



ActionAid The Gambia

**act:onaid**



# 2017 Annual Report

December, 2017

ActionAid International The Gambia

PMB 450, Serrekunda

MDI Road Kanifing

Tel: (220) 4392004 / 4392029

Fax: (220) 4392425

Email: [admin.gambia@actionaid.org](mailto:admin.gambia@actionaid.org)

Copyright © AAI The Gambia

ActionAid International The Gambia reserves all rights of ownership of the original material in this document.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

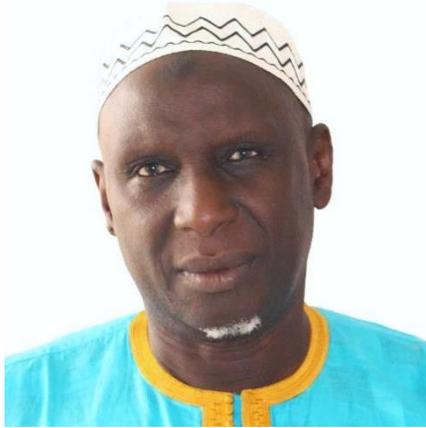
|   |    |
|---|----|
| List of abbreviations.....  | 6  |
| Board Chair’s reflection.....   | 7  |
| From Director’s desk.....   | 8  |
| <b>SECTION ONE</b> .....  | 10 |
| Background information.....   | 10 |
| Vision.....   | 11 |
| Mission.....  | 11 |
| Values.....   | 11 |
| Our Theory of Change.....   | 12 |
| Our identity.....   | 12 |
| Organizational Structure.....   | 13 |
| Key Highlights of the report.....   | 14 |
| <b>SECTION TWO</b> .....  | 16 |
| Actions and key performance areas measured through HRBA pillars.....        | 16 |
| Pillar 1: Empowerment.....  | 16 |
| Pillar 2: Solidarity.....   | 21 |
| Pillar 3: Campaign.....   | 26 |
| Pillar 4: Credible and sustainable alternatives/livelihood.....             | 29 |
| Summary of overall programme performance analysis of CSP IV priorities..... | 33 |
| <b>SECTION THREE</b> .....  | 34 |
| Organizational priority 1: .....  | 34 |
| Organizational priority 2: .....  | 35 |
| Board meeting attendance record in 2017.....                                | 35 |
| Organizational priority 3: .....  | 36 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Organizational priority 4: .....         | 36 |
| Organizational priority 5: .....         | 36 |
| Financial performance.....               | 36 |
| Programme quality assurance.....         | 37 |
| Organizational priority 6: .....         | 38 |
| <b>SECTION FOUR</b> .....                | 39 |
| Challenges.....                          | 39 |
| Lessons learnt.....                      | 40 |
| Conclusion.....                          | 40 |
| Recommendations.....                     | 41 |
| <b>APPENDIX 1</b> .....                  | 42 |
| Audited financial statements.....        | 42 |
| <b>APPENDIX 2</b> .....                  | 44 |
| List of partners.....                    | 44 |
| Donor partners.....                      | 44 |
| Implementing partners.....               | 44 |
| Bilateral and multilateral partners..... | 44 |

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|           |  |          |  |
|-----------|--|----------|--|
| AAI       | ActionAid International                                  | HOC      | Hands on Car   |
| AAITG     | ActionAid International the Gambia                       | HRBA     | Human Rights Based Approach                          |
| AAS       | ActionAid Senegal  | LRP s    | Local Rights Programmes                              |
| AASL      | ActionAid Sierra Leone                                   | MUTAPOLA | Network of Women Living with or affected by HIV&AIDS |
| ACTIVISTA | ActionAid Youth Network                                  | MFD T    | Multi-Faceted Dispenser Team                         |
| AER       | Agro-Ecology and Resilience                              | NAFS     | National Alliance for Food Security                  |
| CRSA      | Climate Resilience Sustainable Agriculture               | NAS      | National AIDS Secretariat                            |
| CPA       | Child Protection Alliance                                | NDMA     | National Disaster Management Agency                  |
| CSOs      | Civil Society Organizations                              | NGBV     | Network against Gender Based Violence                |
| CRS       | Catholic Relief Service                                  | OVC      | Orphans and Vulnerable Children                      |
| CSP       | Country Strategy Paper                                   | PLIHIV   | People Living with HIV                               |
| FAWEGAM   | Foundation of African Women Educationists Gambia Chapter | PRRP     | Participatory Review and Reflection Processes        |
| FGM       | Female Genital Mutilation                                | PRS      | Promoting Rights in Schools                          |
| FLAG      | Female Lawyers Association Gambia                        | TANGO    | The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations    |
| FSW       | Female Sex Worker  | WVTG     | World View the Gambia                                |
| GAG       | Gender Action Group                                      |          |  |
| GBV       | Gender Based Violence                                    |          |  |
| GFPA      | Gambia Family Planning Association                       |          |  |
| GAMNASS   | Gambia Network of Support Societies                      |          |  |
| GS        | Global Secretariat                                       |          |  |

## BOARD CHAIR'S REFLECTION



2017 marked the end of 22 years of dictatorship and blatant disregard for the rule of law rooted in total violation of human rights and dispensation of Justice. With the new political dispensation CSOs are very hopeful that the political space will be expanded and the prospects of the return of institution donors will be realized. AAITG is optimistic that democracy, rule of law, social justice and the creation of a conducive

environment that will inspire the women and youths will be high on the development agenda of the new government.

The new six-year strategic plan begins in 2018. The report of the external evaluation of the last strategy indicated general satisfaction in the realization of our strategic objectives in spite of the difficult operating environment as obtained during the former repressive regime. Lessons learnt informed the development of the new Country Strategy known as #BuildingResilient For Social Justice (BReS) 2018 – 2023 which was approved in the year. The management with the support of the Board and partners ensured that the new strategy (CSP V) is very much aligned to the Global Strategy 2028 Action for Social Justice.

We were seriously challenged by the budget constraints experienced in 2017 which impacted negatively on our program implementation in the year forcing us to come up with serious cost cutting measures and recovery plans to resolve the challenge. In the process, we lost critical staff who chose to voluntarily retire as part of our recovery plan.

I must however commend the management for their huge sense of focus and commitment during this difficult period. The Board very much assured the leadership of its support to the extent that its members are willing to put their expertise at the service of AAITG whenever required.



**AAITG General Assembly**

## FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



The year 2017 is no ordinary reporting period for AAITG as it marked the end of our fourth Country Strategy Paper (CSPIV) 2013-2017. During the period we collaborated with 4 networks, 11 community based organisations (CBOs) and 8 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in our poverty eradication and advocacy work for a just Gambia. In 2017, AAITG had worked on the promotion of sustainable agriculture, control over natural resources, advocacy for quality public education, youth participation and leadership, fight against

violence, attainment of economic livelihood opportunities and contribution towards eradication of HIV&AIDS and malaria. CSP IV was reviewed in the same year and the succeeding CSP V was developed and approved.

It was in 2017 that The Gambia voted out the government that ruled for 22 years and ushered in a new democratic dispensation. The change of government happened under stiff resistance from the former President who refuted the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 presidential election results and refused to leave the office. His refusal to hand over power to the incoming government resulted in a political impasse which affected lives and livelihood, programme implementation and the general economy of the country. The impasse led to more than 160, 000

people being displaced both as internally displaced people (IDPs) and as refugees in neighbouring countries who fled for their safety.

The feeling of 'never again to dictatorship' compelled ActionAid leadership to send an open letter to new political dispensation. The open letter which was addressed to the President of the Republic, outlined the expectation of the people from the new government which highlighted respect for human rights, judicial reforms for equity and justice among others. As a civil society organisation, AAITG continued to work with other CSOs to advocate for inclusive governance especially for women and youth in decision making processes and the fight against gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS. Emphasis is also put on other key sectors of the economy such as agriculture, education and health.

