

UNDP in The Gambia



Leadership and Accountability

Project Duration: January 2020- December 2021

Total Cost: USD 1,649,996

Available Funding: USD 1,649,996

Funding Gap: 350,000 USD

Funding: UN Peace building Fund

Context and rationale

The updated May 2019 Conflict and Development Analysis report set out the context and rationale of the Governance and leadership project. The project speaks to the deficit in accountability and leadership in respect to perceptions of corruption, limited framework of accountability to the public, lack of transparency and poor coordination; all of which are undermining clarity and public trust.

The Theory of Change of the leadership and accountability project postulates that **IF** the government leaders, public servants and institutions have improved capacities and processes to engage and communicate with citizens on development issues as duty bearers, and **IF** citizens including communities, CSOs, the private sector and the media have strengthened capacities to mobilize and advocate for their interests and needs and are empowered as rights holders to scrutinize and hold the governments to account, and **IF** young people as key members of their communities have increased capacities to engage and participate in and decision-making processes and exercise their civic responsibilities.

THEN there will be more inclusive dialogue and exchange between citizens and political representatives which will improve transparency and accountability to the citizens on national development matters and transition priorities,

The project has 3 outcomes and 7 outputs and will be implemented in four regions in the Gambia (Kanifing Municipal, Upper River Region, Lower River Region & North Bank Region).

Outcome 1: Improved transparency and accountability between Public service leadership and the population has 3 outputs.

Under **output 1.1: National platform for dialogue on public policies between Government and Citizens established and functional.** This output will facilitate the interaction between the Government and its citizens through the launch of the Open Government Initiative (OGI) that will feature interactive townhall dialogue sessions on thematic subjects that will be aired by the national broadcaster radio/TV programmes and community radio stations.

Under **output 1.2: Strengthened Government coordination and accountability mechanisms for performance management of public sector leadership,** focus is on building capacity to strengthen accountability in the public service through series of tailor-made capacity building training targeted at the public service leadership on coordination, performance management, attitudinal and behavioral change and the NDP outcomes, outputs and activities. The Unit will develop a performance tracking tool to gauge the realization of the milestones of priority action.

Under **output 1.3: Capacities of Civil Society enhanced for meaningful national engagement and public scrutiny.**

The output will strengthen the capacity of Non-state actors to engage in advocacy and scrutinize public policy to ensure increased accountability. More specifically, while the CSOs/NGOs coalition will be supported to

engage in upstream advocacy for the enactment and popularization of the Freedom of information Act and Anti-Corruption Act; at the downstream (regional and local levels) CSOs will be supported to produce a simplified version of the Regional Strategic Plans of the 4 Local Councils; develop Citizen's Local Council Demand Charter; and convene regional townhall and media accountability engagements on the realization of impacts and outcomes of the regional strategic plans.

Outcome 2: Political parties are more inclusive of women and youth and engage in productive exchange with their constituents and each.

Under **output 2.1: Interparty tensions and rivalry reduced through inter-party dialogue, communication and improved community engagement.** This output will train members of the Inter Party Committee on the facilitation of dialogue process and mediation efforts, political tolerance, non-violence and reconciliation ahead of the planned inter-party dialogues on thematic subjects as the situation demands; organize joint inter-party press releases/conferences on topical political developments to ease tensions and deepen reconciliation amongst political operatives desirous to reduce polarization and intra and inter-party. Violence.

Under **output 2.2: Capacity of the youths and women's wing of political parties to champion inclusion and gender equality in elective positions strengthened.** This output seeks to advance affirmative action for 30% women representation in Governance. Strategies to be employed include lobbying and engagement of political parties, National Assembly Members, national and local authorities to achieve youth inclusion and attainment of a 30% quota for women representation in governance. The initiative will support the exposure of potential female party candidates or aspirant to assume public leadership positions and build th institutional capacity of the women wing of political party (WWPP) .

Outcome 3 (executed by UNICEF): Improved civic engagement of young people with governance systems to promote good governance based on participation, transparency, and accountability through strengthening

their capacities and skills on civic rights and duties, citizenship and peacebuilding

Under output 3:1: **Young people leadership skills and civic rights strengthened to engage decentralized governance structures.** This output will train young people (in and out of school) in leadership and civic rights and duties thereby inculcating in them the values of citizenship; support young people awareness-raising and access to information through the U-Report and other media outlets; support the Children's National Assembly to organize open school days and community dialogue sessions where young people's concerns and community development issues are discussed and shared with decentralized structures for consideration in the decision-making process.

Under **output 3. 2: Capacities of community governance structures increased to exercise civic rights, responsibilities and the promotion of good governance.** School Governance structures (i.e. teachers, school management committees and monitors) will be trained on civic education to help young people understand civic rights and responsibilities; national laws, democratic institutions, systems and processes to acquire the skills for peaceful engagement with governance institutions; Community structures (i.e. VDC, MDFTs, Mothers' clubs and other relevant decentralization structures) will also be rained on participatory methodologies to promote civic education and increase inclusiveness in decision-making; organize community dialogue sessions with young people's networks, decentralized structures and key-decision makers.

For more information on how to engage, or to share ideas on how, contact Mariam Njai, Communications Analyst at: mariam.njai@undp.org / +220 3303180

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