Niani.



- ❖ Following the 2011/2012 food crisis/shortage in The Gambia caused by erratic rainfall, AAITG responded and distributed one month food ration of rice to 15,391 affected households, most of whom were women headed households in CRR and NBR. (Niamina East = 6,085, Niamina West and Dankunku = 4,044 and Upper Niumi = 5,262).
- ❖ From 2013 to 2023, AAITG supported disaster victims of flash floods and windstorms with cash for feeding and to repair their houses.
- ❖ Embarked on a campaign in 2013 for the inclusion of women in District Tribunals. In 2015, six women were included in the tribunals in Niamina East, Niamina West and Niamina Dankunku. In 2021, one woman from NBR was also included, making a total of seven women in the District Tribunals.
- ❖ Working with Local Governments / Area Councils to strengthen their governance structure. Kuntaur Area Council benefited from capacity building training on strategy development, planning and budgeting processes.
- ❖ Several interface forums at local level within the LRPs between right holders and duty bearers, gender training and training on the Local Government Act was conducted for Area Council staff and Councillors in Central River and North Bank Regions to enable them deliver their work effectively.
- ❖ From 2013 to 2023, AAITG launched different women empowerment projects such as promoting women's socio-economic rights, strengthening women's economic initiatives, Empowering Civil Society organisations towards a green economy, all funded by the EU. These projects have changed the lives of the women of CRR North and South. Many of them are into food production, poultry and small ruminant production making them food self-sufficient.
- ❖ The Green Economy Project provided renewable energy (solar power) to 48 households in NBR and CRR North.
- ❖ Supported the training of young girls on solar installation, provided them with all the necessary tools and facilitated the formation and registration of Girls Solar Installers and Technician Association (GSITA). This has created self-employment for members of the Association.