In addition, we have engaged other stakeholders in responding to various disasters to help affected people to overcome the negative effects on their lives and livelihoods.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt appreciations to our esteem partners, child sponsorship supporters, donors, AAITG General Assembly, National Board, staff, community members, colleagues within AAI federation and civil society both within and outside Gambia for the continued support and cooperation. Together we have been able to overcome huge challenges to get to where we are today. We look forward to greater collaboration in the fight against all forms of injustice at every level.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Omar Badjie', written over a horizontal line.

Omar Badjie  
Executive Director



## SECTION ONE

### Background Information

Documenting status of organizational performance annually for sharing and learning with partners and stakeholders is a critical condition for ActionAid (AA). The practice is also a statutory requirement for Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) operating in The Gambia. This report, therefore, documents the overall performance and actions taken by AAITG during the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The report reflects, discusses and critically analysis how, what and why changes happened in intervention communities providing opportunities to build shared understanding of how we should engage within a changing operational context. It is however, important to note that this report is the last performance report under CSP IV (January 2013 to December 2017). In view of that, summary performance on key CSP IV indicators is cumulatively measured to show progress over the five-year period.

The report is presented in these main categories:

- First section gives the background information covering vision, mission, identity, theory of change, partnership model and interventions areas
- Second section covers actions taken and key performance areas measured within the 4 pillars of Human Rights Base Approach (HRBA): Empowerment, Solidarity, Campaign and Promoting Credible/Sustainable Alternatives/Livelihoods

- Third section gives a snapshot of other organizational priority areas such as Human Resources and Organizational Development, Institutional Governance, Child Sponsorship, Supporter Care, Communication and Fundraising, Internal Audit, and Monitoring & Evaluation
- The fourth section highlights summary of overall CSPIV performance, key challenges, lessons learnt, conclusion and key recommendations.

In CSPIV (2013-2017), our work centered on interventions and actions on the four strategic objectives which aimed at: firstly promoting sustainable agriculture and control over natural resources to improve lives and livelihoods of people living in poverty and social exclusion; secondly advocating for quality public education for all children in the LRPs and enhance youth participation and leadership in national development; thirdly work towards breaking the cycle of poverty, fight against violence and attainment of economic alternatives for women and girls to be in charge of their sexual and reproductive health rights; and contribute to the eradication of HIV&AIDS and Malaria by supporting the elimination of new infections, providing care and support for the PLHIV community.

A review of the overall indicator performance for CSPIV as at December 2017 has cumulatively registered an impressive gain. Our work showcased evidence of empowerment within communities demonstrated through women and youth participation in decision making processes and structures, policy influencing for social justice, diversification in livelihood for adaptation, resilience building, fight against

violence, attainment of economic alternatives and towards eradication of HIV&AIDS and Malaria. Interventions were and remain on the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people living in poverty with emphasis on the fight against structural causes of poverty. This involved building capacities of local organizations of “rights holders”, and linking these organizations with networks, platforms, alliances and movements at national and international levels using HRBA.

However, in 2017, program implementation and support were marred with stiff challenges, partly due to political impasse resulting from the refusal of the former president to handover after losing the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 presidential elections. The challenge was cash flow issues we experienced from the beginning of the year. As a result, planned activities were affected leading to reprogramming for efficiency. Through local and national partners, we continued to conduct series of capacity building/ strengthening interventions, awareness raising and campaigns activities targeting mainly women and youth groups, networks, small holder farmers amongst others which cumulatively benefitted 188,246 people. Areas of focus included challenging negative cultural and traditional beliefs, patriarchy, FGM, early or force marriages, land tenure systems with focus on women’s ownership and control over land and other natural resources. Traditional and local government structures which hinder women’s participation in for example district tribunals and other leadership structures in villages, wards, districts and regional levels were challenged through Empowerment, Solidarity, Campaigns and Credible & Sustainable Alternatives/Livelihood pillars of HRBA.

### **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.

### **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.

### **VALUES**

- Mutual Respect
- Equity and Justice,
- Integrity,
- Solidarity with People Living in Poverty and Exclusion,
- Courage of Conviction,
- Independence and
- Humility

## 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 to strengthen campaigns, advocacy and mobilizations of PLIP to exert pressure on duty bearers for structural changes. We will be prepared to seize key moments for social transformation when they arise and hold duty bearers to account.

## OUR IDENTITY, PARTNERS AND LOCATION

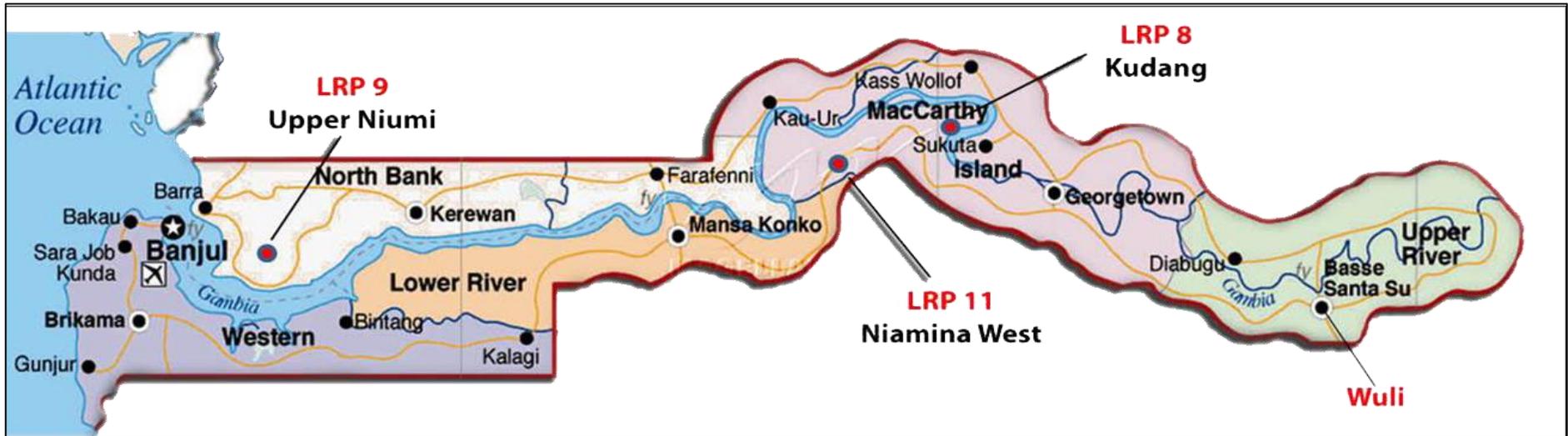
Established in 1979, AAITG is a member of ActionAid International (AAI) which is Global Justice Federation working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. The year 2017 marks 7 years since AAITG became a full Affiliate of AA federation. As an Affiliate AAITG is fully positioned to continue in pursuing AA's vision and mission at all levels. For about fourteen (14) years now, our long-term programs are currently concentrated 139 communities in Central River Region (CRR) and North Bank Region (NBR) covering the districts of Niamina East, Niamina West, Niamina Dankunku and Upper Niumi.

Our main target groups are people living in poverty with a special focus on women, children, youth and other socially excluded persons. Through our HRBA, AAITG worked with these target groups and consented them on their fundamental human rights that enable them demand for the respect, protection and fulfillment of those rights. This is possible through the apexing and various partnerships that AAITG formed with various institutions, individuals and groups both at national and community

levels. Our work had resulted in an increase in awareness of rights and fulfillment of those rights, leading to significant changes in lives and livelihood of people living in poverty especially that of women, children, youth and other vulnerable groups in our intervention areas.

In 2017, our actions included collaboration with 20 partners to implement the four strategic objectives both at local and national level. At local level, AAITG had partnered with ward and/or district level Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), like Apexes, Eco-zone, mother's clubs, school management committees, village development committees and other CBOs. At national level, we partnered with civil society organizations (CSOs), International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs), UN systems and government line ministries/governments.

**Figure 1: Map of The Gambia showing location of LRPs**



## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

AAITG operates a two-tier governance structure constituting General Assembly and National Board. The general Assembly has 23 members (14 females and 9 males) and The National Board has 10 members (6 females & 4 males). Day to day management of the agency is carried out by a secretariat of 36 members (11 female, 26 male) headed by an Executive Director with support from Senior Management Team (SMT) and the wider staff. Our work with communities is largely carried out by partners with some implemented by frontline staff.

General Assembly

National Board

Executive Director

Senior Management

Programme & Support Staff

Partners

## SECTION TWO

## Key highlights

**24,816 people, mainly women are aware of their land rights, representing 124% of the target for the CSP period**

**1,122, (75%) of targeted Small holder farmers have reported using CRSA practice**

**13,024 women (130%) of CSP target including the rural women assembly were mobilized and continued to engage on the LandFor campaign**

**6 out of 63 hectares of land registered for women groups were fully developed into vegetable garden in LRPs directly benefiting 144 women**

**65% of community leaders: Alkalolu and Sefolu targeted became champions of women's Land rights**

**1,929 (96%) targeted youths mobilized have and are taking sustained action against poverty, migration issues, land rights,, voter education, inequality, FGM and child rights etc.**

**99% of targeted community leaders demonstrated understanding of one or more hazards and can make appropriate suggestions on how to mitigate them.**

**All 3 LRPs have integrated risk reduction strategies in programming and allocated budgets to address capacity gaps**

**10,566 people from 963 households have reported receiving humanitarian assistance in a manner that respected their rights**

**An interface dialogue between tax payers and local government council in LRP 8 was conducted where rights holders held executive of the area council (duty bears) account on revenue generation, use and impact on communities**

**15 communities assessed on the Promoting Rights in Schools' (PRS) program during the period have all progressed on two or more of the 10 core Education Rights in Schools**

**A representative of The Gambia Rural Women's Assembly, Fatou Tribally was elected chair of the west Africa rural women assembly during an AU meeting in Addis Ababa**

**All 1,441 men who attended AAITG sensitization and or training sessions can explain with examples of unjust gender norms**



**SECTION TWO: Actions and key performance areas measured through HRBA pillars**

**PILLAR 1:**  
**Empowerment**



## Pillar 1: Empowerment

AA empowerment process enables people living in poverty to be conscious of their rights and stayed critical of power relations. In promoting sustainable agriculture and control over natural resources to improve lives and livelihoods, AAITG and partners worked with 24,816 people, mainly women who became conscious of their land rights. This represents a 124% of the target for the CSPIV period. We were also able to work with 1757 (117%) SHFs and 94 farmers who are currently practicing CRSA.



**Women in CRR harvesting millet**

In partnership with 79 women's groups comprising 13024 members including rural women assembly, we mobilized and participated in the LandFor campaign initiatives resulting to acquiring 63 ha of land for women. The campaign was able to have 65 % men leaders like 'Alkalolu' (head of village) and Sefolu (district heads) as women's land rights

champions. In 2017 AAITG participated in the multi country assessment on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT). The findings of which revealed that land polices and legislation especially in customary systems are bias against women.



**Yama Touray of Mamud Fana Village**

Engagements on women's rights has also registered good outcomes. Information obtained from Mother's clubs, women's pressure groups, gender action groups, apexes and eco-zones revealed critical awareness on women's rights including skills to generate and manage their own income. According to Yama Touray of Mamut Fana, awareness on women's rights has enabled women to make independent decision on how, when and where to spend their monies.

Similarly, the Network against Gender Based Violence (NGBV) reported an increased awareness on women's rights as evidenced in increasing number of women speaking up against GBV, reported cases on GBV and the demand for recognition for more women's involvement in decision making processes/structures. These show a positive change in people's attitude and perception regarding GBV and FGM especially among 'Seyfolu' and 'alkalolu' who committed for zero tolerance for FGM. For example, in Dobong village, West Coast Region, the 'Seyfo' and all the village heads within kansala district committed to a zero tolerance for FGM, thus no case of FGM for two consecutive years.



**A Village Alkalo (head) speaking during NGBV anti FGM campaign**

This coupled with demonstrated commitment from the national assembly members to work with us in introducing a more comprehensive Anti-FGM law that will tackle cross-border and empower health workers to screen affected children for FGM. The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education is implementing free and compulsory basic education for girls, demonstrating government's commitment to keeping girls in school.

Our EC funded Child's Rights project, being implement in LRR, CRR and URR has registered good progress in empowering targeted populations during the period such as women, youth and traditional leaders in those regions. Engagement with various groups like the Mother's Club in Jarra Bureng made encouraging achievements in protecting and promoting child rights including early marriage prevention. This is evident in the following case story by Hawa Darboe, a member of Bureng's Mothers Club.



**Kudang Lower Basic school**

“

*"My name is Hawa Dabo am 39 years old and I live in Bureng village, Jarra East district LRR.*



*I am married with 6 children, who are all going to school and I am a member of the MC of Bureng village. Before the launch of the EC Child rights project the Mother's Clubs have formed an alliance/network of MCs. However, the MC members were not working as a united front against the early marriage of the girl child, because of our limited awareness on child rights.*

*Because of the training I received from the Child rights project, I now know that the girl child should be protected and prevented from early marriage. Upon hearing the plight of a girl on the verge of getting married in Sare Samba village through the President of our network who communicated the information to me. Straight away, the network mobilized the executive members and went to Sare Samba village. We engaged the parents of the girl together with the village Alkalo. With concerted efforts of the network of MCs, the girl was prevented from being initiated into the marriage", she said. Thanks to AAITG and the Child Rights Project, the marriage was prevented, and the girl continued her schooling."*

”

Similarly, project interventions showed demonstrated impact on many men within the intervention communities. For example, one Alhaji Ousman Dahaba, a Traditional Leader and the Imam of Bani village in CRR, a father of 15 children said "Child rights is synonymous to the Sharia's (Islamic law) on perspectives of child upbringing. He went further to say:



*"My name is Alhaji. Ousman Dahaba, am 60 years old and I live in Bani village. I am married to 3 wives and blessed with 15 children. I am the Imam of Bani village. As a religious leader and a parent, I know the obligations required in child upbringing as required by our tradition and the perspectives of the Sharia/Quran. The Sharia advocates for parents and religious leaders to uphold the principles of good child care including child protection. It was after my participation in the training of the EC child rights project that I concluded that the aim of the Child Rights project is synonymous to Sharia's perspectives of child upbringing as they are of the same father but of different mothers". As a participant and a religious leader, I am expected to share the knowledge I gained from the training with other community members who have not had the opportunity to attend the training. Regarding the practice of FGM, what needs to be promoted in terms of sensitizing the communities is to let people know that the non- practice of FGM does not put one outside of Islam", Thank you ActionAid for bringing this project to my village".*





**PILLAR 2:  
Solidarity**

## Pillar 2: Solidarity

We continued to form alliances with stakeholders of common interest in a politically supportive relationship that cut across geographies or “areas” of struggle including supporting/strengthening movement for change like the rural women assembly, the Child Protection Alliance, Activista, FAWEGAM, EFANET among others. In November 2017, we facilitated the participation of representatives of two rural women assembly members in the post Kilimanjaro Women's Land rights campaign initiative held in Addis Ababa where Mrs. Fatou Trawally got elected as chair of the ECOWAS rural women assembly block. This happened ahead of the Africa Land Policy Conference in Addis. Our He4She initiative, resulted in 1441 men able to explain with examples of unjust gender norms. We continue to work with women and girls on the attainment of economic alternatives towards breaking the cycle of poverty and violence with 298 women who have reported an increased control over income.

Our fight to contribute to the eradication of HIV&AIDS and Malaria through supporting the elimination of new infections, providing care and support through evidence-based services, we provided 1770 people living with HIV&AIDS with psychosocial support through our home-based care; 8,796 orphan and vulnerable children (OVCs) supported on their educational and nutritional support rendered to 38,343 people living with HIV&AIDS and their families.

Our work with Activista included support to strengthening of youth participation in good governance and democratization

in Gambia. Activista was supported in organizing civic education and land campaigns especially for women and youth. We had also engaged other 6 youth platforms (the crest circles, the girls' agenda, the He4She platform, Tuseme club, Peace ambassadors, Kudang youth development association, Mansuwanka youth group and Sambang Kawral Kafo) to undertake solidarity and campaign on human rights.

AAITG and Network Against Gender Based Violence (NGBV) continue to forge solidarity towards awareness creation and capacity building on women's rights, violence against women and provide phyco-social support and temporal shelter including provision of legal services for GBV victims/survivors. This revolutionized perception regarding reporting and handling of GBV in Gambia and provided life changing opportunities for many women and girls.



We continue to intensify our quality public education advocacy and support to ensure duty bearers provide education system that will be beneficial for all. We offer support to underserved communities like Kerr Demba Holleh village, in North Bank Region (LRP9) to demonstrate the importance of quality public education. As described by Mr. Cheebo Saho, the impact of AAITG and partners work on access to education is remarkable. Below is a summary of his testimony:



*'My name is Cheebo Saho from Kerr Demba Holleh and currently SMC chairman of Demba Holleh Primary School. I was born in 1961, have two wives and several children.*

*We are very happy about the support received from ActionAid and agency for the development of women and children (ADWAC)-a partner managing LRP9. The intervention of AAITG and ADWAC saved our children from long distance trekking to Albreada, Bakalarr, Mamuda and Bakindik which get them really tired and expose them to vulnerabilities. It has also saved Kerr Demba Holleh from unresolved pleads to someone who works with Medical and Health for the need to build the community a school.*

*At the beginning we got support for one classroom block of two classes. As time went on we ran short of space for incoming children and again ActionAid and ADWAC helped us with another classroom block. As the school's roll increases water became a problem for the learners. We sought support and got from ADWAC and ActionAid. They asked us what we want, and our preference was a bore hole but due to limited resources they supported us a well fitted with a hand pump.*

*Yes our school and water problem has been solved but we still face some problems such as core text and exercise books, tables, chairs and many other materials that the school needs. We sought support from education department but to no avail. We again looked to ADWAC and ActionAid for support.*

*Despite these difficulties our children perform exceptionally good at the NAD examination. This year our school's performance is far better than any school from Barra to Palody. Our teachers and children are hardworking which has over the years earned them the good results from their exams.*

*I wish to inform ADWAC and ActionAid that these people whom they sent to us have come here and have asked us our problems. We still look forward to your valued support. Look at the pit latrines of our children. They are not enough, and they need repair. Right now, there are only two pit latrines for girls and two for boys. This is greatly inadequate because sometimes children must queue to wait for one another. We here in Kerr Demba Holleh wish you well and will always stand with you.*



AAITG remains a key player in advocating for quality health services. Our solidarity with people living with HIV&AIDS and their families is manifested through our collaboration with partners like Network of women living with HIV, MUTAPOLA. MUTAPOLA, a long-time partner has been supported to vigorously promote rights of women living with HIV&AIDS and their families through awareness raising on HIV&AIDS, training on income generation and livelihood skills, advocacy for comprehensive support and care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC).



**The Wellness Centre in Basse**

Under the Global fund New Funding Model (NFM) AAITG supported the implementation of an accelerated approach to increasing people's knowledge and awareness on HIV&AIDS, transmission, stigma and discrimination, access to ART and retention in care and treatment.

We use behavior change communication to target high risk groups and Key Populations (KPs) like FSWs and long-distance truck drivers, providing them with HIV counselling and testing (HCT) services as part of Minimum Preventive package (MPP) and community outreach. This is possible through the use of roadside wellness centers (pictured above). The centers are in Basse, Soma, and Essau and provide HIV& AIDS services and other health promotion interventions to meet specific needs of the key populations. This approach is welcomed by the target population especially female sex workers who reported enhanced access to condoms and lubricants due to the existence of these centres.

Using Smart paper technology, we bring innovative pilot project on Immunization data collection under the MyChild Project that uses the slogan "Every Child Counts. The project uses smart paper technology to transform the health information (Immunization Data) collection system.



**Dignitaries at the opening of the Wellness Centre in Basse**

This means preventive health information like birth registration for immunization services are done accurately and on a real time basis. The project is being implemented by AAITG in partnership with SHIFO Foundation in Sweden and the Ministry of Health in The Gambia. Implementation began in early 2017 in Western Health Regions of the Gambia (Serrekunda, Sukuta, Gunjur and Sanyang minor health centers). So far, the project has registered over 20, 000 children in these four facilities. Out of this, 5, 472 children are Fully immunized. The expected administrative time savings for the health workers using this solution is about 70%.

In 2017, AAITG continued to strengthen the capacities of community members including leaders on disaster risk reduction (DRR) which enabled them to anticipate, prevent and respond to risks, hazards and vulnerabilities. These communities are engaged to conduct their own vulnerability analysis and develop contingency plans for implementation. In delivering humanitarian assistance to people in need, AAITG supported affected communities through cash transfer to enable them cope with the shocks. A total of 769 households that hosted 5,714 IDPs during the political impasse were support with cash towards rebuilding their food reserves; and 4,852 people from 194 households affected by wind storms and flooding during the rainy season were also supported with funding from START funds project.



**Cash distribution in CRR**

**PILLAR 3:  
Campaign**



### Pillar 3: Campaign

By campaign we mean achieving a measurable political or social change by harnessing peoples' power through organization, mobilization and communication around a simple and powerful demand. In 2017, 1,929 youths were mobilized and supported using AAITG platforms on campaigns planning around Land rights, youth migration, voter education, fight against inequality, FGM and child rights among others. At the LRP level, a historic interface dialogue between tax payers and local government council was conducted. The event provided rights holders opportunity to engage the Executives of Janjanbureh area council and demanded accountability on the revenue generation, utilization and impact on people. On promoting rights in schools' (PRS) program, 15 communities had reported progress in at least two or more of the 10 core rights in Schools.

AAITG and NGBV recorded only 2 cases of FGM reported at the one stop center during the year under review. This indicates a significant drop in the number of reported cases as oppose to the 14 cases in the previous year. We are aware that factors like the existence of a legislation against FGM and child marriage contributed in deterring people from the practice but the rigorous campaigns by the CSO community against the practice have played a key role. The regular or clandestine practice of FGM by traditional practitioners are gradually being lost as young women are becoming less and less interested in learning the skills while many of the older

operators are joining the crusade against FGM. AAITG and the NGBV conducted clinical and social research on FGM which findings showed strong association of FGM and negative implication on the affected during labor. There has also been increased funding for the campaign including the UN system in the Gambia which resulted in the emergence of a couple of young people's organizations against FGM. However, there is clear need to evidently establish what is responsible for the decline in the number of reported cases of harmful traditional practices in The Gambia. Unlike FGM, we have observed an increase in the reported cases of GBV against women and girls compared to the previous year. This is attributed to extended coverage of interventions by AAITG. ActionAid received funding during the period from AmplifyChange and EC which strengthened our coverage on issues of sexual violence, child marriage, FGM and wife battering. We have also observed increased commitment and responsiveness of staff at the one stop center towards survivors improving confidence in communities to report cases.

At the level of LRPs, an interface dialogue organized by AAITG in Kudang between tax payers and authorities from Janjangbureh Area council in Central River Region provided space for community members to ask questions regarding specific sources of revenue for the area council and utilization. The interface meeting was held for the first time and has left community members so empowered as they attested that they never knew that they could engage the council that way. They were able to challenge the council authorities and made demands for such interface meetings to be regularly held.

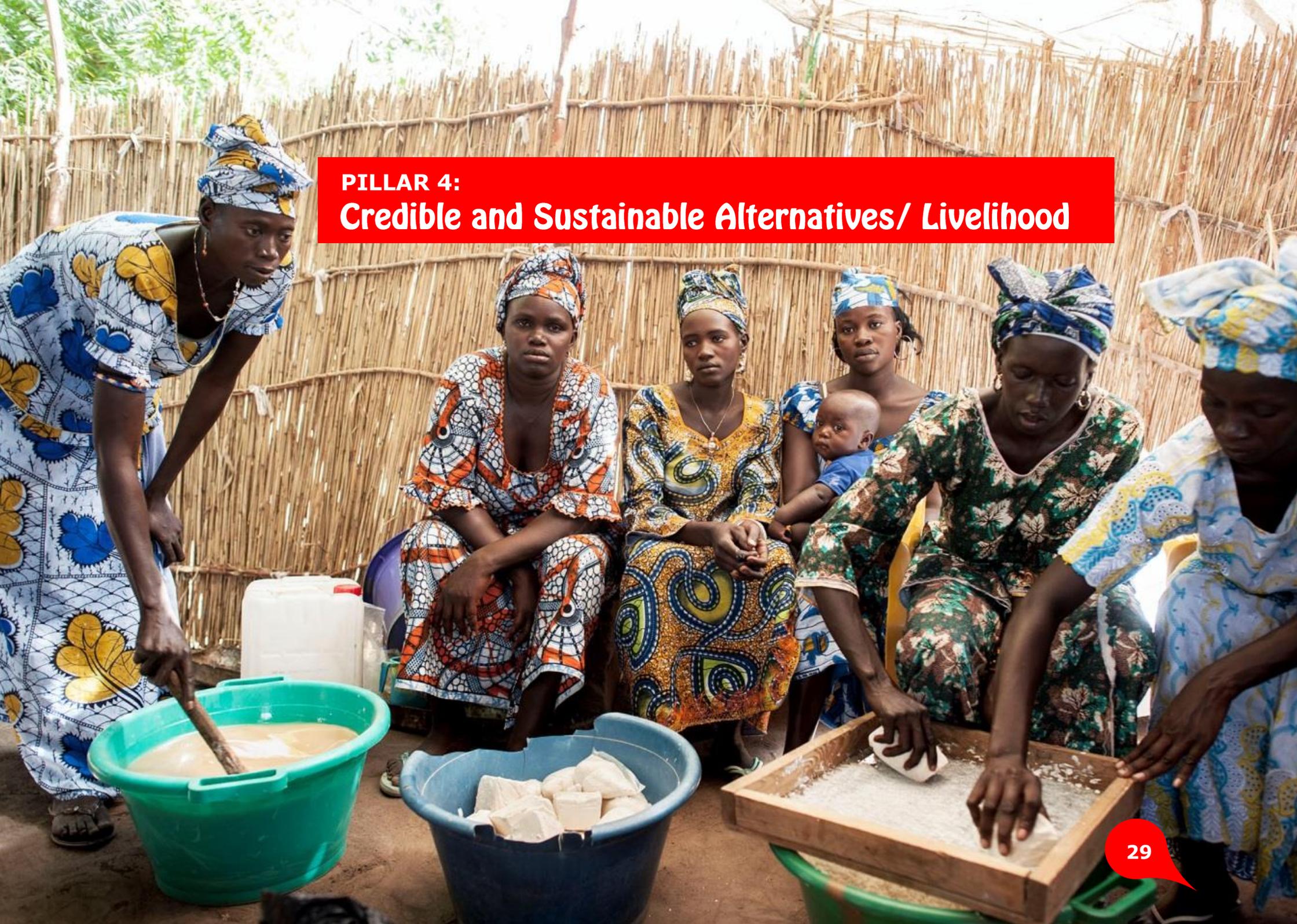
ACTIVISTA, a youth network, launched a campaign against inequality which attracted the attention of policy makers and enlightened the communities about not only the daily realities of those who are wealthy, and the have nots but showcased injustices and equalities that lead to such situations. With support from the AmplyChange funded project, ACTIVISTA also mobilized young people through national fora, a symposium and a caravan which reached out to communities with key advocacy messages against FGM contributing significantly to awareness creation.



AAITG continue to engage young people through their organizations and networks to act on development issues. These include advocacy against inequalities, FGM, child marriage and domestic violence. Youths were also supported on capacity building in leadership skills and participations in decision making processes. As such, members actively participated in *not too young* to run campaign in preparation for the local government elections scheduled for first quarter of 2018.



**Activista Against Human Trafficking and International Youth Day**



**PILLAR 4:**  
**Credible and Sustainable Alternatives/ Livelihood**

#### **Pillar 4: Credible and Sustainable Alternatives/ Livelihoods**

Building capacities and capabilities of people living in poverty to take innovative and sustained rights-based actions for alternatives that can transform lives on sustainable and significant scale constitutes a fourth pillar of HRBA as practised by ActionAid. Under this pillar, AAITG intervened on disaster risk reduction through participatory analysis with venerable communities. As a result, 488 (87%) community leaders targeted, demonstrated understanding of local hazards, risk identification and participated in action planning for resilience building. All 3 LRPs have integrated risk reduction strategies in programming and allocated budgets to address capacity gaps. A total of 10,566 people from 963 households have reported receiving humanitarian assistance in a manner that respected their rights.



**Construction of gabions**

Through our EC funded project on women's rights and Agro-Ecology and Resilience (AER) building Project, smallholder farmers (women in particular) were, in addition to CRSA, trained on soap making, bee keeping, vegetable gardening, batik, and tie and dye amongst others). We have provided farm implements and inputs such as sine hoes, seeders, quality seeds and cereals to small holder farmers in all LRPs. Poultry farmers and small ruminants were also provided to women. These interventions have not only contributed to increased income levels of smallholder farmers but also built their resilience and ability to cope in times of emergencies and disasters.



**Sawo Sonko of Albreda in North Bank Region is one of the beneficiaries of the small ruminants scheme under the Agro-ecology Project**

This was substantiated in a case story on Daado Baldeh, one of the forty-five (45) women supported through AER project with small ruminants.



*My name is Daado Baldeh. I am 35years old. I live in Ngawarr village Niamina East District, Central River Region. I am married with 8 children (four boys and four girls). My husband, Abdoulie Sabally has two wives and I am the first wife. Five of my children are going to school in Bantanto Lower Basic School. My first son dropped out of school at grade five due to financial constraints and the eldest sister is now married. Since he dropped out of school, my son is an apprentice in Serrekunda (learning how to drive).*

*Every day when I woke up very early in the morning I always greet my husband. From doing that, I sometimes sweep the compound but most of the time it is done by the children. I cook breakfast and dish it out to everyone in the house. After which I and my co wife will go to the farm if it is rainy season and to the garden when it is dry season. After doing this, without no waste of time, I will start cooking lunch.*

*I benefited from the small ruminant scheme (3 goats) given to us by Action Aid Kudang office through our Apex. The goats reproduced such that I am now able to give 2 goats to one of my colleagues to fulfil our agreement of the scheme. I also support my husband with 2 he goats to observe the TOBASKI feast. Before the scheme, we eat meat during TOBASKI from our neighbors. Last year, I sold one of my goats to buy clothes and shoes for my children to observe TOBASKI feast. Now I am left with 8 goats. I am lucky that my goats were not affected like others in the village that were infected and died.*

*I thank ActionAid for their support for empowering me. With my goats I will be able to take care of my needs and that of my children. I want Action Aid to expand the scheme to other nearby villages.*



Similarly, AAITG through the EC women's rights project trained women on business management and group leadership skills in LRPs. One beneficiary of the support, Fatou Kinneh Cham, said the following during our PRRP:

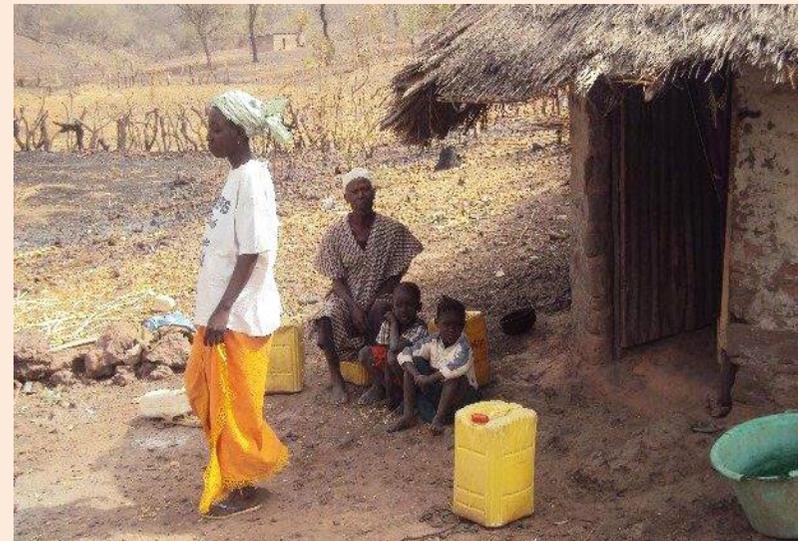
“

*"Because of our training with support from ActionAid I and five other women within the community, applied for support from the CILIP Project and I received 100 chicks while some other women received sheep. I reared the chicks successfully and gained substantial income from it. I also used my new learnt skills to secure a loan of (D30, 000) from Reliance which I am now managing to do petty trading in the community. I consider myself a better person financially. I can support my family, and take care of the cost of schools, clothing and feeding of my children.*

”

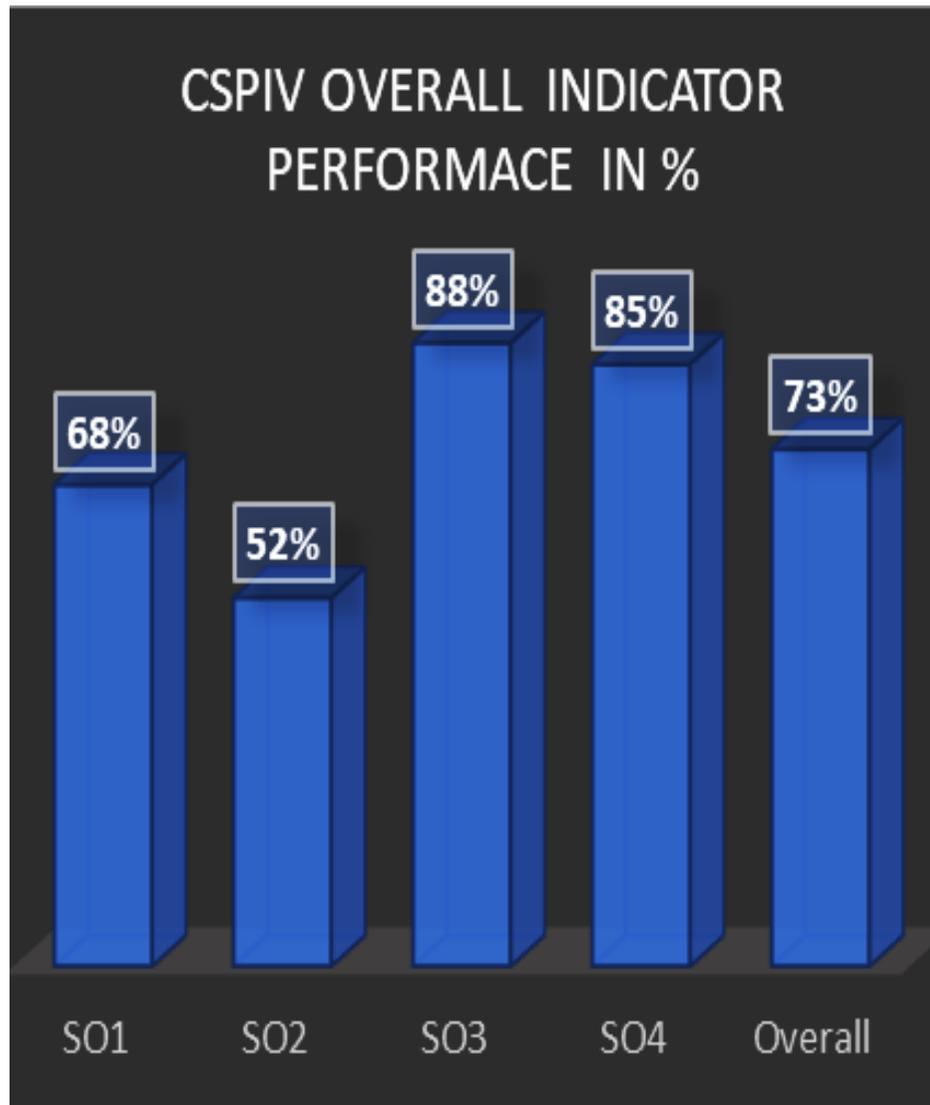


**AAITG staff and partners during the PRRP**



**Sarjo Jallow's home visited during the PRRP**

## Summary of overall Programme Performance analysis of CSPIV Priorities



A review of the overall indicator performance against CSP targets as at end final year of the strategy (December 2017) cumulatively is very good. Performance however, for the year under review has been affected by funding shortfall in regular giving due mainly to next step derestriction which took about half of our annual income. As a result, planned activities had to be reviewed and revised downwards to commensurate with what obtains on the ground. As illustrated in the chat, funding shortfall has affected performance on the Strategic Objectives differently although there was no difference in their position ranking from the previous year. For example, while SO1, Sustainable Agriculture, was supported with the Agro-ecology project to achieve an indicator performance of 68%, SO2, Public Education and youths did not benefit much in terms of funding with only 52% indicator performance. SO3, Women's rights, on the other hand benefitted from both EC funded women's Rights project together with AmplifyChange funded project on FGM with an indicator performance of 88%. SO4, HIV&AIDS and Malaria was also funded to a large extent by the Global Fund for AIDS TB and Malaria HIV&AIDS project and has achieved 85% of target. The overall average indicator performance is 73% by the end of strategy period. However, we have noted data quality issues which also impacted on the CSP performance. That is the limited availability of accurate data. In some cases, the data is either not available in the form necessary or not consistently collected due to costs or capacity. This factor needs to be further pursued and corrected during the implementation of the next Country Strategy.

## SECTION THREE

**This Priority aimed at achieving responsive organizational systems and structure to cost-effectively steer the strategy to achieve its aspirations.**

AAITG has improved its IT platform with latest software versions that improve our connectivity speed and strengthened the network. Our SUN accounting system is now improved with an adaption of online banking platform to process major transactions including salaries on real time basis. This has minimized cost associated with paper work, transportation and other transactional costs, more secured and faster as well. We have replaced our old Cisco Pix Security Firewall Pix 5.5E with Cisco Meraki MX8401 firewall and two Cisco wireless access points for better data protection and faster speed. DHIS2 local database was moved to the Cloud BAOS System for ease of access to users and partners using the system.

AAITG complies with the national data protection policies and do not publish personal data without consent. All our computers are pass word protected which are changed regularly. Information is achieved based on our national data protection laws. We Prioritize reviews and reflections via our PRRPs and PCMs staff retreats among other engagements where learning and community indulgence add a lot of value to our programming approaches and priorities. We have encouraged program and supporter care integration. Joint planning and budgeting as well as peer reviews before plans & budgets finalization. Our culture of back to office report and other documentations have supported a lot of

## Organizational Priority 1

information sharing and peer learning. We discourage unilateral decision making by fostering numerous cross functional forums such as Project committees that support better decision making and enhance project monitoring and coordination



AAITG staff, 2017

## Organizational Priority 2

*Strengthen our governance systems and processes towards the attainment of Affiliate status and our local and federal objectives for the attainment of the 'Desired State'.*

The National Board has, during the year under review, successfully met all its statutory obligations in terms of meetings. All quarterly board and sub-committee and Annual General Meetings (AGM) were held.

## Governance Statutory Meetings

| Meeting Type  | Planned Meeting | No. of Meetings Held | Comment   |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| AGM   | 1               | 2                    | One extraordinary meeting to approve CSP V                  |
| Board Retreat   | 0               | 0                    |   |
| Feminist Leadership Training for Board and Management | 1               | 1                    |   |
| Board Meeting   | 4               | 4                    |   |
| Programme Committee                                   | 4               | 4                    |   |
| Finance and Audit Committee                           | 4               | 5                    | One extraordinary meeting to approve the 2018 plan & budget |
| Fundraising Committee                                 | 4               | 4                    |   |
| GBDC/HROD Committee                                   | 4               | 4                    |   |

### Organizational Priority 3

*Deepen our relationship with supporters to enhance their understanding of our work and increase our supporter base.*

ActionAid continued to be funded mainly by individual sponsors from Brazil, Italy and UK under our child sponsorship scheme. During 2017 Child Sponsorship and Supporter Care Unit recorded 7,914 links. This however, represents a 5% drop from 2016 figure.

### Organizational Priority 4

Raise at least 45% of total income (£14 million) from partnership funding through diversified sources to finance intervention areas across the four main objectives.

The year 2017 has shown some continuous engagement in our resources mobilization efforts. This resulted in a renewal of funding from GFATM funded HIVAIDS project worth about \$1.3 million. We had also received a short-term emergency response project funded by the Start Emergency Fund in UK worth £150,000. This project was implemented in partnership with Catholic Relief Services and United Purpose (UP). We have also received from a high value donor in US additional funding \$164, 000 to support 194 host families of IDPs following political impasse resulting from the 2016 presidential elections which led to displacement of people as IDPs and refugees. With that fund a total of 4,852 people benefited.

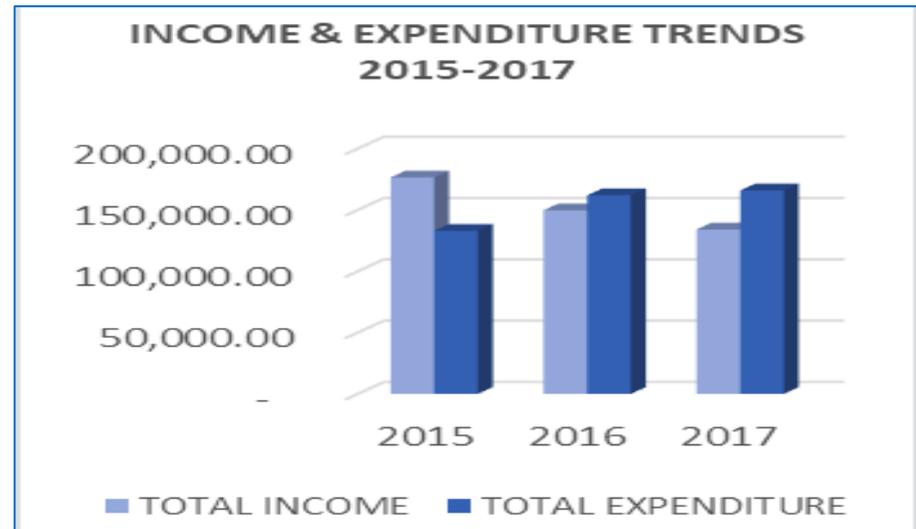
### Organizational Priority 5

Strengthen financial management and accountability systems, standards and processes to ensure quality planning, monitoring and reporting.

During the year under review, our organizational risks matrix was reviewed, and the Risk Register updated during the annual planning period. There was no report of fraud or donor disallowances and the 2016 reported fraud by a partner has been fully addressed.

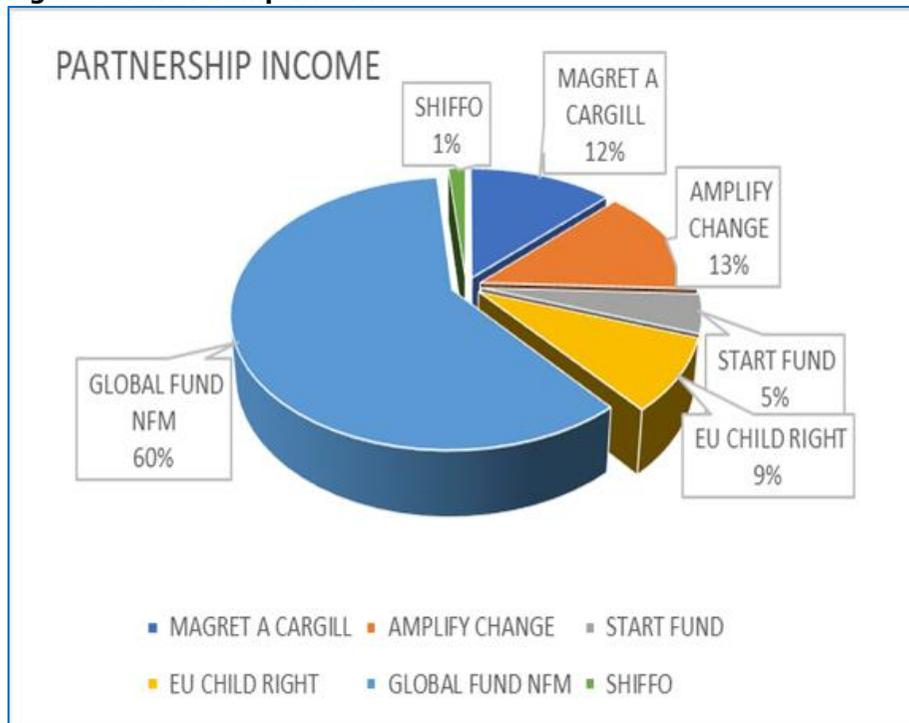
### Financial Performance

Figure 2: Income and Expenditure Trends 2015-2017 (GMD 000)



During the year under review, AAITG received a total income of D134, 079k as against budgeted income of D177,900k, compared to 2016, there was a drop of 10% in total income. Partnership Income (income from donors) was down by 33% (D74, 470K) against planned income of D112,080K. Total expenditure on the other hand, was D165, 948k compared to plan of D133, 354k thus indicating a budget utilization of 124% of forecast.

**Figure 3 Partnership Income**



**Income from our donors in 2017 amounting to D74, 470,000 and the percentage contribution from each donor is illustrated in the pie chart above.**

## Programme Quality Assurance

During the year we have conducted one PRRP during which communities and all key partners took part. We had open discussions on work performance, challenges and its impact. Feedback from partners across the communities assessed were generally very satisfactory. Our transparency boards in LRPs remains functional. They include project and operational costs which were subjected to a discussion session during the PRRP exercise. Generally, the perceptions from many areas on program quality is encouraging. People expressed their satisfaction about AAITG's approach to community empowerment citing openness and transparency in delivering interventions as very commendable. Whilst many appreciated work on numerous aspects of HRBA, others continue to perceive that AAITG should continue giving them more development handouts meaning focus on service delivery. As a result further engagement of those communities with HRBA programming is critical and this will be pursued in subsequent years with the new CSP.

## Organizational Priority 6

Communicating and documenting our work to enhance understanding raise our profile and support the mobilization of resources.

The Communications and Documentation Unit has during the period continued to play its traditional role to support programmes and projects by capturing all key engagements on audiovisuals and photos. They have designed and printed key agency documents throughout. The team has also carried out compilation of press releases shared with both print and electronic media on various subject matters, collected case stories which has significantly informed the compilation of the annual report.

## Support towards Federation Development

Our Head of Programmes and Policy was appointed as a member of the Strategy Reference Group (SRF) for AA Sierra Leone by the regional Director, West and Central Africa. As such, he together with other ActionAid Internal colleagues under took a mission to Sierra Leone for a peer support during the development of AA Sierra Leone's new Country Strategy Paper. The mission was successfully accomplished and a CSP produced. Similarly, AA Malawi was also supported through our Global Fund HIV&AIDS Project Manager. He was part of a team of ActionAiders who went to Malawi to support them on Global Fund grant management including application, negotiation and risk mitigation processes.



## SECTION FOUR

### Challenges

- Drop in regular giving due to next step derestriction. Over half of AAITG's annual income has been derestricted. Therefore, programme interventions were revised downward to commensurate with that reality. This coupled with the drop in AAITG's traditional funding base, child sponsorship and limited opportunities for partnership fundraising
- Knowledge and skills on rights awareness and analysis and funding are weak among partners
- Application of CRSA requires a lot of compost or manure that can be used to fertilize the entire. Farms or rice fields as such some farmers are still stuck on the use of conventional chemical fertilizers
- Also, market access and value addition remain a challenge for the promotion of CRSA. With CRSA better and more yields are obtained but farmers struggle to sell these produces after harvest due to limited access to market
- The increase in reported cases of sexual violence against girls under 18 years in the face of declining resources, adequately responding to the cases becomes a huge challenges especially given the series of unsuccessful litigation cases
- The mind set of communities where literacy is low is that HRBA is opposition to government. This coupled with the fact that HRBA does not always produce tangible results makes it difficult to mobilize resources for HRBA programme work
- Weak data collection mechanisms for the CSP. There was low availability of accurate data. In some cases, the data is either not available in the form necessary for our indicator or not consistently collected due to costs or capacity.

## Lessons Learnt

- Promoting climate resilient sustainable agriculture (CRSA) is a better approach towards climate change adaptation for smallholder farmers. For example, our CRSA application and practices provided better alternatives in terms of soil fertility enhancement, soil moisture retention, farming and livelihood diversification and as well provide sustained economic empowerment especially for women smallholder farmers
- Research is very powerful advocacy tool in women's right work. AAITG has for the first time in collaboration with partners conducted a clinical and social research in The Gambia which has proven to contribute a lot in appealing to the hearts and minds of Gambians especially the more conservative communities and our Policy makers about FGM in the country
- HRBA and the AA theory of change are Apt for poverty eradication especially in the New Gambia as effective application of the approach requires an open and free political atmosphere
- Although appraisals are done and organizations that met minimum standards and compatibility are identified, it is important to do regular checks and putting conditions preceding to continuation of partnership if at any stage standards change in the negative.

## Conclusion

Considering the overall indicator performance of the CSP, 73%, we can safely conclude that AAITG and partners have done well for both the year under review and the CSP period. Given the numerations challenges faced during the past five years particularly shortfall in funding, limited funding opportunity in country and the hostile political climate that existed during the second republic. A lot of what has been achieved was through funding of the few projects secured from EC, The Global Fund, AER multi country project and AmplifyChange. There is great need to further cement our relationship with these donors and aggressively pursue other funding opportunities both at national and international levels particularly now that the political dispensation is seemingly favorable. In terms of compliance to HRBA and the theory of change, AAITG has over the period generally conducted business in full compliance with the HRBA and theory of changes.

## Recommendations

- Intensification and scale up of HRBA with staff and partners at community and national levels both in terms of scope and depth
- A more proactive advocacy for the uptake of CRSA and resilience building of smallholder farmers at community, national and sub regional levels
- Partnership and alliance building on the promotion of strong value addition systems for farmers
- Sustain AA resilience work by ensuring we provide emergency and intensify support on access to inputs and implements especially by women smallholder farmers
- A thorough assessment of all partnerships and selection of those that operate in line with our strategy for the implementation of CSPV
- Strengthen partnership with all current donors and continue to aggressively engage other donors to raise the requisite funds for BReS
- Raise more awareness of communities on child sponsorship and its importance to communities
- Review and update monitoring and evaluation tools particularly for donor funded projects

# APPENDIX 1: Audited Financial Statements

## DT Associates▲

### Report of the Independent Auditors’

To the members of Action Aid International The Gambia

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Action Aid International The Gambia for the year ended 31 December 2017, which comprise of the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Organisation as at 31 December 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and have been properly prepared in accordance with Companies Act 2013.

#### Basis for 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 company 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.

DT Associates - The Gambia  
Audit | Tax | Advisory  
1 Paradise Beach Place  
Bertil Harding Highway  
Kololi  
P.O. Box 268  
Banjul  
The Gambia  
  
Tel: 220 446 5800  
Fax: 220 446 5900  
info@dtassociatesgm.com  
www.dtassociatesgm.com

#### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the General Information, Directors report, Statement of Directors responsibilities as required by the Companies Act of 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 and will not express 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 on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor’s report, we concluded that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report.

When we read the financial highlights, general information and Directors report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and they are expected to take appropriate actions to have the uncorrected misstatement brought to the attention of users for whom the auditor’s report is prepared.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and in the manner required by the Companies Act 2013 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organisation’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organisation’s financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the 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. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in 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 risks 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, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organisation's internal control.
- 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, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organisation's 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 Organisation 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 requirements regarding independence, and 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 significance 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 Aji Penda Sankareh.

*DT Associates*

#### **DT Associates**

Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors

Date: *27<sup>th</sup> April* ..... 2018

## APPENDIX 2: List of Partners

### Donor Partners

1. A US Philanthropy
2. AmplifyChange
3. European Union(EU)
4. Global Fund
5. Shifo Foundation
6. START FUND

### Implementing Partners

1. Activista
2. Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC)
3. Catholic Relief Service (CRS)
4. Child Protection Alliance
5. FAWEGAM
6. Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA)
7. GAMNAS
8. Hands On Care (HOC)
9. Mutapola Network The Gambia
10. National AIDS Secretariat
11. National AIDS Control Program
12. National Disaster Management Agency
13. Network Against Gender Base Violence (NGBV)
14. Women's Bureau

### Bilateral and Multilateral Partners

1. Ministry of Agriculture
2. Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
3. Ministry of Environment Climate Change Water & Wildlife
4. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
5. Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science & Technology
6. Ministry of Interior (Police & Immigration)
7. Ministry of Regional Government & Lands
8. Ministry of Youth & Sports
9. Area Councils (Kerewan, Janjabureh, Brikama & Kuntaur)
10. Department of Community Development
11. Department of Water Resources
12. FAO
13. The Organization of Nongovernmental Associations (TANGO)
14. UNAIDS
15. UNDP
16. UNFPA
17. UNICEF
18. WHO



**Kanny Sidibeh, a female Alkalo (Village head) in Moriyaa Village, CRR**



**Fanta Kura Mbye with her donkey from the Agro-ecology Project**



**2017 Rural Women's Day Celebration in Farafenni, NBR**



**A boat trip to Kunta Kinteh Island during the Agro-ecology Project Review**



**Isatou Jeng of NGBV sensitizing communities in URR about the anti FGM law**



**2017 16 Days of Activism Cross Country Caravan on the Anti FGM Law**

© **ActionAid International The Gambia**

PMB 450, Serrekunda MDI Road Kanifing

Tel: (220) 4392004 / 4392029 Fax: (220) 4392425

Email: [admin.gambia@actionaid.org](mailto:admin.gambia@actionaid.org)

Web: [www.actionaid.org/gambia](http://www.actionaid.org/gambia)